

Driftwood

Newsletter of the Shepton Mallet Drifters MBC June 2007



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Pugwash (Barrie Stevens)

Despite the sunny April and cold wet May it appears to be good news for reduced weed growth so far at Collett Park Lake as our problems in past years have not happened YET?? At the last club meeting we gave an appeal for any ideas for either guest speakers of events for future club meetings i.e. bring & buy, auction, photo/video etc. etc. We have had one suggestion for a talk but as yet we have not found a speaker on making GRP hulls.

Congratulations to club member Sid Harvey as he is leading the MMI solar challenge with a lap time of just 18 seconds!!

Don't forget if you have any club related news you wish posting on the Drifters web site please drop me an e-mail, also if you have any photos of Drifters events this year please e-mail to Maggie.

From my suggestion mentioned in the last Driftwood of having a possible Wednesday evening sail in at Charlton Brewery lake during the summer months I have only had one person showing an interest, hence I think we will drop that idea!! At least we tried!

Editorial

Ahoy solar boat makers! It seems that every one is turning green (no not seasick, although I have wide experience of that) yes, it is the latest idea sweeping the model boating world! I say idea but, it could latch on in other ways of keeping your conventional model boat on the water for longer periods by incorporating solar panel chargers into the superstructure, and who dare say's we are not doing something for the planet. Although the year started off quiet with fewer model national meetings it is now starting to heat up with Weymouth and Margam Park (south Wales), Crealy Park, Exeter club's Fathers Day, and warship day at Yeovil (just slap a few dabs of grey on your pristine model for effect). So plenty of outings to get your boat water bourn. Don't forget, if you have any model item to sell or wanted, one area is this newsletter or the SWAMBC newsletter "Ponderings", both have a excellent circulation amongst model boaters in the south west.

One thing I have noticed this year, although there are fewer "national type" model boat meetings, there are a lot more club "Open days" run by individual clubs in the SWAMBC area, where they invite non-club members for a special day out. It is a great way to see other clubs home waters, as well as meeting new model boaters and seeing their models, which may not make it to the "national type" festivals. Crealy Park being a fine example for the Exeter Club.

One quick reminder, don't forget our Drifters Open day at Collett Park on Collett Park Day, please come along and help us set up and make it a model day to remember on Saturday 9th June 10:00am start to set up!

New Member

We would like to welcome **Tony Brooks from Frome**, who has recently joined our happy band of Drifters. Good sailing and may your batteries remain fully charged and dry!

Wet and Windy Sherborne?

Global warning, not on Monday 28th May at Sherborne, where this years Country Fair was held, a great venue for model boats but in true fashion with other years the temperature was well below the seasonal average not helped with a strong northerly breeze!! The Drifters were outside in gazebos this year, we must have up set the organisers as we were inside the main tent last year! Ted and Phil braved the elements and actually sailed a model on the excellent lake. Thanks to the other Drifters who just managed to avoid suffering from frostbite for supporting the event.

SWAMBC Newsletter extracts from the 50th Issue

Twelve and a half years since the launch of SWAMBC and with coloured photos splashed on just about every page the 50th edition of Ponderings hit the street! An excellent well prepared issue of the clubs who represent the south and southwest. Drifters had their input with a photos of cleaning out the pond (remember that?) and a group photo taken at Collett Park about 2 (or was it 3) years ago. A number of clubs had a photo showing either their "home waters" or group photos of members, most clutching model boats. There are now 34 model boating clubs in SWAMBC. One thing I noticed in this issue was a large number of clubs holding their own "Open Days". With the slow demise of the larger national events these are filling the gap and prove an excellent day out, usually FREE, and a chance to see other ponds/lakes.

Camborne Pond Hoppers MBC have a member who is noted for his electrical work and regularly has his wired crossed, producing sparks and smoke (without a smoke machine) but a yet no fire! This is going to be a busy year for them with two three-day events along with nine displays wow! **City of Truro Mariners MBC** have there own "Fun Day" on July 8th at Boscawen Park in Truro, long way to go but if your on holiday great. **Exeter and District MBC** are pleased to report that Crealy Park is back to normal after being flooded! So we are all looking forward to Father's Day on June 17th, and that special raffle! Another club having it's special day is **Falmouth MBC** in August on 11th and 12th and a warm welcome awaits all clubs, the club has been joined by new members and their models. **Newquay MBC**, yes you guessed it, also has a "Open Day", but not till September, but they are hosting a couple of SWAMBC events. **City of Plymouth** have a very busy time coming up with plenty of sailing races visiting Looe, Millbrook, Tavistock and Crealy, no doubt they will be at Weymouth (if the petrol doesn't run out).

The local council at Sedgemoor recently moved the rescue boat storage facility of the **Sedgemoor MBC** closer to the lakeside, unfortunately they increased the rental fee by 50%. Oh well we let them win at skittles so all is not doom and gloom own Sedgemoor way. Everyone is invited to Pete's Fun Day on Sunday 26th August, in memory of Peter Fisher. **Poole Radio Yacht Club** have a number of excellent models (not all yachts) ranging from a 74 gun ship of the line, MTBs, and a vertical diorama of a by-gone fishing trawler, illuminated and animated (sounds interesting), they have "Open Sail Days" on July 15th and August 19th. **Torbay and District MBC** sadly they seem to be a club in decline, (and not their fault), a number of members have left and joined another club 26 miles away. They have lost access to their boat storage facility, one of their ponds have been taken away for the tourist use (boating pool) and the other one divided in two, half to wildlife, with a pair of aggressive swans attacking all model boats in sight, no wonder the club is in decline. Some councils are very short sighted where peoples hobbies are concerned! **Solent Radio Control Model Yacht Club** had over 73 boats on display at their local Highcliffe RNLI show raising a record £517 for the RNLI, it was also found that last year the club helped to raise £1700 for the Calshot RNLI station also, and a further £60 at their Christmas Lunch, they are doing an excellent job in displaying their models, and in so doing, helping the RNLI. **Weymouth and Portland MBC** had an excellent turn out at Easter with two dozen modellers and over 30 boats taking to the water, unfortunately there were a number of

collisions due to cobwebs from the winter lay-up, lets hope they are on the ball during the forthcoming modelling Festival in July.

Yeovil and District MBC Ltd. had a fairly quite period over the winter and decided to clear out their local lake (aaahhh! memories of mud and shovels), they found branches and other debris, but with the water level down they were still able to sail some of their models. (where there's a will there's a way) One of the members has purchased one of the new "multiplex cockpit radios" no crystals! I just wonder why it has taken the industry so long to get this far? Finally **Yeovil Model Warship Association** will be at Sherborne Castle Country Fair and of course at Crealy for Fathers Day, and so to their Open Warship Day where all are invited on July 22nd.

SWAMBC fast electrics 2007, got off to a great start at Crealy Park Exeter with 52 boat entries. Apparently Alan Shillitto opened his gazebo at the FE meeting and a mouse ran out, his gazebo now has a dozen foot-sized skylights, it seems that the mouse travelled all the way from Clevedon and during the journey chewed through the canvas, to end this story the mouse ran off under the car and has not been seen since!

Missing two model wives

It was at a national model boat meeting when I overheard the following conversation between two modellers. "Hello Jack, not seen you for some time, looks as if you lost someone", yes, said Jack looking concerned, "can't find my new wife any where", "Oh!" Bill replied, "that's a coincidence I haven't seen mine all day", "what does your new wife look like?" said Jack, "ah!, she's got blonde hair, long legs, a photographic model and she's wearing a tiny mini skirt and tight blouse". Bill replied, "well Jack we'd better go look for our wives, lets look for yours first!"

For Sale.

"Smit Rotterdam" Billings Boat: part built. All other parts to complete the model £80
Contact Colin Button 01761 414067
Table with removable legs: £10 for quick sale contact Gus Tel: 01761418007
Mobility Scooter: excellent condition £350 contact Doreen 01749 830015

Cancelled Model Boating Events (so far)

Sandown Model Festival
Bude (Cornwall) Model Boat Festival
Bristol Harbour Festival
Yeovil Festival of Transport

Some Future Events *(Put them in your diary now!)*

Annual Charity Model Boat Show, Springbok Estate, Surrey, 2/3rd June
Contact Alan Colson 01403 260018
Collett Day Shepton Mallet 9th June **(all hands to the pumps please!)**
Model Boating Day "Fathers Day" Crealy Park, Exeter MBC - 17th June
Weymouth International Festival 7/8th July 2007 - Contact Mike Knight ASAP
Burlston Brickworks "Hamble Valley" Near Southampton. Crafts and Model Show 15th July contact: Phil Warren.
Warship Day, Yeovil Lake, 22nd July - Contact Rob Walter 01935 421028
Don't forget to use the SWAMBC "What's on Guide" for many more events like Open Days where clubs and individual members are invited.

MINUTES OF THE SHEPTON MALLET DRIFTERS M.B.C

Held at the Thatched Cottage Monday May 14th 2007 at 7:30 pm

Meeting opened at 7.35pm

Members Present

B. Stevens (Chairman), V. Redwood (Treasurer), D. Harris (Secretary), T. Wood, G. Haberfield, P & I Rodda, S. Jackson, J. Stevens, C & P Sadd, B, Leakey, G. Bowkett, R. Trott, D. Semper, N. Harvey, C. Button, F. Merson, F. Biggs, P & V Coventry, V. Coventry, M. Edwards.

Apologies

C. Jackson, S. Bell, T & D Porter.

Minutes of the last Meeting

Read and approved.

Matters arising

Sherborne Country Fair tickets were issued to those attending who were present at the meeting, remainder to be posted/delivered by Verd.

Chairman's Report

Barrie told members of the childrens rules regarding lake attendance, and gave brief details of Somerset County Council's Child Safe initiative. It was reported that during the Scale Steering event at Collett Park, there were motor-cycles driving around the park. Danny stated that during the event, there were members of the local police at the lakeside, both in the morning and the afternoon, for a considerable amount of the time we were there. Barrie also stated that the gate padlocks for Collett Park had been changed, just before the Scale event!

Treasurer's Report

Verd said that our current membership stands at 71, which includes Ladies and Juniors as Family members. Accounts are fairly static, with the only expense of late being the postage charges for Driftwood.

Secretary's Report

Danny gave thanks to the members who turned up to support the Scale Steering event, even though they were not taking part. It was a good competition, although a bit stiff in places! The Club has been invited to Margam Park Country Show by the local club, 25th – 27th August. Anyone wishing to attend, please see Jackie soonest.

Newsletter

In the absence of Ted, Barrie asked that all the items for inclusion for the next edition be sent/given/e-mailed to Ted by the end of May.

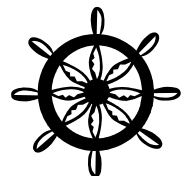
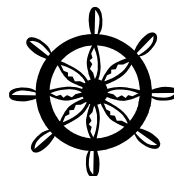
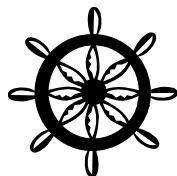
Any other business

Collett Park Day 9th June was discussed, the Mini Marathon and Balloon Popping events to remain as at present. Members were asked to support this event. A Hospital Fete will be held pm Saturday 21st July with static boats and solar track only. Sufficient members agreed to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm. Next meeting 16th July, after Weymouth. Members remaining then had an informal chat session before departure.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT MEETING 7.30pm July 16th 2007 at the Thatched Cottage!

DEADLINE for DRIFTWOOD Sunday July 29th 2007



*Don't forget, until further notice entrance to Collett Park Lake is from the Collett Avenue Entrance, off the main Charlton Road nearly opposite Whitstone College. Please try to stay on the path whilst driving in the park and **NOT** over the grass Thank you for your co-operation!*