



Driftwood

Newsletter of the Shepton Mallet Drifters MBC December 2007



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Pugwash (Barrie Stevens)

Greetings All! As we approach the end of another successful year for the Drifters it is time to look back on the last year and to see if there is anything we can learn from this year. I was a little cautious when we suggested to the council that the task of clearing out the lake was a getting bit beyond our ageing bones! Quadron the park contractors with the help of mechanical means and a large number of lorry loads have now removed the silt build up over the last year., The other suggestion we made to them of installing a couple of bales of barley straw has certainly reduced the weed growth.

At the last meeting at the Thatched Cottage we did discuss if we wanted a club Christmas meal, as only 3 people put their hands up we decided that this was not required this year. The initial response was for the AGM to be held on the usual 2nd Monday evening of the month ie 14th Jan. Since that decision Verd has spoken to the Thatched Cottage and they did offer that we could still have the AGM on the Sunday morning (as per other years) at 10.30 and if anyone wanted to eat at midday they could do this on an individual bases and order on the day the only difference would be that for people choosing to eat would not necessarily eat at the same time (prices start at £6.99) Hence unless any club member has any objections we will have the AGM on SUNDAY 13th Jan at 10.30 at the Thatched Cottage. Please let me know by the night sail on the 8th Dec if anyone objects to this decision.

For club members with a long memory (at least 2 years!) on the last Sunday in January we had a local scale type competition with Sedgemoor club at an indoor swimming pool at Pontins in Breaan this was a VERY popular event. Sadly the facility was not available to us, but good news we have been offered an indoor swimming pool at the Haven Holiday center at Burnham on Sea (next door to APEX lake) we are proposing to hold the event again on the same date ie Sunday 27th January starting at 11:00 untill about 15:00hrs any club member interested in attend this event please contact Jackie or myself.

Christmas Night Sail
Once more the Christmas Night Sail is upon us, by the time you receive/read this newsletter it will be just days away. This coming SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER we shall, once again, be at Collett Park Lake showing off our boats as the Christmas festivities start. This will be our final meeting at Collett Park in 2007, so all Drifters are asked to participate in this annual get-together. Other clubs may be present as it is an open invite, we may see our friends from Sedgemoor, or the more local ones from the Yeovil Warship Club. Any member wishing to help set-up the gazebos, tables or lights should be there by 2.30pm. Members or their partner(s) may wish to bring along mince pies, sausage rolls, crisps or the usual Christmas goodies.

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- REMEMBER**
- 1 DO NOT DRIVE OVER THE GRASS, THE GROUND IS QUITE WET
 - 2 ENTRANCE THROUGH THE COLLETT PARK DRIVE (that's the usual entrance gate)
 - 3 WEAR SOME WARM CLOTHING, IT COULD BE A COLD EVENING
 - 4 A TORCH MAY COME IN USEFUL - DON'T FORGET YOUR TRANSMITTER !
 - 5 AS IT WIL BE DARK KEEP YOUR EYES ON YOUR'S AND OTHERS MODELS (security !)
 - 6 DON'T FALL IN, THE WATER IS 14 INCHES DEEP AND VERY COLD !

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE COMMITTEE
AND EDITORIAL TEAM OF THE
SHEPTON MALLET DRIFTERS

CHRISTMAS NIGHT SAIL

COLLETT PARK 8TH DECEMBER

Drifters AGM

SUNDAY January 13th 10.30am 2008

BATTERIES CHARGED, FREQUENCY CRYSTALS READY AND BOAT DECORATED?

Editorial

First may I apologise for not being at the last meeting, (whoops! and the one before) Doreen and I were on a working holiday in Tenerife incorporating a fact finding tour looking for places to hold scale steering and sailing competitions, we also asked the locals (Spanish and British ex-pats.) about model boats clubs in the Canaries. There are a large number of swimming pools and a temperature on average of 25c, it could be a little difficult to launch a model amongst top-less sunbathers and swimmers, but an ideal setting for those "solar powered" models. In conclusion of our fact finding holiday, an ideal place for solar models, but not so good for steam power as the maximum luggage allowance is only 20kgs. Our next fact finding working holiday (on behalf of the Drifters) will be either Mexico, the Caribbean or the Seychelles, but we shall be back in time for Weymouth, any member wishing to sponsor Doreen and I on these very important fact finding missions, Visa, American Express or cash will be accepted.

So we are nearly there - Christmas - and the frantic time of shopping, putting up those festive decorations only to find that only half of the lights you bought last year work and you can't get replacement bulbs anywhere. Unfortunately model boat building takes a back seat during the next couple of months, but not before our final outing of 2007 and the "Christmas Night Sail", every year it has been fairly successful with locals turning up to see our decorated boats. Finally, save your 2007 "What's on Guide" it is the last, if you are not on the internet, then it is even more important to save it! Personally I think it is a sad loss as it was an excellent publication, unfortunately it appears that cost of production/printing was the deciding factor in this case, as it was compiled on a free voluntary basis

We have extracts this month from the latest "Ponderings" no doubt some of you would have already seen the hard copy at the past meeting, also on the SWAMBC web site. A BIG THANKYOU to all the organisers and members that helped stage the festivals and model boating events throughout the year. No doubt many of you have heard the news about our esteemed chairman being offered the position of "Editor" of Marine Modelling International, congratulations! Now I will really have to check my grammar and spelling.

Model Soldiers Exhibition - Bath

Once more the Drifters were present at this annual show in Bath, it is becoming a regular feature in our calendar of events. Although the exhibition is mainly military (dioramas, army etc.) our presence is always welcome. In the past we have won the top prize in the diorama section with our "table top" pond. This year, again, we have met with success, in the form of 2 Bronze awards for Robin Trott with his battleship and submarine models. "*Well Done Robin*". The Drifters display this time consisted of 29 model ships of all types and once more was well received by the general public and other modellers.

SWAMBC Newsletter extracts from the 52nd Issue

The November issue again was well produced with colour photographs and many clubs offering seasonal greetings. This issue contained 3 pieces of sad news, one that Dave Semper has retired from being Secretary, the second that the long standing Chairman (our very own Barrie) is standing down next year and the third is that the "What's on Guide" has ceased publication. Selling a few more may have helped the financial situation, and for £2 (free to Drifters!) an excellent purchase. What can you get for £2 now-a-days?

A new SWAMBC secretary with lots of model boating experience has taken over from Dave, he is Will Hickman (yes a Drifters and Yate and Sodbury MBC member), according to Will his family, including his Wife and Son, Mum and Father-in-law are into model boating, looks as if they could start a club on their own! "Good Luck Will".

Exeter and District MBC over the next 6 months they will be concentrating on IOM and R10r yacht racing, they had a scale day teaming up with Tone Valley with a packed programme of events, but the main reason was a good old simple get-together for scale boating. **City of Plymouth** had a fairly successful year and celebrated their 30 years (that's some record) one of their mishaps, that could and probably have happened to other clubs, is their "gazebo" blew down in a gust of wind and damaged some models, fortunately not terminally. **Falmouth MBC** has been really active visiting a number of venues, one of their latest models built by Wilf Burrows is a eight and half foot working model of RMS Queen Mary a superb model, lets hope they can get it to Weymouth for all to see. **Poole Radio Yacht Club** after a busy year and visiting Weymouth their Scale Day finished on a high note on October 20th with wall to wall sunshine and a good breeze for the yachts, whilst calm at the club house end for scale sailing.

Solent Radio Control Model Yacht Club. What a busy year they have had, Marwell Zoo, Calshot and Lymington Lifeboat Days with the Southern Model Lifeboat Society joining in (*not heard of them before?*), The Solent Trophy, Romsey Model World, once again they have produced their own club calendar at £7, lets hope they find members to buy them! I see their Christmas dinner is £20.50 a head, WOW!!! **Weymouth and Potland MBC** the weed on their lake at Kingston Marwell is slowly disappearing, and the water has been low at Radipole Lake, though most clubs have been lucky this year. They have also had some very good speakers including one on "unmanned surface vessels" used for surveillance work and military activities. **Yeovil and District Model Boat Club Ltd.** Another club's water unfortunately affected by weed. They also hosted round six of the "fast electrics" at Sutton Bingham where it was the wettest and windiest of the year, but the die-hards carried on and some good racing ensued. They also attended the SWAMBC AGM and the report by them was the excellent coffee and hot dogs! **Yeovil Model Warship Association** have had a successful year, with an "open day" and a "warships Day", expected to be repeated in 2008. For the steering competitions they now have three classes: Pilot, Intermediate and Expert with promotions and demonstrations from each grade.

SWAMBC 2007 Competition Results:

Due to limited space in Driftwood I have included just the winners (first place) in each class.

Fast Electrics Winners

Class R2R Aran Bond, Formula 2 Mark Shopman, Formula 3 Russ Chilcott, Formula 4 Russ Chilcott
Hydro 1 Chris Locke, Mono 1 Chris Osman.

Scale Steering Winners

Large Class Mike Knight, Medium Class Mike Knight, Small Class John Ker, Pilot Class Ben Holton (ALL Shepton Mallet Members!)

Tug Towing Winners

Team-towing "Big Buoys", Single pulling Chris Poulter, Single pushing Richard Bowden.

Yachting Championships Winners

65 Class Paul Newman, 78 Class Danny Harris, 100 Class Barrie Stevens, 100+Class Paul Newman

"CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DRIFTERS CONTINUING ON THEIR WINNING STREAK !"

The editor of "Ponderings" the SWAMBC Newsletter, Graham Castle (he of Clyde Puffer fame) is requesting photographs from club held events so if you have any please contact him by email. gandts@tiscali.co.uk
As you know the SWAMBC newsletter is distributed to the clubs who are members of SWAMBC, the reproduction of the photographs (in colour) are excellent, individuals can receive their own copy for £4 for four issues.

AGM SUNDAY January 13th 2008 Put it in your new diary NOW !

The AGM will again take place at the Thatched Cottage, Shepton Mallet members are requested to be in their seats by 10:15am, as we would like to **start the meeting promptly at 10:3am**

If any member wishes to be **nominated for any place on the committee** please forward your name to the Chairman **Barrie Stevens 01749 343017** by 31st December 2007.

The post of SECRETARY will become vacant at the AGM as Danny Harris will be standing down. Remember that without a secretary there is NO club. For a club to exist legally with financial accounts etc. We must have a club secretary.

Members who wish to raise **any point(s)**, no matter how small, at the AGM regarding the business of the Drifters MBC please contact the club secretary **Danny Harris Tel: 01747 822686** as soon as possible so that it may be included on the agenda.

Some Future Events (Put them in your diary NOW!) *More in the "What's on Guide"*

Don't forget deadline 28th January for "Driftwood items" to Ted ASAP gemini01@btinternet.com

Club sailing at Collett Park	Sunday 2 ND December. Please keep off the GRASS
Christmas Night Sail Collett Park	Saturday December 8 th
Christmas Eve	Sunday December 24 th (hang up stocking)
Christmas Day	Monday December 25 th (all day)

MINUTES OF THE SHEPTON MALLET DRIFTERS M.B.C
Held at the Thatched Cottage Monday November 13th at 7.30pm

Members Present

B. Stevens(Chairman) V. Redwood(Treasurer) D. Harris(Secretary) P. Sadd, C. Sadd, K Fleet, N. Harvey, B. Leakey, I. Rodda, P. Rodda, M. Edwards,
S. Jackson, T. Brooks, M. Knight, J. Stevens, T. Smith, G. Bowkett, R. Trott, C. Button, B. Lovejoy, G. Haberfield.

Apologies

D. Semper, T. Porter, D. Porter.

Minutes of the last Meeting

These were read and approved.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

Barrie reported to members that Collet Park lake has been drained and cleaned out. The contractors removed 15 lorry loads of rubbish from the lake! He also told members that the venues for Weymouth for 2008 will remain as in previous years, rebuilding will not now take place until after the Festival.

Secretary's Report

Danny reported that Small Yacht Racing for the winter season will take place at Halfway House on the second Sunday of each month, up to and including March, next date will be 9th December. Members were reminded that the club will need a new secretary as from the A.G.M.

Treasurer's and SWAMBC Rep. Report

Verd gave details of the latest accounts, and gave a brief summary of the SWAMBC A.G.M. David Semper has volunteered to take over as SWAMBC Rep. For the club as from our A.G.M.

As Doreen and Ted Porter were sunning themselves in Tenerife, there was no report from the Newsletter Editor!

Events

Drifters Xmas Night Sail – Collet Park, 8th December. Volunteers from 2.30 please. Verd will be caterer

Drifters' AGM After some discussion ref Sunday with meal to follow, it was decided to hold the A.G.M. on Monday 14th January (this has now been changed provisionally to Sunday 13th Jan), at the Thatched Cottage at 10.30am

Bath Military Models Sunday 28th November- Display only, no selling

Yeovilton Saturday 9th February – limited passes as always

New Exhibition South West Model Engineering, Model Making And Hobbies Exhibition, at the Royal Bath and West Showground, 12th and 13th April. Camping, Parking and entry will be free to exhibitors (we do not know yet if numbers will be limited)

Any Other Business

Barrie told the members that his retirement had not lasted very long, as he is to take over as Editor of Marine Modelling International from Chris Jackson in February 2008.

Kevin Fleet gave a magnifying lamp on stand to boost club funds. This item will be raffled at the A.G.M.

Mike Knight requested that Collett Park could host a round of the SWAMBC Scale Steering competition on 11th May, 2008, this was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.35p

NEXT CLUB NIGHT MEETING AGM
Sunday 13th January 2008 at 10:30am at the Thatched Cottage!
DEADLINE for DRIFTWOOD Sunday January 28th 2007

