



# Driftwood

Newsletter of the Shepton Mallet Drifters MBC      October 2008



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**“Rain spreading from the north, south, east and west, will be accompanied by high winds, lower temperatures and fog. The outlook is more storms approaching with wind gusts up to 150mph, snow, hail and blinding dust storms. The Drifters BBQ and sailing will still take place, in the middle of Collett Park. Please do not row your boats over the grass”**

## Pugwash (Barrie Stevens)

UM another month without attending Collett Park Lake on the first Sunday of the month it is getting a bad habit people will be talking ..... that Jackie and myself are taking as much holiday as Ted and Doreen!!!! For anyone interested I did frequent the second Sunday at Collett Lake and two of us had a good two and a half hours sail with the little Micro Magic yachts if you want me to give you a ring when we are attending again outside the normal 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday please let me know. We did not take the cars in but the little yachts were easy to transport.

Christmas will soon be with us and the night sail any suggestions of doing anything different please let u know.

## Editorial

Outlook for the next 24 hours.... *“Rain spreading in from the west will cover the whole country, this will be accompanied by high winds and lower temperatures.”* How many times have we heard that this summer? With a number of major events cancelled or postponed, model boats sailing in rain puddles, club members growing webb feet and of course the soggy socks, trousers and dresses (I ruined a nice yellow dress at Yeoman's Quarry !). But, no matter what the outcome the Drifters seemed to have weathered (sorry about the pun) the storm, as can be seen in Verds report on the Evercreech show. Me? well after 3 weeks in a rain battered caravan I must have read every book and magazine on sale in the New Forest area. Let us hope that for the final part of the season we have an unexpected heat wave (don't hold your breath). This month I have produced extracts from "Ponderings" the SWAMBC newsletter, local also minutes of the last meeting.

Reading the minutes of the last meeting I notice there were concerns about the demise, ending, finish, termination, cessation, conclusion of the excellent "What's On Guide" and the problems of not knowing what or when events are happening. For the past 3 newsletters I have been trying to fill the gap, and inform members well ahead (as far as possible) the dates of model boating exhibitions/Festivals and Open Day. (infact more local dates and events have been entered than ever appeared in the "What's on Guide"). I apologise if I have missed any, or not known who to contact, but if you (the 70+ members of our club) know any model boating or related events. PLEASE LET ME KNOW! either for the newsletter, or our forthcoming up-dated web-site. This newsletter is distributed by hand, post or e-mail to every member, so it is up to you on the basis of what I have compiled to find out more about the show you would like to attend.

## Chris Oliver

It is with regret that we have to report on the passing away of one of the other founder member of the Drifters Chris Oliver. Chris was noted for his engineering skills in making hot air engines and the rowing mechanism for his R/C canoe The Drifters were represented at the funeral by Barrie on 30<sup>th</sup> September. A model of his Windermere Steam Launch was on display during the funeral service. A very different and stunning service organised entirely by Chris's family with NO vicar!! The service ended with the sound of a Lancaster Bomber (he was part of the flight crew during the war) flying past after which the curtains closed and everyone clapped!



## SWAMBC Newsletter "Ponderings" Issue 55 August 2008

The production of the SWAMBC Newsletter is now looking very professional under the editorship of Graham Castle there are a large number of colour photographs dotted throughout the publication and a number of clubs now report in, advertising their Open events and special sailing days. This is one of the main resources which make up Driftwood's "Forthcoming Events" diary. Ponderings issue 55 dated August, so a little behind the times I'm afraid. This is the last issue that Barrie will be contributing to as SWAMBC Chairman. As most of us know Barrie was one of the founders of SWAMBC and the instigator of the "What's On Guide", so he will be sadly missed at the helm, but no doubt will remain in the background somewhere. **Camborne Pond Hoppers MBC** this club has had a full calendar of events, with August being a very busy month, covering fish festivals, flying club displays and shows including places such as The Lizard and Mullion. **Clevedon and District MBC** one of their big events was the Clevedon Festival the usual large marquee with tables full of model boats oh! and free parking. Their lake has now been dragged and the small lake cleaned up so easier to retrieve boats that have gone astray. **Falmouth MBC** report that their meetings have now changed to Sundays at Swanpool Falmouth 1pm and Wednesday evenings 6pm, one of the members duly launched their boat and found it would not respond to any command, mind you, it helps to take the right transmitter along. **Looe MBC** a busy time building boats with a number of new ones now appearing on their local water, also visiting a number of venues i.e. Farther's Day at Crealy (seems a decade ago!) Like a number of clubs reporting in Ponderings the local fetes are being well attended by model boat clubs.

**City of Plymouth MBC** have had the same problems as most clubs in the west with drizzle, rain and high winds taking a toll on events a number being cancelled or shortened, one major model on show by Plymouth was the 5foot Titanic by Tony Jenkins, this featured in the local paper a few days later. **Poole Radio Yacht Club** they have had a very poor response in the sailing world this season, probably due to weather, poor attendance, with one club disappearing altogether during one meet (so not many happy bunnies there!) On the brighter side the club held a two day "Laser National" which 47 entered so all ends well! **Sedgemoor MBC** the usual rain and wind have affected their operations this year, but the "jet ski" team have once more presented excellent displays to the public. **Exeter and District MBC** apparently suffered from a very wet area around their club's flag pole, this has now been built up with tons of top soil and seeded, now they await for that green stuff to appear (grass) or even more mud to contend with, perhaps a layer of concrete would be better! Some excellent coloured photographs appeared in Ponderings centre spread of Fathers Day at Crealy. **Warminster MBC** visited the South West Model Engineering Show at the Bath and West this year and a photo of their stand, along with a Dalek from Dr Who appeared amongst the boats, it was parked there whilst the owner had to make a quick visit? (see even Daleks are human). I see they had problems with the local district (Fast Electric races) in that every user of the pond had to submit an insurance policy to the council three weeks in advance???????? Now that's what I call real 'elf and safety. **Weymouth and Portland MBC** they have had to abandon their pond at Kingston Maurward due to weed (the first cancellation due to weeds we have heard about this year). Again they held the Children's model workshop at Weymouth this year (seems a million miles away now) over 250 took part in this year's event. **Solent Radio Control Model Yacht Club** their Navy Day was well attended with every thing from a minesweeper to HMS Hood with many others flying the White Ensign, quite early in the year so escaped the rain to come. Again their steering competition held last June was blessed with blue skies and sunshine. The clubs 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held in July with a free BBQ lunch. They have a new club site, so for more information [www.srcmbc.org.uk](http://www.srcmbc.org.uk) **Woodspring Model Sailing Club** had an excellent start to the season on their Open Day in July with brilliant weather, turnout as great with visitors from Cardiff, Cwmbran, Cheltenham and Ludlow. Woodspring also had a good weather day for their Thames Barge and Pilot Cutter Day, with light wind making long! races with many many pilot cutters and one Thames barge. **Yeovil Model Warship Association** the club continues to hold its own competitions on their local lake in the grounds of a pub "Halfway House", parking right up to the waters edge (hand break firmly on please!) toilets and beer in the pub, what could be a better location.

### NEW 2.4Ghz Transmitter system

Have you purchased one of the new Futaba 6EX 2.4Ghz transmitters? Because of problems with earlier transmitters supplied by Ripmax a small number have been incorrectly coded. A full exchange programme is now in operation, if you are unlucky to have one of these please contact Ripmax at EX Exchange Programme, 241 Green Street, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 7SJ with all relevant details serial numbers, model number, details where bought etc.

\*\*\*\*\* **OPEN DAYS - EVENTS - FESTIVALS - MEETINGS** \*\*\*\*\*

***PUT THEM IN YOUR DIARY NOW!***

Oct.	11 <sup>th</sup>	Bridgewater (Puriton Village) SWAMBC AGM Contact Dave Semper 01278 685990
Nov.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sailing at Collet Park
Nov.	10 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting Thatched Cottage - start 7.30pm
Nov.	30 <sup>th</sup>	Bath Bugle Call Contact Verd 01749 343832 for further details
Dec.	13 <sup>th</sup>	Collett Park Christmas Night Sail Contact Jackie or Barrie

**Well that completes the known list for this issue, if you know of any more please let me (the editor) know so that I can include it in the next issue of Driftwood.** E-mail [geminio1@btinternet.com](mailto:geminio1@btinternet.com) Tel: 01749 830015. Don't forget if you want to contact the organisers, please be aware they are volunteers, so don't phone at Midnight or any ungodly hour (i.e. during Children's TV time/Coronation Street/Eastenders/10'oclock news etc.)

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING**  
**SHEPTON MALLET DRIFTERS M.B.C**  
**Held at the Thatched Cottage Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008**  
**Meeting opened at 7.30pm**

**Present**

D Semper (Acting Chairman), V Redwood (Treasurer), M Edwards (Acting Secretary), G Bowkett, C Button, G Dawson, G Haberfield, D Harris, N Harvey, B Leakey, I&P Rodda, P&C Sadd, T Smith.

**Apologies**

T Brooks, V&V Coventry, S Jackson, E&D Porter, R Trott.

**Minutes of last Meeting**

Read and approved (not signed)

**Matters Arising**

George Bowkett apologised for not being able to update the website as he was waiting for some of the instructions needed to proceed with this. He would do the update when this information was available.

**Chairmans Report**

David Semper reported that Cranmore was a success but he and Gus missed out on a cooked breakfast that they were looking forward to as the Diner was closed. The Mid Somerset and Margam Park shows had taken place and an invite had been received for the club to attend the Shepton Show again next year. The date of the **SWAMBC Annual general Meeting is 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008** at Puriton. David Semper (our SWAMBC Rep.) asked the meeting why more people did not attend this event. SWAMBC is after all our organisation with the aim of bringing other clubs together and promoting Model Boating interests. The agenda for this AGM raised some comments and David said he would represent the views of the Drifters at the AGM.

There was a general feeling that the lack of a Whats On Guide was preventing people knowing about other clubs events and open days etc. and the guide was also useful as a promotional tool to attract new people into the clubs. This lack of communication was felt to be a reason for some events being poorly attended although rising fuel costs was also a factor. There may be an increase in affiliation fees and David sought agreement on the limit of increase the Drifters would allow David to propose.

It was unanimously agreed that a £5.00 rise from £25 to £30 could be agreed without further recourse to a meeting of the members. The point was raised that although SWAMBC were not now getting revenue from the sale of the guides they were saving money by not producing them, this saving could perhaps lessen affiliation fee increases.

**Treasurers Report**

Verd presented the accounts and reported on the Have-A-Go boats at the Shepton and Cranmore Shows. Thanks go to the volunteers for their fundraising efforts.

The Evercreech Show saw a downpour but not enough to deter hardened boaters. Bath Bugle Call is on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2008. Contact Verd if you want to attend but use his correct Tel No. 01749 343832. Also our Night Sail is on 13<sup>th</sup> December, so plenty of time to get the decorations from the loft.

**AOB**

As there was no other business the meeting was called to a close at 8.15pm. This gave everyone the chance to admire the Diorama which Trevor Smith had produced for Weymouth.

**NEXT CLUB NIGHT MEETING**  
**7:30pm Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 Thatched Cottage**

**DEADLINE for DRIFTWOOD Sunday November 30th 2008**

