

The MBA Dover Newsletter



Issue **50** Summer 2016

Hi and welcome to the Summer 2016 edition of Kearsney Kapers.

This edition is number 50, to mark this special edition, some small changes have been made to the format and colour of the heading pages, about time I hear you call, the original design has been used on all of the previous editions. I do like adages and therefore the following fits the bill admirably. *If it ain't broke don't mend it.*

Back in 2000, I took over the editorship from Alan Hounsell who had done a marvellous job of it and taught me all I know, so you know who to blame!

I have searched for a copy of my number one issue to make comparisons with and to see how things have changed in our club since then but have not been able to find one, I'm sure someone will have a copy hidden away in some dusty corner which will undoubtedly surface one day. The MBA Dover was by then only seven years old, we actually formed in 1993.

The Heritage Lottery Funding for Kearsney Abbey has been approved, what now follows is more detailed planning which will then allow the Council to appoint their contractors to do the work. The main start is not thought to be until September 2017, this will allow the busy summer period in the parks to carry on as usual. The first thing to be started will be the extension to the café and the new toilets, some landscaping work can be carried out at the same time so it will be a hectic period.

The Council are going to appoint a new post to be known as the Community Engagement Officer. There will also be another post created and this will be a Park Manager, this position has funding for four years.

The club will continue to attend the regular project meetings to see how things are progressing and will report to the membership any news.

It will be over a year until work should start, we will be able to run our 2017 regatta diary dates pretty well as we plan them, by September we will have finished the seasons regattas although the yacht section will still be sailing, luckily not a lot of infrastructure is required by the yacht section and as long as the water is not affected, they will be largely unaffected.

With all our home grown powerboat regattas now completed, we can now look forward to attending other clubs shows and to enjoy their hospitality. We have invitations to several local club events and one of the biggest will be the Headcorn Southern Model Show, this is organised by our friends in the Kent Model Boat Display Team.

For the very first time, the Model Engineer Exhibition is being held at the famous Brooklands racing circuit complex in Surrey, it is now a museum and many aeronautical and motor racing exhibits are located there. Now called the MEX there will be many world class exhibits on display in the competition classes and, in the loan section, two of our MBA members will be exhibiting.

To round off the next few months, in November, there will be the International Model Boat Show, held at Warwick. Again several MBA members will be exhibiting and displaying their models.

So we are into a very busy period which should be exciting and enjoyable.

This then is Issue 50 of Kearsney Kapers, just to put the record straight, we know the spelling of "Kapers" is incorrect, a competition was held to find a catchy name for our magazine way back when the MBA was in it's infancy, Mrs Elaine Greenland, wife of one of our founder members Ken, was the lady who thought up this name which we have used ever since then.

Have some great model boating.....Alan..

K
e
a
r
s
n
e
y

K
a
p
e
r
s

Model Boat Association Dover
22 The Freedown, St Margarets At Cliffe.
Dover, Kent CT156BD
Tel. (01304) 853242.
Email: secretary@mba-dover.org.uk
www.mba-dover.org.uk

Copyright © 2016 MBA Dover

Swan Attack !

11.53 am 20th May 2016 ...Kearsney Abbey.
HMS Newcastle D87 is on a shakedown cruise after being in refit since February, she has had her hull completely serviced and repainted, her flight deck has been rebuilt and her Lynx helicopter is now in the latest FAA markings, the radars have been updated and the Seadart missile system is now also updated to the latest spec. She is in all respects ready to be accepted into the show circuit of the MBA Dover.

After trials she was lying stopped in position just north of West Falkland, (the island in the Abbey lake) when she was spotted by an Exocet armed SWAN !!

The male swan was first detected by Newcastle's radar approaching from the bridge end of the lake in the narrows, it was in an aggressive mood and spotting the other swans near the weir started an attack.

Those of us who know how much damage these birds can do to a model will appreciate what happened next, the swan accelerated flapping its huge wings and powering through the water with its webbed feet, it careered over the stern of the warship taking out the ensign staff, some of the helicopter deck netting and damaging the hanger doors with its wings, the portside sponson containing the landing lights was ripped off and lost forever, the whole model was covered in water and rocked heavily .

The commander of the Newcastle was in a state of utter shock, a discussion on swan damage had been talked about only that morning, to have it happen in an area considered safe was devastating, if the Seadart had been fully operational, he would have surely fired both missiles. The Type 42 Destroyer Association's motto is, "If it flies it dies"

I can only thank the heavens that the helicopter was not on the flight deck at the time, and that the hugely complicated updated 965 radar array that had taken two weeks to make, was also not fitted at the time, the later 1022 radar did not detect the incoming swan early enough so will be replaced! If the swan had hit amidships the whole ship would have been totally wrecked, luckily a new floodlight sponson is built, the ensign staff is repaired and the White Ensign flies again in HMS Newcastle.

Swan attacks at this time of the year must be considered, be extremely careful with your pride and joy when sailing at Kearsney. Alan....



Plastic Kit Modelling

For years now we have used commercial plastic kits converted to radio control, perhaps the most converted kit has been the ubiquitous "Flower" class corvette. Just recently, two converted kits have been seen at Kearsney. Dick Sadler and Ted Goldring have both recently completed two "Italiari"



1/35th scale kits, one is the British Vosper and the other, an American PT boat.

I think you will agree that these models are very attractive and build into true scale models of the subject. The unusual markings on the PT boat (left) was designed to camouflage them when operating in and around the



many islands in the Pacific.

I did see the "Trumpeter" plastic kit of HMS Hood (1/200 scale) in the window of "Turners Models" recently. Very impressive, the hull is one piece and has a length of 1.3 Metres.

Who will be the first to get one motorised and on the water at the Abbey?

Club Regatta 10th April 2016

The day started with a slight frost but soon warmed up to be a really nice sunny dry day. As it was our first regatta since packing all the equipment away after Headcorn back in September 2015, there were some minor problems that needed sorting out but we resolved them quickly. Tyres needed pumping up and one wheel nearly came off a trolley all together. There were also a few items that wanted quick repairs but eventually we managed to get everything down to the water's edge and set up ready for the regatta to start on time.

Len our scale secretary had been building a new obstacle for the competitions and he needed to sort out various items to complement this feature, laying out a new course that required different obstacles took a little bit longer to set out this time but we managed to have everything ready for the 10 A.M. start.

I counted 50 + boats on the tables and on the water which was very good for a first regatta. We had some new members with us this time which included some junior members, when starting the competitions, this needed to be taken into consideration, Len sorted out the juniors into their own scoring system so that their results could be calculated.

We were visited by several of our older members who we do not see very often which was nice, always good to catch up for a chat with them and to find out what new models have been constructed over the Winter. Other visitors were several members from the Kent Model Boat Display Team, they popped down to see how a real regatta is set up.....actually they came because Neil Terry has also joined that group and he invited them, nice to get support from other modellers.

Neil was launching his newly acquired USS Missouri battleship, after ballasting trials he ran her around the lake , unfortunately I had not brought my camera so could not record the sailing but I understand all went well. I was scoring the competitions, that takes time and I did not get the chance to get involved in the trials.

We rounded off the very successful day with three rounds of Club 500 racing, all was going well until a collision occurred between your scribe Alan and Neil's boats, the result was a large hole in Neil's boat which nearly sank, Alan's boat was undamaged. This sort of thing does happen when seven boats are charging around a course vying for position, just like full size racing.

Packing all away also took more time at this event because many had left early and we did not have our friendly park keeper on duty to pull the loaded trollies back to the storage shed for us this time.

A good regatta and thanks to all who made it a success.



Southampton RTR Tug

When the club was asked what would be a good second model for a member who did not want to build one for themselves, the little Southampton tug was suggested. It is supplied as a RTR (Ready To Run)



model which has features such as smoke from exhausts and lighting all pre installed. A 2.4 gig R/C system comes as standard. The model operates very well straight out of the box and combined with an authentic finish, sets it apart from other offerings which can be described as a bit toy like.

With a length of only 560mm, this model can be transported easily. It is available through the "Howes" model shops as well as others for around the £150.00 mark.

Left..... Two Southampton tugs operating together at Kearsney, the closer one is owned by Andrew Quint with Stuart Silk's model, sailing behind

Club Regatta May 8th

The second club regatta of 2016 was again blessed with really good weather . The usual team arrived early to set everything up ready for the 10 am start of the competition events organised by our scale secretary Len. These went off without a hitch during the morning leaving only the club 500 races to be ran during the afternoon.

Free sailing and chatting took up the rest of the day, Neil Terry had arranged the compound to include a ramp which was away from the main area to operate his hovercraft from.

Just to explain, the club seems to have a new group setting up, they are now the Hovercraft section of the MBA. These model hovercraft are different....are they boats or aircraft ? Anyway we have encouraged them and headed up by Neil who now has several hovercraft, another new member has joined who has been building these craft for a long time. The models are all electrically powered so no pollution problems but the powerful motors that drive aircraft type propellers can be a little more noisy than our conventional craft, we will just keep an eye on them just in case we receive any complaints which seems unlikely.

Back to the regatta and the club 500 races again provided much fun and frustration. Three races started off with eight boats, by the end of the third race we were down to about five, your scribe was flipped over during the second race and sank! Justice I suppose for nearly sinking Neil's boat last time.

All in all this was another good regatta, I cannot believe I am sitting here writing a report on our second regatta already, the season is flying by.

Now fully repaired,
Neil's Club 500
Now sports a
custom made graphic



Neil's Griffon 12,000 Hovercraft approaching the pad

Is this the real thing ?



Kelvin Castle took these pictures of the Isle of Wight hovercraft when he was on holiday, it certainly looks very similar to Neil's model.

*Congratulations to **Alan Hounsell** for winning the summer series of yacht races.
The last race of that series took place on August 21st at Kearsney.
Second was **Andrew Goldsack** and third was **Len Goldsack**. Well done guys!*

Sunday June 5th Club regatta Kearsney.

Another early start on what was forecast to be a very sunny day however the cloud hung around all morning and it was at times quite chilly, by midday the sun did come through and the afternoon was very nice and warm.

As usual the compound was set up with two 6 metre gala tents and the two smaller 3metre ones allowing a large covered area for the models to be displayed. The usual regatta format was adhered to with free sailing of models taking place alongside the competitions.

We were joined this time by several members from the Kent Model Boat Display team who came down without any models but to supporting our club which is very nice to see, we of course welcome visitors and at this regatta we dusted off our visitor's book and used it to see just who was in our compound for security and health and safety reasons. There have been certain security issues recently which we have addressed.

New models to be seen were a nice Vosper MTB from Ted Goldring having it's first outing, running on a small brushless motor it performed very well, built from the Italeri Kit at 1/35th scale it is another plastic magic conversion from Ted, I hear he has the latest Revell Corvette at 1/144th scale building at the moment.

Neil had his USS Missouri running with a smoke generator belching out at times, this version of this ship is from the Gulf War period with missiles and various radars added a far cry from the WWII Missouri which accepted the Japanese surrender aboard her in 1945.

I did spot a minute Bismarck model talking to the water, I believe this is a ready to Run model from Howes models in Oxford, she ran OK but considering the windy conditions, the operator was very brave to sail her.

Lifeboats were an attraction at this regatta, Clive who had come up from Hastings to be with us has almost completed his 1/12th scale Ramsgate Lifeboat. He has done a remarkable job of her considering that he only acquired it in late 2015, the hull was a Metcalf moulding's one married to a Speedline superstructure which Clive has had to modify to make a better scale shape. Clive bought the parts from our chairman Peter who was astounded that Clive had built it so quickly and accurately. As it was its first airing it was not seen on the water but it attracted a great amount of interest and was photographed many times by the public. Andy Cheeseman is also building up a comprehensive selection of Lifeboats and had his models were on display as well.

The club 500 races finished off the June regatta with the usual fun and games happening on every one of the three races that count towards the eventual winner at the end of the regatta season. There was even time for one competitor to diagnose an electrical fault and to change speed controllers including modifying the wiring between races, at least this meant that a few more points were gained by that entrant. At the end of the day and as we were clearing up, Bill gave an impromptu display of his very fast electric model, it flew around the lake to entertain the public.

A very good day and another successful one for the MBA Dover.

Sunday 3rd July Club Regatta.

As mentioned on our Facebook page where more up to date information is posted regularly, only a small shower interrupted our July regatta, the rain spots did cause one fickle member to put his model back in its box to prevent the water splashes ruining his paintwork but it did come out again later.... The sun did shine on the event though, and as usual at this time of the year, the weed started to rise causing a few problems with weeded up propellers.

Due to the mess caused by the wildfowl on our patch, we decided to set up our compound well away and in the middle of the lake frontage this time. If we had known how many members would turn up this area could have been much smaller but as these numbers are unknown, the best thing is to cater for the many.

Models operating, well there was a nice pair of solar powered models being trialled, one of them made it all the way over the lake, along the far side and back again without a problem, the other did not fare so well and only managed a few metres. Experimentation into this and other types of power is interesting and it is only by trying, that we move forward with our hobby.

(continued on page 6)

Continued from page 5

Yet another new model from Neil was a new hovercraft, it was flying well and entertained the public with its impressive size, again it's powered by powerful brushless motor technology which does cause some noise issues, another issue which at the moment has not caused us a problem with the Council is the speed limit on the lower lake. At the moment we do exceed the limits but only in controlled conditions with the club 500 races. Neil and Bill have some really fast electric boats which are extremely popular especially with the younger members of the public who watch them with amazement. We as a club do not want to stop this activity but we must be aware that there is a speed limit and if the Council receive any complaints, we must act to preserve our water for all model boaters.

Back to more sedate models, Ted and Dick were running their large scale plastic kit models of MTB's, they are full of detail and the varied paint schemes were unusual and attractive. Neil had his Illustrious and Missouri out on the water, the latter with its smoke generator produced copious amounts of smoke which I'm sure the chief engineer would have been summoned to the bridge to explain why he was giving the position of the ship away to an enemy! The Illustrious was spotted by a young lady who served on her as an air mechanic, the model was manoeuvred alongside to enable her to take a selfie for old times' sake..

And finally, Len managed to get all the competitions completed, the results will now be collated and will be used to find out who will be the winners this year, the next event, Kearsney Kapers will not have any club competition elements.

Thanks must go to Jeff our friendly park keeper who pulls our heavy loaded trolleys back up to the storage shed for us with his tractor, none of us are getting any younger, the setting up and breaking down all the equipment is getting harder and not having to haul the trollies back by hand is a godsend...thank you again Jeff.

Alan.....

Maidstone Cygnets Boats on the Mote

The club travelled up to Maidstone on July 31st for the Cygnets Boats on the Mote event. It was nice to have the sunshine with us all day from the very beginning.

The Cygnets had produced an itinerary for the day with yacht races and fast powerboat slots breaking up the predominantly free sailing, our club set up three gazebos with tables and with ten members, we put on a credible diverse display, warships, tugs, work boats, merchant ships and hovercraft.

One problem was the lack of water, the level in Mote Park was down by approximately two feet from normal, this made placing the models into the water very difficult, lowering strops were certainly put to good use and we were glad that they had not been left behind in the workshop. Maidstone Cygnets had on display their large HMS Kent model, this was on the water all day and dwarfed other models, our warship model of a similar vessel looked so small when in company with it. Neil Terry added a camera to the stern of his Dutch Pioneer tug and filmed all the models from the water, we await the results of this camera but the model caught the attention of the judges who were looking for a best in show model, Neil was awarded this prize which was also a feather in the MBA's cap, well done Neil. Another MBA member flying the flag for us was Derrick Rudge who took part in the yacht races, four laps of a course was contested by several yachts of varying sizes and types; we were not sure how a winner could be found with so many variables. A good day though, despite a rather unconventional welcome!

Farm and Forest Day Russell Gardens

The Council had asked if we could support this event, it was put on to show the public, mainly children how farming and the landscape can join together for the good of the community. As a club we provided a display which was well received, unfortunately the weed in the lake prevented most of the models from operating but those that did, helped make the event a success.

We received a nice complimentary email from the Council, they were very appreciative of our efforts and thanked all who participated.

Some pictures from the Summer season.



Photo courtesy of Paul Goodburn.



Derrick Rudge's Airboat on Kearsney lake

Above
Our set up at the Farm and Forest day in Russell Gardens



Right
Neil Terry's one man show at the Beale Park. Show.
Thanks for flying the flag for us Neil.



What's this? Moonwind bringing up the rear !

Andrew's Milita



Alongside RAS. (Refuelling At Sea)



Ted's 1/144th scale Corvette



Alan'Poole's HMS Beagle receiving dry stores from Nick Blythe's preserved Liberty Ship, both vessels at 1/96th scale.



Derrick's two man Indian canoe

Kearsney Kapers 2016

Another fantastic day for our 2016 open event, looking back on last year's event we had similar weather but this year the support given by other clubs was even better.

We were supported by the Kent Model Boat Display team, Tugs R Us, Heron model boat club and Cygnets model boat club. Also joining us was Ian Gerrard with his superb steam launch, a real crowd puller and one of the most technically advanced models on the circuit. Our own club also turned out with many models and easily filled up the frontage of the two six and one 3metre gazebos that we set up. The other clubs also erected their own gazebos and when all the models were displayed and counted, we had 85 models on display. As usual with Kearsney Kapers, free sailing was the order of the day but we did run a couple of boat snooker rounds during the show, this event is always popular and it was actually requested by one of the clubs at an earlier event that we both attended. Both rounds was won by our own Bernard Le Ny, well done Bernard, he was able to take two large bags of sweets, his winnings, back to his children.

From the Kent Model Boat Display Team, Roger sailed his massive model of the RMS Queen Elizabeth around the lake, this model, one of a pair of large scale Cunard liners owner by Roger looked superb.

Tugs R Us had their usual slick display set up and most of them were operating all day on the water, these powerful tug models are also very colourful and again look fantastic on the water. Dave Frith had his model of a Damen 3110 tug based on the DHB tug Dauntless, operating and offered to tow your scribe around the lake in our dinghy, this evolution is normally carried out with the operator sitting in the dinghy but this time it was controlled from the shore, Dave towed the dinghy effortlessly, the power of this tug is unbelievable, some nice pictures were taken whilst being towed about. The tug hull was one of several hulls built for the MBA and sold on to other modellers, the plug was built by yours truly and the moulds are now available from Andy Griggs of "Models by Design".

Ian Gerrard's flash steam engine that is fitted to his beautiful wooden yacht model performed very well, he has now added voice command technology to the model. I tried very hard to understand how this works but got lost early on due to not having a computer brain, however I did understand that there is an electronic compass fitted which responds to a binary coded signal sent through voice recognition commands sent from Ian's own voice. He did explain that several "Bits" of information do the same job; this is due to fluctuations in his voice command. The tone of the instruction 'Turn right' works from a normal voice but also works when the firmer command TURN RIGHT is ordered in a more tense situation. Well that is how I understand it!

Set up near to the spectator area was a small hover pad, three craft entertained the public from there running off the land into the lake and back again, but, due to increasing the size of our compound, this spectator area was quite small. Something that needs to be thought about at future large events.

Neil has a new member to challenge his large model title, Tony Instance joined us for the first time and had with him a large model of the P&O ferry "Dragon", sadly not a Dover based ferry but a very impressive well weathered large model.

But the biggest model in the regatta was from our scale secretary Len, he bought along his freight ship "Kearsney Caddy", nineteen feet long. Len motored it around the lake which is not really big enough for this enormous model.

A raffle which raised some funds for the club rounded off the day, this ended one of our best supported regatta's ever, our thanks go to all who worked so hard to make it happen.



A selection of pictures from Kearsney Kapers
2016



Ian Gerrard



Rust effect on
the Dragon



P&O Dragon



Kim's Shannon Lifeboat



Steam Trawler



Freelance futuristic gunboat



Solent lifeboat



View from the Dinghy



Omaha beach 1944?

Interesting vessels seen in Ramsgate Harbour



A houseboat based on a Dutch barge moored in Ramsgate Harbour. One of the ugliest vessels seen in years, plenty of flower tubs and bright multi coloured paintwork but it does brightens up the quayside.



USN 22, American gunboat built in Germany in 1952. It was used to patrol the river Rhine. Recently used for film work.

Pat Male

In mid August we received some sad news from Charles Male, Pat, his wife of over sixty years has sadly passed away. Pat and Charles have been members for many years and they regularly attended our regattas which she always enjoyed. Due to looking after Pat during her illness, we have not seen much of Charles recently but he hopes to get down to the lake again sometime soon.

Our condolences go to Charles at this sad time.

MBAD Club information

**Model Boat Association Dover
Club Committee Members
March 2016**

- Chairperson : Mr Peter Cook** - ☎ 01233 641599
- Secretary : Mr Alan Poole** ☎ 01304 853242
Email: secretary@mba-dover.org.uk
- Treasurer : Mr David Cowlin** ☎ 01304 371283
- Membership Secretary:**
Mr Ted Goldring ☎ 01304 380778
Email: membership@mba-dover.org.uk
- Webmaster: Mr Reg Steel** ☎
- Scale Secretary :**
Mr Len Ochiltree ☎ 01233 627469
- Newsletter Editor:**
Mr Alan Poole : ☎ 01304 853242
Email: editor@mba-dover.org.uk
- Yacht Coordinator :**
Mr Reg Steel
Email Yachts@mba-dover.org.uk
Tel : 01227 456767



Model Boat Association Dover

MBA Merchandise

Caps	£5.00
Sweat Shirts	£14.00
T Shirts	£8.00
Polo Shirts	£12.00
Enamel Pin Badge	£2.50

Website - WWW.mba-dover.org.uk