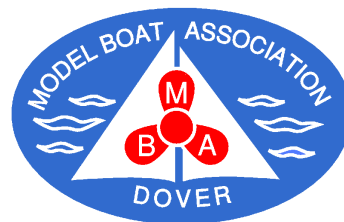


MBA Dover Newsletter



Issue 4, Spring 2001

Hello Again

Well here we are again with the Spring 2001 issue of our newsletter. You will have noted that, as from the winter 2000 edition, we have restyled the newsletter. This was to make it more 'snappy' and more interesting to read, and of course some is in "Colour". We hope you like it.

We held our Annual Prize giving and Christmas get together on Dec 6th at the Cricketers pub. All who attended had a good time with plenty of food and drinks to be had. A report and pictures can be found later in this newsletter.

The weather has provided us with a welcome addition to our assets, in the form of Water! (see picture on page 5). Since the end of October we have experienced more than our fair share of rain which has swollen the Abbey lake to a point where it actually flooded the area by the seats, perhaps we could sail the One Metre boats on it at the moment. The level is up by at least 9", which is good news for me with the submarines!

After committing ourselves to attend the Dover Regatta for the two days this year, the committee have set up a working party to ensure all runs smoothly on the days and to make sure our invited guests know how we intend to manage it. We intend to operate a strict transmitter control and use a registration system. This is similar to "Ramsgate's" way of doing things at their 'Ships Rally'. Ken has produced a form, which will be sent with the invitations to our guests, and should



give us a good idea as to the numbers of boats and people who might come and join us on the Saturday. (11th of August).

As this will be our first, - (well nearly first, for those of you with long memories) - time in organising an event with other clubs, we naturally want it to be a success, the location given to us this year should prove to be a great improvement with a much better chance to be more involved and see more of the general public.

Let's have a good turnout!

At the beginning of January, we received notification from Doug that he wished to stand down as Scale Secretary. We are very grateful for all the hard work that Doug has done for the club and our thanks go out to him. (*He is selling his Smit tug as well, -see the for sale section*)

Charles Male will be taking over the post of Scale Secretary until the AGM in May.

Once again we have to thank Frank Jobson, for

this time building us a new tug-towing barge. This was one of the points mentioned before in the newsletter regarding a more realistic looking and interesting tow for the tugs, it should handle better than the *plank*, that we currently use.

On the same 'Tack', sorry Ken, the sub-committee, are making up new obstacles and docks from dense foam, these will be simple shapes that will float on the water and will be anchored down, it is planned to decorate them with some features which should also look more pleasing than the ones we are now using.

Frank has also kindly repaired our trolley, which we use to transport all the equipment from the garage store to the lakeside. We do tend to ask a lot from this little trolley, in future we will have to adopt a policy of 'little and often' and not try to get everything down to the water in one or two goes.

Another point that the members felt would be

(Continued on page 2)

Model Boat Association Dover
134 New Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne
Folkestone, Kent CT18 7JZ
Tel. (01303) 242540 FAX (0870) 4064743
Email: secretary@mba-dover.org.uk
www.mba-dover.org.uk

Copyright © 2001 MBA Dover

(Continued from page 1)

a good idea to add interest to our monthly meetings, (that of introducing 'Workshops') took place at the February meeting. Roger Shields put on an electronics presentation, which was well received by the many who were there.

By the time you read this newsletter a second presentation will have been made by Ken Greenland on plastic construction techniques, and possibly a third by

myself on those 'damn un-English weapons', submarines.

Over the winter months is a pretty lean time for news, most people are in their workshops getting ready for the coming season, you will find however a good response in the 'For Sale' section this time with quite a few models waiting for new owners.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed an article to boost this issue and see you all, *down at the*

Abbey, soon.
Happy sailing

Alan Poole

Annual Prize Giving **And** **Christmas Social 2000**



Roger Shields, Tug Towing



Roger Shields, Large Steering



John Evans, Small Steering



**Kirsten Langley, Large Yachts
and also Large Yacht winner
1999 "Frostbite Series"**



**Alan Hounsell,
Small Yacht Class**



**Alan Hounsell, "Frostbite Series"
Small Yachts winner 1999, and
"Icicle Series" winner 2000**

The Annual Prize giving and Christmas Social.

A Report by Doug, Scale Secretary.

A presentation night was held at the Cricketers pub on the 6th Dec, it was a very pleasant evening with quite a few members in attendance. With madam chairperson (Jennie) doing the presenting and myself doing the MC bit. The Dover Mercury newspaper was present and took plenty of shots of the winners. As for the trophy winners, it went like so, Tug Tow to **Roger Shields** once again, (only because I was not competing against him Ha!) Also the large boats over a metre went to **Roger** with Alan Poole a close second, but with a big difference, Alan does it underwater. As for the other event the small boats went to **John Evans**, his first year with the big boys, and boy did he show us how it should be done, but don't worry you senior skippers, rumour has it that he is getting a yacht next year. Well done John. So finally to the yachts, well what can I say, it's that man again Alan Hounsell, well done Alan. He picked up Three trophies, The Small yachts trophy plus The "Frostbite," and "Icicle" series, come on you yachties, don't let him win all the time!. And finally well done to **Kirsten Langley** for winning the 1 metre sized yacht Trophy and also the "Frostbite trophy for 1 Metre size yachts.

Doug.

Sail Story's

Spotted at the lake during February, it's minus 2 degrees (note the frost on the ground), and with only Swan's for company, this picture is entitled,
- The loneliness of the Race Official.



Or is it the evidence for "Nut of the Month" ?

SHOW REPORTS

Not much to report on this time, as there are not many shows that the members attended over the Christmas and New year period. If anyone does attend a show, let me know some details so that I can do a short write up which might be of interest to others.

The Model Engineer Exhibition Dec 28th-Jan 1st Sandown Park

This year because the venue was changed and because the organisers Nexus wanted to split up general modelling from the old original Engineering theme, there was no invitations for boat clubs and not many boating related subjects to be seen. However there were some models on the competition tables to be admired. The most notable was a Leander Class frigate, HMS Galatea, modelled by a good friend of many club members, Jack Bidgood from Middlesex. We had seen small parts on display at the exhibition for a great many years and admired the workmanship. The completed model won the gold medal and was awarded the Mountbatten Cup for the best Grey funnel liner on display.

There were horrendous queues on the first day and too many people in the halls for comfort but subsequent days were much more pleasant. The general comments were that it was not as good as the old show which was traditionally held in a prestigious London venue such as Olympia. (*Cheaper parking though!*)



This was the scene on the far side of the lake in February, the water has risen to a point where the weir cannot cope with the amount of water passing over it, consequentially the excess capacity has burst the bank and poured over into the side streams.

BATTERY CHECKING

In the “good old days”, the traditional way of checking the state of charge of a lead acid battery was to use a hydrometer to check the specific gravity of the electrolyte. Battery manufacturers made provision for this, and for topping up by providing each battery cell with a large screw cap or plug for each cell. Later types had various “easy fill systems”.

Modern “sealed for life “ or maintenance free batteries have no such provision, **but** since there is a direct relationship between the specific gravity of a battery’s electrolyte and the “off load” or open voltage across it’s terminals, the versatile digital test meter can be used very effectively to determine this kind of battery’s state of charge. This includes the small types often used in models. The figures listed below may be surprising – but they are true! Yes, a battery showing 12.2 volts, off load, is only 50% capacity, and may explain why some people are puzzled when their batteries, tested at 12 volts, and assumed to be fully charged, don’t last long on the pond!

Please note that a fully charged 12 volt battery coming straight off the charger may well show a no load voltage in excess of 13 volts, so either let it stand for a while or subject it to a light discharge for a few seconds to remove the “surface charge” before testing.

Finally, the types of battery listed above do not suffer from any kind of so called memory effect and should always be restored to a fully charged state as soon as possible after use.

Open circuit Voltage		Percentage Charge
12.75	=	100
12.64	=	90
12.53	=	80
12.42	=	70
12.31	=	60
12.20	=	50
12.09	=	40
11.98	=	30
11.87	=	20
11.76	=	10
11.65	=	0

For **6 Volt** batteries simply divide the test voltage by two

Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members and wish them many hours of happy sailing with us at Kearsney Abbey.

The overall club membership currently stands at a healthy 105 members (89 Adults, 15 Juniors & 1 Honorary).

Alan Hounsell -Secretary

Mr Gordon Everest
Mr Brian Lisle
Mr Roger Money
Mr John Holness
Master Alexander Oulsnam
Mr Ian Oulsnam
Master Jake Glanville
Mr Darren Glanville

A problem frequently encountered in model construction is that of testing the functioning of a servo. The servo-tester described in this article provides the solution. It supplies an output frequency of 50 Hz; the pulse width can be adjusted between 1 ms and 2 ms and serves as an excellent test signal.

servo-tester
elektor march 1983

servo-tester

simple and
inexpensive,
but effective

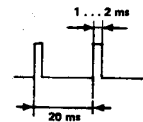
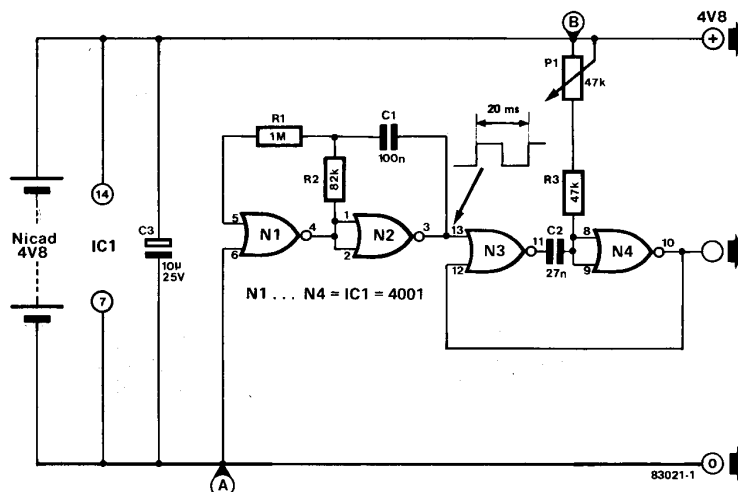
One possible cause of failure in radio-controlled models is a malfunctioning servo. The problem is: how can this be checked when the model is being operated in the field? Certainly during contests, when you are forbidden to use the transmitter for testing. What we need is a battery-operated test circuit which supplies a PWM (pulse-width modulation) signal. The signal transmitted to the servo from the remote control receiver, has a pulse width of 1.5 ms for the neutral position of the servo, and the pulse widths for the two end positions are 1 ms and 2 ms respectively. Obviously, our servo-tester must generate the same signals.

The output pulse is positive, so that the circuit described so far is only suitable for servos which respond to a positive input pulse. For servos requiring a negative input pulse, some modifications must be made to the circuit. First the IC is replaced by a pin-compatible quad NAND gate 4011. Pin 6 of gate N1 (point A) must be connected to the positive supply and the lower end of R3 (point B) must be grounded. With so few components required, construction is a simple matter. Figure 2 shows a proposed layout. If the pulse-width is not quite correct, the value of C2 can be modified.

G. Luber

Figure 1. The servo-tester produces a PWM (pulse width modulation) output with positive output pulses whose width can be varied from 1 to 2 ms. The necessary circuit modifications for negative output pulses are described in the text.

1



As shown in figure 1, the total component count is one IC, three resistors, one potentiometer and two capacitors: a NiCad 4.8 V battery is also needed to power the circuit. The IC is a 4001 CMOS type which contains four NOR gates. Gates N1/N2 are connected as an astable multivibrator which oscillates at a frequency of 50 Hz; the output pulse width is approximately 10 ms. The total period time is 20 ms, which is one of the requirements the servo-tester must meet. The next step is to make the output pulse of the tester adjustable from 1 ms to 2 ms. This task is performed by the monostable multivibrator N3/N4. Each positive-going edge from the astable multivibrator triggers the monostable; the latter, in turn, produces an output pulse that can be varied from 1 ms to 2 ms by means of P1.

2

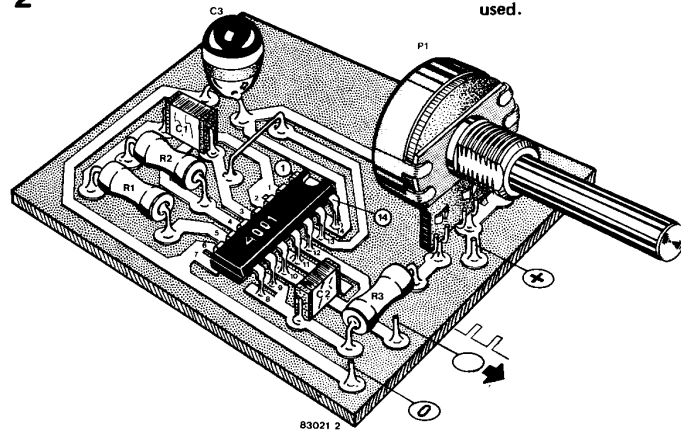


Figure 2. Construction is simple if this layout is used.

Any questions? - ask Charles, not me! (Ed)

FOR SALE & WANTED

Thanks to Barry this time, my list of **wanted** model magazines is still growing smaller. This is my updated list.

<u>Wanted Model Boats Magazines</u>	
1964	June
1965	Jan
	June
1966	April
	May
	July
1973	April
1974	Feb
1984	October
	December
1985	March
1986	May
	December
1988	February
	October

<u>R/C Boat Modeller Magazines Wanted</u>	
July/Aug	86
Sept/Oct	86
May/June	88
Sept/Oct	88

If anyone has any of the above magazines, please contact - Alan on 01304 - 8852917 thanks!
If anyone wants any magazines, I have quite a few 'doubles' that may help someone's collection.

Roger Shields still has his Mississippi pusher tug for sale, beware *this one is not yer average tug*, It is a flat bottomed river tug and has an interesting propulsion and steering system, speak to Roger for more details. No radio is supplied. **£100.00**

John Slee has a selection of models for sale,

Formidable 47ins Marvon models kit	<u>£180.00</u>
HMS Diamond 6ft long destroyer	<u>£500.00</u>
Type 21 frigate hull by hydrafibres 6ft long	<u>£100.00</u>
Two motors to suit above	<u>£10.00</u>

Mascot Bristol pilot cutter	<u>£65.00</u>
Hunt (Sirmar) destroyer hull fittings and motors etc	<u>£700.00</u>

All the above are offered well below normal retail price and are mostly untouched kits, some limited editions!

John Slee also has a large amount of airbrushes and a compressor for sale, this includes pressure gauges, water traps and all you would need to get spraying.

His reason for selling is that he simply can't get on with this type of equipment.

All for **£950.00** Contact John on 01303 264356

Doug Capon, has his Smit tug for sale, as everyone in the club knows this is a very nice large (1/2in : 1ft) scale, powerful scale tug which has won many tug towing and steering events within the club. Doug is offering the model complete with special sound unit and all radio for only **£300.00**

The sound unit is programmable and a much sought after piece of equipment!

However she does need a refit ! (*Doug's words*)

David Newton has sent me details of a model he wishes to sell.

DAVID NEWTON
2 CHURCH HILL
SHEPHERDSWELL
DOVER
KENT CT15 7NR
01304 830985

FOR SALE

Boston Blenheim, stern trawler constructed from drawings in Model Boats, fitted with a Decaperm 6v motor and Futaba 3 channel 27mc radio £200 o.n.o.

Ivan Ratcliffe has for sale what appears Billings? Coastguard Cutter, better Lifeboat in RNLI service. The model has **£85.00**

SOLD

from the photo that he sent to me, a known to us as a "Waveney Class" motors and props fitted but no radio.

Ivan is also looking to buy a **Futaba 2ch Receiver** on the 27 Megs band.
Contact Ivan on 01797 364985

Chris Handley has a Kingston mouldings hull and cabin for a 33ft Brede Class Lifeboat, also to complement the hull is a complete running gear set and a pair of 540 motors.
All untouched **£50.00** Contact Chris on 01303

Phil Ribton has his "Baywatch" model up for sale, this is a Huntsman hull and a picture can be found with the original advert in the Summer 2000 newsletter.
Phil has used the motors and electronics in a new project, therefore the model is now offered minus these components at the reduced price of **£40.00**

SOLD

Just to end this rather full section, an ex-member was selling three boats at the end of last season, They might well be sold by now but just in case anyone's interested I will give you the details.

A Deans Marine Cossack £30.00, A freelance M.T.B £20.00, and a Minesweeper £20.00. Details from David Bushell on **07779 432488**.
David lives in the Folkestone area.

REMINDERS

- ⇒ First Regatta of the 2001 season is on Sunday 22nd April - Kearsney Abbey, 10 am.
- ⇒ Clubs AGM will be held on Wednesday 2nd May 2001 - The Cricketers, River, 7.30 pm.
- ⇒ Regatta originally scheduled for Sunday 17th June (Father's Day) has been moved to Sunday 10th June (See latest issue of Diary Dates circulated with this Newsletter).

NEW MODELS

Some new models that I know about and are under construction are:

From **Dave Cowlin**, a 1/48th scale Forceful paddle tug, these vessels were used by the RMAS in our major Naval Dockyards to move Aircraft Carriers about. Because of their low height they could manoeuvre under the overhanging flight decks of this type of ship.

Dave has used some original ships drawings to make a start on his model and at the moment is in the early stages of construction. The paddle system is a welcome change from the normal single/twin screw tugs, often thought of as a dated form of propulsion, they were in use right up to the demise of the big carriers in the late seventies. It will be interesting to see how they cope with the tug towing course.

From **Roger**, HMS Bulldog. At last I have got him away from tugs! This model also to 1/48th scale (a very popular scale this and used by the Admiralty as the standard scale for ships drawings).

This Bulldog not to be confused with its famous wartime predecessor, is of the survey vessel built in 1968. She is now one of the longest serving vessels in the R.N. In January she sailed for a six month deployment, when she returns to UK waters in the summer she will be flying her decommissioning pennant. (*And they have only recently painted her grey*) These ships were very smart in their white and buff colour scheme of the Hydrographic Service, and it is this scheme that Roger is going to model her in.

The hull and drawings are from Metcalf Mouldings, all the other bits are totally scratch built from all the normal materials, ply, plastic and brass. Naturally there should be a fully comprehensive electrical installation as well. Latest news is that it's been put on hold until some home improvements are completed.

From **Chris**, A Vosper RTTL (Rescue Target Towing Launch) These very handsome launches were operated by the RAF Marine branch and used for recovery of downed airmen and for, *surprisingly*, target towing. They were 68ft long and very powerful for their size. Chris recently acquired the model and is rebuilding her. He is currently sorting out the electrics and radio control equipment.



Who's this with a similar RTTL model?

Clue :

It's in 1963 and is at Kearsney, apart from the edge of the lake, nothing much seems to have changed

From **Graham Miller**, A 750mm, racing yacht which is a cut down 1 Metre design. This boat will be able to operate on the lake at Kearsney with none of the problems that the full sized 1 metres have, i.e. Too much draught!

Also from Graham are three boats in his "Classic Sailing" series, A Bristol pilot cutter, A Brixham trawler type, and a French 'Tunny' boat. All to a common scale of 1:24th.

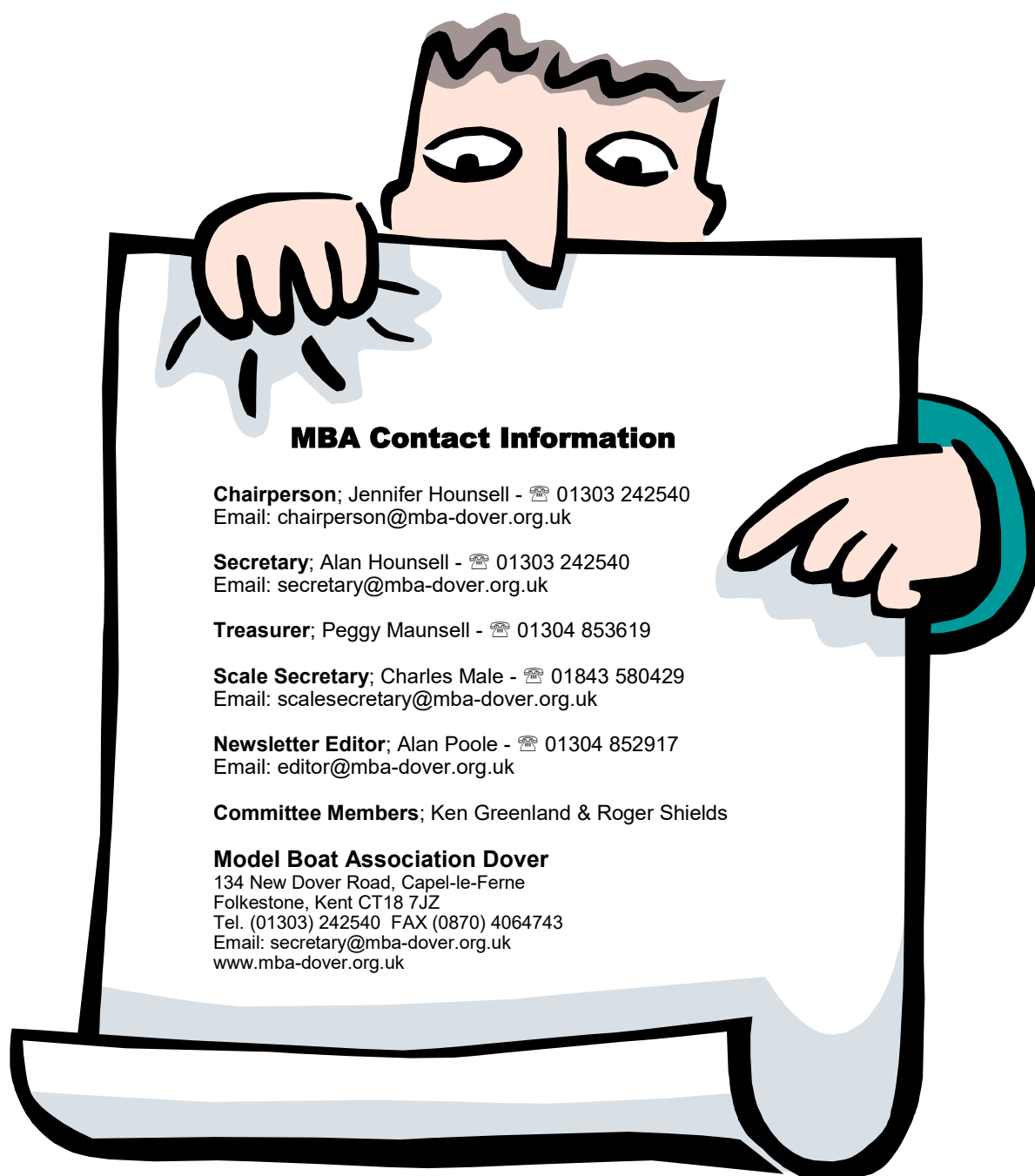
Graham once owned the actual French boat that he is modelling, she was called 'Biche' and was quite an historical vessel. The details on this one should be spot on considering the amount of information that Graham has on her.

Phil Ribton is constructing a pusher tug **Bets-y-Bev**. Phil already has a model of this boat and is now building this one 50% bigger. 42ins long and a beam of 16ins. Phil does like his larger models and he is fitting her out with his usual home made electronics.

Tony Reeves, has scratch built a model of a 28ft motor /sailing lifeboat. This was the only Harbour Class Lifeboat built and was stationed in Ireland. Tony is a member of The Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society and also a Folkestone Branch member of the RNLI.

We have yet to see this model on the water, it should look good and attract a lot of interest. Lifeboat models are very popular with the public as well as other modellers.

It is always interesting to see new models in the club, If you have a new model and want it mentioned in the newsletter, let me know!



THE NEXT TO BACK PAGE

A fair amount of late news to be added this time, The Swan issue at Kearsney blew up into quite a big thing in September with the Newspapers printing various letters on their front pages from people either protesting against the councils recommendations or supporting them generally, nothing much seems to have changed.

We are now enduring the inconveniences caused by birds feeding in the areas that we wish to operate our models in, namely *The Model Boat Lake*!

A helpful response has been received from other Clubs regarding supporting us at the Dover Regatta later in the year. This was in response to the suggestion that we go for the two days in 2001. We wrote to Cygnets at Maidstone who were keen to offer some help, and we are awaiting a reply from Vikings and Heron model boat clubs before we make any definite arrangements regarding invitations etc.

The latest news is that we have now secured the position on the seafront that we had asked for. All our requests have been agreed to, so it's all systems go!

The Dover Transport Museum has expressed a wish to have the HSS Ferry model for display in their maritime section. It was always our intention to let them have the model regardless as to whether she made the crossing or not. A suitable description and explanation about the project giving credit to the club and individuals who spent many hours on the attempt, will be placed alongside the model.

Alan Hounsell and Frank Jobson have been to see about the tent replacement. They have found one that they think will be suitable. This will be discussed and a decision made at the next meeting.

The drawings for the Vindictive have still not yet been obtained by the Dover Museum. They had made a request to the club for any models of First World War ships for a display that they are putting together about "The Dover Patrol", and had agreed to supply information to enable a model to be made.

We have just learnt that there will be no Teddy Bears Picnic this year. It is because the Council has pulled out due to the costs involved.

Don't forget our first Regatta of the year, **22 April 2001**, at Kearsney. Let's hope the weather is kinder this season!!

Late-Late- Latest – The Baywatch model from Phil and the Coastguard model from Ivan have been sold!Bye!

Creative Model Makers



IOM Yachts

LittleWing

Longbow

Ericca

Mermaid Classic Yachts

New Kits

Shallow draft Mini 750 Yacht

X Craft Submarine

Accessories

Masts/Sail

Mast Fittings

Keels/Rudders

Enquiries :- Phone /Fax 01304 853322

Email gdm@creativemodels.co.uk

Online Shopping at: www.creativemodels.co.uk