

# The MBA Dover Newsletter



Issue 45 Winter 2014

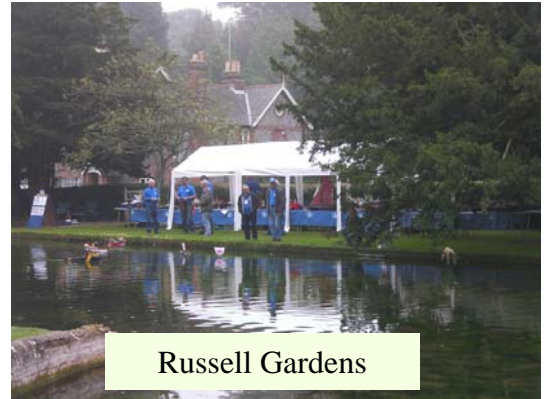
Welcome to the Winter edition.

The nights are already drawing in as I start this edition of KK, where does the time go?

This season has been another good one for the club with all our regattas being completed without any serious weather problems. We are now enjoying the events organised by our friends and colleagues in other clubs, Its good to just turn up and sail without all the

hard work setting up and running the events. As usual, I have written short reports on the various shows that we have attended. These can be found inside this edition.

There was one extra event that we were asked to do, this was the DDC Council Chairman's event held to honour 80 families that had completed a family and schools together programme. Our club was approached and asked if we could put on a model boat show for them in Russell Gardens. 18 members arrived and put on a display in the gardens, we were always under the impression that we were not really supposed to use this water as we have the lower lake at Kearsney Abbey, but after talking to some Council officers at that event, we have approached them formally to request official permission to operate models there. We await their decision.



Russell Gardens

There is a new club in our area, a group from the Maidstone Cygnets have set up a club of their own and are calling it the Sevenoaks Scale Model Boat Club. Richard Stringer is their secretary and they have a website...<http://sevenoakssmbc.co.uk/> They have their own water in the Sevenoaks area which is 52miles away from Dover. This group had previously also set up 'The Kent Model Boat Display Team.' They are now the host group responsible for the boating section of the Southern Model Show as well as other similar types of shows under the direction of Phil Knell. We naturally wish them success and will support them. The group are still members of the Cygnets so they will continue to attend shows at Mote Park as well.

The MBA now has a Facebook page, Peter has set this up and is inviting members to join, it is only accessible by invitation. Already there are many members and invited guests on the site, if you are not yet on it and want to be, please contact Peter.

The club storage garage was broken into again during October, this time, nothing was taken however the door was damaged. A circular grinder was used to cut off the padlocks on the compound, then they used it to cut a hole in the door and open it. The police were informed but as nothing was stolen, they cannot do very much. English Landscapes were also targeted, they have replaced the locks and our door has been repaired.

The Christmas social takes place on December 3rd at the Cricketers, all members are invited to come along and enjoy an evening with the club.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas an look forward to a new season in 2015..

Alan

## Regatta Reports

### **Herne Bay Heron's open event.**

Ten of us made the journey over to Herne Bay for their open regatta on the 24th August. We were the first there and set up our stand before any Heron's arrived. Shortly after, though, everyone did arrive and joined us, there was a good turnout with clubs from all over Kent. I did not count the models on display but there were many. Fast electrics are allowed on the Herne Bay lake and several dodged the other models to display their attributes, our own Neil Terry took full advantage and hammered across the water at almost full throttle, something he cannot do at Dover. These high speed models are undoubtedly very impressive and exciting to watch. Other exciting models were on the water, as a warship fan I must mention the very well detailed and realistically weathered Denny steam gunboat Grey Goose. This fired torpedoes as well! Also, I spotted a nice Air Sea Rescue launch which was a different version from the more popular Aerokits Vosper's normally seen. Ian Gerrard had his beautiful large scale steam launch operating, there was a prize for the best model on show and although we did not hear who won it, I would not be surprised if Ian was the recipient. The weather was kind and we all had a good show, our thanks to the Heron's for the invitation.

*(A letter of thanks was received from the Heron's thanking us for attending, they say there was 150 boats on display and 9 clubs attended.)*

### **Maidstone Cygnets Tugs and Warships Day.**

Three members of this club went along to this event at Maidstone on Sunday 31st August. The Cygnets were hoping for more support for this event however, only Heron MBC and us were there. Despite the lack of clubs there were a good number of models to be seen on and off the water,.A sail by was arranged for all the warships which was nice to see, and the tugs were also a major part of the show. One warship model that is worthy of mention was a 1/200th scale Japanese Yamato battleship, this very finely detailed model was built by Richard Gardner of the Cygnets, I particularly liked the fine railings which looked very realistic. The Cygnets are restructuring after some resignations recently, we all hope they get more support in the future.

### **Ramsgate Vikings Model Ships rally 7th September.**

This was the 28th Ships Rally organised by the Ramsgate Vikings Model Boat Club. As always, many clubs made the journey to the extremities of Kent to support the Vikings, I spotted club shirts with logos from as far away as Portsmouth, but old friends from Southend, Phoenix (London), Capstan from Chatham and other local clubs had braved the early morning fog to be there.

The Westcliffe pond has been refurbished and cleaned out then treated with a blue dye which prevents sunlight from reaching the bottom and producing algae, this gave the wake from the models a very attractive bluish tinge, the submarines also had the same bluish outline as they disappeared into the depths. This year the Vikings had split the display areas into two distinct parts, the Café side was the same but where most of the visiting clubs were situated, was across the other side of the pond. The idea was that the public would have an uninterrupted view of the displays from the middle part of the area. This area actually remained virtually empty for most of the day. Tony Mudd was the only trade stand in attendance, he set up in the "visitors area" selling plastic kits, paints and other related 'boaty bits'.

On the water there was a varied display of models to be seen, it is very difficult to pick out which model was my favourite but I did like the Canadian logging tug, from, I believe, the Southend Club. This model was very quick, the original did 28 knots which is fast for a tug, I think it was really a logging launch, however, the model was also quick. A nice weathering finish had green weed painted on it's underside which was unusual but effective. Our own Barrie Warrington is reducing his fleet and three of his boats were seen on the water together for the first time, some under the command of their new owners.

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This event regularly attracts over 150 models and I would suspect that this amount was present this year, the Dover club alone sported 40. We also took up many of the tables supplied which as mentioned, were arranged in a square on the



The Dover contingent at Ramsgate



eastern side of the complex. A good show with an equally good attendance by the MBA Dover.

## Southern Model Show 13/14 September

This two day event was the second show held at Headcorn Airfield. We had been invited by the Kent Model Boat Display Team to attend and we responded by setting up our 6m gala tent in the centre of the model boat village. There were seventeen clubs booked to display this year over the two days, however, owing to another major show on the same weekend, several familiar clubs did not attend preferring to go to a closer venue. The pool was constructed from bales of hay with a black polythene liner, this was much bigger than last year but not as deep, this meant the yachts and submarines could not operate very well. The breeze was also quite strong at times which made displaying smaller models a problem but larger models, including 1/12th scale lifeboats, looked very impressive on the choppy water.



Most of the “M B A Dover display team” attended over the two days, some for both and some for just one day but a very good turnout was shown by all our members, it is nice to see good support at these events and I know it was appreciated by the organisers. We easily filled the six club tables that were taken with our models and even needed more space when other modellers joined us as invited guests, we don’t see many Loch Ness Monsters at Dover! There was a cute teddy bear operating though, courtesy of Kelvin, this has now been renamed “Bear Watch,” sporting the red shorts of the beach rescue team, the bear was rejected by Kim on the Lifeboat Enthusiasts stand as not being a suitable exhibit but when Kelvin

put him on the water, all the girls wanted a photo, so that’s how you do it Kelvin!

Again we must thank Neil for loading and transporting the equipment to and from the venue and for bringing along his fleet, at the end of the last day he did sneak onto the water with his incredibly fast ‘Green Machine’, this model is probably one of the fastest models we have in the club and he can only demonstrate it when away at other venues because he is “banned” at Kearsney with it.....

This show was very enjoyable, some of us wore two hats displaying not only on our stand but also with the lifeboats next door, on the Saturday evening after a nice take away curry, we were entertained by the most spectacular flying display I have ever seen.

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The model aircraft were flying at night with lights on and flashing strobe lights, roman candles were streaming from the wingtips and coloured flares fired out like missile decoys, the planes were performing incredible manoeuvres. They were hovering like helicopters hanging on their propellers with smoke issuing from the engine exhausts, and remember, this was at night so it was dark!, very dark.. When they landed everyone in the area put their hands together and applauded them.

It makes our model boats look so relaxing in comparison, and sedate which of course they are, and, of course, we don't usually have to take our models home in a plastic bag reduced to kit form again!.

Well done to Phil Knell and his team for organising this event for us all.

## **Dover District Council Garden Party 20th September**

Just as we thought the season was over, the club were approached by the Council who asked if we could put on a display in Russell Gardens for the Chairman of Dover District Council, Cllr Sue Nicholas, who was hosting a garden party for the Families and Schools Together (FAST) programme. This is a save the children based initiative.

18 members turned up to support this event with 42 boats ranging from submarines to teddy bears. It is unusual for us to be asked to display in this venue as it was always thought that model boats should not be operated here, mainly because there is adequate facilities in neighbouring Kearsney Abbey!

*(After the event, the whisper was that this might change!)*

All the tables and two gala tents were set up on a flat wide area near the boathouse, we trolleyed over all the equipment from our Kearsney store including the boats as the car park opposite was reserved for the council guests. The display started at 11am with most of the models on the water being watched by the council guests, the water had been de-weeded but there were still quite a lot about which choked up the propellers, however we put on a good show and it was appreciated by the organisers who gave us all a packed lunch. After this, we organised a race across the water with our pipe lagging galleons for the children, after a call on the PA system for twelve children we were inundated and had to run a second race, this was a really rewarding exercise as the children seemed genuinely interested, some wanted to take the boats home after recovering them and many had their photos taken proudly holding them.

Somehow, your secretary was volunteered to give an interview to the local radio station about our club, they asked a lot of questions which I was happy to answer for them and what I didn't know, I made up! I'm sure it will sound good if ever broadcast.

The show was all over by 3pm so everything was taken back to Kearsney and stowed away.

Thanks to everyone who made our part in this event a huge success.

A few days after the event we received a nice email from Kirsty Ash of DDC sending us a huge "thank you" for all our help and efforts.....

## **Illuminated Event Friday 17th October**

Unfortunately a last minute family appointment prevented your editor from attending this event, but I have been given a short report. The usual high number of models were on the water, all looking splendid with their lights of many colours reflecting in the calm water. I was informed that it was a hard decision but eventually the award was presented to Neil Terry for his Pegasus 3 cabin cruiser. I also found out that Neil almost lost control of the model in the darkness due to a technical hitch, this meant that not only did he win the event, he also walked away with another trophy at the next monthly meeting! Well done to all who made this another memorable meeting.



Picturesque Russell Gardens

## Members Models

When Ken Hamilton joined Kim Belcher's U3A group 4 years ago, he had 2 goals, the first was to build an engine and the second to build a boat to put it in.

These goals were realised on August 15th when he successfully launched his creation into the lake at Kearsney. Ken is a member of our club but wanted a quiet moment with not many onlookers around when he christened his model. He did however want a back up in case it did not perform well and asked if the rescue boat could be around as insurance.

The model chosen was built from a plan supplied by My Hobby Store. It is a Seasprite a conventional period motor launch with a deck layout much altered to accept the unusual power plant, which is a Stirling hot air engine.

Ken built the engine from scrap materials and used a design by Roy Darlington, those of you who go to the model engineering shows will know Roy as he can always be found in blue overalls demonstrating his engines on the SMEE stand.

Ken explained the principal of operation of a hot air engine to me which sounded simple until I tried to describe it! I must admit I nicked the description from Wiki!

A Beta Stirling has a single power piston arranged within the same cylinder and on the same shaft as a displacer piston. The displacer piston is a loose fit and does not extract any power from the expanding gas but only serves to shuttle the working gas between the hot and cold heat exchangers. When the working gas is pushed to the hot end of the cylinder it expands and pushes the power piston. When it is pushed to the cold end of the cylinder it contracts and the momentum of the machine, usually enhanced by a flywheel, pushes the power piston the other way to compress the gas. So there we are, any questions? ask Ken!



The boat is built from a plan by .....

It is a traditional plywood skinned model finished to high standard with varnish that enhances the grain of the wood. Some changes were made to the plan's superstructure to enable the engine to be fitted and operated more easily. An interesting and innovative model which is a first as far as I know in our club.

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This large model tug is owned by Glen Worman. Glen is one of our newer members, it has been displayed at several events that we have attended recently and because of its size, it has attracted a lot of attention. I took the opportunity of asking Glen about his model one Sunday morning. It is based on a 1/24th scale fibreglass hull which is 4ft 6ins long and has a beam of 13ins.



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The superstructure has an unusual tall funnel casing that incorporates the mast and is a prominent feature of this model. As endurance and reliability was foremost in Glen's requirement for the tug, a full sized car battery is used to power a single Mazda 326 heater blower motor for the main propulsion. This configuration allows the boat to run for well over 5 hours without recharging, this does of course also mean that the weight of the model is relatively high but this is a large model and needs a lot of weight to get the model to sit correctly, using a battery as ballast is a sensible way of solving this problem. The electrics are kept simple by using servo controlled micro switches to operate the thruster motors and other functions, an unusual feature, and one that I have not seen before, is that there is a bow and stern thruster fitted; the operation of these in tandem allows the boat to crab sideways so she is very manoeuvrable.

The name of the tug "Little Evie" is named after Glen's granddaughter.

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### **Yacht Jots....**

The yacht section have been working on a new scoring system, the old system that had been in place for many years had eventually run it's course, a new easier scoring system was needed.

The system is now based on a maximum of 15 boats racing, the winner will receive 15points for first place, 14 for second, 13 for third and so on....There will be a discard of one race out of three run on the same day and a discard of one complete race weekend from the series.

The HIGHEST number of points at the end of the series will now be the winner.

### **Yacht For Sale**

On a similar vein, we have a model yacht for sale in the club, it has been donated to be sold for club funds. Its a monster and needs a complete rig, only the hull has been completed. We understand it is a 'Marblehead 'yacht and have a class of racing all of their own. The hull is plank on frame as is the deck. It is currently is in our storage shed. To make the sale fair to everyone we asked that interested parties send in a sealed bid to the committee, a time limit of six weeks was put on it starting from when it was first advertised. Peter sent an email out which, hopefully, everyone would have seen, it was also mentioned at our monthly meetings. This period has now elapsed and I can tell you that No bids have been received, therefore the model is still for sale.

This edition is slightly shorter than usual for which I apologise, most of our events have been covered which I hope you will find interesting, I am always looking for articles which will help to beef up your KK, contact me in the usual way if you have anything that might be useful.

I hope you will receive this copy in time for our Christmas social, as this is the season of goodwill I wish you all a very happy time.

Alan.....



Under arrest at Ramsgate  
U2540 alongside Neil's Hunt class destroyer