

# The MBA Dover Newsletter



Issue 39 Winter 2012

Welcome to the Winter KK.

This club, like many others, rely on good weather conditions to operate successfully, and as we are British, the weather is always foremost in our thoughts. After enduring a drought in the early part of this year, we had so much rain, it caused flooding, however if you read the regatta reports for this summer, you will notice that we were really quite lucky with good sunny days for most of them. The drought order was lifted in mid July, the main problem then became waterlogged fields which prevented parking vehicles on the grass. We luckily, did not suffer from these problems as its only large outside events that need to have car parking in fields.

Our regatta season continued with the Kearsney Kapers event, this had to be scaled down due to the restrictions imposed on us for our own good by the Council, we now need to complete an events form and evidence of insurance and a risk assessment for every event that is held at Kearsney!

Luckily we did not get charged for actually putting on a show for the people of Dover, I think it is fair to say that as we have not had to do this in the 20 years of our existence, this is somewhat upsetting. Your secretary has spent many hours talking and writing to departments at the Council and at this moment in time, believe that we are moving in a positive way. It is hoped that by complying with the requests made upon us, we can continue to sail our models as a 'club' in the Kearsney Abbey grounds. The area is after all designated as a Model Boat Lake and is a public asset.

In the September Issue of Model Boats Magazine, we had a nice article published which highlighted one of our summer regattas and included the pipe lagging galleon race. Paul Freshney, the editor of Model Boats had requested something from the club after we communicated with them concerning our diary dates, The Dover Regatta was advertised but due to it being cancelled, we had it changed, however our KK event was advertised and published in that Magazine as well as in Marine Modelling International. All these little snippets help to advertise our club and to introduce us to the modelling world nationally.

A huge disappointment this year was the cancellation of the Southern Model Airshow scheduled for mid September . Our club has supported this event for several years now and we were to have done so again with even more members this time, but due to a problem with a double booking of the venue, the show had to be cancelled at short notice. This show was always an opportunity to purchase all those parts and equipment that we use commonly in our hobby like Radio's, motors and batteries. The model aircraft side of modelling benefits us all, lets hope that it's back on the show circuit next year.

The club did manage to go to the Maidstone Cygnets Boats on the Mote, the Herne Bay Heron's open regatta and Ramsgate Vikings Model ships rally, all are reported on inside this edition and all were well attended and enjoyed by our members.

I hope that this edition will be published in time to remind everyone that our Christmas Social event is being held on Wednesday 5th December at the Cricketer's Public house. Please come along and support the club, enjoy a free curry and meet other members. And finally, as it's that time of the year may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

Happy boating .. Alan....

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## For Sale and Wanted

It will be no surprise to find a request for any **Triang Minic Ships** following the talk that was given by your editor recently. I am looking for any Triang Ships from any period and in any condition to add to my collection. Fair prices paid.

Alan 01304 853242

Another request is for a **Seaking** Helicopter in 1/100 scale. Tamiya produced a plastic kit of this aircraft several years ago but it is now unavailable however, if like me you used to collect plastic model kits, there might be one lurking in the back of a cupboard somewhere. These helicopters are needed for my aircraft carrier HMS Invincible. Again a good price will be paid for one.

Alan 01304 853242.

We still have the nice model of a cabin cruiser for sale, this was donated by Mr Ken Cooper to be sold in aid of club funds. The model is all ready to go complete with 2.4ghz radio control. Contact any club committee member for details.

I received the following email recently, I agreed to publish it in this newsletter

*Hello,*

*A relative of mine has died and I am helping his widow raise funds. She has bound copies of 'Model Boats' from 1975 to 1981. I believe they are worth at least £30/volume if any of your members are interested. Postage would be £8/volume, or if multiples are purchased, I could deliver them.*

*I hope this will be of interest.*

*Thank you,*

*Donald Stevens. Brindles, Golford, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3PA. Tel: 01580 720367.*

I have also received an email from Ross Lawton, Keith's daughter, she is disposing of his models and is asking if a good home can be found for them . She has given me permission to publish her phone number which is 07974 685421, please deal directly with her, Please also be generous when making any offers .

## **MBAD Club information**

### **Model Boat Association Dover Club Committee Members July 2012**

**Chairperson : Mr Peter Cook** - ☎ 01233 641599

**Secretary : Mr Alan Poole** ☎ 01304 853242  
Email: secretary@mba-dover.org.uk

**Treasurer : Mr Douglas Turton** ☎01227 752244

**Membership Secretary:**  
**Mr Ted Goldring** ☎ 01304 380778  
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**Webmaster: Mr Phil Ribton** ☎ 01304 820215

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**Mr Len Ochiltree** ☎ 01233 627469

**Newsletter Editor:**  
**Mr Alan Poole** : ☎ 01304 853242  
Email: editor@mba-dover.org.uk

**Yacht Coordinator :**  
**Mr Colin Goldsmith:** ☎



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](http://WWW.mba-dover.org.uk)**

## Show and Regatta reports

### **Boats on the mote 22<sup>nd</sup> July.**

Ten members from Dover supported the Maidstone Cygnets “Boats on the Mote” event which was held in glorious sunshine at the revamped venue at Mote Park.

We were also supporting Alan Noble and his team who were attempting to break the Guinness world record for the longest distance travelled by an electrically powered model boat over a 24hour period.

The attempt was not successful this time due to the amount of debris in the water that caused several drive coupling failures when the model hit obstacles.

He did in fact manage 66 miles, this was over half of the 120 miles which was the previous record, and this was achieved in 10 hours so he was on course to beat it.

Not to be defeated, Alan will try again soon, maybe at a different water venue.

The Boats on the Mote was well supported but the clubs attending were down on previous shows, never the less, there was a good selection of models on the benches.

One notable model was the Japanese battleship Yamato, this had been built over a period of three years by Richard Gardner, it was a very rare kit long out of production and not intended for radio control, Richard had managed to do this and had also super detailed it with wooden decks and a neat paint job. It looked very nice on the water.

The scale was 1/200.

All our members managed to get their models in the water, Gerald’s landing craft always attracts a crowd and his modern catamaran battleship was also remarked upon. Our yacht section competed very favourably with the other yachts from other clubs racing in a slot for sailing vessels only.

Maidstone is one place where I/C engined racing powerboats can operate and as is usual at this event, they were given two slots to race in, they tear around a course in spectacular fashion with spray and exhaust smoke everywhere, very exiting but not to everyone’s taste, certainly not allowed at Dover!

As is becoming more usual these days with 2.4 Ghz radio’s, the pegboard system was not being used. This makes anyone with 40Mhz or 27Mhz sets, think twice before putting their model in the water.

Our thanks are due to Maidstone Cygnets for the invitation.



Above left...the Japanese battleship Yamato, modelled in 1/200 scale by Richard Gardner (Cygnets)



Some of the “models” on our stand! and I include the two on the left.



The improvised model yacht stand, courtesy of Maidstone Council !

## Kearsney Kapers 2012

Wow! What a glorious day, spent the whole time in sandals and shorts, a rare occurrence for this season.

A very early start saw us set up the compound with the new Gala tents (replacements for the gazebo's) and a bigger viewing area for the public.

After seeking permissions from the Council to have a trader present at this event, we became involved in completing an event form (12 pages), creating a risk assessment and providing proof of our insurance details, and although we were not charged, the possibility of having to pay to put the event on. Realising that we did not have much choice we complied with the Council request and obtained the permission to continue.

The trader was cancelled to ease the situation and also, to save getting involved in further risk assessments, our catering facilities were not put into place this time.

All this meant that we had a slightly larger compound set out.

We were pleased to welcome guests from the "Tugs R Us" team from Herne Bay, members from Maidstone Cygnets and members from Capstan model boat club at Chatham, and all the way from Bedford, a lone modeller, Bob West, who brought along his large model of the cable repair ship St Margaret's.

Your secretary had met Bob at the Brighton Modelworld Show and because of the local interest, invited him to attend our open event.

The order of the day was mainly free sailing, our yachts were running some organised racing but the wind was non existent at first so these took quite some time to complete.

The boat snooker course was laid out which was used later in the day to provide entertainment, this was again popular and the entries contained a good mix of guest members as well as our own, the winner of the first round was Del Boy from Tugs R Us, the only operator to get seven points from successfully getting the black!

I mentioned the "first" round because we intended to run another round but as everyone was having a good time free sailing, this did not happen.

At around two in the afternoon, the now becoming famous, pipe lagging galleon race took place, the wind was still down however, the very slight breeze dictated that we started from the far (south) bank, I believe that 15 models were launched and some, or should I say most, made it across, the winner was in fact Andy Goldsack with his version of the galleon but when he got it out of the water we could see that it had a modified keel and other parts that meant we immediately disqualified him, 'he knows the rule's' well done though for entering into the spirit. Dare I mention that the person declared the actual winner was again Len Ochiltree, the organiser; perhaps he has also got some hidden features on his boats that we have yet to discover!

As our guests began to disperse, we drew the raffle which ended a very successful Kearsney Kapers 2012.

Everyone must be congratulated for his and her efforts.



RMAS St Margaret's



They're off



We wanna be together



Kelvin on the snooker course



Ian Gerrard's Vital Byte



Close up detail on the St Margaret's

**W**e attended as a club, the Herne Bay open event on August 26th where we were guests of the "Hérons".

The day was fine and bright and it got better as the day went on, we got there at around 9am and set up two gazebo's and soon had a display of our models on the tables. This was the first time, I believe, that Dover had attended Herne Bay as a club, several members have always gone over individually but this time was different. Apart from our host's which also included the Tugs R Us team, there were there were clubs from Ramsgate, Maidstone Dover and Chatham, and also individuals from AMBO the Thames barge group and others who I assume were Heron members doing their own thing.

Free sailing was the order of the day and a pegboard was set out to look after frequency issues, the Herons had a corner roped off for anyone to have a go at the snooker course that had been laid out and they also organised a club 500 race during the day. There were many nice models to be seen and no less than three Glasgow paddle tugs were on the water, one had been altered and painted in a livery that was less colourful than usual but it did look very realistic, there were lifeboats and other fast craft flying about all now fitted with brushless motors which certainly give a sparkling performance, Maidstones Alan Noble offered me the controls of his offshore catamaran that had been used for his Guinness record attempt at Mote Park and, boy did it go! Even though the water at Herne Bay is quite large, steering this model at high speed was quite a challenge.

Dave Cowlin had his dredger operating drawing the crowds and his rowing models were also receiving close scrutiny, it was nice to see his models getting the attention that they deserve, this was the case of course with all the clubs models.

On the next Sunday the 2nd September, we were invited to the Ramsgate Vikings Model Ships Rally. This is a venue that we have regularly attended and this one was again well attended by our club. Ramsgate's water is on the West Cliff and is shared with a popular café and pleasure boat pool.

The Vikings normally operate half hour slots but this was not in operation this time, free sailing was the order throughout the day, this is again due to the 2.4 frequency that is now widely used.

Those who still had the older radios needed to obtain a peg before sailing to ensure that there is no clash of frequency with them.

After a good breakfast in the café, a nice relaxed day followed looking and talking model boats with old friends, there was all the usual clubs in attendance and some that we don't see so often from the London area, Moorhen MBC from Harlow and Phoenix from Surrey. There were traders, Tony Mudd from Chatham and the Medway Queen Preservation Society had a stand and also the RNLI were represented with a sales table.

We had only one mishap when Dave Cowlin's rowing skiff had a very rare malfunction and sank after stranding on the island, Dave donned the waders and rescued his model luckily without damage.

The raffle was followed by the Deputy Mayor coming around and issuing the now traditional plaques to all those who had participated.

### **Illuminated event September 28th 2012**

The rain and bad conditions just about put paid to our second Illuminated event held on September 28<sup>th</sup>. There were however several brave souls who attended and even managed to get some models on the water. I was not present at this event but have learned that Dave Cowlin, Bob, and Graham White, Ken Frisby, Bob Davis and Bernard Le Ny attended and that Dave, Bob and Graham, with Bernard managed to sail for a while.

As there were no pictures taken this report can only contain text but well done to those members who did attend.

Nobody that I talked to could decide who might have been the winner from the four boats on the water so it would be very difficult to declare who would have won the little prize this time. Perhaps we can double up at the next Illuminated event, which should be on the 22nd March next year, and give a first and second place instead.

## Our Local Ports of Call

If you're in Ramsgate, or any other coastal town in our area, it's always worth a visit to the harbour; I usually have my camera and record the unusual and interesting boats that can be seen there.

I cannot be everywhere so if you spot any unusual vessels, please send me a picture with a few details. Part of our hobby is having an interest in full size ships and boats, it's surprising what is about.

We will start with this lovely old vessel, she is the “**Amazon**” built at Southampton in 1885 and now registered in Guernsey, she was in Ramsgate in June after she had participated in the Thames Jubilee Pageant. She was the only vessel present which actually took part in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Now classed as a screw schooner, she was originally built as a steam yacht but is now motor driven.

By the time of the First World War she was already obsolete and her steam engine was a coal fired compound engine that was also too old fashioned even then. She subsequently remained in private hands and was not used by the Admiralty.



She is 102 feet long and is rated at 58 tons, she reminded me of the “Wacht Am Rhine” by Deans Marine.

Also in Ramsgate recently this time for the Steam Weekend organised by the Ramsgate Maritime Museum, was the steam ship VIC 96. This ship was built as a naval vessel, the VIC stands for Victualling Inshore Craft. She is based in Chatham normally, but came down to support the Steam Weekend Event. Although not strictly a Puffer she looked very similar to a puffer and again we have several models of them in our club.

### **MV Sundowner**



With all the history surrounding this famous “Little Ship”, it's a wonder that nobody has built a model of it locally.

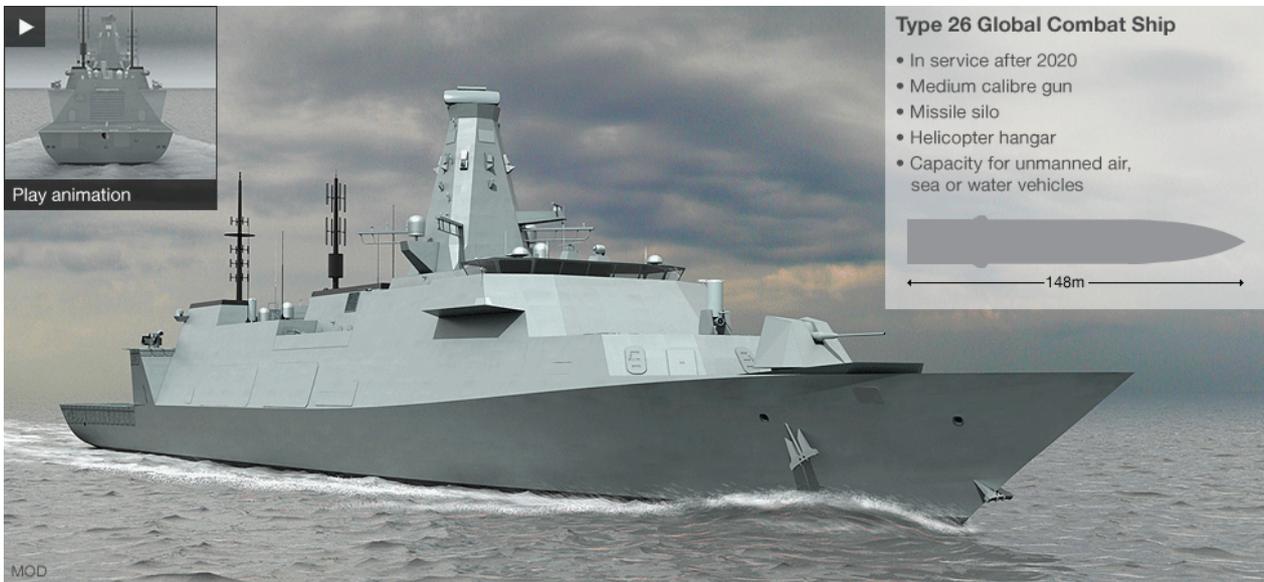
She is of course the Sundowner, famous for being one of the little ships that rescued troops from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940.

Under the command of her owner Charles Lightoller who was the second officer on the ill fated Titanic, they rescued 130 troops from Dunkirk. Originally built in 1912 as an Admiralty Steam Pinnace, she is now a museum ship in Ramsgate harbour.

A Fairy Huntsman was in Dover on August 15th, she was spotted on a cradle in the Wellington Dock complex, I looked over her but did not get a picture this time, the Fairy Huntsman is a very popular boat modelled by several kit makers and still available as a plan to build your own, we do have several models of these in our club as well.

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There is a new model shop open in Canterbury, its on the Sturry industrial site in Westminster Road, called **RCModeltech** it's a very small shop and mainly dealing in RC model cars but they do carry materials etc.  
Phone 01227 450949 Email [shop@Modeltech.com](mailto:shop@Modeltech.com)



The Shape of things to come....**The Type 26 frigate**

(Don't attempt to play the animation top left, we aren't that sophisticated on the KK editorial team just yet!)  
 .....Ed



**Whoop's....**

A misjudgement on finals for this pilot!

OK what's the name of the aircraft and what's the name of the ship that it was landing on and her nationality please.

No prizes but the correct answer and the name of the member giving it will be published next time in the KK,  
 just a bit of nautical fun!

**Cartoons!**

Some years ago, Ken Frisby and his wife Barbara produced a cartoon for just about every issue of this magazine, but this practice ceased when Ken became unwell. Now that he is back with us, I asked Ken if he might consider reviving that feature once again, he was a little reluctant at first but has now come up with a new idea that features the monks of Kearsney Abbey!

I think you will agree he has Done a great job...well done Ken!

Another one next issue  
 March 2013 (ish)!



## Lithium/Polymer Batteries (LiPo's)

I want to give everybody a warning about LiPo batteries, this is not a comprehensive report about these batteries, it's more of a personal observation of what happened to me and what I discovered later.

I have several of these packs made up into useable voltages and they are without a doubt, fantastic giving loads of power for much longer than the older Nicad or NiMH type of cells that have been around for some time now.

The weight is considerably less than the other batteries which allows them to be used in a model that is weight conscious and, because of their smaller size, this again allows the battery to be used where space is also to be considered. I discovered them because they are used in electric flight models and widely used in the model helicopter world where they have revolutionised this type of model.

In all they are fast becoming "the" battery to use in most applications.

Now for the downside.....They can be b....y dangerous, they must be charged correctly using the correct charger, and they need constant watching when being charged, do not leave them charging on their own and don't leave them overnight to charge themselves, they certainly can explode and catch fire causing untold damage to your house, workshop, or car if that is where they are being stored.

I recently used two packs in a relatively high current draw situation on a fast electric, the motor was pulling more amps than I realised and the LiPo battery finally exhausted itself, this is something that I should not have allowed to happen, on my helicopters a warning led lights up when the pack voltage drops to a low level and this is when they should be recharged as soon as possible. I simply recovered the model and just disconnected the battery then put the model away...wrong, the battery had in fact over discharged and the pack had swollen up, this condition is dangerous, the other battery had performed well with no obvious signs of damage.

When I eventually decided to charge up the two packs I discovered that the swollen pack (which I had not noticed before) would not accept any charge, the smart charger was flashing indicating a fault so it was disconnected inspected and safely disposed of.

I had been lucky, a quick search on Google proved just how lucky. There was a site about the dangers of these types of batteries and listed were nearly two hundred incidences of LiPo battery abuse and failure's just like mine, it made me think and that is why I am passing on information to other club members.

So take this little article as a risk assessment, (I also know a bit about those recently as well!) If you only think about what has happened to me we are half way there, just remember what has been said and be aware of these little "time bombs", check before use and it might just save you any grief

There is a special LiPo charging bag available for around a fiver, it will contain an explosion and help to extinguish any fire, I now have one, and also it's recommended to have a bucket of sand around to use if necessary. But if you follow the instructions to the letter, all should be OK.

Lecture over Alan.....

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### Footnote

The next edition of Kearsney Kapers should be around March 2013, Winter is a lean period for news in the club so if anyone would like to contribute anything please contact me.

You will be aware that the subscriptions for next year are due in January, the cost remains at only £13.00 for adults and just £3.00 for juniors, please make any payments through our Membership Secretary, Mr Ted Goldring.

Please also remember that there will be no meeting in January, the next meeting is Feb 6th

Thank you all for your continued support.

Alan .