

The MBA Dover Newsletter



Issue 47 Summer 2015

Welcome to the Summer edition of your KK newsletter

This edition contains reports on all our summer regattas and some of the outside events the club has attended so far.

We have had a busy time, the first regatta was held way back in April but we have also had another Dover District Council event as part of the Kearsney Parks Heritage Lottery bid. April 16th was the date chosen, several members were already committed to going to the Intermodellbau show in Dortmund Germany. You will also find a report on this major show inside this edition, for those of you who are dedicated modellers, this show is definitely the one to visit at least once, this was your editors first visit to this show but others had made the trip over several times before.

Heritage Lottery Fund, (HLF) news. There have been several workshop meetings with DDC which we have participated in. Generally they are still investigating how the project will work and still hope that more people will get involved. At one meeting, parking was on the agenda, naturally we made the point that we need access and parking close to the lakeside to be able to display, we wait to see how they will deal with this very important subject. We have been approached to see what storage we need, and have been assured that the club will have facilities should the planners decide that the existing buildings will no longer be required. There are so many questions that need answers but by attending these meetings, we at least are being kept in the picture as to what happens.

Jennies Bench, Alan Hounsell has spent some time cleaning and restoring it so its smart for the season, for those who did not know Jennie, she was our chairperson and avid yacht enthusiast, the memorial bench was erected by Alan Hounsell when she passed away and subsequently, we can now all can enjoy sitting with her and sailing our models from this seat.

On May 6th, we held our AGM, I am happy to say that the committee was re-elected to serve another year. There is only one change, Phil Ribton has reluctantly stood down as website coordinator,

The member taking over the job is Mr Reg Steel, Reg is already is one of our joint yacht reps and collates the results anyway, so it's logical that he will now be the one who adds them to the website.

The club wish to thank Phil for his hard work during the past years.

At the AGM Meeting, a proposal was made to make the Chairman Peter Cook and the Secretary Alan Poole, honorary members. This was in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the club. Although both members stated that they were simply doing their job, the vote that followed was unanimous which means that Peter and Alan are now Honorary Members.

This of course now means that they can march through Kearsney Abbey grounds with transmitter aerials raised and frequency flags flying !!

This edition carries some reports compiled by Adrian Knight, in the next edition Adrian will contribute more articles and it is hoped that he will take over as your editor shortly.

Happy Boating Alan.....

This report was compiled by Adrian Knight.

Regeneration Event 16th April 2015 in support of 3.1million pound Lottery Grant.

Earlier this year we were invited by Jon Winder from DDC to attend an Event to be held at Kearsney Abbey. This was to promote interest in the Regeneration of the Park and Russell Gardens. I arrived at park at 7.45 to find three members had been there since 7am. Two tents were set up with long tables but it was soon evident further tables would be required due to numbers of members and boats arriving. Dave Cowlin was busy setting up the “have a go” boats resolving one or two technical issues with the new boats Peter had constructed for the Club. Many thanks for the time and effort taken.

The event was in the main held near the lake and several other charities and stalls were set up. By 11am the park was buzzing and several hundred adults and children were taking part in various activities on offer including our “have a go boats” with the queue growing by the minute. I have taken several photos of the day including children on the “have a go boats”. Please note I did seek permission from parents before taking the photos.

The interest shown in the Club by the general public was amazing and was of much benefit to the Club. Several requests for Membership information were made and packs given out. Len set up his very impressive cargo vessel and had a trial run, but felt either a 24 volt supply or alternative motor was required owing to lack of power. We made several attempts to manoeuvre the vessel with the small tugs available on the day but owing to wind, current and our lack of tug towing experience, the water won the day.

Dick Sadler launched his model of the Dean’s Marine Steam Ship “Christiaan Brunning”. Dick informed me during construction he abandoned the whole superstructure and scratch built his own, creating a very impressive model.

During the day we had a visit to the compound from Jon Winder who has been tasked with bringing together the Regeneration Scheme. He met with our Club Chairman and showed great interest as to what we did as a club and listened to how improvements could help the club - in particular provision of a solid pathway from the main path to the lakeside for use by our disabled members and the public who would also like to get to the lakeside. We did get interjection from some members with reference to lakeside parking but this has many health and safety implications, this being a public park. At 4pm a small number of members helped pack away. In my opinion this was a very worthwhile day with 13 members and some 28 boats on show.

On behalf of the club, many thanks for the effort and hard work put in by those involved. I am certain the effort by the Club on this day will be taken into consideration by DDC.

(Adrian guest editor)



(Left.) The general compound with members and boats

(Below Right) Children having a go on the small boats.

(All Photos Adrian Knight)

(Right)

This picture shows several visitors to our display . Note the amount of visitors in the park just visible in the background.



Dortmund

Seven Dover MBA members made the trip over to Germany for the Dortmund Intermodellbau Show 2015. We travelled over in two groups with one group travelling by car and the other opting to fly. Although the two groups made their own separate arrangements, we all ended up in the same hotel! A very enjoyable 25minute walk for some or a trip on the underground for others soon saw us at the venue which was a massive complex of 8 large halls all interlinked and located adjacent to the Borussia Dortmund football stadium.

“Intermodellbau” means International model Building and this show certainly lives up to its name, 7 of the 8 halls were packed with modelling covering all disciplines, aircraft, boats, cars and trucks and in two of the halls, railway modelling, model railways are very popular in Germany and this was very evident when entering these halls, you could not move for people.

Kelvin Castle, myself, Kim Belcher and Martin from Mac’s Mouldings, were in one group and Dick Church, Reg Steel, Peter Le Touze and Ken Hamilton were in the other. Kim and Martin had visited before but for the rest of us it was our first time, we joined modellers in their thousands from all over Europe. Wandering around the main hall we watched some very impressive indoor flying from a group who maintained a full display every day, they played themed music which accompanied them and the flying was all choreographed to match the music, slow and gentle sometimes and fast and furious at other times. The boat hall was in hall 6 and naturally this is where we headed for most days, a large pool was set up and again there was always something to watch, the German Lifeboat service was celebrating their anniversary and naturally there were many models of their lifeboats on display. Kim knew one operator who had a massive 1/10th model of the rescue cruiser “Hermann Rudolf Meyer”, she is 7.5 feet long and took 5 years to build. We were introduced to him and personally shown his model. The Dutch were also demonstrating and also had a stand with their Lifeboats on display; we were taken by a very nice model of one of them which had a rubber sponson and water jet drive. It was nicely finished and although not as big as the German boats, it was impressive. The German equivalent of our Association of Model Submariners, the Sonar group, had a wide variety of complicated boats on and off the water, this again was one group who I personally was very interested in and after practicing my German on them, discovered that one member was a very well-known man who has written many books on the subject and produces kits and parts, his name is Norbert Bruggen, we had a couple of good but slightly disjointed chats over the time we were there, well ,my German was not that good! One reason for going over to Germany was to purchase certain items that we just cannot get over here, I was looking for some miniature screws in stainless steel and some specialised lighting parts, we did manage to find some and out came the euros to purchase them, with the euro being weak against the pound, we were getting some really good deals, most of the time though, we were just looking at what was on offer and getting ideas. With the venue being so big, we decided to split up into pairs to view everything and agreed to meet up at certain times in the flying hall, Kelvin and I wandered around together most of the time, we were both taken in by the quality of the engineering on the trucks and earth moving machines, after talking to a manufacturer we were astounded to find that the miniature hydraulics on the rams worked and operated at 20 bars of pressure (294lbs per sq. inch) how did those miniature fittings stand that pressure?

Back in the boat hall Kelvin found a stand which had everything he needed to overhaul the Voith Schneider units on his Parat tug, the stall holder was the original designer of them which were supplied to Graupner, he could not have asked a better person for advice. Across from him was a very interesting supplier of just about all you might need to complete a model boat, their display was very comprehensive and in stock to buy, We purchased a number of useful bits and pieces, this was also the stall where Kim bought up stocks of Buhler motors, he cannot resist them and bought many pairs of them at the show. As we were flying we had a size limit on our baggage which meant that large items could not be purchased but luckily weight was not so critical, a good job because Buhler motors are heavy! Kim was ribbed over this but took it well! The flight home only took an hour, good old EasyJet ! we did take up the very generous gesture of Dick Church to take any large items back in his car for us; unfortunately, Reg Steel had to return to the UK early so there was space in the vehicle, thanks Dick.

Club Regatta at Kearsney Abbey 10th May 2015

Another report by Adrian!

Regatta time is here once more. A 7.30am start and members beginning to arrive to setting up tents, tables and fencing all required for a safe and successful day. It's 9.30 and the park is very quiet but members and their models begin to arrive. Len was busy setting up Towing and Steering courses to test our ability or not. During the day I counted 32 members and 38 models on display or on the water and I must say the whole stand looked very impressive.

Several new craft took to the water today as detailed below.

"Dulcet Ripple" Built by Club Member, Bernard Le Ney. He used the model hull that his father in law had made to produce a full sized boat.

The model was skippered by Paddington Bear complete with elaborate picnic and life-saving equipment. Powered by a scratch built outboard motor and servo's controlling the steering and body movements of the bear, this model created great interest from the general public.

"Troll Patrol", original model built by Chris West but formally owned and operated for many years by Ken Greenland and now donate to the club, is now being looked after and operated by Club Member Steve Porter. Several members of the public remembered this model on the lake and asked where the Scotsman had gone?

Club Member Gerald Vestey's 8 wheel drive amphibious explosive carrier based on the TV series Joe 90 was of great interest. Powered by 6 motors 4 driving wheels and 2 driving twin props.

Len had a more successful launch of his 19ft Bulk Carrier "Kearsney Kaddy" (I think he likes Kaddy Lee Preston), now powered by a 12 volt internal fan motor taken from a Vauxhall car and a 4 bladed 95mm prop. The model handles very well and looks very impressive on the water.

During the Regatta three Yacht Races took place and were much enjoyed by those taking part and spectators.

Galleon Race. Six Craft entered and launched from the opposite bank making headway for the finish, however six feet from the line all craft turned tail did their own thing and with guidance reached the finish.

Winner Ted Goldring, 2nd Barbara Rudge and 3rd Derrick Rudge.

Finale of the day came the "Club 500" Races. Great fun was had by those taking part, some trying to win and some just trying to dismember the boat in front. I, along with others were trying to count the laps. Great Fun with just a little cheating?

Members in the compound were kept busy during the day by the visiting public requesting information about models on display and information about club membership.

On behalf of the club I would like to thank those who came early to set up and those who stayed on to pack away.



Joe 90 By Gerald



Paddington by Bernard



The Troll Patrol

Alfold

This two day show was definitely a two part event, Saturday was a nice normal May day but what a difference a day makes.. Sunday was almost a complete washout. To be fair, the weather forecast was correct so nobody who went along on Sunday could really moan about it. I along with Kelvin and later joined by Dennis and Graham were members of our club who made the choice to attend on Sunday, Adrian, Dick and Mark went on Saturday, the better of the two days and Kim was there for the duration.

My reason for dwelling on the weather (apart from being British!) is to highlight the danger of setting up an outside display when the weather conditions are not good. As I waited in the gloom for Kelvin to bring the car alongside our preferred pitch, I witnessed a Gazebo flying display that surpassed anything that I had ever seen before, from nowhere, a gust of wind entered the 12 x 3 metre Gala tent of the Moorhen Club from Harlow and, literally lifted the whole setup including all the side panels, up and over in a complete backward flip, then crashed onto its roof on the spare ground behind. As this happened, I stared at the club's display of models sitting on the tables which I thought had been totally spared any damage, it was not until I had raced over to help that I realised this was unfortunately not correct. Inside the wrecked gazebo was a model warship upside down with the superstructure off and badly damaged, parts of the ship were strewn all over the place, there were other parts from other models also lying in the damaged gazebo.

It was a miracle that most of the models were undamaged and still sitting on the tables. The Moorhens have won prizes for their stand at several shows that we have attended and have always have a very professional set up, however, it was not until we looked at the end tables lower down that we realised that not all had escaped. One special model, the Trinity house vessel "Patricia" was lying beside a table that had collapsed; there was substantial damage to the funnel, foremast and rudders. Keith Henley had been building this model for over 15 years and only recently completed it. I can only imagine what he felt when he and the other Moorhens arrived to survey the damage and recover the models.

The cause of the accident could not really be determined but it was said that the canvas had a gap in it where the squall of wind had got inside, the whole thing had been well staked down but no external heavy straps were seen, these would certainly have helped. The main lesson to be learned is not to leave valuable and vulnerable models on tables inside the gazebo unattended, especially when weather forecast is bad. It takes minutes to stow your prized possession away in the car overnight, I dread to think how long it will take Keith to repair the damage to his model as a result of not doing so!

Biggin Hill pictures (Report on next page)



A special flypast by the nine Red Arrows with the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's Spitfires And Hurricanes in close formation ,celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Our stand which remained busy all day, the public interest made this event special for us.



Biggin Hill

A full weekend of model boating was what the club entered into on the 13/14th June. On the Saturday we went up to Biggin Hill courtesy of the Kent Model Boat Display Team and on the Sunday we held our own June regatta. It was a very early start for both events, getting up at 0430 on Saturday and not arriving home until 10pm and then up again at 6am to set up our own regatta made the weekend a very tiring, but very enjoyable couple of days.

Biggin Hill This famous WWII fighter station was hosting their Festival of Flight 2015, and as last year, there was a model zone to add to the attraction of the flying displays. We as model

boaters were invited to attend for a second year running.

Initially, we were quite disappointed because the organisers had crammed in many more exhibitors this year into the space available, this meant that we were all restricted into an area that was not really big enough, toilets were positioned very close to us which, although beneficial to us oldies, did mean that queues formed very near to our display, due to this though, we did have a captive audience. The pond that was set up by the organisers was found to have a leak in it, it was supposed to be a couple of feet deep but when we arrived we were lucky if we had about six inches of depth, this did restrict the models that were able to operate.

It will now be very well known that, after organising Neil Terry to transport the large Gala tent and tables for us in his van, the box containing the fittings was short of parts. Our chairman was not amused but the error was down to us all and we will make sure it will not be repeated. The tables were set up without the tent covering and the public then arrived in their hoards, all asking questions and showing a great deal of interest. This, when combined with the full size flying display in the afternoon turned a disappointing start into a successful day, we delayed leaving until about an hour after the close and thanks to Ted and Kelvin, we had a barbecue which tasted delightful.

Getting the 18.000 people out of the site was still a pain but it was quicker than last year, it took about an hour to get out and away, most of us were home by 10am. Our thanks go to Phil Knell and his team for the invitation.

Club Regatta 14th June.

Sunday, and up again early to set up our June club regatta, the tables and gazebos were unloaded from Neil's van and erected at the lakeside ready for the members to arrive and put their models out for display, the highlight was the display and first sail for Neil Terry's aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious. Neil had taken her to Biggin the day before but due to the lack of water and weather conditions, he left her in the van. The model had been purchased three months before and was, quite frankly, seriously due for a refit. Neil has spent the time revamping the flight deck, he has recovered the deck and repainted it then added all the helicopters and Harriers as well as a commando disembarkation group with all their vehicles and equipment. This "busy" flightdeck is a very interesting part of the model and caused a lot of comments to be made. The first launch went well with the whole club watching, no room to make a goof here Neil! After some minor ballasting, off she went. I will let the pictures of her "at sea" describe the feeling that Neil felt, he was delighted.



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After some time, I stole the transmitter and had a go myself and was impressed by her handling, for such a big model (84ins long) she responded to the helm remarkably well, most member's know that I also have a sister carrier sitting in my workshop, HMS Invincible, the three month refurb certainly makes my six year refit look pathetic.....I must get my finger out!

The rest of the regatta went well with all the competitions being completed on time and free sailing entertaining the many people in the park for the rest of the day, Dave was demonstrating his dredger Admiral Day, Bernard entertained everyone with his 1/3rd scale skiff, a large model that his father in law had built a full sized boat from. Bernard had found a Paddington bear to crew it, the bear waved as it passed much to the delight of the children in the park. The large scale enabled the boat to carry many details such as sandwiches and drinks to keep Paddington nourished during his voyage. Another very nostalgic model was the Thames barge Westmoreland, Clive was sailing this vessel but with hardly any wind, she remained stationary for long periods.



A shower of rain eventually progressed into steady rain by the time we packed up but with the help of our friendly park keeper who towed our loaded trolleys back for us, we got everything stored away quickly.

Sumners Pond

This was the third year of this rather nice show set in picturesque countryside in Sussex. As this was my first visit, I cannot make any comparisons with previous shows but what I saw was a well organised general modelling show that had a friendly atmosphere and was well supported. I was wearing two hats on this occasion, one for the MBA Dover and another for the Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society, both clubs were exhibiting but I know most of you will be mainly interested in the Dover MBA 's contribution.

The allocated area for Dover was as last year, to the North side of a fishing lake, this turned out to be the centre for the many displays that took place including the famous Portsmouth Model boat display team and our own Neil Terry, more of him later. I believe there were 27 model boat clubs that attended. There were model aircraft in another field with helicopters and quad drones and adjacent to them were kites being flown, Len our scale secretary would normally be found hanging on to the strings with them but he decided to go and represent our club at the Chantry model boat club at Bluewater on this occasion. Model cars were set up in another adjacent field and in the main arena area were railway exhibits, plastic modelling groups and funfairs and stalls to keep those non-modellers happy.

Back to the boats and the host club Southwater Dabblers had a control tent for frequency control, (not used that much these days), and next door a "bring and buy" stall, also at the control tent was free tea and coffee for all the exhibitors, perhaps I should have mentioned that first! Free sailing was the order of the day, many different types of craft took to the water, having so many clubs about meant that there were all sorts of models operating that we had not been seen before, this made for a very enjoyable chat with the operators picking their brains on all sorts of topics such as what motors, what radio and how did you make that bit as questions.

At 1300 each day the Portsmouth team took over for an hour to display their now well rehearsed convoy and U boat attack scenario , they also re-enacted a duel with the manned British and German first world war battleships, the sight of these massive models firing their guns with smoke and noise is very impressive. As this was a two day show, they varied their display by introducing the sailing men o war from Nelson's times, again a very nice and well executed display. I mentioned earlier that Neil Terry also performed for the crowd, on the Saturday Neil had placed his very fast model as an off shore racer on the water but was restricted by other models, the organisers found Neil a slot of this own on Sunday when the water was cleared for him to blast up and down the lake. Quite a crowd gathered to watch the boat reach an estimated speed of 50mph, it was definitely the fastest model at the meeting and quite a coup for our Dover club.

It must be said that without Neil's fleet of boats on our stand, we would have been very thin on the ground, there were only 7 of us trying to fill 9 metres of stand frontage. Perhaps the distance from our home water meant that not too many members wished to travel that far, but we will be going again in 2016

Sunday 12th July Club Regatta.

Our July regatta started with an overcast sky and during the setting up, we almost decided to only erect one Gala tent as it was thought not many would turn up, but in the end we did put up all three. When the rain arrived, this proved to be a good move as all the models and members were able to shelter.

Gloom and Doom aside, we did manage to run all the events that were planned for the day. Len offered his pusher tug to other members who did not have one; this was to encourage others to join in with this discipline. The steering and towing competition followed and later in the day three rounds of Club 500 races were eagerly contested. Some new boats were being raced for the first time and, as always, some frantic operating skills were observed. We witnessed collisions, boats hitting the start gate and one actually hit the island! Steering these little boats require a certain art as they respond differently to speed in the turns, this event is growing and I am sure we will soon have to run heats as the amount of boats increase.



Dan and Bob were representing the yacht section, they sailed around happily but did not race this time. Free sailing occupied the rest of the day with all the old favourites displaying to (*not very many*) of the public in the park on this dreary day. Chris West brought along his pirate ship, not finished yet but what an eye catching model, it is built from wood and has a very unusual stern, it's in the form of a skull! Chris has captured this feature with great skill, the woodwork is superb and the jaw of the skull moves realistically, quite a model. Another new acquisition from Neil Terry was on the water, a Griffon 2000 Hovercraft! As it had not run since he bought it, it was treated as a test run. It was found to be slightly underpowered but this can easily be sorted out. The hovercraft is an unusual model and not that many have been seen at Kearsney, are they aircraft or boats? I remember the captains of these craft being known as pilots, so perhaps it's a model aircraft as it does fly!

As the weather did not improve much, we packed up a bit earlier and thanks to more members staying to help these days, this was a much easier task.

Boats on the Mote 19th July

The Club attended the Boats on The mote event at Maidstone following an invitation from Cygnets model boat club.

Apart from the host club, only ourselves and the Heron MBC from Herne bay were there, however, it was a good day with good weather and we all enjoyed ourselves. The highlight for me was len Ochiltree's Kearsney Caddy freight ship, when all the sections are joined together she is 19ft long. A Bow thruster helps with manoeuvring and a powerful drive motor gives her forward propulsion. Cygnets had their HMS Kent out for the first time for two years, she really needed more ballast but performed quite well in the slightly windy conditions, I was offered the controls again after having a go last time and drove her around for about 15minutes, Len and I managed to get both models together for a picture, however when both together they still look small when out on the water, they are both roughly the same scale though. Cygnets had two slots for I/C powerboats which raced around emitting massive rooster tails of spray and exhaust smoke, the smell of the nitro fuel mix evoked memories for some of the older modellers who remembered racing these boats about as youngsters, these days very few venues allow these models, most being superseded by the fast electric scene. Cygnets also had some of these running; they were soon joined by our own club hooligan Neil who charged around with them with his very fast Pro boat. Unfortunately and for reasons that we did not fully understand, the rescue boat was launched and as it strayed into the path of the racers, Neil hit it full bore, the damage was quite serious with the main forward part of the superstructure fracturing all along the front edge and both sponsons cracking, considering the speed this damage was less than first thought, the noise of the collision was heard all round the lake. Some serious repairs are needed!

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Kim entertained in his usual way allowing members of the public and some of his family to run his Dive boat and (hic!) yacht, when not engaged in this activity he was busy taking pictures and notes for an article that he was writing for MMI Magazine.

Dave Cowlin, who was operating his rowing models and his dredger, was another Dover member star, many questions are asked about these models and I always listen to Dave,s explanations with interest. As the clubs started to drift away, we joined them and soon found ourselves back on the road home, trying to avoid the lorries parked in operation stack waiting to cross the Channel, this was a good event and one that we support regularly.



Len's Kearsney Caddy with HMS Kent, (above left) . The "Boats on the Mote" event was held at the picturesque location of Mote Park Maidstone.....(above right)

Below can be found a selection of photos taken during the year, my apologies for not including them in the relevant reports... Alan



The Westfallenhalle complex in Dortmund . We are not the only country with vandalised signs!



Metcalf Mouldings

The well known modeller and manufacturer, Dave Metcalf has managed to finally semi retire, many of his designs and hull mouldings have already gone to other manufacturers and some of these, namely his model submarine mouldings have been sold on once again, this time to Adam Slater who is the new owner of Mountfleet Models in Doncaster. Dave, who has been contributing to Model Boats magazine for many years and was the co-owner of Model Slipway until he went out on his own, has now sold several of his semi kits to Tony Green Steam Models. Two lifeboat kits, three tugs and a small ferry are now being produced by Tony. www.tonygreensteammodels.co.uk Dave is keeping his other semi kits for the moment, his lifeboat Ann Letitia Russell is staying as it's a favourite.

Other companies on the move are White Ensign Models (WEM). I note that this company has been resurrected by another manufacturer and is trading again as WEM. They make resin castings and photo etch for warships and are also well known for their accurate coloured paints for warships.

Keep an eye out in the modelling press for the latest information....Alan

MBAD Club information



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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

Peter our Chairman can also supply club logo shirts
Contact Peter on 01233 641599

Website - WWW.mba-dover.org.uk