

# The MBA Dover Newsletter



Issue 31 Spring 2010

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Welcome to the Spring Edition of KK.

With hopefully, the bad weather now behind us, we can look forward to some really nice days down at the lake. Over the winter, the contractors have been busy sorting out the waters edge and reinforcing the paths.

Initially, when they started, we did wonder if the repairs would be substantial enough given the state of the banks, but they have dug out a trench behind the original path, filled it with material then repaved the area. They have however, not done the whole of the path as they have stopped short of the area that we use most of the time, near the weir!

The good news is that we have the area back and can use it all this season.

The club website is, at the time of writing, not being updated. The reason is that we do not have a webmaster to sort it out and update it. There is however, good news on the horizon because one longstanding member has indicated that he might be interested in taking on this position when some previous commitments come to an end shortly. When this happens we will again enjoy having a website that interacts with this newsletter and posts news and photographs very speedily, something that with only three issues a year, the newsletter cannot quite keep up with!

The new Webmaster will, we are sure, build on the good work already done by Alan Hounsell who originally set it up, and Christine Wellard who, with her son has spiced it up and made it into a very professional site that is well received. I have had enquiries, some from other countries, asking for more details of models that have appeared on the site, so it certainly is worth maintaining.

The Christmas social was held at "The Cricketers" on December 3rd. The event was very enjoyable and the curry was again superb. The problem was that there were very few of our members who supported it. The total number of members and their guests was only around 35 persons. I have been told that the venue is not acceptable to everyone, the less able amongst us can simply not negotiate the stairs for instance, there might be other reasons but as this social costs the club quite a sizeable amount of money each year, it might need to be financed differently. We have already regrettably, have had to make a small charge for members guests last year and this might have to be extended to members themselves in the future. See Treasurers letter on page 8.

You will also find inside, a report on our situation generally. At several committee meetings these matters have been discussed and on page 7 can be found what we will be putting to you all at the AGM in May.

As this will be the last KK newsletter that you will receive before the AGM, and as all your views are needed and are important, please try and attend this meeting.

Finally, we have received a final piece of news that will be unwelcome to the membership, our secretary Peter Cook will be standing down at the AGM in May Peter has done a sterling job for us since taking on this post some time ago, but he is now standing down for health reasons.

Have an enjoyable season .. Alan..

## Repairs to our lake

Work started in October 2009, pictures show progress on November 15th 2009



For most of the time the weather was against the workmen as can be seen from the rather damp conditions in the photographs, it would appear that attempts to create a coffer dam and repair the path from the water side, was not successful so a trench was dug behind the original path and this was filled to form a barrier. This backfilling was then paved over and the path repaired where

necessary. A small area was also repaired on the south side of the upper lake just over the bridge. By mid December, the fences were removed and area put back into use, for some reason the repairs have stopped almost exactly where we stand to control our models and the small pond that has gradually appeared near the weir has also not been touched. Over the far side, the same situation applies, no work has been done as yet to repair the walls of the lake to stop water leeching into the culverts over there. At least we have the path back and

we can now use the whole of the northern bank again the summer season..



Four intrepid members operating from the far bank while work progresses.



The finished result

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## For sale

A “**Sentinal**” customs cutter built from the model Slipway Kit, length 37ins overall. 2x 7cell 3300 NiMhd batteries, .2x MFA Torpedo motors, 2x Viper marine electronic speed controllers, Futaba 40mhz receiver, 2x brass screws plus 2 spare motors and batteries. Painted in USA Customs livery. **£250.00** Tel.. 01279 304884

**Barrie Warrington** wishes to sell a complete kit of the **Robbe U 2540 Submarine**. This kit has been started but Barrie has lost interest with it. For those who are interested, this is the same model as your editors model that is usually on show at our events, it is a superb boat nearly 2 metres long and is complete with all motors, props, shafts and couplings, all that is required is the radio gear and drive batteries. It is a dynamic diving submarine which means there is no self contained diving module fitted, it relies on forward speed to dive. A review of this model was published in September 2005 issue of MMI.



## New Shop.

Steve Cockshoot has informed me that he has discovered another model outlet shop in our area. He has sent me a cutting from the “Kent On Saturday” newspaper dated 5/12/09. As you will see from the cutting it is a model railway shop called **Trains “N” Railways**. It is situated in the Wealden Forest Park near Herne Bay. At the moment they are concentrating on Model railways but might stock boat bits later if there is a call for them. With Herne Bay ‘Herons’ Model Boat Club right on their doorstep, this might tempt the owners to stock some parts that are boat related but any new model shop is welcomed, many thanks for informing us all Steve.



## 104th Model Engineer Exhibition

I know that every year I tend to say the same thing about this Show but despite it falling in popularity recently, something always draws me to visit it. This was the 104th MEE and this year the venue has returned to Sandown Park in Surrey.

Now run by My Hobby store media, this event was again nothing to write home about. I thought the competition entries were of good quality but not outstanding. There were only 17 models entered and I believe some of those were loan entries, they of course do not come into the competition but are nice to see nonetheless.

Some local club stands were to be found on the lower floor which also had all the trade stands selling mainly engineering supplies. The model engineering club stands did have some exceptional models on display, the locomotives are a joy to look at and some model aero engines on the Napier stand were delightful, the quality of the workmanship really stood out. Overall a slightly disappointing show again, but a visit to number 105 will probably happen again next year.



(left)

Picture showing the stand that contained all the model boat entries.

## London Model Engineering Show January 22-24th

This year I chose to visit this show on the middle day which was the Saturday. The journey up to Alexandra Palace was uneventful and speedy.

Once inside, there was plenty to see, and if you had the cash, to buy as well. The trade tend to favour this show to display their wares and you could get most things that are difficult to find these days in our local area. There were some nice models on the club stands, there being no competition apart for an award for the best club stand.

We left the show early to avoid the traffic or so we thought, no chance, we took over an hour to get from the venue onto the North Circular Road ! Anyone know a shortcut?

## New Models in the Club

Adrian Knight's latest model is the tug **Brackengarth**. It is a Mobile Marine Models semi kit and this was how she looked when under construction. (right) I caught up with Adrian in January when he was testing the model again and luckily I had the camera with me and took these shots of model which is now completed.



Adrian sent me the following details of his model.....She is a twin engined but single screw tug built in 1969 by Appledore Shipyards in Devon.

The model is based on a fibreglass hull from Mobile Marine models who also supplied the plans and some of the fittings. The motor is a T12, 12 volt motor also supplied and recommended for this model by Mobile Marine models. She has a 85mm diameter propeller from the Prop Shop, a 30 amp electronize speed controller, and a scratch built 40mm bow thruster. This

uses a MFA 500 motor, in practise though, it is not really necessary because the Kort nozzle manages to turn the boat in it's own length. All decks are from ply with a Plasticard superstructure. Most of the fittings are scratch built as is the main winch, this uses a curtain drive motor with original gearing that works very well.

Adrian makes the comment that the motor fitted is not as good as the 12 volt car fan motors that usually power these model tugs, the cost would also have been lower, this is only the second model that Adrian has attempted from scratch and as the photos show, he has done a very nice neat job of it.

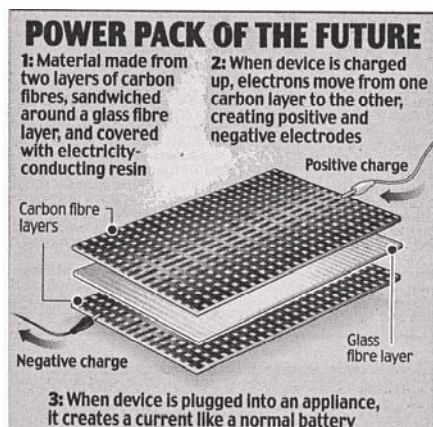


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## The Battery's Dead

I have been handed a cutting from the Daily Mail Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, Again, this comes from **Steve Cockshoot** who has spotted this little snippet.

It is a form of battery that is really a super capacitor made of a revolutionary type of plastic that can store and release electricity. The prototype which is 5ins square and wafer thin, takes only 5 seconds to charge from a normal power supply and then can light an LED for 20 mins. The applications are enormous, imagine an appliance that no longer requires a



bulky battery, it can be made as thin as a credit card!

No chemical processes are used which gives the material a longer lifespan.

Sounds like as the title say's "The Battery's Dead".

*(My apologies for the poor copy of the Description, left. I'm sure you get the idea anyway. Ed)*

## Credit where credit is due

For well over a year now, my big Robbe U2540 submarine has been out of action due to a damaged front hydroplane linkage shearing off after an underwater collision. The part in question is only a small nylon moulding probably costing only pence to replace, the problem is finding one.

I tried everywhere, all my usual suppliers couldn't get one so I resigned myself to maybe having to make it from scratch. However, at the Southern Model Air show, Tony Mud, the owner of a small model outlet in the Chatham area offered to try and get it for me, he stocks Robbe parts and has been successful in obtaining unusual obscure parts for his clients in the past. When I met him again some months later at the Model Engineer Exhibition, he told me that he had been unable to get this part for me, so it was back to square one.

The Robbe website was searched for a contact email which I had attempted to find in the past, I eventually found it and then sent them my request for the part adding that, as I had given them a good write up in a review of their kit, perhaps they could send the bits to me. Surprise, surprise, I received an answer almost immediately saying the parts would be in the post today. I got them a couple of days later, and with no charge, so, thank you Robbe !

The same cannot be said for one of our best known model magazines "Model Boats". After talking to several of our members I discovered that I was not alone in having a few problems with obtaining this magazine despite having a regular subscription with them.

The problem started with Denis Wellard casually mentioning that he had not received his December issue and he was going to phone them up about it. I then realised that I too had not received my copy so I emailed them to find out what had happened, no response so emailed them again, still no response. At the Model Engineer Exhibition, I spoke personally to the company who promised faithfully to get a copy in the post ASAP, still nothing. It took yet another two emails to get sorted out, this is not good. As I said in the beginning, I was not the only member who didn't receive this issue on time but I understand everyone now have their copies.

This subject leads me on nicely to the collection of back issues of Model Boats Magazines, and also, Marine Modelling International Magazines.

Most of you will be aware that I have been searching for ages for a copy of February 1974 Model Boats magazine, I have been looking on E- Bay which regularly have back issues in their listings to bid on or buy. It came to my attention that a certain seller had a few copies of 1970's but not Feb 74, after contacting him he done some research and found out that I will never get a copy of this magazine, the reason, it was never issued! All due to a printing dispute in 1974.

Funnily enough, the same thing happened in July 1959. A printing dispute also caused the July 59 issue to be cancelled. I was sorting out which 1950's magazines I required and automatically noted that this was one of those copies missing. A check of the issue numbers revealed all was in order and after checking the editorials for the following August issue, the answer was discovered.

I must thank our chairman Maurice Job for donating most of the 1950 issues of what was then known as Model Maker Magazines to me. This helped to make up an almost complete collection. From these early publications, it transpires that the first copy of Model Maker/ Model Boats was in December 1950, this is Volume 1 No 1. My first issue is Volume 1 No 4 March 1951, so I have a few to get as well as some gaps in other 1950's years!

I have pestered Paul Freshney, editor of Model boats to produce an index of these magazines but it is a very time consuming job, however, in some of those early 1950's issues, there are a couple of indexes so they did exist at one time.

Having these magazines allows me to copy any article for the membership if required, a small charge will be made for the photocopies which will be donated to club funds.



Those of you who are visiting the Norfolk/Suffolk area might be interested to know that Anglia Models have moved from their location in Gorleston high street to a unit down by the River Yare entrance.

The owner told me that they have always had this unit and it is where they manufacture the famous Perkasa fast patrol boat kit from. This is a very popular model and is available in two sizes, 37inch and 48 inch long, both in fibreglass hull or built up wooden hull versions. They also do a kit of a typical Suffolk fishing boat.

The shop is now part of this complex and stocks a wide variety of products, There is good free parking, and you can watch all the oil rig supply ships entering and leaving Great Yarmouth as well!

Gorleston is also famous for another very well know legend in model boating, Aerokits. They were produced from this small town during the sixties and need no introduction here, we all know and respect this manufacturer that started many of us in model boating.

Phil Ribton is a long term fan of these boats and some of you will remember his 46 inch Sea Queen that was a regular down with us at Kearsney. Phil has managed to get hold of some original plans and now is building another Sea Queen from scratch. We should see her on the water soon we hope.

When I mentioned Aerokits and the link with Gorleston to the owner of Anglia models, he was a little vague ! Perhaps he was just being diplomatic, because his Perkasa kit was originally produced by Precedent who came from another area of Norfolk.

Incidentally, Precedent were linked with Balsacraft, they ceased trading over a year ago and were taken over by Ripmax who closed down the site. S.L.E.C was another name associated with this company, they got involved with model submarines a long time ago but that's another story...

How about this little gem? **Reg Archer** has shown us his latest purchase. It a 6 channel receiver operating on the new 2.4 GHz frequency.



And it weighs only 6 Grams!

You will notice from the packaging that it is primarily intended for model helicopters. JP are the distributors and it is available from most model shops because the Twister range of helicopter models are very popular and widely available.

This little receiver would be ideal in a plastic model boat conversion.

When purchased in late 2009, the cost was a mere £9.99, this has now risen to 14.99 ( March 2010)

During the latter part of 2009, Peter Cook our secretary discovered that there were grants available from local councils to help clubs and organisations purchase items of equipment which may be needed to allow the clubs to function better.

These grants were part of the Kent County Council Volunteers Community project administered by local councils

Peter with the help of Douglas Turton, our treasurer, obtained all the necessary paperwork and applied for a grant towards the cost of new gazebos and a trailer to transport our gear in. The application was very complex but a very good case was presented to the council by Peter and Douglas, adding all the advantages that this equipment would bring and emphasising that we cater for youngsters and some disabled members.

I am sorry to inform you that this application was unsuccessful this time, but we are encouraged to re-apply at a later date so all is not lost.

This forward thinking and effort by Peter and Douglas is to be applauded, not many members apart from the committee knew of their efforts so .... well done!

## Important Changes

It is well known that we as a club are suffering from the economic downturn just like everyone else, we are seeing a fall in membership which is putting pressure on our financial situation and causing us to look seriously at ourselves and the way we operate. We are also aware that there are other considerations to be addressed. We need to sort out little issues that might be adding to our fall in numbers, our regatta format for instance and improving communications with all sections within the club.

As a start, this year after many discussions at meetings and talking to members, it has been agreed that we return to the more traditional format for our monthly summer regattas.

It is intended that we set out some sort of course, probably the well tried and tested snooker course, and use this as intended for a game of boat snooker or modify it in several ways to introduce some sort of fun competition.

This will incorporate most if not all of the types models used in the club. We might be able to run a club 500 boat snooker, that should be interesting or a more sedate pusher tug event using the course, It can even be used by yachts. If funds allow, there could be some sort of prize for the winners, a bottle of wine or a tin of biscuits or sweets! (we could always engrave the tin).

It has been agreed that the yachts can resume racing on regatta days again, it has been identified that stopping yacht racing was a reason that many members of that section stayed away at regattas. The yachts will keep their course well away from the area normally used by power craft and as most are now on the new 2.4 gig radios, they will not affect frequencies, this means that duration of yacht races need not be an issue.

These decisions will of course not be agreeable to everyone but we must attempt to cater for all. This club has built up to be one of the finest in our area and this reputation must be maintained.

## Subscriptions

Following on from the above comments, It is regrettable but for the first time in many years, we find ourselves in the position where we need to increase membership subscriptions.

A proposal will be made at the AGM to increase subscriptions by **£3.00** this will make a years subscription **£13.00** for adults.

Junior membership will also increase to **£5.00** per year.

This increase is necessary because of the financial situation generally. At the moment we also have a falling membership which means we are struggling to meet our yearly costs.

This is the first increase for many years, in the past we have put off increasing subs but it is now very necessary. This will still be a very reasonable amount to pay considering the benefits that the club provides.

These increases will not take effect until January 2011

## The Christmas Social

The Club Treasurer Douglas Turton writes

The Christmas social has also come into focus as the cost per person is more than 50% of the annual subscriptions. Last year we asked members who brought guests to contribute £3.00 towards the costs but it still is a great strain on the Club funds. Last year the total cost was £250. With membership down to 64 this year (an income of £640) you can see that it is a huge percentage of the total income. Without the raffles each month at meetings and regattas it would be impossible to balance the books. At the AGM it is going to be proposed that we voluntarily pay the full amount for the social. At £5.50 per person we get a very substantial spread. My final point is that members may not be aware that we get the room at the Cricketers for nothing. The sandwiches etc are provided by the landlady and we pay £20.00 each month for this service. What is provided is worth more than £20.00 (A sandwich in a supermarket will cost at least £2.00). We are hoping that for those who attend the monthly meeting there will be an increasing awareness of the cost of this service and contribute an appropriate amount to cover this cost. In the last two years the contributions for the food has never covered the money given to the landlady. .... Douglas

Just to fill in this little space, can I please remind you of some models we have for sale in the club, I know we have some new ones offered on page 2, but there are still some unsold from previous editions. Roger Shields still has his Dover tug Dauntless for sale, its in our storage shed covered up if anyone wants to see it, he also has his Flying Phantom tug for sale. Both these large tugs he is letting go for £300.00 -£350.00 (the price is negotiable)

Also we still have a couple of fully functional models from Derek Tippett. A freelance cabin cruiser and a Sentinel customs cutter from Model Slipway. Both are complete and Ready to run at a very reasonable cost of £200.00 each or nearest offer.

Contact Derek on Tel ... 01304 821469 or Roger on Tel...01304 822542 for details.

## **MBAD Club information**

### **Model Boat Association Dover Club Committee Members July 2008**

**Chairperson :** *Mr Maurice Job*

**Secretary :** *Mr Peter Cook* - ☎ 01233 610172  
Email: secretary@mba-dover.org.uk

**Treasurer :** *Mr Douglas Turton*

**Membership Secretary:**  
*Mrs Christine Wellard*

**Scale Secretary :** *Mr Len Ochiltree*

**Newsletter Editor:** *Mr Alan Poole*  
- ☎ 01304 852917  
Email: editor@mba-dover.org.uk

**Yacht Coordinator :** *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)**