



# Voice<<<<<<>>>>>>pipe



The Newsletter of  
The Mid-Thames Model Boat Club

January 2020

Issue 165

## Chairman's Corner

- The search for new home water, Christmas & Awards Mtg
- Committee member resignation
- Moving to Hi5
- Website & Facebook group

### Fast Electrics

- 2019 Review
- Final Championship positions
- 2020 Preview + New Mono 1 race class

### Tug Towing

- 2019 Review
- Activities for 2020

### Yachting

- Winter 2019

## Dates for your diary

- **Thurs 16th January 8 pm**  
Club evening mtg @ Tidmarsh Village Hall. Boats in build, Bring & Buy, Concurs Competition Judging.
- **Thurs 13th February 8 pm**  
**Annual General Meeting @** Tidmarsh Village Hall
- **Sat 28th March 10am to 4pm**  
**Fast Electrics.** Familiarisation with the new facilities, Tune up, Testing & Advice.



At the Christmas & Awards evening meeting Tony brings the assembled members up to date with the latest plans for the move to Hi5 at Kirtons Farm

## Chairman's Corner by Tony Simons

A Happy New Year to all, my congratulations go to members who have won trophies. We added new categories this year to recognise progress within our junior members.



Wiki & Leo collect the Ladies Rose Bowl trophy from Tony. Leo is awarded a trophy for the most improved young driver and later Joshua receives his trophy from Tony for the most improved young Fast Electric Racer.

### **Committee member resignation**

Sadly Colin Mears has resigned from the committee and as Secretary, I thank him for his input, also for arranging the Scale events, and in particular his work in finding a new location for the club for which we have awarded him the "Waterford Clock trophy 2019."

I welcome Dave Parker to the committee; with the regrettable demise of "Electra" he has kindly volunteered to formally join our committee and take on the role of Secretary while still running Fast Electrics & Editing Voice Pipe.

### **Moving to Hi5**

With a New Year we have a new venue to continue our club activities. Details can be found on the club web site of the new location at Hi 5 Corporate Team Builds and Water Sports.

We still have the use of Beale Park until the end of March, but I hope our assets will have been moved to storage or to Hi 5 before mid-March. It is my aim to have cleared our assets from the inner lake before the park re-opens in mid February as we can be there all day, but after the park re-opens access for vehicles will be restricted to outside opening times.

There is a calendar for next year it starts from late in March in much the same order as events took place in 2019 but I haven't put any activities in for mid March as a pontoon has to be disassembled, transported from Farmoor reservoir, Oxford, reassembled at Hi5, towed into position and an access ramp constructed.

**Volunteers are needed to carry out the following work list and leaders to organise each part.**

### **PONTOON TRANSPORT AND ASSEMBLY**

To make all this happen I am looking for volunteers with tow bars and trailers to move the pontoon sections. I have located a potential supplier for the additional connecting pins and bolts required for the reassembly.

The pontoon is made from cubes 500mm x 500mm x 400mm deep, but I hope to keep them bolted together in large sections to minimise work, help lifting them onto trailers with lifting equipment has been arranged at the Farmoor end.



A team is needed to assemble the pontoon at Hi 5 and float it for towing to its intended location.

We also have some sections of fibreglass gratings(4 m x 1.3m) kindly donated from the Farmoor disabled sailing pontoon.

## Trading Post

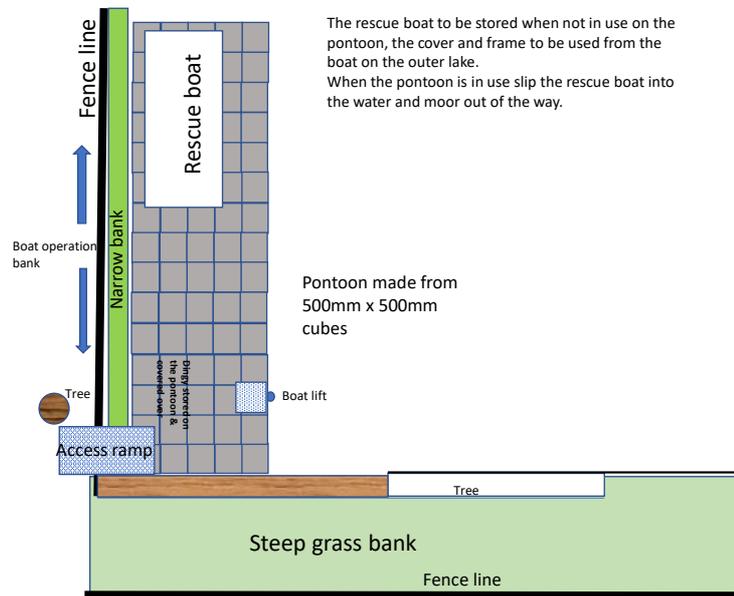
Trading Post is an area of Voice Pipe where members can advertise their model paraphernalia. So if you have any you would like to sell, swap, buy or just want something send contact details, brief description and a picture if possible to:- [parker42@btinternet.com](mailto:parker42@btinternet.com)



### For sale, Victoria.

Can be sailed in the ViFi65 class. Just needs transmitter, receiver and battery. £70. - John Price  
 Tel: 0118 941 4766  
 Email: [jetpipe@talktalk.net](mailto:jetpipe@talktalk.net)

## Pontoon proposal and access



One section will be used on the ramp access, the rest maybe used on part of the pontoon depending on your views of the existing non-slip surface of the pontoon.

### MOBILE CLUB ASSET STORAGE

We won't be able to bring our club house to Hi 5 and any storage has to be mobile, I am arranging to purchase a mobile welfare unit (A box 11' x 7' internally originally providing toilet facilities and canteen area for a reservoir cleaning team.)

This requires racking out to enable removal of equipment to be taken directly from the club house into this unit and on to Hi 5 to be located near our pontoon.

We need someone with a tow hitch to tow the welfare unit, it has a ring and pin type of coupling (Not the usual 50 mm ball type) This unit is light but fairly large to tow.

Ideally this requires taking from Farmoor to Beale Park for loading then onto Hi 5 all in one day.

### REMOVAL OF RESCUE BOATS AND OLD PONTOON

We have a kind offer to store the metal tables and rescue boats near to Beale Park, eventually one rescue boat will go to Hi 5 after the pontoon is ready as it will be stored on the pontoon.

A work party is required to recover the old pontoon to shallow water for breaking up.

A trailer to recover the floats for initial storage and then disposal.

Course marker buoys from both the inside and outer lake to be recovered also the boat lift from the inner lake.

### Deploying and recovering marker buoys

I have purchased a tug hull fitted out with twin props and a bow thruster but minus its superstructure with the aim of adding a marker buoy and sinker containment on her deck. When beyond the proposed point the buoy will be jerked of the stern by the



#### **For sale, Affinity.**

Very similar to a DF65, just a bit broader in the beam. Can be raced in the ViFi65 class. Just needs transmitter, receiver and battery. £40

John Price

Tel: 0118 941 4766

Email: [jetpipe@talktalk.net](mailto:jetpipe@talktalk.net)

cord attached and pulled closer to shore as required.

The shore end of the cord will be kept down with a sinker as we have been doing with the race markers on the inner lake, I am looking at easy means of reeling in the buoys after use. This equipment will be available to all to deploy & recover marker buoys for sailing, fast electrics etc.

**A lot to do but I am sure with enough willing hands all is possible.**

#### **Website & Facebook group**

Our excellent website is now well established as a source of information and news for members and visitors to the site.

For the very latest news why not join our emerging MTMBC private Facebook group. The club has had reasonable success with it's use of Facebook, over a period of 2 months membership has grown from 2 to 22. However, with a total of near 100 members, including associates, I'm sure there are a few more potential users. If existing Facebook Group members have Facebook friends who have yet to join (either existing club members or friends who may be interested), the easiest way is to select the blue "+ Invite" button at the top of the Group page. A list of friends will appear, simply select their name and press the "Invite" button. A message will be sent to that friend who has the option to accept or reject it.

Granted not everyone already has or wants an account, but to those who are unsure, the Facebook app can be downloaded free to a smart phone or tablet or it can be accessed through any browser on your computer. Creating a new account is straightforward and as much or as little personal information need be entered. In fact, the name and photo which appears on Facebook needn't be your own, you could simply be known as "Yachtman57" with a photo of a model boat.

The advantage to being a member of the group is that new information will appear there first.

In order to keep the group page interesting to readers, members are encouraged to make regular posts; anything from current news & developments, group events, technical articles or simply photos of your latest projects.

Chris Withey

#### **Fast Electrics by Dave Parker**

Generally another good season for Fast Electrics with Club500s popular as ever and the F600B races modestly attended.

Attendances for Wacky Races was sporadic but 3 meetings were adequately attended and that was just enough to constitute a championship.

Run What Ya Brung has had a good following with a variety of boats out on the water for testing, practice or just for fun.

Demonstration races were held at the Model Boat show in May and there was the usual fun and games at the Chairman's day event. This time the name of the game was Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?

Unfortunately Electra has folded so we will not be hosting rounds of their championships next year.

**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



**Chairman & Tug Leader  
Tony Simons**

Tel: 07747 642234

Email: [tony406@btinternet.com](mailto:tony406@btinternet.com)



**Club Secretary, Voice Pipe  
Editor & Fast Electrics Leader  
Dave Parker**

Tel: 0118 9700162

Email: [parker42@btinternet.com](mailto:parker42@btinternet.com)



**Yachting Leader  
John Price**

Tel: 0118 941 4766

Email: [jetpipe@talktalk.net](mailto:jetpipe@talktalk.net)



*Final race meeting of last season. Cold and damp but still up for the fight.*

**Club500**

Congratulations to Graham Cole who is the 2019 champion and to Colin Mears who is runner up.

Competitor	No.	points	pos.
Graham Coles	12	43	1
Colin Mears	6	34	2
Joshua Simons	3	16	3
Tim Koziowski	8	15	4
Matt Richardson	11	15	5
Ben Mexson	0	11	6
Alan Whitbread	7	9	7
David Walters	1	7	8
Steven Greenslade	16	5	9
Harry Simons	14	4	10
Colin Sayer	15	4	11
David Payne	2	3	12
Lawrie Cooper	9	3	12
Wiki Daniels	13	1	14
Michael Payne	17	1	14

**F600B**

Congratulations to Graham Cole who is the 2019 champion and to Colin Mears who is runner up.

During this season competitors have all been experiencing problems with batteries running out of power after about 5 minutes of the 6 minute races. This resulted in a slow & boring end to the races and everyone hammering their batteries to the finish with is not good for them. By agreement future races will be 5 minutes and the F600B rules will be changed for 2020.

**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



**Ladies & Associates Rep.  
Janet Burch**

Tel: 01635 34403

Email: [janet.burch@talktalk.net](mailto:janet.burch@talktalk.net)



**Saga Sailing Co-ordinator  
Alan Whitbread**

Tel: 07765 263718

Email: [orsonkarte@btinternet.com](mailto:orsonkarte@btinternet.com)

Competitor	No.	points	pos.
Graham Coles	12	51	1
Colin Mears	4	34	2
Matt Richardson	15	24	3
Tony Simons	1	17	4
Alan Whitbread	7	17	5
David Walters	3	8	6

**Whacky Races**

Congratulations to Tim Kozlowski for his runners up spot.

Competitor	No.	points	pos.
David Parker	8	27	1
Tim Kozlowski	3	10	2
Tony Simons	5	9	3
Steve Greenslade	2	7	4
Colin Sayer	6	7	4
Joshua Simons	9	6	6
Colin Mears	7	2	7
Harry Simons	10	2	7

It has been an interesting year for Wacky Races with the introduction of a coloured superstructure option instead of race numbers to identify the boats. This has allowed small commercially available boats to compete because previously the race number boards were interfering with their self righting capabilities.



Courtesy of Tony Simons and David Walters it has been possible to introduce 2 'Have A Go' Wacky racers during 2019.

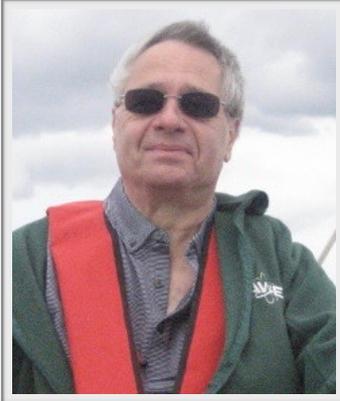
On the left the H101 is a medium speed NiMH powered boat which is stable and predictable to drive. It handles very well in rough conditions and is suitable for inexperienced racers. Note the section of orange noodle to make it self righting.

Right is the ProBoat Recoil which is equipped with a brushless motor and is lipo powered. Fast and much more difficult to drive especially in rough conditions. (The editor's Recoil won the championship this year)

There are a couple of articles that may be of interest available on the MTMBC website "more" tab "useful information" section.

"Self Righting for Fast Electric Boats" & "Choosing a Wacky Racer"

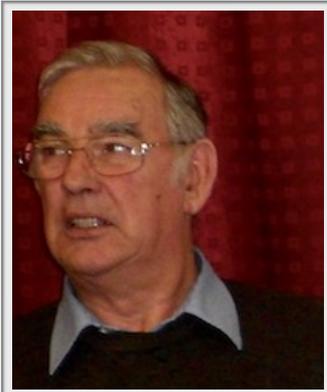
## Club Contacts - Volunteers



**Webmaster  
Chris Withey**

Tel: 01264 362652

Email: [chriswithey@sky.com](mailto:chriswithey@sky.com)



**Treasurer &  
Membership Secretary  
Roger Strudwicke**

Tel: 01628 526577

mail: [rogerstrudwicke@gmail.com](mailto:rogerstrudwicke@gmail.com)

### Run What Ya Brung

During last year along with a wide variety of electrically powered boats several F/E Mono 1 boats have been run. In the penultimate meeting of 2019 three Monos were raced as an experiment to give the drivers some experience of racing.

#### Preview of 2020

All being well with the new venue the club should be able to run a similar F/E calendar this year as 2019. So a full round of Club500 and F600B races. The interest in Wacky Races expressed in the later half of last year will hopefully also mean full rounds of the Wacky Races championship this year.

Run What Ya Brung should attract some more interest in Fast Electrics in general and plant the seeds for more Racers to join in. A small group have been running fast Mono boats in RWYB which could well develop into a Mono class for organised racing.

#### Mono 1 at MTMBC

This is a new F/E race class for 2020. Any mono hull, 6 minute race + 10secs mill time, maximum battery capacities are:-

Lipo 2s1p or 2s2p up to 7,500mAh

Lipo 3s1p or 3s2p up to 5,000mAh

NiMh 7 sub C cells up to 5,000mAh

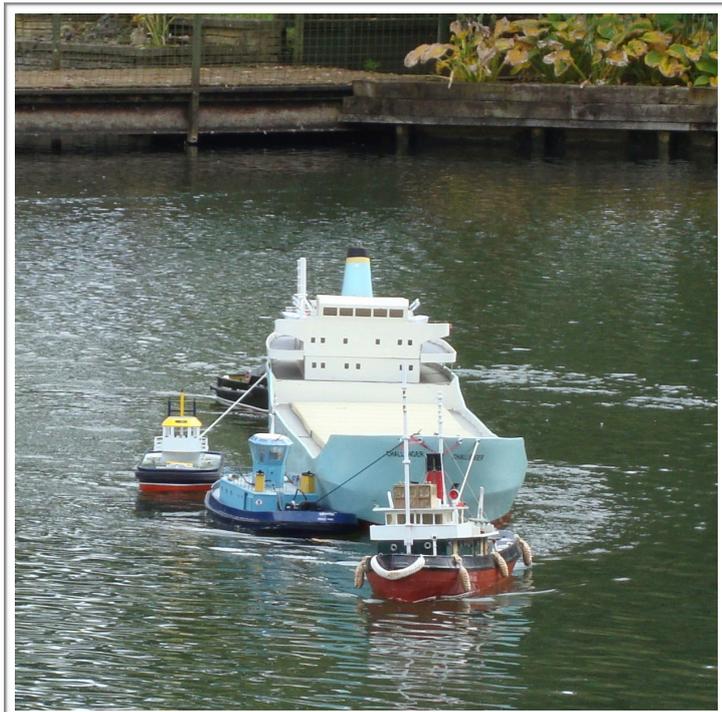
These should be the fastest MTMBC boats at about 35 mph. Contact me for more details. I will be writing and distributing the rules shortly. You can take look at the MTMBC Facebook page for some typical Mono 1 pictures.

By popular demand 2020 Chairman's Day fun & games will feature some more exciting rounds of Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf.

If the move to Hi5 goes smoothly our first meeting will be on Saturday March 28th 2020 from 10am to 4pm. Familiarisation with the new facilities, Tune up, Testing & Advice

*See you lakeside Dave*

### Tug Towing by Tony Simons





As told by the Bishop of Buckingham during his sermon at a Carol Service - Shortened version.

Two small girls arguing about their parts in the Nativity Play. One is an angel, and the bossier know-it-all one is Mary. Says Mary - "It's much harder to be a Virgin than an Angel!!!" out of the mouths of babes etc!

#### And some old favourites:-

Q: Why is pirating so addictive?

A: They say once ye lose yer first hand, *ye get hooked!*

Q: How do pirates know that they are pirates?

A: They think, therefore they **ARRRR!!!!**

Q: What happened when Bluebeard fell overboard in the Red Sea?

A: He got *marooned*.

Q: How did the pirate get his Jolly Roger so cheaply?

A: He bought it on sail.

Q: What has 8 legs, 8 arms, and 8 eyes?

A: 8 pirates.

Q: What do ye call a pirate with two eyes and two legs?

A: A rookie.

Q: What did the ocean say to the pirate?

A: Nothing, it just waved.

Q: What's the difference between a hungry pirate and a drunken pirate?

A: One has a rumbling tummy, and the other's a tumbling rummy.

Q: What does a dyslexic pirate say?

A: RRRRRRA!

Our 2019 season ended quietly with a steady number of regulars attending, as ever the barges have been popular for making up tows of various sizes.

We do need to rationalise the amount of equipment we have for tug towing, anything rarely used we don't have room for.

In 2020 we have to plan a new course, having to deploy the buoys and recover at each session will bring a variety of easy changes, ideas for courses using single buoys will be welcome.

Once we get over the work of moving and setting up the pontoon I would like to repair "Challenger" and keep her assembled in a secure box on the pontoon as there won't be room in the welfare unit to store both sections, at least by having her assembled and by the water we are more likely to use her regularly.

"Hudson Bay" doesn't get much use with tugs but is regularly used in Scale events I wish to retain her for use in either role.

I intend to overhaul the club tug "Hagrid" and retain her on site to be renamed "Ian Hughes" in memory of Ian who made her from a kit supplied by another member and then he added details including working winches so that she became a useful addition to the tug fleet.

#### Yachting by John Price - Winter 2019

2019 was a good year for yachting we only missed a couple of days. The wind for most regattas was light but still sufficient to complete a good number of races.

We did have a problem with weed which is very unusual for Beale Park but it didn't last too long.

We finished the season on the 19th of October with a very pleasant regatta. The weed had nearly all gone so boat launching was not a problem. It soon warmed up after a chilly start, the wind picked up and we managed ten DF95 races. There were some very close and exciting races.

In the afternoon four One Metres turned up but two of them went U/S during the first race so we did not have a contest.

This year we held five ViFi65 regattas, five Handicaps, seven DF95 and six One Metre events.

If anyone would like to try yachting I have two yachts for sale for not much money. Both sail well and just need transmitter, receiver and battery. See the for sale ads.

Let's hope our new waters turn out to be suitable and we have another good season in 2020.