

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



The Newsletter of  
The Mid-Thames Model Boat Club

April 2023

Issue 178

## Chairman's Corner

- Update
- Organisational changes
- Prizes
- New Fence
- Jack up platform & ladder

## Fast Electrics

- Update
- Rigger kit

## Tug Towing

- MT PLASMA

## Yachting

- Update
- Race results

## Scale

- Restoring a model tug

## Dates for your diary

- **Sun 2nd April**                      **Round 2**  
**Yachting**  
Fiesta/Victoria      **10am > 1pm**  
Handicap(Any yacht)**1pm>4pm**
- **Wed 6th April**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 8th April**                      **Round 1**  
**Tugs & Scale**      **10am > 4pm**  
Tune up, Free sailing & competition.
- **Wed 12th April**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 16th April**                      **Round 2**  
**Yachting**  
DF95                      **10am > 1pm**  
IOM                      **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 19th April**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome



One Meters about to start a first round race in 2023

## Chairman's Corner by Tony Simons

At last glimmerings of spring with warmer days and some hardy souls have already been lake side while the lake is weed free. Quite a few have also been clearing weeds and the willow screen preventing sight to the left of the lake when racing. The weed cutting platform has made this safer than in past years.



Steven, Jason and Paul clearing the willow screening.

John Price has organised a ground weeding session for April 3<sup>rd</sup>, unfortunately the area where the trailer is normally emptied is too wet for a car. It has been agreed the overflow be piled alongside the trailer until the ground dries out.

## Organisational changes

There have been some changes in personnel which were voted for unanimously at this years AGM. Wiki Daniels takes on a new role as Assistant Chairman. She will be shadowing me for the forthcoming year with a view to taking over as Chairlady if it doesn't look too onerous.



- **Sat 22nd April** **Round 2**  
**F/E** **10am > 4pm**  
Club500, F600B, Wacky Races,  
Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 26th April** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 30th April** **10am >**  
Potential Boat Show or open day  
To Be Announced
- **Wed 3rd May** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 7th May** **Round 3**  
**Yachting**  
Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**  
Handicap(Any yacht) **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 10th May** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 13th May** **Round 2**  
**Tugs & Scale** **10am > 4pm**  
Tune up, Free sailing &  
competition.
- **Wed 17th May** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 21st May** **Round 3**  
**Yachting**  
DF95 **10am > 1pm**  
IOM **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 24th May** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 27th May** **Round 3**  
**F/E** **10am > 4pm**  
Club500, F600B, Wacky Races,  
Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 31st May** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 4th June** **Round 4**  
**Yachting**  
Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**  
Handicap(Any yacht) **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 7th June** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 10th June** **Round 3**  
**Tugs & Scale** **10am > 4pm**  
Tune up, Free sailing &  
competition.



Paul Garson now leads the Fast Electric section as a whole after initially taking over the competition aspects from Dave in the middle of last year. He has already started a What's App group which is proving to be beneficial in getting members together for Fast Electric Saturdays. So if you want to keep up with what's happening with F/E why not ask Paul to add you to the What's App group.

#### Prizes

We are looking for decent weather to offer a prize giving meeting, to be on a weekend as a "Club Day" date to be announced.

#### New fence

There have been concerns raised about a fence that blocks access to the short route from our area to the Hi5 toilets. I have spoken with Andrew @ Hi5 and the fence has been erected by the hotel as parts of the buildings have become unsafe with pieces falling off. I had initially thought we could install a gate but not a wise act if it gave access to an area at risk of falling objects. Andrew has no issues with those who need the toilet urgently using their car to speed the dash to the far end of the buildings. If this still doesn't address concerns, it may be possible to install a toilet in the storage unit but issues regarding emptying, cleaning, and hand washing would need solutions.

#### Jack up platform & ladder

The jack up platform needs further re design for lifting. I have a solution that works but am also reviewing an easier method of pinning at the desired height.

Alan Whitbread has kindly donated an aluminium ladder to provide a means of climbing out of the water back onto the platform, this is currently on the pontoon, but it is intended to install at the pontoon end of the platform, it will be chained to the platform, keys will be in the storage unit.

The calendar has started with a little more water than expected but I am not complaining, I hope to see you all at the lakeside on a warm day soon.

**Tony**

#### *Fast Electrics* by Paul Garson

Well the first quarter of 2023 is already behind us, how time flies and we already have round one of the 2023 Championship completed.

During the off season F/E Saturdays saw a number of the die-hard members making regular visits to the lake to test and fine tune boats and their driving skills for the upcoming season. Time will tell if the effort was worth it.

On 25th of March the first round of the 2023 Championship was run. Attendance was a bit sparse but we were able to successfully complete the races for the Club500, F600b and Wackys. Unfortunately the Mono1 races were not completed as

- **Wed 14th June**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 18th June**                      **Round 4**  
**Yachting**  
 DF95                                      **10am > 1pm**  
 IOM                                         **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 21st June**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 24th June**                      **Round 4**  
**F/E**                                         **10am > 4pm**  
 Club500, F600B, Wacky Races,  
 Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 28th June**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
 All types of boat are welcome

## 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)

there were not enough racers to make the required numbers for a race. No doubt as the season progresses the races will be better supported. This year there will be eight rounds run during the course of the season with the best six rounds counting towards the championship so it will be a really busy calendar. Results of round one can be viewed on the Club's website.

The search for a suitable replacement propeller for the F600B's is ongoing and a potential replacement is presently under test and the results have been encouraging. The replacement propeller will only be introduced once the stock of the red propellers is used up.

Going forward it is hoped to have a riggers hydroplane and cat day. Maybe even have a few races. The date has yet to be decided and will be published once agreed.

Towards the beginning of the last off season I purchased a small rigger called the Shrimp, in kit form, from Century Hobbies which came with everything needed to get it on the water, all that I needed to supply was a 2200mah lipo battery. After assembly it was time to give it a run and was I disappointed. Speed was good but it just would not turn either left or right. Well, time to consult the resident expert and after fitting a turn fin and a bit of work on the rudder it was all go, and I am now pretty happy with it. So if you are looking for something like this, this could prove to be an option at a competitive price.

Below is a picture of the completed project.



*See you Lakeside*

**Paul**

**Tug Towing** by Tony Simons

**MT Plasma**



## Club Contacts - Your Committee



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**One Voith unit forward, no conventional propellor/s**  
Built 1965 by Richard Dunston Ltd, Thorne. YN S807. L26.70m. B7.92m. D2.74m. 122grt. 1600bhp 16cyl 4SCSA 8, 75"x11.5" Lister-Blackstone diesel engine + Voith unit forward. BP16t. Acquired 1991. Disposed 2001. ON306353. Callsign GXAR. 6-3-1964 Keel laid. 19-1-1965 Launched. 18-8-1965 Completed for PLA, named *Plasma*. 1-1-1991 Acquired by ATCL. 2-1991 renamed *Burma*. 1994 Transferred to Swansea, renamed *Langland*. 1-1-1996 Owners restyled Howard Smith (London) Ltd. 23-1-1998 Transferred to Howard Smith (Humber) Ltd. 4-1998 Renamed *Lady Joan*. 2001 Sold to Survey and Supply Ltd, Grimsby, renamed *Joan*. 2006C Deregistered and renamed *Lady Joan*. 11-2016 Still in service.

<https://youtu.be/MWquV4zRMqE> Link to YouTube "Plasma" can be seen working. The opening shots are of the King George V lock in London's Royal Docks and then the cargo ship is towed via the cut in to the Royal Albert Dock and looks to be berthed alongside the jetty that now serves as the runway for London City Airport.

<https://youtu.be/zmsT-QdMEc> This link is to a promotional video made by Voith Shneider that helps explain the advantages of the Voith drives. All of the tugs shown use two Voith drives side by side giving greater power and manoeuvrability. These are known as "Tractor Tugs".

<https://youtu.be/IRnosZCmdNY> This link shows a tug manoeuvring but at the top left is a top down view of the aerofoil shaped blades rotating. Note how they can have their angle to the water changed, there is a central ring that all blades are connected to by short link arms, by moving this central ring off centre the vertical blades are caused to change their angle. Watch one blade move to push water away then as it continues to rotate it progressively feathers until it comes round to start changing angle to again push water away.

By moving the central ring off centre in any direction the vertical blades can be made to push water in any chosen direction, the speed of the table the vertical blades are attached to can be varied as well to change the power applied.

<https://youtu.be/3qH6iRMnVc4> Another video of the linkage being moved out of centre to change the vertical blade angles.

<https://youtu.be/QJJ6IS9EcNg> This link shows the vertical blades connected to the central ring and how a vertical shaft can be tilted in any direction to change the blade angle. The two hydraulic rams at the top of the picture move the vertical shaft. The red shaft is the drive from a power source that turns the table the vertical blades are mounted on.

<https://youtu.be/VH2efmNR-zYThis> shows a Tractor Tug at work in Antwerp. The angle of the vertical blades of each Voith drive can be trimmed by the two large levers in the bottom left, the direction the thrust goes is controlled by the wheel on the right. Look at the wash to see it changing as the wheel is turned. On the bottom right of these levers are the engine speed controls normally five preset speeds for these tugs for each drive.

Note when the angle of the vertical blades is altered the engines become noisier. They are governed to the preset speed selected. If you watch some of the video the change of wash direction can be seen when the wheel is turned the twin drives are about a third of the tugs length away from the bow these tugs normally work with the stern to the ship being towed to keep the drives

**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



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away from the tow rope.



The versatility of a modern tug model demonstrated in this rescue.

Another link to utube which may be of interest to all modellers.  
[https://youtu.be/lmLAmfM\\_AgA](https://youtu.be/lmLAmfM_AgA) baking soda and superglue.

Tony

**Yachting update**

Hallo from the watery wastes of Hi5!

The Yachting year has started rather well with two regattas in March. It was cold but dry and there were lots of races on both days with close racing. The second Regatta was unusual in that, on several occasions, a boat would get a flyer and streak ahead of the fleet, winning by about half a lap. Several skippers managed this so the end result was quite close.

I had previously sent round a video of the racing rules to all participants and then I proceeded to break most of them, which was vociferously pointed out by the braying mob!! Ah well, I'll try harder next time.

One potential new member turned up with a rather nice One Metre, called a Malteser.

**RESULTS:- 5.3.23**

- ViFi65 1.....John S
- 2.....John P
- 3.....David S

- HANDICAP 1.....John P
- 2.....John S
- 3.....David S
- 4.....Peter B

**RESULTS:- 19.3.23**

- DF95 1.....John P
- 2.....David S
- 3.....John S



**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



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- ONE METRE 1.....John P  
2.....David S  
3.....John S  
4.....Peter B  
Visitor.....5.....Brian W

The One Metre was very close with only one point separating first and second. Despite the brazen flouting of the rules by some of us, both days were enjoyable and fun.

**The next Regatta will be on Sunday the 2nd of April. 10am ViFi65, 1pm HANDICAP.**

**John**



**Scale by Lawrie Cooper**



**Condor hydrofoil and a restored model tug at the first Scale & Tug Towing meeting of the season on 11th March.**

**Boat Restoration**

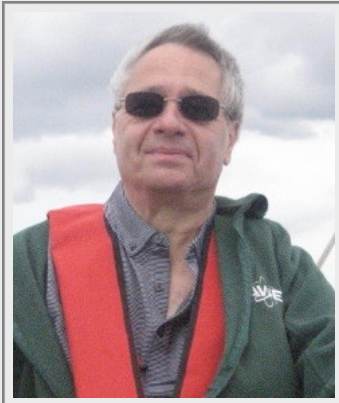
With a cold garage and limited time, building from kits would take too long. Having restored the Customs launch from the Beale Collection, I thought I'd have another go.

I found a tug on eBay, which looked suitable. 5 months later, I'd finished this simple task.

After cleaning, it was clear that there was much to do. Some of the railing needed replacing, and it all needed straightening, rough ends tidied, plus painting, and there seemed to be miles of it. Everything that had been glued on was on the wonk. The rudder was off centre, and the piece holding it on was at a strange angle, so it all had to be ground back and filled. The crane was warped, and various other bits needed straightening, or tidying up. The wooden parts had been pressed out of the sheet and left with rough edges. Every window was frayed.

Inside, the geared motor was perfect, but a little loose. There was limited access to the inside of the hull, so getting 2 Lead/ acid batteries inside was almost impossible, and with one, on its side, it caused a list and didn't last that long, but the battery box happily takes a 5AH LiPo with lots of lead underneath, that makes it more stable.

**Club Contacts -  
Volunteers**



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**Some Maritime funnies for children better than adult ones**

- Q: Why did the sailboat want to dance with the motor boat?  
A: Because he liked her a yacht.
- Q: What did the Southern sailboat say to the group of sailboats?  
A: Hello Yawl !! (Yawl is a type of sailing vessel)
- Q: Why did the captain hire a cleaning service?  
A: His sailboat was looking dinghy.
- Q: Why was the sailor broke?  
A: The captain docked his pay.
- Q: What sailing movie featured Luke Skywalker?  
A: Star Board.
- Q: Why was the sailboat feeling better?  
A: It was heeling.
- Q: Why did the sailor keep his money on an elevated sea floor?  
A: It was a bank.

It must have been standing a long time, as more dust came out of the woodwork when painted, but being Humbrol, it was matching.



The end result is quite good.

**Trading Post Special**

These models have kindly been offered to MTMBC members who can give them a good home and would enjoy sailing them. They belonged to Ron Burch and with the recent passing of Janet the family are offering them to our members.



Please contact  
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