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The Newsletter of
The Mid-Thames Model Boat Club

January 2024

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Dates for your diary

- **Sat 2nd March** **Round 1**
Yachting
Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**
Handicap(Any yacht) **1pm>4pm**
- **Wed 6th March** **10am >**
Midweek Mariners
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 9th March** **Round 7**
Tugs & Scale **10am > 4pm**
Tune up, Free sailing &
competition
- **Wed 13th March** **10am >**
Midweek Mariners
All types of boat are welcome

🎉 **A Happy New Year to all our members!** 😊



Some on the water activity from a Tug & Scale meeting

Chairman's Corner by Tony Simons

I believe it would be safe to say that 2023 was kind to us model boaters. How quickly I forget the heavy showers requiring rapid retreat to a dry place.

There has been a lot of activity of all kinds on the water. I believe the introduction of "WhatsApp" groups has helped greatly with communications so that impromptu meetings can be held. Where the "Fast Electrics" group go we follow albeit it somewhat more slowly. We now have a "Tugs" group & "Midweek Mariners" group formerly known as the "Saga Sailors" but it was pointed out to me that indicates only individuals above a certain age can join in thus the rebranding to be "More inclusive"! There was a time a few years ago when I was challenged about not being old enough to be a SAGA Sailor. Not much chance of that now.

If any member isn't receiving any notifications from one or more groups but would like to receive them, please contact Paul Garson for "Fast Electrics" and myself for the other two groups.

We have access to the lake all year round the aim is to make the best of any mild days particularly as there isn't any weed around in the winter.

2024 Calendar

The Calendar for 2024 has most of the weekend activities on a Saturday by popular request but it does make it easier to support other clubs Sunday "Open Days" to help in promoting our hobby to a wider audience. As far as I am aware no other club near us operates seriously fast electric racing boats or tugs towing round challenging courses.

- **Sat 16th March** **Round 1**
Yachting
 DF95 **10am > 1pm**
 IOM **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 20th March** **10am >**
Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 23rd March** **Round 1**
Fast Electrics **10am > 4pm**
 Club500, F600B, WackyRaces,
 Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 27th March** **10am >**
Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Wed 3rd April** **10am >**
Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 6th April** **10am >**
Fast Electrics Testing
- **Sun 7th April** **Round 2**
Yachting
 Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**
 Handicap Any yacht **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 10th April** **10am >**
Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 13th April** **Round 1**
Tugs & Scale **10am > 4pm**
 Free sailing & competition
- **Wed 17th April** **10am >**
Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 20th April** **Round 2**
Fast Electrics **10am > 4pm**
 Club500, F600B, WackyRaces,
 Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 24th April** **10am >**
Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 27th April** **Round 2**
Yachting
 DF95 **10am > 1pm**
 IOM **1pm > 4pm**

Membership Initiatives

We are hoping to increase membership and draw more people into our great hobby which will also help keep membership costs down. A number of ideas have been discussed in committee meetings which are now being put into practice.

Briefly

- 1) The simplification of the website membership page aimed at new members. A blue button on the welcome page takes you straight to the Membership page which has been re-ordered so the information needed by any potential new member is at the top of the page.
- 2) The production of a Flyer (below) advertising the club for as wide a distribution as possibly both in electronic and paper form. The electronic version has live links to the MTMBC Website, YouTube channel and a Public Facing Face Book group.
- 3) The creation of a MTMBC public facing Face Book group which you are encouraged to join and contribute to. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.mtmbc.club>
- 4) The creation of a MTMBC YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/@MTMBC>

With your support these initiatives should attract more members over the coming years but its success will very much depend on the effective distribution of the Flyer and contributions from you the members to the social media aspects to keep them fresh and interesting with regular posts & videos.

Mid Thames Model Boat Club

Bay Lake, H151 Activity Centre, Reading, RG30 3UN







Fast Electric
4 classes of
competitive racing!



Tug Towing
Free sailing & friendly
competition using
different tows



Scale
Wide variety covering
the whole spectrum



Yachting
4 classes of
competitive racing



A few words from our Chairman

Thank you for your interest in our club. We are a small but growing group with members having a variety of interests across different types of model boats. Access to our waters is available to members outside of organised events, but do explore our website for a more in depth examination of what the club is about. Please come along to one of our organised events or feel free to contact me (Tony) for a chat on 0777 244 7723





www.mtmbc.club



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

Club YouTube channel

My thanks to Wiki, Leo, Dave and Chris for setting up a YouTube channel for our club "Mid Thames Model Boat Club" add Fast electrics or tugs at the moment to find the current content. Hopefully this will include a Sailing and Scale play list in the spring.

If you do have a look at our YouTube channel please **Subscribe** (It doesn't cost anything) and a **Like** it helps raise our profile, if it brings in a few new members it may relieve the pressure to increase club subscriptions.

Jack-up Platform

I have changed the method of pegging at different levels so if the water is threatening to cover it please let me know and I will adjust the height accordingly. If the current solution works I will show several members how to raise and lower the platform and leave the hydraulic jack in our store.

Sodium Ion Batteries

There is a strong possibility Lithium batteries will be changed for Sodium Ion for many reasons but from our view point they are safer to charge with tests of 9 hours charging when already 100% charged with no significant gain in heat. They can in theory be discharged to zero volts with no harm.

These batteries in the very recent months have been in production for vehicles, battery packs, single cells of many sizes and capacities that match current lithium-ion cells.

The means of production is the same as a lithium battery making the change easy for manufacturers.

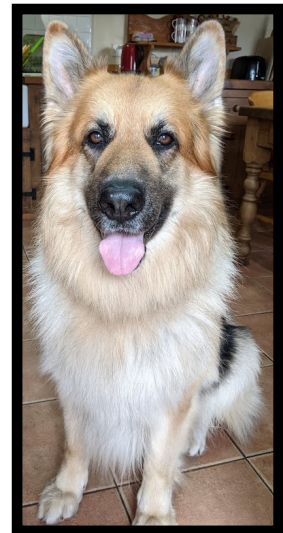
OBITUARY for STARK WHITBREAD

Sad news from Karen Whitbread:

It is with a very heavy heart that we announce the passing away of Stark, the most beautiful, gentle soul....and a wonderful ambassador for the German Shepherd breed.

It has been even more heart-rending, following the passing of his beloved master, Alan. No doubt Stark had been pining for Alan since his passing on 12th August. They are now reunited.

Rest in peace dear boy, you will always be loved and remembered by so many dear friends and neighbours in Southmoor, and by all your boat club friends.



Tony

Fast Electrics by Paul Garson

Can you believe it? We are already in 2024, where did 2023 go to, and we are already planning for the year's Championships, with the Mono1 racers already hard at work testing to ensure a successful season.

The final round of the Club championships, round 8, was run on Saturday 21st October 2023 and saw some really good racing

Club Contacts - Your Committee



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Tony Simons**

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Wiki Daniels**

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**Club Secretary
& Voice Pipe Editor
Dave Parker**

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**Mono 1 racers, Jason, Steve & Dave looking very pleased
Tim, a picture of concentration with himself after a good run**

with racers trying to ensure as high as possible placing in the final standings.

This all bodes well for 2024 and no doubt the Championship will be a closely contested one.

With 2023 behind us we can look back on a season that perhaps fell a bit short of expectations for one reason or another.

The Club500 and F600B classes were well supported during the year and all eight races were run. Congratulations to the winners and well done to everyone else.

The Wacky and Mono1 classes eventually managed to squeeze in five races but unfortunately, due to quite unforeseen circumstances, getting race numbers together proved a bit difficult, but we got there. 2024 is looking good for these classes and should see a closely fought Championship.



**AND THEY'RE OFF
Four Wacky Racers making for the first buoy.**

Again congratulations to the winners and a job well done to everyone else.

Ironically on race days the blanket weed did not prove to be to much of a major issue so let's hope that holds for 2024.

The year saw driver's skills improve with each race across all classes and thus made for some really close racing particularly in the Club500 and F600B classes. Keep it up racers.

In closing 2023, a big thank you to all who made it a success, whether it was racing, scoring or doing race control.

Championship positions

The final 2023 Championship standings in each class was as follows:

Club Contacts - Your Committee



**Club Treasurer
Peter Butler**

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**Yachting Leader
John Price**

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**Tony & Lawrie
Midweek Mariners Co-ordinators**

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lawriecooper@btopenworld.com

Club500

Pos	Name	Points
1	Paul Garson	49
2	Wiki Daniels	38
3	Leo Daniels	34
4	Mike Durrett	23
5	Tony Simons	21

F600B

Pos	Name	Points
1	Paul Garson	54
2	Leo Daniels	37
3	John Martin	31
4	Wiki Daniels	19
5	Steve Greenslade	17
6	Tony Simons	14
7	Alan Whitbread	4
8	Alan Burgess	2

Wacky Racers

Pos	Name	Points
1	Tim Kozlowski	45
2	Steve Greenslade	21
3	Jason Collins-Webb	18
4	Leo Daniels	16
5	Dave Parker	9
6	John Martin	5

MONO1

Pos	Name	Points
1	Tim Kozlowski	45
2	Steve Greenslade	26
3	Dave Parker	12
4	Leo Daniels	11
5	Jason Collins-Webb	5
6	Paul Garson	4

Club Contacts - Your Committee



**Membership Secretary
Jeanette Hughes**
membership.MTMBC@gmail.com



**Fast Electrics Leader
Paul Garson**
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**Scale Leader
Lawrie Cooper**
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Email: lawriecooper@btopenworld.com

A riggers, hydro and cat day was held on 4th November 2023 with a better than expected turnout.



Not a bad turn out for the rigger, hydro & cat day

They certainly are different to a Mono hull and a lot quicker. Steve Greenslade had his nitro rigger out and again he battled to get it going, he has the



Tim receiving his rather belated F600B first place

patience of a saint where most of us would have just given up. There is a lot to be said for electrics, plug in a battery and go. We also took the opportunity at this meeting to present Tim Kozlowski with his F600B trophy, sorry for the 'longgggggg' delay in getting it to you, Tim.



Being Chairman can be lonely at times??

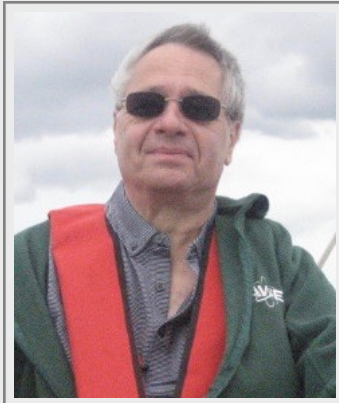


Dave & Tim hiding from the rain

2024 Preview

What's ahead for 2024? Plenty of fast electric racing for a start with another eight rounds to be run from March to October and as mentioned earlier the Mono1 racers are already testing. Should be an interesting season for this class.

**Club Contacts -
Volunteers**



**Webmaster
Chris Withey**

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Email: chriswithey@sky.com



I came across this by accident and couldn't resist including it for the old salts to sing along to.

The first lighthouse was built at Eddystone Rocks, a reef south of Plymouth England, in 1698. This song refers to the fourth lighthouse, built by James Smeaton between 1756 and 1759. That lighthouse stood for 127 years. Cracks at the base eventually caused another to be built. The Smeaton lighthouse was dismantled and rebuilt on Plymouth Hoe.

My father was the keeper of the Eddystone light

And he slept with a mermaid one fine night

Out of this union there came three

A porpoise and a porgy and the other was me!

Definitely there will be a GASTRO (Gas/ Nitro) day so anyone with a gas or nitro boat, get them ready. We will also hold another multihull day during the course of the year, so racers get them sorted too.



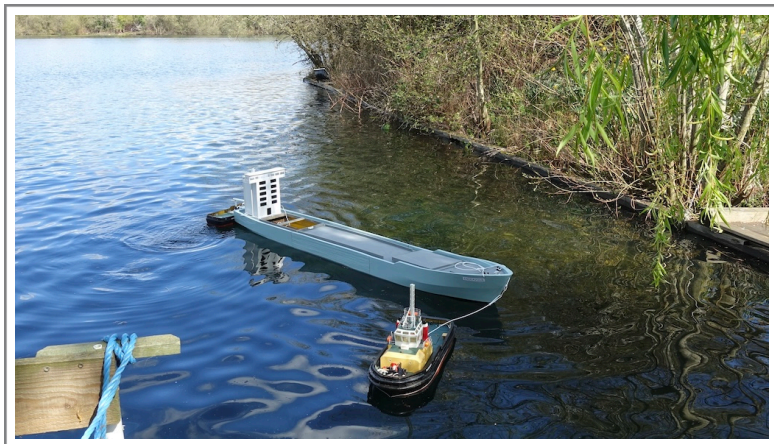
Wiki & Leo with their usual fleet

Otherwise much the same as for 2023.

Well to end, I know that I have said it all before and am starting to sound like a broken record, but let me make another punt for fast electrics. If you want to add a bit of excitement to at least one of your Saturday mornings a month come and join us. There is something for everyone from the more sedate CLUB500s to the wildly fast Mono1s and the F600Bs and Wackys give something in between. It's really good fun and not just the racing, there's also the racers good company.

*See you Lakeside
Paul*

Tug Towing by Tony Simons



This last quarter has seen the number of tugs increase as stalwarts have been able to rejoin. The buoyed courses have been simpler to lay than last year but challenging enough to make us work.

On site storage for Endeavour & Challenger

I am shortly to lose the storage facility I have enjoyed for "Endeavour" and "Challenger". I propose to extend one of the aluminium topped tables so that a weatherproof box can be bolted underneath to hold "Endeavour" in one piece. I am not sure what to do with Challenger but that's a problem for another day.

Boat Lift

A Mk2 boat lift base has been installed on the jack-up-platform. The lifting mast and cradle fit straight in as usual.

Thrust Measurement

Just out of interest I have purchased a digital spring balance to



*Yo ho ho, the wind blows free,
Oh for the life on the rolling sea!*

One night, as I was a-trimming the
glim

Singing a verse from the evening
hymn

I heard a voice cry out an "Ahoy!"
And there was my mother, sitting
on a buoy.

*Yo ho ho, the wind blows free,
Oh for the life on the rolling sea!*

"Oh, what has become of my
children three?"

My mother then inquired of me.
One's on exhibit as a talking fish
The other was served in a chafing
dish.

*Yo ho ho, the wind blows free,
Oh for the life on the rolling sea!*

Then the phosphorus flashed in
her seaweed hair.

I looked again, and my mother
wasn't there

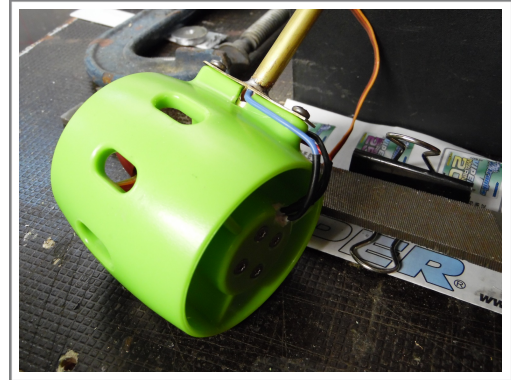
But her voice came angrily out of
the night

"To Hell with the keeper of the
Eddystone Light!"

*Yo ho ho, the wind blows free,
Oh for the life on the rolling sea!*

test the pulling
power of my drives
as they have slots
cut in the nozzle
that must reduce the
astern power.

To increase water
flow past the motor
to the propeller there
are slots in the
nozzle behind the
propeller, but when
the prop is running
in reverse some flow
is lost through these
slots reducing the
flow exiting the
nozzle past the
motor resulting in
reduced astern power.



Commercially available unit altered to be an Azipod drive for Tony's dual drive tug

All will be revealed when it stops raining and the wind stops chilling what otherwise have been mild days. I will bring it with me for others to try.

Miscellaneous

I have found a supply of small gearboxes fitted with a 12 volt motor that make ideal winches that won't allow the towing line to pay out unless the motor is driving. One of these is currently on my workbench in the process of being adapted as deck winch. I have also found electronic switches that can be radio controlled from a spare channel on the receiver to operate a winch, turn navigation lights on/off or whatever accessory etc. fitted to a model boat.



I had to purchase rather a lot of 2mm and 3mm polypropylene cord for use as tow ropes, (polypropylene floats) if anyone has a need please ask as I will never use all of it.

Before we make another appearance on YouTube, I would like to undertake some rehearsal incorporating all types of towing on the water and a master class with "Endeavour".

Tony

Yachting Update by John Price

Whilst the 2024 calendar may not be finalised yet, I am hopeful that the majority of our Regattas will be on a Saturday.

This should hopefully allow more members to join in.

In 2023 we started our season early and finished it late. This worked out pretty well as we had several weed free regattas at the beginning and end of the year, so we will do the same in 2024.

There are only two trophies to be awarded this year as, sadly, attendance was low.

In the ViFi65 (Victoria, Fiesta and DragonForce65) class,

1st place went to....John Skinner

2nd.....John Price

3rd.....David Strange



One Metres before the start & below about to start between the 2 buoys



My latest yacht. I am quietly confident that it will be fast.

In Dragon Flite 95

1st place went to...John Price

2nd.....John Skinner

3rd.....David Strange

A shortage of entrants prevented the One Metre and HANDICAP seasons being completed.

Wishing you all a sailtastic New Year.

Cheers,
John

Scale by Lawrie

Enthusiasm for scale was good this Autumn, and benefitted from Midweek Mariners running through to Mid November.



Richard produced a Scandinavian supply boat, complete with JCB. Portgarth is in for repair.

Alan produced a motorsailor, & I hear that his fleet is expanding.



I'm now restoring Medway Queen, a paddle steamer, which like most things is going electric.

Lawrie

ESSO EDINBURGH 1963(Into service) – 1976(Scrapped)

Built by Vickers Armstrong, Newcastle.

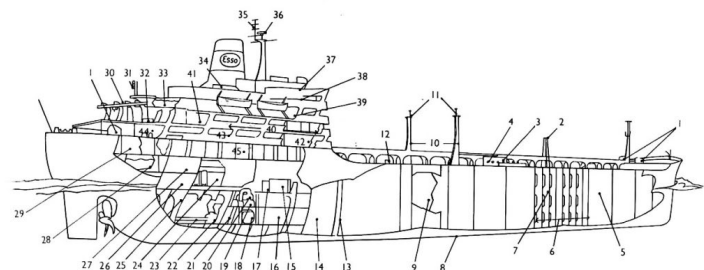
Launched 31/07/62

Entered service 02/63

Scrapped 1976 as part of large companies like Esso removing themselves from owning tanker fleets after a variety of large oil spills bringing adverse publicity.

DWT 52,993 tons

I recently found this cutaway of a tanker it shows the layout of tankers of this period there are thirty cargo tanks, ten along the length three across the width of the hull.



- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| KEY TO NUMBERS | 10 Hose handling derricks. | 23 Propeller shaft. | 36 Radar scanner. |
| 1 Mooring winches | 11 Tank vent outlets. | 24 Starboard boiler. | 37 Wheelhouse. |
| 2 Lighting for deck and fore and aft gangway. | 12 Cargo hatch. | 25 Web frames. | 38 Accommodation for Captain and senior deck officers. |
| 3 Deck manifold for loading and discharge. | 13 Cofferdam. | 26 Compressor space. | 39 Hospital and Chief Steward (Cadets' and Trainees' accommodation beyond). |
| 4 Deck store. | 14 Wing tankers. | 27 Paint store. | 40 Engineers' accommodation. |
| 5 Wing oil cargo tank. | 15 Switchboard. | 28 Fresh water tanks. | 41 Hobbies room. |
| 6 Water ballast tanks (Nos. 6 and 7). | 16 Auxiliary condensers. | 29 Cold stores. | 42 Officers' saloon. |
| 7 Transverse framing of tank. | 17 Manoeuvring panel. | 30 Stores loading gantry. | 43 Stewards' accommodation. |
| 8 Bilge keel. | 18 Condenser. | 31 Stern lights. | 44 Galley. |
| 9 Centre oil cargo tank. | 19 High pressure turbine. | 32 Stores hatch. | 45 Crew accommodation. |
| | 20 Low pressure turbine. | 33 Swimming pool. | |
| | 21 Gear casing. | 34 Engine room skylight. | |
| | 22 Thrust block. | 35 Suez signal light. | |

