

Voice «««»»»» pipe

The Newsletter of The Mid-Thames Model Boat Club



July 2025 Issue 187

Chairlady's Corner

- 2025 So far
- · Chairlady's Day
- · Model Boat Mayhem
- · Site Maintenance/assets

Fast Electrics

- Fast Electrics update
- Championships
- Gastro Chatter

Tug Towing

- Tugs update
- · Motor Tug 'lan Hughes'

Trading Post

· Items For Sale

Dates for your diary

Wed 2nd July 10am >
 Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome

• Sun 6th July Round 5
Yachting
Fiesta/Victoria 10am > 1pm
Handicap(Any yacht)1pm>4pm

- Wed 9th July 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- Sat 12th July Round 4
 Tugs & Scale 10am > 4pm
 Free sailing & competition
- Wed 16th July 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome

Sun 20th July Round 5YachtingDF95 10am > 1pmIOM 1pm >

 Wed 23rd July 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome



The ceremonial launch of the club tug MT 'lan Hughes' at Chairladies Day conducted by Jeanette Hughes ably assisted by Tug Master Tony Simons



Chairlady's Corner by Wiki Daniels

Summer is now well and truly with us and all sections are well represented with quite a few new members which is great to see. A big welcome to you all!

Chairlady's Day

There was good turnout for Chairlady's Day and all disciplines of the club were represented. We started off with tug towing around a course expertly set by Tony – competitors were timed as they navigated around the course in one direction. They then had to repeat but this time going round the course in the reverse direction. The aim was to achieve the same time in both directions. Some variance in times was observed!

The next event was sailing, ably let by John. We had a good selection of sailing boats out on the water, including some one metres, which was good to see.

- Sat 26th July Round 5 Fast Electrics 10am > 4pm Club500, F600B, Wacky Races, Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- Wed 30th July 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- Sun 3rd August Round 6
 Yachting
 Fiesta/Victoria 10am > 1pm
 Handicap(Any yacht) 1pm > 4pm
- Wed 6th August 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- Sat 9th August Round 5 Tugs & Scale 10am > 4pm Free sailing & competition
- Wed 13th August 10am >
 Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- Sun 17th August Yachting

 DF95 10am > 1pm > 4pm
- Wed 20th August 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- Sat 23rd August Round 6
 Fast Electrics 10am > 4pm
 Club500, F600B, Wacky Races,
 Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- Wed 27th August 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- Sun 31st August Round 7
 Yachting
 Fiesta/Victoria 10am > 1pm
 Handicap(Any yacht) 1pm > 4pm
- Wed 3rd September 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- Sat 6th September Round 6 Tugs & Scale 10am > 4pm Free sailing & competition
- Wed 10th September 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- Wed 17th September 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome



A Special club award was given to Dave Parker who was presented with a trophy by Wiki

(I think it was marking my unintentional hitting of a number of buoys last year. Tony pointed out several damaged buoys behind the club store. Unfortunately the trend continues this year with 2 full on hits so far that luckily have not been fatal for the buoys).

During lunch we had a trophy presentation, cake sampling and a special ceremony in

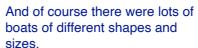
memory of Ian Hughes, where Jeanette Hughes launched a much loved Tug, hand-built by Ian and dedicated to the club.





Here are some new members and some long standing members enjoying the cakes and conversation.







In the afternoon it was the turn of the fast electrics, where we had the yearly running of 'Wiki Wolf'. An exciting chase game involving the Club 500s as sheep, being chased by my Club 500. Luckily there were no sinkings this year.

This was followed by another timed event, where competitors had to hit all the buoys on the fast electrics course with the nose of their chosen craft, whilst only going in one direction. Missed buoys had to be hit the next time round. Or the time after that. Or the time after that. You get the picture! Some competitors took longer than others!

- Sat 20th September Round 7
 Fast Electrics 10am > 4pm
 Club500, F600B, Wacky Races, Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- Sun 21st September Round 8 Yachting

DF95 **10am > 1pm** IOM **1pm > 4pm**

- Wed 24th September 10am > Midweek Mariners
 All types of boat are welcome
- Sun 28th September 10am > Club Sunday All types of boat are welcome.





Fastest run of the day was Dave with his ZipKits JAE 26E 3s powered outrigger hydroplane at 51 mph

Jason was the last sheep surviving and the winner of Who's afraid of Wiki Wolf.



Leo won the hitting the boys game pictured here with runners up Tony & Wiki

The final event involved timed speed runs, where two GPSs were available for anyone who wanted to measure the speed of their boat. Thank you to everyone involved in organising the event which was a most enjoyable and relaxed day out.

Model Boat Mayhem

Model Boat Mayhem took place at Wickstead Park on 24th and 25th May and was well attended as usual with a couple of club members making the journey up there. Conditions were fairly windy but manageable. It was good to see a good turnout of hovercrafts and scale boats. There was also an IC demo. Leo enjoyed sailing his shark submarine, which, at one point, dived to the bottom of the pond and remained stuck in the sediment. Several waders went on a search and rescue mission to recover it as pictured below!

Club Contacts - Your Committee



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If anyone is interested in attending further events then why not try the model show at Old Warden, <u>Shuttleworth</u> on the 12th and 13th of July, which also sounds like a lot of fun.

Wiki

MTMBC Site maintenance/assets - by Tony Simons

To keep the membership, charge low the club agreed to keep our area tidy, we all benefit from the modest rent, it is only fair that all members contribute a few minutes periodically to gardening duties. There are a variety of garden tools kept in the store, from secateurs, a fork, a shovel, to a battery-powered hedge trimmer for the low-hanging willow shoots.

Recent observations of the blanket and pond weed.

It may be a little too early to celebrate, but when using an underwater camera to locate a lost yacht keel (Recovery of the keel was unsuccessful) I brought up some blanket weed, which has turned a very dark green and is easy to tear apart, this is normally how it is late in the summer.

It seems the blanket weed in the area surveyed has been outcompeted by the long tendrilled pond weed; there was about a 300 mm depth of this growing over the top of the blanket weed.

The blocking of sunlight to the blanket weed has successfully inhibited its growth, and in turn, the algae blooms have inhibited the normally very fast growth of the pond weed.

<u>Dangerous Wooden jetty (Near our jack-up platform)</u>

Please don't go onto this wooden jetty, it is in a dangerous state of repair.

The front edge is supported by wood uprights that are in an advanced state of decay, and some of the horizontal beams under the decking boards are also decaying; it might collapse under anyone using it.

If anyone believes it should be restored and is prepared to cost and lead the restoration, please contact me. Such a project would need Committee approval for funding.

Tony

Club Contacts - Your Committee



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If you are are a member reading this edition of Voice Pipe please send a thumbs up to the editor at parker42@btinternet.com This important information will help decide the future direction of this News Letter.

Fast Electrics by Paul Garson



Club500s fields have been well populated this year. Here there are 7 competitors in this Round 2 championship race.

Well, well we are truly deep into 2025 and Round 4 of the 2025 Championship is already behind.

We have had excellent turnouts in all classes for the races so far this season and the weather has been great. Although we have missed a few racers for one reason or another, we have had some really exciting racing

Fortunately only visual inspections of the race course from the bank has been all that we have needed to do and on each occasion showed that it was clear of the dreaded blanket, although the long stringy stuff has presented a few minor issues.

Races have regularly made a sharp start at 10 o'clock and have all been completed by two o'clock even allowing for a normal lunch break.

And as always many thanks to all who have helped with race control and scoring over the last three races and it is good to see all racers eager to assist with the many duties required to make for a successful race day. Thanks guys.

Otherwise much of the same old same old this being really fast and furious racing.

Championships

Championship points positions after Round 4 are as follows:



Boat wrangling is a lonely job but somebody has to do it and in this case it was Alan.

Club Contacts - Your Committee



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Club500

Position	Name	Points
1	Edwin S	27
2	Leo D	20
3	Wiki D	17
4	Paul G	15
5	Mike D	10
6	Allan B	5
7	Tony S	4
8	Steve H	2
8	Jason C-W	2

F600B

Position	Name	Points
1	Leo D	36
2	Wiki D	20
3	Edwin S	13
3	Mike D	13
5	Alan B	9
6	Tony S	3
6	Steven H	3
6	Paul G	3

Wacky Racing

Position	Name	Points
1	Barry E	28
2	Leo D	23
3	Bill C	17
4	Steven G	12
5	Dave P	9
6	Jason C-W	6
7	Paul G	2
8	Bill B	1

Club Contacts - Volunteers



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Mono 1

Position	Name	Points
1	Bill C	25
2	Leo D	23
3	Steve G	19
4	Dave P	12
5	Edwin S	8
6	Barry E	7
7	Jason C-W	5
8	Paul G	2

As can be seen from the above tables there really has been good close racing in all the classes and if the rest of the season continues in this vein we are in for a really close and hotly contested Championship.

It's always heartwarming to see people grow and here we must mention Leo Daniels. He is the youngest racer we have by far and as can be seen from the results above age is no restriction to success. Well done Leo.

Barry's Club speed record of 69 mph has not yet been broken despite a few valiant attempts being made by some very enthusiastic racers. Anyone going to break it?

Next year will bring a new class of racing to the Championship, MONO2. Racers are keen to go in this class and at least one boat is already tested and set to go, well done Dave. There are at least a further two boats busy being constructed and we will no doubt soon see Tim and Barry at the lake testing for the coming year.

We now have a Club500 and F600B set up for Club usage so if you know of anyone wanting to give Fast Electrics a try let me know and I will get the boats to the Club for the potential members to give it a whirl.

We are also trying to introduce a HOOLIGAN class of boat where there



will be no restriction on the equipment used. Already a few boats have made an appearance and man are they fast. It will be interesting to see how they perform around a course though.

Edwin Sudds is very keen on these boats and from the next issue of the Voice Pipe he will share his model boating journey taking him to where he is now. His article will be entitled **Getting in touch with your inner Hooligan**.

Trading Post

Trading Post is an area where members can advertise their model paraphernalia. So if you have to sell, swap, or just want something send contact details, brief description and a picture if possible to:parker 42@btinternet.com

Looking forward to this and it will surely encourage more racers to get involved with these larger boats.

GASTRO Chatter by Paul Garson

A GASTRO (gas/nitro) day was held earlier in the year and this as expected was not well supported with only Steve Greenslade and Dave Walters putting boats on the water.

Steve's development work on his riggers has finally paid off and at last he was tearing around the lake. Nice work Steve.

As said on numerous other occasions I know that there are a few of you with nitro and gas boats so get them

out, dust off the cobwebs and get them on the water.



Paul

Tugs by Tony Simons

The numbers attending tugs continue to grow, must be doing something right!

The skill level increases, requiring tighter, more complex courses to maintain the challenge. This said, provision is made for new skippers to navigate less demanding courses; the older skippers have a few years of practice under their belts.



Club tug "MT lan Hughes"

I have finally refurbished "Motor Tug Ian Hughes." Many won't have met Ian, he was a stalwart of the club for many years, also serving on the Committee in all of the posts.

A former member donated to our club a "Mobile Marine Models"





kit to make a tug. Ian, being an exemplary model maker, turned the kit into a working model for use by club members that is functional but without the small detail that gets broken in use.

Upgrades have included changing the prop size from 50 mm to 60 mm to give the power used in our other tugs, and the ballast is removable to lighten the load when carrying from the store to the water and back.

Jeanette (lan's Widow) and Membership Secretary named and launched "Motor Tug Ian Hughes." During Chairlady's Day.

When proposing a "Tug Towing." activity, Ian, as Chairman, was very supportive in encouraging and supporting our start-up. It seems fitting to name the tug Ian built after him.

As Club tug "MT Ian Hughes " is available to any member to use, a 12-volt battery is kept close by, also the box of lead ballast that is to be located under a hatch in the aft deck, and a radio set dedicated to this tug.

Tony