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The Newsletter of  
The Mid-Thames Model Boat Club

April 2024

Issue 182

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### Dates for your diary

- **Wed 3rd April**                      **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 6th April**                      **Round 1**  
**Fast Electrics**                      **10am >**  
Completion of Round 1 races  
Wacky Races, Mono 1 & Run  
What Ya Brung
- **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

🐰 Welcome to the new season with a bumper issue 🐣



The new access ramp to the floating pontoon presented by Tony & Lawrie prior to the handover ceremony

## Chairlady's Corner By Wiki Daniels

Welcome everyone to a new and exciting season of remote control boats at MTMBC!

We've got a full calendar of events lined up, with some extra Saturdays planned in this year for those of you with fast electric boats. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we'll have an active season of boating.

Please bring along any prospective new members and we'll do our best to accommodate them and provide them with a warm welcome.

**Please don't forget to renew your membership at:**

<https://www.mtmbc.club/membership>

- **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**
- **Wed 1st May**                      **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 4th May**                        **10am>**  
**Fast Electrics** Testing
- **Sun 5th May**                        **Round 3**  
**Yachting**  
Fiesta/Victoria                    **10am > 1pm**  
Handicap Any yacht            **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 8th May**                      **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 11th May**                      **Round 2**  
**Tugs & Scale**                    **10am > 4pm**  
Free sailing & competition
- **Wed 15th May**                    **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 18th May**                      **Round 3**  
**Fast Electrics**                    **10am > 4pm**  
Club500, F600B, WackyRaces,  
Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 22nd May**                    **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 25th May**                      **Round 3**  
**Yachting**  
DF95                                    **10am > 1pm**  
IOM                                      **1pm > 4pm**
- **Sat 25th & Sun 26th May**  
**Club Visit to Model Boat**  
**Mayhem**
- **Wed 29th May**                    **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 1st June**                        **10am >**  
**Fast Electrics** Testing Gas &  
Nitro boats

## A thank you to Tony

My first job as the new Chair is to thank Tony Simons for all his hard work over the last 15 years, of which the last 6 have been as Chairman. His greatest challenge has been finding a new site for us, following our departure from Beale Park. This he did with the help of Colin, Dave, Alan and others. Having found a location he and the team made it suitable for the membership, adding pontoons, ladders and a mobile unit for storage.

His next challenge was getting the weed under control in the summer months. Again, Tony came up with a few ingenious ideas and built a weed cutting platform which could be attached to the front of the rowing boat. Mark 2 to follow shortly. We're now well established at Hi5! and Tony has continued to make sure we're set up with everything we need – more recently building a rather fine hinged bridge to the pontoon with Lawrie and Alan. Tony has also been in charge of the Tug Towing section for quite some time and continues to be so. I am sure he will continue to support the club going forwards and we will all continue to enjoy his dry wit and sense of humour.

May I take this opportunity to thank Tony for all his hard work over the years, for navigating the club through precarious waters and for keeping us afloat!

## Venue

The Jack-up Platform has been raised as far as possible and it is now useable without wellies unless your shoes leak.

Because of issues gaining access to the pontoon an access ramp has been constructed from the shore to the pontoon. This overcame the flooded access from the Jack-up platform and will hopefully solve traffic jams on race days

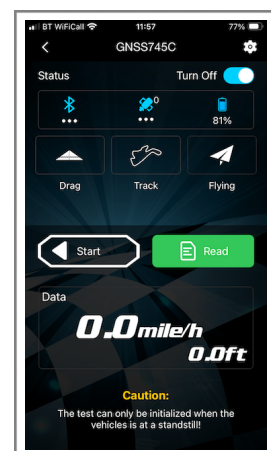
One of the aluminium topped tables is to be extended from 7' to 11' to allow a box to be mounted beneath to store the tow ship Endeavour.

Many have contributed to tidying up the area we use, there is now a pile of veranda railings and assorted benches to repair or scrap. Perhaps the veranda railings can be set up and tied to the chain link fence giving an upmarket look? at least it gets some or all out of the way

## Gadgets

Club members have been trialling new gadgets in the last few weeks – a GPS speed meter which links up to your mobile phone and a spring loaded meter to measure tug bollard pull. See Tony's article in the Tug Towing section.

Some of you will have been following the progress of Bluebird as she returned to Coniston this month, following a legal battle between Bill Smith (who recovered and restored her) and the Ruskin museum (to which the craft was donated by Donald Campbell's daughter).



- **Sun 2nd June**                      **Round 4**  
**Yachting**  
Fiesta/Victoria      **10am > 1pm**  
Handicap Any yacht **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 5th June**                      **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 8th June**                      **Round 3**  
**Tugs & Scale**      **10am > 4pm**  
Free sailing & competition
- **Wed 12th June**                      **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 15th June**                      **10am >**  
**Fast Electrics** Testing
- **Wed 19th June**                      **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 22nd June**                      **Round 4**  
**Yachting**  
DF95                      **10am > 1pm**  
IOM                      **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 26th June**                      **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 29th June**                      **Round 4**  
**Fast Electrics**      **10am > 4pm**  
Club500, F600B, WackyRaces,  
Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung

The current speed record for a model boat is 206 mph – let us know if you are anywhere near it!

Will 45mph set by Dave P on Saturday 30th March with his Zoom 3 Mono 1. Witnessed by Tim K & Steven G count as a Club record?

### You Tube

Interest in our YouTube channel is growing. It may surprise you to know that we have a budding YouTuber in our midst: Lawrie is particularly active in this area and his video of scale and tugs has reached 3.4k views!!! Please subscribe to the channel and share the link widely as we are trying to attract new members.

### Model Boat Mayhem

Is on the weekend of the 25 and 26th May this year. A couple of us went last year and it was a lot of fun, and yes there was lots of mayhem! The event is held at Wickstead Park in Northamptonshire. The lake is a bit smaller than the one at Beale Park and all boats are encouraged to be on the water at the same time, so don't take anything too delicate. Last year it was interesting to see so many different types of boat – lifeboats, hovercrafts, submarines and war ships, to name a few. There was also some Club500 racing and a IC display. Camping is available overnight. There was lots of camaraderie and we were made to feel very welcome. Leo and I will be going again this year so do come and join us.

### Donated boats for sale

We've got several boats that have been donated to us in order to raise funds for the club. Please take a look and let me know if you would like to purchase one. All proceeds will go towards club funds. Please make an offer to [wiki.daniels@gmail.com](mailto:wiki.daniels@gmail.com)



Large motor launch/yacht/cruiser, 54"/135cm. About 1/18 scale, loosely based on the real motor yacht "Black Knight" (see <https://www.boatinternational.com/.../black-knight--46017>), entirely scratchbuilt on a second-hand wooden hull. Motor and rudder servo fitted but no radio gear. Needs a cleanup and some repairs to the cosmetic outer hull planking (inner plywood hull is coated with resin sealant), otherwise complete and intact. Sails well.



### Club Contacts - Your Committee



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Majesty 800S. 80cm x 22 cm. Includes motor, prop & rudder



Hull with motor, prop shaft, rudder and propeller



Unfinished torpedo boat 127cmm x 23cm with set of plans.



Toy yacht. Needs some attention to get it going



Old wooden pond yacht, restoration project, about 2ft long, the hollow carved wood hull is in several pieces (some small bits missing) & the cast lead keel is separate. Lots of work needed but genuinely old (maybe pre-war).

**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



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Model for display



White trimaran 44cm x 19cm



Pink wooden hull



Hull



Sailing boat hulls



Wooden Hull



Hulls



**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



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**Fast Electrics by Paul Garson**

Well, well can you believe it, the first quarter of 2024 is already behind us, how time flies and we already have Round 1 of the 2024 Championship partially run.

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 23rd of March Round 1 of the 2024 Championship was run but the weather eventually got the better of us and the final two races for the Wacky's and Mono1s were abandoned and will be run on 6th of April, weather permitting of course.



**Dave's rather novel transmitter mitt**



**At least we were dry. Tim, Steven and Jason sheltering from the rain.**

Racing in the first Mono1 race was really intense and of the five boats racing only two finished, let's hope that this does not set the tone for the rest of the season. It was good to see other members showing an interest in Mono1 racing and to see Bill Campbell showing his skills. Well done Bill and look forward to you being a regular racer.

The Wackys went off without a hitch and the competition was fierce, this should set up some really good racing for this class during the year.

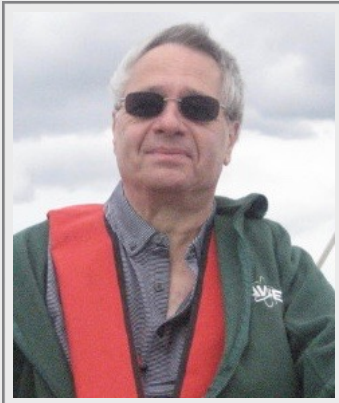
The Club500 and F600B races were completed although we only had three racers in the Club500s and four in the F600Bs, anyway things should pick up as the weather gets warmer. However this did not dampen the competitive spirit between the racers and surely this will lead to some exciting racing during the season. Great to see Alan Burgess getting into the mix, good stuff Alan.

Results will be published once all Round 1 races are completed, although an abridged version of



**Wiki, Leo and Alan hard at work in an F600B race**

**Club Contacts -  
Volunteers**



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Chris Withey**

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**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:-  
[parker42@btinternet.com](mailto:parker42@btinternet.com)

**For Sale**



**GSM-015 GPS Enabled GNSS Remote Speedometer & Altimeter Data Tracking Device for Vehicle, RC Car, Boat, Plane, Rocket, and Quadcopter. £20**  
**Dave Parker**  
Tel: 0118 9700162  
Email: [parker42@btinternet.com](mailto:parker42@btinternet.com)

the result will be published together with the race report found under the Fast Electrics section on our website, early April.



**Race control and scoring by Tim and Steve.**

Going forward we have planned a riggers, hydroplane and cat day. Dates can be found on the Club's event calendar. So get yours ready, whether it be electric or nitro powered.

All in all Fast Electrics remain well supported and racers very competitive in each class. So all should go well for the coming season.

**GASTRO Chatter by Paul Garson**

A GASTRO (gas/nitro) day is also scheduled and likewise the date can be found on the calendar.

Over the last few months I completed a Crackerbox with a nitro motor to keep Steve Greenslade's riggers company and it should have its first outing in the coming weeks, well here's hoping all goes well.

Steve has been doing a lot of development work on his riggers and should soon be tearing around the lake. Go for it Steve.



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.

*See you Lakeside*  
**Paul**

**Tug Towing by Tony Simons**

The weather seems to be warming and the time has come to take our tugs out from their winter refit, I hope your tugs fare better than mine, the first run-up on the bench one of the drives with a new motor sounded like a rusty washing machine, changed the drive.





*Some old, some new, but all still terrible.*

Apple just announced their new electric vehicle, the iCar, coming in 2024. Rumour is they're working on a self-driving boat as well. They're going to call it the iAye.

Do you need a boat of biblical proportions built? Because I Noah guy. I hear he's a fantastic Arkitect.

What was the name of the pirate that did not fear the tides?

Johnny Depth.

What is the most crowded and caring boat called?

A friend-ship.

How was the boat turned into a party boat?

Through pier pressure.

What was the name of the boat filled with football players?

Sportsman-ship.

Which music band is not allowed to perform on a navy boat?

Maroon 5.

Which movie do sailors like to watch the most?

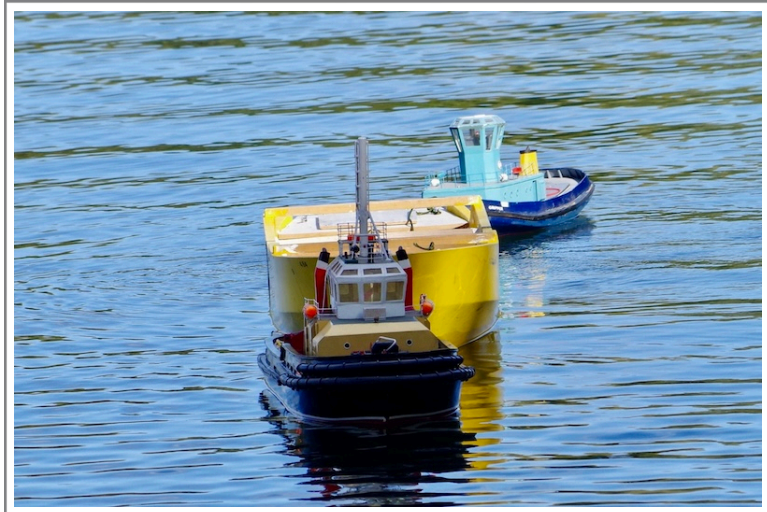
The Godfather.

What do you call a person specialized in boat chemistry?

Salter White.

Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day.

Teach a man to fish and he'll sit in a boat and drink beer all day.



I placed the tug in the water at Hi5 and managed several minutes of pirouettes all good, lifted it out of the water thinking "This seems heavy!" to find a lot of water inside enough to make it worth redirecting the new cooling water pump suction to the bilge.

All the winter work making a remotely controlled winch, working out how to control this from the two remaining channel switches, new speed controllers that ran full speed ahead and astern, increased size of cooling water pump, updating the superstructure adding working radar scanner mast lights to come then the ungrateful machine attempts to join Davey Jones locker, if there is no improvement there may be a new tug next year!

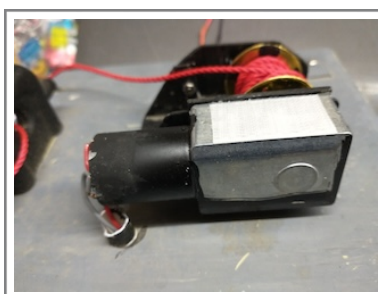
I hope your tugs have fared better, I have thoughts as many are aware to replicate a real-world YouTube video of a container ship leaving its berth at Felixstowe with the help of Lawrie's filming and editing skills plus our skilled use of tugs to escort Endeavor with a background of other scale ships coming and going. It will take some practice to bring all of the components together, but our efforts seem to be appreciated by a select audience on YouTube.

There will be our usual random courses to challenge us and hone our skills, as ever all suggestions to improve are welcome.

The platform has been lifted as high as possible while there is still a few mm of water over the grating it is possible to fit and use the boat lift wearing shoes that don't leak.

The next project is to extend one of the existing tables from 7' to 11' to accommodate a box big enough to store Endeavor in one piece on-site, I will let you know when help is needed to modify the existing table metalwork then the box can be made on site.

### Tug Winch



Previous versions were made using a folded aluminium frame with a large servo driving a drum. This version uses a 12volt dc motor built

12 volt Motor and gearbox assembly



Why was 'Pirates of the Caribbean' not allowed to play on the cruise?

Because of censor-ship!

Three guys are on a boat and they have four cigarettes but nothing to light them with. What do they do?

They throw one cigarette off the boat and the whole boat becomes a cigarette lighter.

My boss said he races boats.

So I said, "Wow, you must be a fast swimmer!"

I got a boat for my wife.

Best trade I've ever made

If the internet had a boat, where would they park it?

In Google Docs.

A very nervous first-time crew member says to the skipper, "Do boats like this sink very often?"

"Not too often," replied the skipper. "Usually only once."

What did the deck say to the waves that came crashing on board?

"Water you doing here!?"

If your boat gets sick, I know a great dock.

It's pier-reviewed.

Why did the Norwegian sell their boat?

They couldn't a-fjord it!

Hundreds of people lined up for the paddle sale at the boat shop.

It was quite an oar deal.

I was nervous about meeting new people on a cruise... Until I realised, we are all in the same boat.

Why does the Norwegian navy have barcodes on the side of their ships?

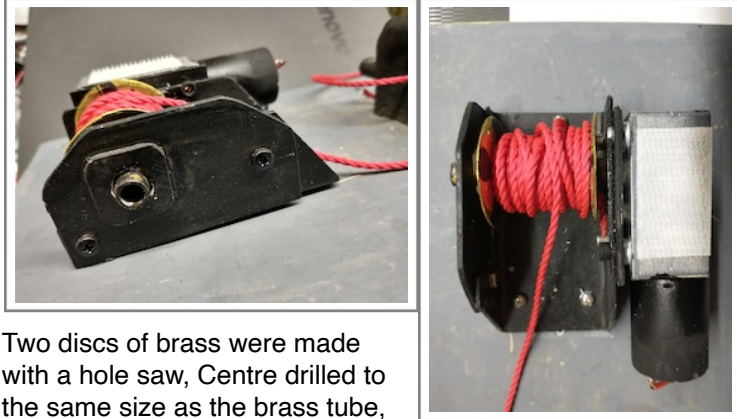
So that when the ships come back into port they can Scandinavian!

Why aren't boats equipped with artificial intelligence?

Nobody wants to get on a thinking ship.

onto a gearbox to ensure no slippage from the drum under load. No effort has been made to produce a scale winch this is a functioning item.

The gearbox output had a large flat on one side a short length of brass tube was sleeved over the shaft and then pressed to engage with the flat area of the shaft, which unfortunately caused the shaft to run slightly out of true if making another a grub screw would be a better way to lock onto the gearbox shaft.



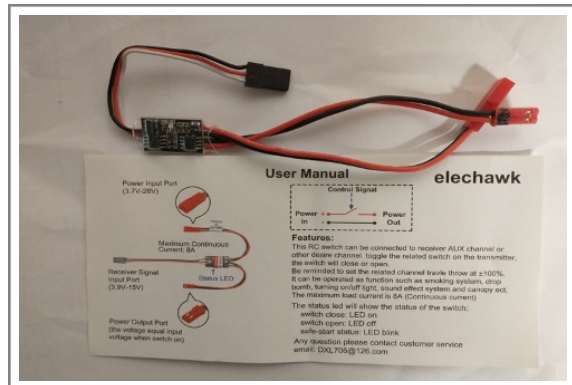
Two discs of brass were made with a hole saw, Centre drilled to the same size as the brass tube, and soldered in place.

Plasticard was employed to make a support bearing for the brass tube this is easily replaced if it wears. Finally, a cover was made from Plasticard to cover the motor and gearbox.

**Electronic Switches**

I came across these radio-operated switches as seen below, I had two switched channels available.

I purchased two of these switches and a 12-volt double pole DC relay to change the polarity of the motor one of these switches turns the supply on/off to the relay coil to provide paying



out/pulling in of the winch drum, but a second switch is employed to switch on/off the 12vdc supply to the motor.

These switches can be used for a variety of tasks e.g. switching navigation lights, sounding a horn, etc.

**Tug Bollard Pull**

Bollard pull is a conventional measure of a watercraft's pulling (or towing) power. It is defined as the [force](#) (usually in [tonnes-force](#) or [kilonewtons](#) (kN)) exerted by a [vessel](#) under full power on a shore-mounted [bollard](#) through a tow-line, commonly measured in a practical test (but sometimes simulated) under test conditions that include calm water, no [tide](#), level trim, and sufficient depth and side clearance for a free [propeller](#) stream.

Like a car's horsepower or mileage rating, it is a convenient but

What do you call four Spanish guys in a capsized boat?

Quatro sinko.

Why did the dolphin chase the boat?

To find its porpoise!

What was the name of the optometrist who came on the boat?

A see captain.

What does BOAT stand for?

"Break out another thousand."

What is the name of the sail that has only two corners?

"I do not have a clew!"

What is so fascinating about the iceberg named Bluetooth?

Any ship that will go near it will sync!

How many sailors does it take to change a lightbulb?

None, because there is no right size available onboard, and the marine store doesn't carry that brand, and moreover, the mail-order has them on back-order.

What was the sailor worried about this time?

To not go overboard.

Why do scuba divers fall backwards off the boat?

Because if they fell forward they'd still be on the boat.

A group of friends were on a boat in Munich when the hull was breached.

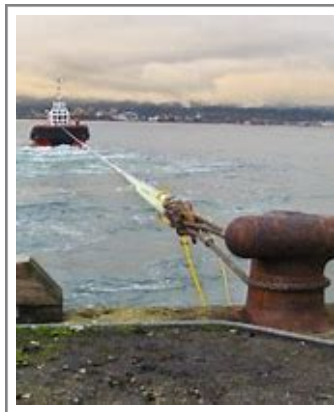
They quickly called for the German Life Guard yelling "Help we're sinking!"

The Life Guard asked, "Ja, vat are you sinking about?"

Old sailors never die, they just get a little dinghy.

idealized number that must be adjusted for operating conditions that differ from the test. The bollard pull of a vessel may be reported as two numbers, the *static* or *maximum* bollard pull – the highest force measured – and the *steady* or *continuous* bollard pull, the average of measurements for example, 10 minutes. An equivalent measurement on land is known as [drawbar pull](#), or [tractive force](#), which is used to measure the total horizontal force generated by a [locomotive](#), a piece of [heavy machinery](#) such as a [tractor](#), or a [truck](#), (specifically a [ballast tractor](#)), which is utilised to move a load.

Inevitably many years ago as tugs became stronger to cope with larger ships there were instances of the bollard coming out of the harbour wall. Many ancient bollards were originally installed to moor large sailing ships and small steamships an unfair contest.



The above is a 1-1 scale. Our bollard pull is measured using a digital spring balance e.g. hook a length of cord to the hook attach a tug to the other end of the cord then when away from the bank try to pull me into the water while trying to get a reading.

To date the best reading is 2.2kg from Dave's Azimuth drives I will be tying the balance to a tree when Richard's tug is tested.

Tony

### Scale - Some pictures from scale meetings

