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The Newsletter of
The Mid-Thames Model Boat Club



July 2022

Issue 175

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Fast Electrics

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Tug Towing

- 2022 Update
- Jumboized Tow
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Dates for your diary

- **Sun 3rd July** **Round 3**
Yachting
Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**
Handicap(Any yacht)**1pm>4pm**
- **Wed 6th July** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 9th July** **Round 3**
Tugs & Scale **10am > 4pm**
Free sailing & Competition
- **Wed 13th July** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 17th July** **Round 3**
Yachting
DF95 **10am > 1pm**
IOM **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 20th July** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 23rd July** **Round 4**
F/E **10am > 4pm**
Club500, F600B, Wacky Races,
Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung



MTMBC pitch at the Black Park Model Boat Club Open Day. There was a good variety of vessels on display & on the water.

Chairman's Corner by Tony Simons

Trophy Presentations

My congratulations to those who received trophies for various achievements and apologies for the delay.



2021 competition trophies

At a meeting later in the year one or two possibly less coveted awards were presented eg. "Involuntary Submariner" & "Underway but not under command" (I have had my share) but all recipients took it in good spirit. There was also the presentation of a prize for the most improved modeller.

- **Wed 27th July** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Wed 3rd August** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 6th August** **Round 4**
Tugs & Scale **10am > 4pm**
 Free sailing & Competition
- **Sun 7th August** **Round 4**
Yachting
 Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**
 Handicap(Any yacht) **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 11th August** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 14th August** **10am > 4pm**
CHAIRMAN'S DAY
 A variety of activities
 Bring Your Own Lunch
- **Wed 17th August** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 21st August** **Round 4**
Yachting
 DF95 **10am > 1pm**
 IOM **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 24th August** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 27th August** **Round 5**
F/E **10am > 4pm**
 Club500, F600B, Wacky Races,
 Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 31st August** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 4th September** **Round 5**
Yachting
 Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**
 Handicap(Any yacht) **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 7th September** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 10th September** **Round 5**
Tugs & Scale **10am > 4pm**
 Free sailing & Competition
- **Wed 14th September** **10am >**
Saga Sailing
 All types of boat are welcome



Colin Mears Club500
Champion



Tim Kozlowski F600B
Champion



Dave Parker Wacky Races
& Mono 1 Champion



Alan Whitbread receives the
'Underway but not under
command' Award



Tim Kozlowski receives the
'Involuntary Submariner'
Award



Wiki Daniels receives a prize
for the most improved
modeller

- **Sun 18th September Round 5 Yachting**
 DF95 10am > 1pm
 IOM 1pm > 4pm
- **Wed 21st September 10am > Saga Sailing**
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 24th September Round 6 F/E**
 10am > 4pm
 Club500, F600B, Wacky Races, Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 28th September 10am > Saga Sailing**
 All types of boat are welcome



Yachting Trophies for John Price and David Strange

Black Park MBC Open Day

Several club members represented our club and brought an interesting variety of models to display, we were made very welcome by Black Park MBC members and park staff. Arrangements had been made with the park to issue free parking passes.



We had a very pleasant day on a totally weed free lake and met various members who have a wealth of knowledge in many types of sailing craft to making and operating a rowing boat that could be used just like the real thing in the right hands.



There was plenty of action on the water throughout the day. This is a selection of boats sailed by the

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



Blanket Weed

We have enjoyed some very pleasant weather to date but sadly so has the blanket weed however a dense algae bloom has taken over that will markedly reduce the amount of light the blanket weed receives hopefully reducing its impact to us. Not having expected the hand of nature to get involved so soon several of us have been putting together a platform that can be floated in front of the rescue boat then linked to the boat hopefully providing a stable platform to permit cutting of nuisance weed.



Early stages of construction of a working platform which will be married to the rescue boat

To cut the weed I have purchased a small fold up scythe type tool and bolted it to a 2 meter batten. Please be careful the blade is very sharp. It is stored in with the batteries on solar charge, to deploy the blade a clip has to slide and will release suddenly (Place a hand over the blunt side of the blade to prevent sudden opening, keep clear of others while doing so). When extended to the correct position the blade locks. To date on a limited trial it cuts through the weed easily. By slashing through the weed it can release the gas trapped underneath allowing the weed to sink, however if this alone doesn't work cut free the floating material and hook it into the boat for disposal ashore. (Please don't cut weed then allow it to float away it will find our props or a yacht keel or worse a Hi5 speed boat cooling intake)

Site Tidiness/Security

Staying with weeds many will have noted the trailer for disposing of them has been present for a few weeks, as you trim that annoying piece of willow tree hanging over the tables or clear leaves please place them in the trailer. I will empty the



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trailer when full. We are expected to maintain our area.

Sad but hopeful note

I will not labour the point, hopefully all are aware we have had three incidents of the battery and general storage areas being left unlocked after all had left. Since the rather fierce but pointed email re this subject had been circulated to all members I am pleased to write that no further incidents have occurred.



Electric Outboard I have purchased a replacement throttle switch from China, time precluded fitting it at the June Fast Electric day but I will try again soon.

Last of The Summer Wine

Confirmation of the need to have two members present:

Some will be aware the tree nearest the walkway onto the pontoon had a branch almost break off in high winds in March. The smaller lower branches were cut away the following Saturday to give access to the pontoon walkway.



So far so good. After lunch several of us thought it might be possible to twist the branch free but this didn't go quite as planned ending with two casualties requiring medical treatment.

It turned out to be difficult to summon an ambulance as the ambulance dispatcher has to be convinced an ambulance is required.

Having gone through two seemingly lengthy question and answer sessions a Paramedic attended site, he immediately recognised we also needed an ambulance and summoned one.

With regard to getting emergency services to our actual location a few learning point were taken after discussion with the

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Paramedic attending.

If you have to summon the emergency services give them the Post Code, Reading Lake Hotel and the What Three Word app location. BUT ensure a person goes out towards the carpark entrance to meet and guide them in the last few yards to our location. Amended instructions have placed on display in the club information notice board and the door of the storage unit.

I am pleased to write our two casualties have made full recoveries. My thanks to David and Andrew of Hi5 for completing the removal of the tree branch. The emergency services attending site were excellent, I will forgive them a remark: Its like being with the "Last of the Summer Wine"

Tony

Fast Electrics by Dave Parker

2022 Update

The racing season is well on its way with 3 of the 7 race meetings completed. We have been lucky with the weather but so far the blanket weed has been a minor problem that we are working to overcome. Attendances have been good with more racers joining in the F600B and Wacky Races classes. The number of competitors racing Club500s has dropped recently so lets see if we can get the number back up to previous levels.

The numbers of Mono 1 racers is creeping up with occasional additions to the field.



A busy time for some in the pits at our last meeting while others have it all in hand and are ready for the next race.



Championship Positions

Three rounds of the F/E championships have been completed and the results for each class are shown in the tables on the next page.

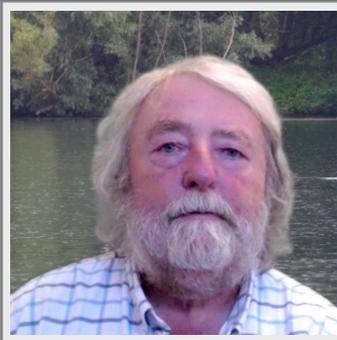
New F600Bs & Modifications

One of the new F600Bs is in stock and available for £113 to any member providing they race it in the MTMBC championships.

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Club 500

Racer	No	Points	Position
Tim K	8	24	1
Colin M	6	21	2
Leo D	10	11	3
Wiki D	13	10	4
Steven G	16	2	5
John M	4	1	6

F600B

Racer	No	Points	Position
Tim K	8	24	1
Colin M	6	21	2
Leo D	9	9	3
Paul G	6	7	4
Wiki D	12	6	5
Steven G	5	4	6
Alan W	7	4	6
Tony S	1	3	8
Colin S	2	2	9
John M	10	2	9

Wacky Races

Racer	No	Points	Position
Dave P	8	27	1
Tim K	3	18	2
Leo D	11	11	3
John M	14	11	3
Steven G	2	10	5
Wiki D	9	2	6
Colin S	6	1	7

Mono 1

Racer	No	Points	Position
Dave P	1	24	1
Tim K	3	17	2
Steven G	2	15	3
Leo D	9	7	4
Alan W	7	4	5

**See you lakeside soon
Dave**

Tug Towing by Tony Simons

All are welcome even if you don't have a tug, we usually have a club tug available plus a variety of barges of varying sizes to practice towing. There will always be a basic course for less experienced skippers with advice on hand to reduce the occasions the tow rope finds a propellor. (It still happens to us all, there is a magnetic attraction between props and ropes)

To date the weather has been kind to us but also sadly to the blanket weed more of that in the Chairman's section Note that the weed needs light and has less light close into our frontage because of the trees. It is usually safe up to the three buoys in front of the pontoon, not guaranteed though.

The large tow has been cut in half in preparation for jumboizing (Used to be popular with tankers etc. in the 1960s to 80s now with passenger ships). In our case it will add 900mm (about 2.95 ft) and approx. 30kg extra weight as water ballast but splitting the hull has made transport much easier. Longer term I would like to add superstructure possibly as a container vessel as this brings windage into play. Richard Phillips and I are looking at this as a winter project with a view that it all flat packs. In the interim



1. Why don't clams give to charity?

Because they're shellfish!

2. Why are there fish at the bottom of the sea?

Because they dropped out of school.

3. Why did the fisherman suddenly redirect his boat?

Just for the halibut.

4. What does a fish say when he makes a mistake?

It was just a fluke!

5. How did the shark plead in the murder case?

Not gill-ty.

6. What did the carp say to his crush?

Don't play koi with me!

7. What does a dolphin say when he's confused?

Can you please be more Pacific?

8. What did the lobsterman say when his crate turned up empty?

It a-piers we have a problem.

9. What did the tuna say to her overzealous partner?

I think we need to scale things back here.

10. What does the fish say when she disagrees with her husband?

I don't quite sea it that way.

11. What did one tidepool say to the other tidepool?

Show me your mussels!

12. What is the best way to communicate with a fish?

Drop it a line



we did discuss fitting a rudder that could be jammed to make towing more difficult this will be an option coming to a lake near you soon.

For those interested we will restart our friendly competition where points are gained for hit buoys, missed course etc. I am looking at some of the buoyed courses used by other tug towing clubs and the real world for inspiration. Below I have selected two sources for more difficult courses and finally a look at the real-world explaining how lesser amounts of power with a share of patience can make life easier.

[RC Tug Towing - UK Nationals 2007 at Ellesmere Port Museum.](#)

This is a link to the 2006 championship held at Ellesmere Port, initially you will see two other skippers bringing Ajax (12' long) into this basin the two skippers above became the champions, if you watch you will see all is slow speed, taking time to position ship and tugs before moving from one basin to the next.

Balne Model Boat Club, have a very active tug section.

[end of season 2013 balne moor](#)

They created their own lake it isn't very deep, but it allows the permanent dock features seen.

Finally, "**Tim B at sea**", Tim a tug skipper recently moved from pushing/towing bunker barges around New York harbour and the many surrounding rivers and coast routes to Puerto Rico as skipper of a larger tug mainly towing fuel barges to small ports.

Here he is taking a barge with 10 tons of fuel to a power station, decoupling from towing so that he can push the barge, note how he talks a lot about the stored kinetic energy in the barge also about patience in use of power, lesser amounts applied as needed.

[Into Aguirre - Puerto Rico's Largest Power Plant](#)

Video titled: Into Aguirre - Puerto Rico's Largest Power Plant

Tony

[Vintage Model Boats](#)

These vintage 1970's model boats are looking for a good home. Please contact Dave Parker if you are interested in one or all.



13. Why does the mermaid wear seashells?

Because she grew out of her B-shells.

14. Why did the fisherman start doing drugs?

Pier pressure.

15. Why did the lobster blush?

Because the sea weed.

16. What did the sarcastic otter say?

I think you've confused me with someone who builds a dam.

17. Have you heard about the restaurant that caters exclusively to dolphins?

It only has one customer, but at least it serves a porpoise.

18. What does a mermaid wear to math class?

An algae-bra, naturally.

19. Where do shellfish go to borrow money?

The prawn broker.

20. What's a cetacean's favourite TV show?

Whale of Fortune.

21. What did the Ocean say to the shore?

Nothing. It just waved.

22. What is a blue whale's favourite James Bond Film?

Licence to Krill.

23. Where does seaweed look for a job?

In the kelp-wanted section.

