

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

The Newsletter of  
The Mid-Thames Model Boat Club



January 2021

Issue 169

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- Thur 11th Feb 2021 8pm  
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## Chairman's Corner by Tony Simons

December 2020

🧑‍🎄 A belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. 🌲

2020 started with moving to Hi5 Water Sports. Just as removing brambles to gain access to the water had been started Covid19 lockdown prevented further progress. On resumption Hi5 had pitched in to help tidy the area and remove fallen leaves, branches etc. Further work by volunteers saw the remaining equipment collected from Beale Park, our pontoon assembled (some parts twice), launched, then handrails and an access ramp installed.



Some images of access to the water @ Hi5 lake before and after clearance and the pontoon installation.  
So a big Thank You to all involved in the work.

The year progressed in a stop/start/limit numbers fashion but DESPITE all this we did manage to use the water and hold a few meetings for Yachts, Tugs, Scale and Fast Electrics. The mid-week Saga Sailing sessions on Wednesday mornings were also popular.

Sadly, no winter meetings have been possible but hopefully normal business will be possible at some point in 2021.

I would like to say a big Thank You to all the members who have remained in the club despite the marked reduction in ability to use your membership because without you there would be no club. Hopefully the vaccine will be rolled out to enable all of us to come and go at our leisure before the summer.

The number of members in the club halved this year. I expected some impact from the relocation but not as drastic as this. We initially had several strong enquiries from potential new members to join but as C19 took hold few have actually joined.

[I extend a warm welcome to our new members and hope you will see the club return to normality soon.](#)

If you thought you had joined a Model Boat Club like any other then review the organised activities compared to others, Yachting, Fast Electrics, Tugs and Scale and of course you can just go to the water and launch any type of boat most days of the week. In addition we have been involved in a Cross Channel attempt with a model boat, organising "Have a go" model boating at Beale Park and jointly with Kent Model Boat Display Team have hosted "Beale Parks Model Boat Show" for many years.

This last item may be revived as since our leaving Beale Park there has been a change in the management. Last year other sites for holding model boat shows, normally organised by Kent MBDT, were closed but not due to C19. We are down to only one magazine for model boats and possibly the Warwickshire Model Boat Show may not be on any future calendar. We seem to be a dying breed! If with Kent MBDT we can do anything to promote the hobby I feel we should, because without new members we will fade away as a club.

#### [Club Buoy Layer](#)

As we can't leave buoys permanently in the lake, I purchased a tug hull fitted out minus the superstructure, thinking it would save work as it was almost ready to go. I added a tray to hold the marker buoy and anchor



chains, then the speed controller burnt out. Two new ones later one motor came off its mount, re-fixed it, burnt out, replaced same then the other motor burnt out. I changed to Lipo batteries to gain endurance but this raised the centre of gravity causing it to roll over twice when the heavier of the buoy chains was used.

Back to the dry dock and the motors are now direct drive 800s. Now this increases the power available and removes the troublesome belt reduction drives and two outrigger floats have been added to prevent any possibility of capsizing. I will add a mesh panel below the hull in an attempt to stave off weed getting to the propellers.

On the other hand once the buoy cords had been changed to nylon so that they sank, I will claim the buoy deployment and recovery has worked as hoped.

#### [Channel Crossing Project @ Beale Park](#)

Our club was approached in 2018 by a team who invent science/engineering projects, document all and place them in the public

## 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)

Guy has some plywood he no longer requires.

Sizes

x2 5x200x1000mm

x2 8x200x1200mm

x1 3x200x1200mm

If interested please contact Guy Carter at

[guycarter79@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:guycarter79@yahoo.co.uk)

domain for schools and colleges to recreate. The project previous to the English Channel crossing with an autonomous model boat had been to take the Mattel "Superman" to the edge of space 29,000 m using a weather balloon, ejected him from a capsule so that he parachuted to the ground he was fitted with a location device to enable finding his landing spot.

This is a link to the project.

<https://youtu.be/0xi44zL8cBI>

The story of the Cross Channel attempt can be viewed in 10 parts using this link.

<https://www.rs-online.com/designspark/team-seaquest>

**Part 5** Beale Park trials

**Part 10** is the Crossing attempt Hurst Point to the Needles I.O.W.

We were approached to gain input to how model boats operate, design features etc required to make a "Cross Channel" crossing possible. The aim was to use a piece of water known world wide.



The RS Design Spark SeaQuest Team at Beale Park

Some will have been present at the evening meeting in 2018 where Gary Fletcher presented a slide show of progress.

The highlights had been trying the proposed model on the outer lake at Beale Park which gave some free publicity to the park and a little exposure for our club. They went on to 3D print a model, involving Reading Bus company with the 3D printing and had the use of a test tank facility used to test ship hull designs prior to finalising before building.

After the trial at Beale Park the model was tried in Poole Harbour to circumnavigate Brown-sea Island, it at one point didn't go as planned as it was trying to get back to Beale Park and who can blame it.

All the way through the project they were attempting to get permission from our own authorities and the French authorities, the Marine Coast Guard Agency were very enthusiastic the French less so. Ultimately the attempt to operate an autonomous model boat the longest distance in a day was attempted near the Needles I.O.W



### Best Quote of Any Era

"The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome will become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance."

Cicero, 55 BC

So, evidently we've learned little over the past 2,071 years.

A Scotsman and his wife walked past a swanky new restaurant..  
"Did you smell that food?" she asked. "It's Incredible."  
Being a 'kind-hearted Scotsman', he thought,  
"What the heck..., I'll treat her."

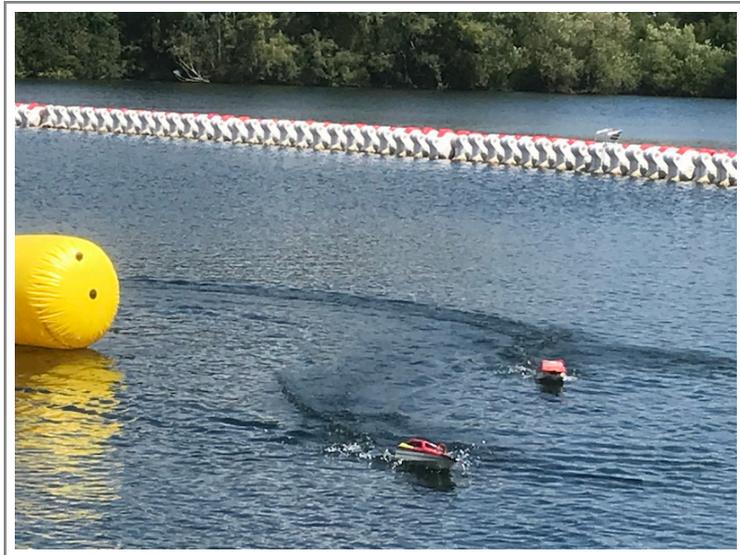
So, they walked past it again...

If this becomes a competition would anyone be interested in our club entering a model? Dave Parker is already looking at a likely hull we can up-size. I am negotiating with an electronics guru at work to enable building the autonomous control.

Tony

### Fast Electrics by Dave Parker

With the move from Beale Park, preparing the site at Hi5 for good access to the water and Covid restrictions, 2020 fast Electrics did not go to plan. However once access was available it was possible for members to use the water on an Ad Hoc basis at various times throughout the year despite the restrictions. Thanks to our esteemed chairman standing in as F/E leader we were able to run 3 of the 7 scheduled F/E race meetings this year. The first in September was a familiarisation, set up, test and practice meeting followed by 2 actual race meetings in October and November. Attendances were adversely affected by Covid restrictions so there were not enough completed rounds to constitute championships for 2020.



Some good competition and fun was had by those taking part, the ever popular Club500's were well represented and although other classes were not so well supported F600B, Wacky Races, and Mono 1 also saw some action. It did present an opportunity to try some different course lay outs and various operating positions. e.g. from the pontoon or the bank. Either was satisfactory but in the current situation only a couple of racers could operate from the pontoon while still maintaining social distancing. There was plenty of room on the bank but the overhanging foliage from the willow trees obstructed the view to some parts of the course.

The F600Bs in particular coped well with the swell created by the passing of Hi5's speed boats which is attenuated by the floating barrier pictured above.

### F600Bs

Tony and I are building four new F600B race boats for the club. Three have already been reserved but the last one will be up for sale next year and should be slightly cheaper than the last batch because the hulls have been donated to the club by Russell Chilcott from the South West Association of Model Boat Clubs which has sadly ceased to be.

## Club Contacts - Your Committee



**Chairman & Tug Leader  
Tony Simons**

Tel: 07747 642234

Email: [tony406@btinternet.com](mailto:tony406@btinternet.com)



**Club Secretary, Voice Pipe  
Editor & Fast Electrics Leader  
Dave Parker**

Tel: 0118 9700162

Email: [parker42@btinternet.com](mailto:parker42@btinternet.com)



**Club Treasurer  
Peter Butler**

Email:

[ox119py.mtmhc@gmail.com](mailto:ox119py.mtmhc@gmail.com)



With some materials from stock and labour provided free we hope to keep the price down to around £101.

Please reserve your F600B with me by confirming your interest in buying via e-mail. Considerable time and effort goes into building these boats and we like to keep them within the club if possible so it will be sold on the understanding that you intend to race in the F600B championship at MTMBC.

You can find details of the F600B's specification, construction and racing rules on the Fast Electrics pages of the MTMBC web sight. If you need to know more or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact myself or Tony.

### A very useful soldering aid.

When soldering the large high current carrying connectors that we tend to use in Fast Electrics it is important to hold them securely in a manner that does not conduct the heat away as the soldering iron is being applied.

After many years of using my home made plywood block I came across this device from Hobby King.

It is a Phenolic Soldering Jig for Bullet Connectors. The material it is made from ensures the heat is not drained from the connector while trying to solder it. Various cut outs in the block allow for holding a good variety of different diameter bullet and other shaped connectors securely.



### Mono 1 Race Class

Due to the move to Hi5 and Coronavirus restrictions the new Mono1 racing class has not really taken off yet. There has been some Mono 1 action in 2020 but it has not been enough to constitute a championship.

**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



**Yachting Leader  
John Price**

Tel: 0118 941 4766

Email: [jetpipe@talktalk.net](mailto:jetpipe@talktalk.net)



**Ladies & Associates Rep.  
Janet Burch**

Tel: 01635 34403

Email: [janetburch5@gmail.com](mailto:janetburch5@gmail.com)



**Saga Sailing Co-ordinator  
Alan Whitbread**

Tel: 07765 263718

Email: [orsonkarte@btinternet.com](mailto:orsonkarte@btinternet.com)



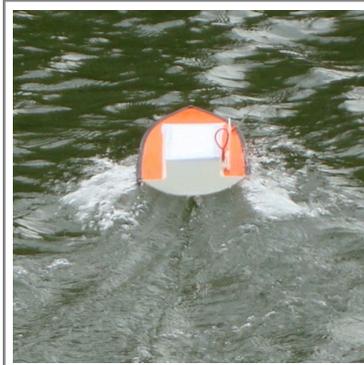
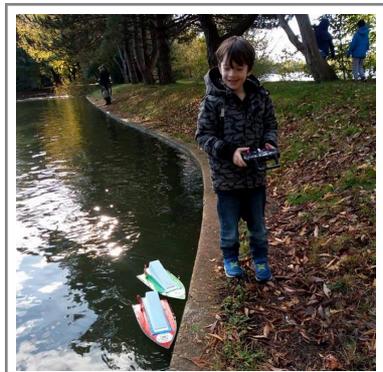
There are currently 5 members signed up to race so once the Covid restrictions are removed in 2021 we are anticipating being able to run some races.

If you have a boat and would like to join us please register with me and I will allocate a race number.

**Update on the Hinksey 400**

When the Oxford Model Boat Club visited the Beale Park Model Boat Show in 2017 they raced their new club class boat which was called the Hinksey 400. It is a small regulated class which appeared to be a good introduction to F/E racing.

MTMBC members Wiki and Leo have been joining the fun and games at the Oxford club and have built their own boats pictured below.



Above is Leo and Wiki's current Hinksey 400s & on the left is a picture from the BP show in 2017.

The current version has a new motor, is faster, and the polystyrene wedge provides self righting which is an important feature for any fast electric racing boat.

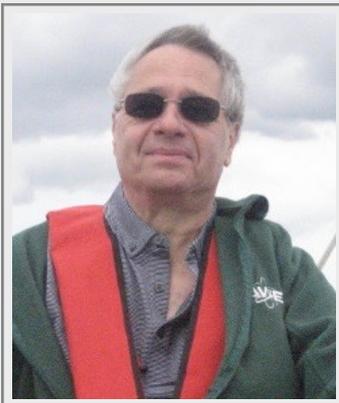
We hope to see them and their excellent little boats at Hi5, and hopefully back racing in the MTMBC Club500 races, later this year.

**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



**Membership Secretary**  
**Jeanette Hughes**  
[membership.MTMBC@gmail.com](mailto:membership.MTMBC@gmail.com)

**Club Contacts - Volunteers**



**Webmaster**  
**Chris Withey**  
 Tel: 01264 362652  
 Email: [chriswithey@sky.com](mailto:chriswithey@sky.com)

On my last visit to Hi5 in late November I noticed that the floating wave break had been moved meaning any boats on the water, and people on the pontoon, will be subjected to much bigger waves from Hi5's passing speed boats. Hopefully we can resolve this with Hi5 and also trim the overhanging branches of the Willow trees ready for some action later in this new year.

See you lakeside soon  
**Dave**

**Tug Towing & Scale** by Tony Simons

The initiated will know we endeavour to tow barges or model ships around a course, emulating ship/tug operations as seen in the real world, admittedly it does not always go to plan but that also happens in the real world.



Apart from attempting to excel in handling your tug it provides a setting in convivial company to sort out one or two of the world's problems.

Our last outing I believe I had laid the buoys too far out. I will be looking at a course laid nearer to the pontoon, but it will mean more concentration on turning tightly between alterations of direction.

We currently have some particularly good tug models with good Masters, I have faith in your ability to rise to the challenge, be warned Dave Parker and I have increased power in our Azimuth drives late in 2020.

If safe storage can be arranged, I hope to bring "Challenger" our 10'6" model of a dry goods coaster back into action.

For anyone who would like to try their hand with a tug we have a spare available just contact me in advance so that I can ensure batteries etc. are charged. We all started knowing little so please don't feel you will be out classed by the old hands everyone will be happy to help in any way they can.

Tony

**Scale**

This continues to have a poor following but this year hasn't helped with the number's limitation. I intend to run Scale again next year and I am open to ideas to refresh it. I am also looking for someone to take on running Scale meetings, any offers or ideas to me please.





### Puns for Educated Minds

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the cricket ball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

For the few attending we have enjoyed the meetings, the timed run round a course and match it when returning the opposite way continues to be popular For those who haven't tried this, you can use your own boat or borrow a club boat, speed doesn't matter as it is an attempt to match your own time each way.

Tony

### Yachting 2020/21 by John Price



Well, we did manage to have a few regattas in 2020 but not enough to warrant the awarding of trophies. On the bright side, that did save the cost of having them engraved! Some regattas provided some excellent racing. Yes, we had some problems with weed but it soon cleared.

Looking forward to the coming season, we should be able to have some decent meetings once we have all been vaccinated.

The lake at Hi5 has a few problems for yachts but conditions there can be very good too. When the wind is coming from behind us (I could have phrased that better), the sailing is not the easiest as the lake is sheltered by the buildings but when there is a bit of north in the wind conditions are very good.....a similar situation to Beale Park really.

Sailing at Hi5 has been interesting and we have enjoyed racing on a different water. The trend at Hi5 has been to have larger courses with legs going farther out into the lake to catch the best wind. I plan to use one or two more buoys this season so that we can achieve a better start/finish line.

Don't forget, if you have any boats to sell, or if you are in the market for one, let Dave Parker know so that he can advertise for you in Voice Pipe.

Once the weather has warmed up a bit we can sail in pairs whilst social distancing. We still have a slot booking system so if you want to visit the lake, give me a bell (0795 8089 186) and I will make a note of your slot and hopefully avoid other people turning up at the same time.

Happy sailing, John.



17. A backward poet writes inverse.  
 18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.  
 19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.  
 20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.  
 21. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'  
 22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'  
 23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.  
 24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'  
 25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.  
 26. There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

### Saga Sailing

The weekly Wednesday morning slot has proved to be quite popular with many of the old hands. The large paved area, with tables and ample seating provided by Hi5, has made it possible to easily maintain social distancing even when a maximum of 6 people was the rule.



Once we can all go where we want, when we want, later this year, I am sure this midweek slot will be very popular.

Members with any model, or even members without models, are welcome as it is a great forum for modelling opinions, issues and hopefully solutions.

The relaxed and informal vibe Alan has created allows plenty of time for exchanging views on model boats and numerous other topics.