



# Voice<<<<>>>>pipe

*The Newsletter of  
The Mid-Thames Model Boat Club*



January 2026

Issue 189

## **Chairlady's Corner**

- 2025 A Year In Review
- Welcoming New faces
- F/E growth & changes
- Tug Towing, Scale & Yacht racing Highlights
- Club Events & Community Spirit
- Behind the Scenes
- Looking Forward
- Site Maintenance/Assets
- My introduction to Model Boating

## **Fast Electrics**

- Fast Electrics update
- Records day
- Multihull day
- Championships
- Inner Hooligan 2

## **Tug Towing**

- Tugs update
- Removable harbour
- Competition

## **Sale**

- 2025 Review
- Media

## **Dates for your diary**

- **Wed 7th January 10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 10th January 10am >**  
**Fast Electrics**  
Testing & Practice any boat
- **Wed 14th January 10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Wed 21st January 10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome

Happy<<<<New>>>>Year



Fast Electric racers @ the final round of the 2025 championships

## **Chairlady's Corner by Wiki Daniels**

### **A Year in Review – 2025 at Mid-Thames Model Boat Club**

As the year draws to a close, it's delightful to look back on another successful season at the Mid-Thames Model Boat Club. With varied activities across all sections and strong participation levels, 2025 has been marked by growth, community spirit, innovation, and a lot of fun on the water.

From spring right through to autumn, attendance at our lake sessions has generally been up across the board. More Fast Electric racers have consistently turned out, yachtsmen have enjoyed competitive regattas, and Scale and Tug Towing have seen encouraging growth. Our Club Sundays have offered relaxed, inclusive sailing opportunities and have become a great social meeting point for members and guests alike.

### **Welcoming New Faces & Renewed Energy**

One of the heartening stories of the year has been how visitors and potential new members have engaged with the club. New junior members tested their first boats, and experienced members took the time to share their skills and enthusiasm —

- **Sat 24th January** **10am >**  
**Fast Electrics**  
Testing & Practice any boat
- **Wed 28th January** **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Wed 4th February** **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 7th February** **10am >**  
**Fast Electrics**  
Testing & Practice any boat
- **Wed 11th February** **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Thursday 12th February** **8pm >**  
**MTMBC**  
**ANUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- **Wed 18th February** **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 21st February** **10am >**  
**Fast Electrics**  
Testing & Practice any boat
- **Wed 25th February** **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 1st March** **Round 1**  
**Yachting**  
Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**  
Handicap(Any yacht) **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 4th March** **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 7th March** **10am > 4pm**  
**Tugs & Scale**  
Tune up free sailing & competition
- **Wed 11th March** **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 15th March** **Round 1**  
**Yachting**  
DF95 **10am > 1pm**  
IOM **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 18th March** **10am >**  
**Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 21st March** **Round 1**  
**Fast Electrics** **10am > 4pm**  
Club500, F600B, Wacky Races, Mono 1, Mono 2 & Run What Ya Brung

thank you to everyone who helped and for being so welcoming. The club's Facebook page has also taken on fresh life in 2025, thanks to Steve Hotson, with more regular posts, videos and updates. Views of Lawrie's YouTube videos continue to grow – with 16k views for 'MTMBC - The Best of 2024 Review' and 9.5k views for 'Wednesday at the Lake'. Both online media types have broadened awareness of our activities and helped bring in new visitors.

#### Fast Electrics — Growth & Change

The Fast Electric section has enjoyed a particularly strong year. Participation in championship rounds steadily increased, and for many race classes the number of boats competing has grown from modest fields of four or five to eight or nine per race – a real marker of the class's vitality. There's also excitement building for 2026 with the introduction of a new Mono 2 class and the planned transition from NiMH to LiPo battery power, which promises to bring new energy and performance to club racing.

We also acknowledged the dedication of outgoing Fast Electric leader Paul Garson, whose service has helped shape the section's development, and welcomed Edwin Sudds into the role as he takes the helm for the next season.

#### Tug Towing, Scale & Yacht Racing Highlights

Tug Towing continues to attract strong participation, with healthy numbers of skippers and some clever improvements made to equipment to enhance ease of use.

Across the Yachting season, we enjoyed a series of well-contested regattas. From Fiesta/Victoria races through to handicap and IOM classes, sailors have shown enthusiasm and resilience even when weather conditions and water traffic presented their challenges. On more than one occasion we completed full fleets of races, and the level of close competition reflected both camaraderie and sailing skill.

#### Club Events & Community Spirit

Chairlady's Day again stood out as a signature social and sailing event of the year – a chance for all sections to come together for friendly competition and shared stories over lunch.

#### Behind the Scenes — Work That Matters

Site maintenance and equipment care remain vital to what we do. Thanks to many volunteers – often quietly working away from the limelight – our facilities have stayed accessible and welcoming. Adjustments to storage, access shelters and gardening duties might not make headlines, but they make a real difference to the everyday club experience.

#### Looking Forward

2025 has truly been a year of variety and positive momentum. Whether you joined us for race days, social sailing, midweek meetups, Youth participation or simply for the camaraderie of shared weekends



What a hero!

- **Wed 25th March 10am > Midweek Mariners**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 29th March 10am > Club Sunday** All types of boat are welcome

on the lake, your presence has helped shape a memorable season.

As we look ahead to 2026, excitement is already building for new classes, new events and continued growth. Thank you to every member who has made this year one to remember — and here's to another great year of model boating together!

#### And Finally...

I'm sure you'll all join me in offering our sincere thanks to Dave Parker for his many years of dedication, skill and quiet hard work as *Voice Pipe* Newsletter Editor. Dave has been at the helm since October 2016 – an impressive nine years of consistently producing and shaping the newsletter into what it is today.

During that time, *Voice Pipe* has informed, connected and entertained the club through countless seasons on the water. As the way we share information continues to evolve and more members engage through online media, we're now focusing our efforts in those areas – so please do help by contributing to the club's Facebook page whenever you can.

Happily, this is not a farewell to Dave, who will be continuing in his role as Club Secretary (no retirement just yet!). Thank you, Dave, for everything you've done – and continue to do – for the club.

[Wiki](#)

#### MTMBC Site maintenance/assets - by Tony Simons

I am sure if anyone looks at the cost of being a member it is very reasonable, BUT this is only possible because of the kindness of Hi5 and the Hotel owner, they ask we keep our area tidy.

Nature takes over very quickly it is in our interest to keep it at bay in the area we use, if contractors had to be used no doubt our rent would rise to offset the cost.

Every member capable of doing a small amount of gardening on each visit to cut back brambles, sweep leaves, scrape moss and weeds off the bricked areas makes it an easy task. Tools are kept in the store.

In 2025 two of us cast off the pontoon for use as a work platform to trim over hanging willow and plants encroaching from the immediate banks, this was very successful and safer than any other method yet employed.

#### Ideas required

The part submerged floating platform to the left of our area has recently made it difficult to recover stray boats, the hotel frontage also, has anyone a cheap source of suitable material to drape in front of these structures to prevent boats getting under them, not degrade and not be an issue to wild life.

[Tony](#)

#### My introduction to Model boating! - by Stephen Hotson

Hello Folks

Where do I start ! Ok the beginning, well it all started for me back in 2024 I was made redundant after 15years in my job! I spent the next six months solid trying to find work with no luck. So one day in April 2025 I decided to look on the web for a hobby I

## Club Contacts - Your Committee



**Chairlady**  
**Wiki Daniels**

Tel: 01491 681547  
Email: [wiki.daniels@gmail.com](mailto:wiki.daniels@gmail.com)



**Assistant Chairman  
& Tug Leader**  
**Tony Simons**

Tel: 07747 642234  
Email: [tony406@btinternet.com](mailto:tony406@btinternet.com)



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

Tel: 0118 9700162  
Email: [parker42@btinternet.com](mailto:parker42@btinternet.com)

would enjoy, then I remembered I had an Rc boat in storage and set about finding somewhere I could sail it. I knew there was a model club years ago at Beale Park so I searched for it and found they were still in existence but had moved location. So I decided I was going to have a look at where they are now and see if I might be able to join the club as it is fairly local to me.

I went along one Saturday morning and found the club without too much trouble, I was greeted by a friendly chap who welcomed me with what was my interest in boats! Dave Parker is his name, so from that first time I knew I wanted to become a member which I did pretty much the next day or so.



I went along with my first boat the following club meeting and I was a little nervous to be honest as I wasn't 100% sure if my boat would fit in. Dave then assured me no matter what kind of boat you have you will enjoy your time at the lake with it.

So from then on I felt at home at the club and Dave kindly took me under his wing. I settled in pretty quickly and maybe trying to get my feet under the table too soon as I was new and enthusiastic about the hobby. As the weeks came and went I

grew more in confidence and have made several new friends at the club which I was probably lacking.



So now several months later I've built up a collection of different boats one of which I had lots of help from Dave with his technical knowledge to upgrade this boat, we found out it's called a Triton by Toysport! I would say it's now my favourite out of them all 14 to date 😊.

I'm also competing in several of the clubs racing championships which I still have more to learn about. So really I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank Dave Parker for his



## Club Contacts - Your Committee



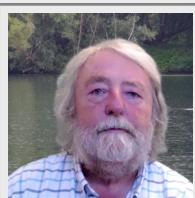
**Club Treasurer**  
**Peter Butler**

Email:  
[ox119py.mtmbc@gmail.com](mailto:ox119py.mtmbc@gmail.com)



**Yachting Leader**  
**John Price**

Tel: 0118 941 4766  
Email: [jetpipe@talktalk.net](mailto:jetpipe@talktalk.net)



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

Tel: 07747 642234  
Email: [tony406@btinternet.com](mailto:tony406@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 0118 941 9142  
Email:  
[lawrie.cooper@btopenworld.com](mailto:lawrie.cooper@btopenworld.com)



In the pits on race day

welcoming support and advice since I became a member of what is a fantastic club run by a great bunch of people ! Sadly as you know Dave is stepping down as editor of the clubs Voice pipe which will be a great shame for us all, and his insights will be highly missed !

I can only say thank you all for your patience and friendship and I hope to continue boating on whatever level for as long as the club will have me!

Happy Boating **Stephen**

### **Fast Electrics by Edwin Sudds**

It looks like this may be both my first and last fast electrics section of the voice pipe, so I would like to start by thanking Dave for his excellent work as Editor, and Paul for a sterling job leading the fast electrics effort over the last few years.

As covered in Paul's final article in the last issue I will be taking over the fast electric duties from him and managing the race meetings etc. next year, hoping things will continue to run as smoothly as they have this year!

Since the last voice pipe update we have concluded the racing season and run two dedicated events, the first focusing on speed record attempts and the second dedicated to all types of multihulls.

### **Records day**

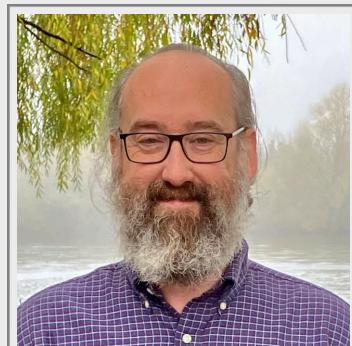
The speed record day was hampered somewhat by some very strong wind conditions though a few brave souls managed to get in some runs. The fastest speed of the day was achieved by Dave and his Mono 1 boat with 49mph, which was quite an achievement!



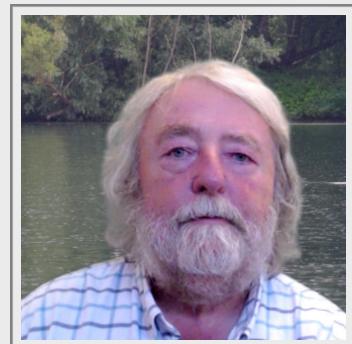
## Club Contacts - Your Committee



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



**Fast Electrics Leader**  
**Edwin Sudds**  
Tel: 07966 326875  
Email: [edwinsudds@gmail.com](mailto:edwinsudds@gmail.com)



**Scale Leader**  
**Lawrie Cooper**  
Tel: 0118 941 9142  
Email: [lawrie.cooper@btopenworld.com](mailto:lawrie.cooper@btopenworld.com)

### Multihull day

The multihull day was well attended with a variety of outriggers, catamarans and some F1 Tunnel hulls running, and with only a few crashes (myself included) good fun was had by all. On a personal note, I was very pleased to get a personal best speed of 65mph with my 1.4m catamaran.

### Championships

The 2025 racing season concluded with some very close racing and the final scores show there were only a few point in it, with Mono 1 proving particularly close. The full results table is below, but the individual winners by class are: Mono 1 - Dave Parker, F600 - Leo Daniels, Wacky - Barry Eggleston, Club 500 - Edwin Sudds. Well done to everyone!

CLUB 500			F600B		
POS	NAME	PTS	POS	NAME	PTS
1	EDWIN SUDDS	48	1	LEO DANIELS	51
2	PAUL GARSON	31	2	PAUL GARSON	28
3	JASON COLLINS-WEBB	30	3	WIKI DANIELS	28
4	LEO DANIELS	28	4	MIKE DURRETT	20
5	WIKI DANIELS	21	5	EDWIN SUDDS	17
6	MIKE DURRETT	15	6	STEVE HOTSON	16
7	STEVE HOTSON	9	7	TONY SIMONS	14
8	ALAN BURGESS	6	8	ALAN BURGESS	13
9	TONY SIMONS	6			
WACKY			MONO1		
POS	NAME	PTS	POS	NAME	PTS
1	BARRY EGGLESTON	49	1	DAVE PARKER	39
2	DAVE PARKER	33	2	LEO DANIELS	35
3	LEO DANIELS	33	3	BILL CAMPBELL	29
4	BILL CAMPBELL	20	4	STEVE GREENSLADE	25
5	STEVE GREENSLADE	20	5	EDWIN SUDDS	17
6	JASON COLLINS-WEBB	7	6	BARRY EGGLESTON	10
7	BILL BATTEN	5	7	BILL BATTEN	10
8	PAUL GARSON	2	8	JASON COLLINS-WEBB	7
			9	PAUL GARSON	2
			10	STEVE HOTSON	1

Next year will see a few changes to the racing line up, the largest of which is the introduction of the new Mono 2 class which allows up to 6s power to be used. The first round of the 2026 championship kicks off on the 21st March so still plenty of time to build your entry, hopefully there will be some very fast and close racing!

*Thanks Edwin*

### *Getting in touch with your inner hooligan* by Edwin Sudds

#### Part Two

With the Apache test bed boat continuing to provide may hours of fun, I was looking forward to finally getting hold of the racing hull I had commissioned and come May I got the call that the Phantom 145 was ready for collection.

I headed down to Taunton where Mark from MCop was based and while showing me around, one of his other boats caught my attention, it was a 54 inch Catamaran hull he also produced called the MK 54. Impressed with the quality of the boats and the fact that he could do multi colour finishes with the gelcoat, I ordered one with a custom black and green finish immediately.

## Club Contacts - Volunteers



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



The newly arrived Phantom 145 Evo hull

The Phantom was fitted with the same power system as the Apache, though I opted to fit a speedmaster stinger instead of the basic strut drive, with the shaft exiting the hull a little lower than on the Apache so it would run 'dryer' and hopefully be quicker. Testing began in June and it was immediately apparent that with this setup the boat was not as stable as the Apache. With almost all the hull riding out of the water and the boat rocking around considerably the setup was far too twitchy for my taste and meant it could not make full use of the available power. After a bit of experimentation, I chose to switch over to the same strut setup as the Apache this year and run the hull much 'wetter' (propshaft exits about 15mm from the bottom of the hull). This setup has only had a couple of runs so far but seems much more planted and stable, though at the sacrifice of some speed.

The Mk54 Catamaran hull was eventually ready in January this year. Inspired by the original boat I had seen on YouTube I went back and found out details of the motors power and KV ratings, props etc that were being used, I figured this would be a good starting point for my catamaran build. This meant going twin motor, each with its own 12s setup. Pleased with the quality of the SSS motors, I ordered the same 56x123mm size but going up to 700kv to get the higher RPM needed for a catamaran vs a monohull, these were paired with two of the ZTW 300a ESC's and 65mm 3 blade props from propshop.



Completed MK 54 Cat

The first test run was in February this year at Coate water, very nerve wracking given catamarans tendency to flip over, and not having a proper rescue boat on site! The boat showed lots of potential and sounded amazing with the twin motors, again drawing lots of attention from the public. Subsequent runs have been at Reading and have unfortunately needed the rescue boat more times than I would like, but with a few tweaks the problems seemed ironed out and it is running well. I have now realised the

## 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

main challenge with a boat like this is having enough space to get up to full speed, as I suspect it needs a lot more room than we have at Reading to reach its full potential, I guess there are worse problems to have though!



Completed MK 54 Cat

Overall, although not without challenges (storage space being one!), I thoroughly recommend indulging in the hooligan class, the power and mass of these big boats really make for a driving experience unlike anything else.

Interesting links:

The Phantom 145 test running at MTMBC: <https://youtu.be/G93T7aitOfk>

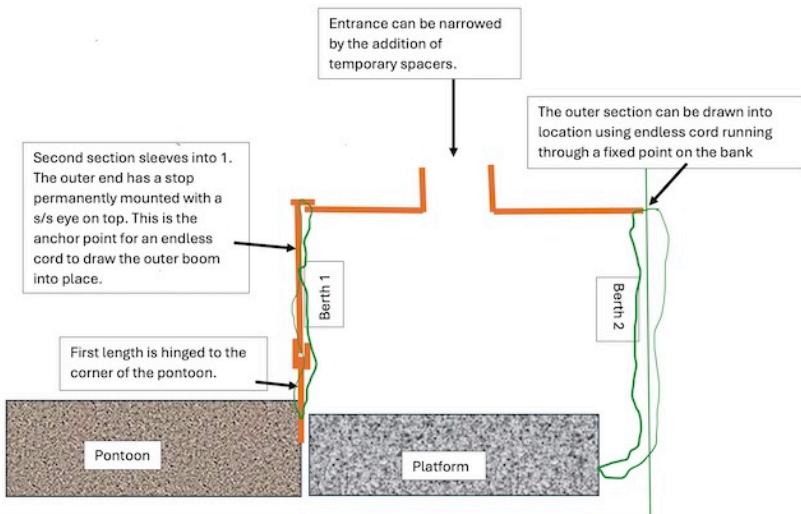
First (tentative) run of the MK 54 cat: <https://youtube.com/shorts/oORRB9s4QI0?feature=shared>

MCop racing: <https://www.mcopracing.co.uk/>

## Tugs by Tony Simons

Tug skipper numbers have steadily increased during the year, because of this there are proposals to create a removable dock in front of the platform to provide two berths for larger tows, leaving the platform front clear for launching and recovery. Hopefully this will remove some of the waiting for access to the water.

### Proposed Removable Harbour for Scale and Tugs





And finally some of the worst Pirate jokes I could find:-

Why are pirates called pirates?  
Because they arrrrr!  
What did the first mate see down the toilet? The Captains log!  
What is a pirates favourite doll?  
BAAAAARRRRBIE!  
Why did the pirate buy an eye patch? Because he couldn't afford an iPad!  
What's a pirates favourite fish dish? Pieces of skate!  
3.14% of sailors are Pi Rates.  
What do pirates wear in the winter? Long Johns!  
What's a pirates favourite part of a song? The hook!  
Who gets all their movies for free? Pirates!  
What do you call a stupid pirate?  
The pillage idiot!  
How do pirates like to cook their steaks? On a  
BAAAARRRRBECUE!  
What happens if you take the p out of a pirate? He becomes irate!  
What do you call a pirate with three eyes? Piiirate!  
What's a pirates favourite type of music? Rum & Bass!  
How do pirates know they exist?  
They think, therefore they  
ARRRRRRR!!!  
A pirate walks into a bar with a big ships wheel down his pants. The bartender says, "Excuse me, sir, but do you know you have a ship's wheel down the front of your pants? The pirate replies, "Aaargh, it's driving me nuts!!"

In an effort to prevent models from drifting off a removable Harbour is proposed, it also will provide two areas for tows to be berthed. This will allow two large tows to be operated at the same time although just like real life they may not depart or return at the same time.

The Harbour to be made from 100mm x 20 mm treated soft wood floating on its edge.

Sections can be kept under the store.

The entrance will need joining underwater at the depth of the deepest yacht keel.

This may free up the platform from being "The Berth for tug tows" allowing easier use of the boat lift, tows as usual to attach and detach in front of the platform but minimise the time blocking access to others.

The existing three barges will remain as one large tow, the ship "Endeavor" will provide us with the second tow.

The need to take turns to enter/leave the dock brings a further challenge in slowing the



approach or holding station particularly to the vessels arriving as there will usually be a buoys channel outside the dock.

**Competition:** There has been some interest expressed about some point scoring for tows around the marked course, I can bring score sheets for anyone wishing to participate. As ever it is to be fun, if enough wish to try their hand at becoming a trophy holder this can be instated.

I have looked at the tug towing rules on our web site, they were copied from a model tug towing web site, I would like to have discussions with you to modify them as there are areas that don't fit with our practices or the real world 1:1 scale.

The basics are skippers forming a tow have zero points at the start of a run, ideally their score will be zero at the end of the run. If either tug or the tow scrape/hit a course marker buoy: ONE Point to each skipper.

Tony

**Scale** by Lawrie Cooper

## 2025 Review

This year we've had the pleasure of seeing many first-rate boats cruise across our lake.

We now have a live steam tug, as well as a number of excellent new boats including the Medway Queen Paddle Steamer rebuilt over 2 years.



New vessels and enthusiastic new members have made Scale more active and enjoyable.



The easiest way of seeing what actually happened on the lake is to look at the videos. They can be found on YouTube and Facebook under MTMBC.

I started videoing our boats at the beginning of 2024, as the stills had been popular, and set about producing a (bi)monthly video. There are now over 70,000 views. Stephen Hotson has joined in, covering most areas, especially Fast Electric, yachts and general sailing, which are on Facebook, under MTMBC.



The videos became more popular during 2024, with the end of the year review video having as many as 16,300 viewers, so this had to be repeated for 2025. Older videos have been updated to ensure that the picture shown on the YouTube index is a good one, and they are titled MTMBC. This has substantially increased the viewings of older videos

As well at the new 2025 compilation video, do look at the 3 videos released on YouTube in November, one for working/military boats, one for pleasure craft and one for tugs, plus the half a dozen earlier in the year. This has been a challenge due to poor light due to shade from the trees and bright light further out, as well as having a moving target.

**Well done all Lawrie.**

#### **From the editor**

As you know, this will be my last issue of VP after 9 years+ but I'm hoping the publication can continue under new leadership. There's a chance to update the format to better meet today's needs and the incumbent editor will be at liberty to decide if changes are needed and what they should be.

Thank you to all members who have made invaluable contributions over the years - I genuinely couldn't have done it without you.

**See you lakeside  
Dave**