

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

The Newsletter of  
The Mid-Thames Model Boat Club



July 2023

Issue 179

## Chairman's Corner

- Update
- Weed
- Site Tidiness
- Jack up platform restrictions

## Fast Electrics

- Update
- Championship positions

## Tug Towing

- Update

## Yachting

- Update
- Have a Go Fiesta

## Scale

- Update

## Dates for your diary

- **Sun 2nd July**                      **Round 5**  
**Yachting**  
Fiesta/Victoria      **10am > 1pm**  
Handicap(Any yacht)**1pm>4pm**
- **Wed 5th July**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 8th July**                      **Round 4**  
**Tugs & Scale**      **10am > 4pm**  
Free sailing & competition
- **Wed 12th July**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 16th July**                      **Round 5**  
**Yachting**  
DF95                      **10am > 1pm**  
IOM                      **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 19th July**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 22nd July**                      **Round 6**  
**F/E**                      **10am > 4pm**  
Club500, F600B, WackyRaces,  
Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung



Endeavour in action at May's Tug Towing & Scale meeting

## Chairman's Corner by Tony Simons

Numbers for some organised activities have been low this season for a variety of reasons, hopefully participation level will recover in the next few weeks.

### Weed update:

My thanks to all who have been weed clearing to make boating possible, many hands make this possible.

All lakes in and around Oxfordshire suffer from weeds of various types making any form of boating difficult from June onwards our lake being no exception. The weed has been slow off the mark but is now making its presence known partly consisting of blanket weed but more dominant at the moment is an aquatic weed that is easy to cut compared to the blanket weed.

I have researched how to control aquatic weeds this can be summed up as regular cutting, total removal of roots in the autumn, weed killer, depriving of light, realistically our only option is regular cutting to this end more focus is being aimed at improving the tools we have. A commercial weed cutter is the dream machine but sadly is beyond us to financially to buy, build or hire.

The area in front of the jack-up platform seems to not only grow weed but is a gathering place for loose weed that has probably been cut by ski boat propellers it is easy to remove with a rake I have recently purchased the components to make a lighter rake with a longer reach handle.

One of the rescue boats has been attached to the weed cutting

- **Wed 26th July** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Wed 2nd Aug** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 5th Aug** **Round 5**  
**Tugs & Scale** **10am > 4pm**  
Free sailing & competition
- **Sun 6th Aug** **Round 6**  
**Yachting**  
Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**  
Handicap(Any yacht) **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 9th Aug** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 13th Aug** **10am >**  
**CHAIRMAN'S DAY**  
Bring Your Own Lunch  
Various fun activities
- **Wed 16th Aug** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 20th Aug** **Round 6**  
**Yachting**  
DF95 **10am > 1pm**  
IOM **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 23rd Aug** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 26th Aug** **Round 6**  
**F/E** **10am > 4pm**  
Club500, F600B, Wacky Races,  
Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 30th Aug** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sun 3rd Sept** **Round 7**  
**Yachting**  
Fiesta/Victoria **10am > 1pm**  
Handicap(Any yacht) **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 6th Sept** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 9th Sept** **Round 6**  
**Tugs & Scale** **10am > 4pm**  
Free sailing & competition
- **Wed 13th Sept** **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
All types of boat are welcome



Rescue boat rigged with the weed clearing platform and the first harvest of weed cleared in May

platform I will bring the second rescue boat to site in early July, a cover will be available for the weed cutting boat to prevent rain and leaves entering but the means of attachment has yet to be invented. Also, I would appreciate some help to add at least two more cubes to the weed cutting platform to increase the buoyancy plus further strengthening of the whole assembly.

I have adapted a hedge cutting tool as a trial for cutting weed this will be powered by a 24 volt motor, some form of weed collecting tray/forks to be fitted to the weed cutter platform to speed collection of cut and floating weed hopefully regular cutting will make boating less prone to weed issues.

Recently but seemingly in decline an algae bloom blocked light penetration into the water this slows weed growth considerably, algae blooms are cyclic, but the lake normally seems to have two blooms/year with extended periods when the water is clear.

#### Site tidiness:

Part of the deal with our landlord is keeping the area we use tidy my thanks to members who have been doing this and emptying the trailer, nature is starting to overtake a little, I will add garden shears to our repertoire to cope with nettles and hedges.

#### Jack-up Platform problems:

I have noted the beam along the shore side of the platform has deformed beneath the position the access ramp rests on the platform, **until I can straighten and reinforce this area, please don't have more than three persons on the platform at any one-time.**



Part of the rescue of the weed cutting platform in May

- **Sun 17th Sept**                      **Round 7**  
**Yachting**  
 DF95                                  **10am > 1pm**  
 IOM                                      **1pm > 4pm**
- **Wed 20th Sept**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
 All types of boat are welcome
- **Sat 23rd Sept**                      **Round 7**  
**F/E**                                      **10am > 4pm**  
 Club500, F600B, Wacky Races,  
 Mono 1 & Run What Ya Brung
- **Wed 27th Sept**                      **10am >**  
**Saga Sailing**  
 All types of boat are welcome

## 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)

See Page 8 for some offers

## Visit to Model Boat Mayhem at Wicksteed Park - "It was absolutely epic!"

And it was indeed model boat mayhem! We arrived at the park at about 11 am on the Saturday morning and camped up next to a trader selling flags for model boats. He looked at our boats and to our surprise picked out the large battleship we had purchased from Beale Park. He had made the weapons on the boat many years ago! He was able to tell us a bit about the boat, including its name – HMS Leeds Castle.



After setting up we decided to walk around the boating lake. It's a fairly good size and could accommodate all the boats, although it did get a bit bumpy at times and you had to watch out for the buzzy hovercrafts, which took full advantage of the calm weather.

It was free sailing most of the time with two events – one for IC boats and one for club 500s. We watched the IC boat display and we both took part in the Club 500 race. The race wasn't that serious – my boat had an unexpected hole in it so took on water and stopped working when the receiver got wet. Leo did much better and came third against some fast competition.



**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



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We spent most of the day sailing the many boats we had brought with us. I don't know how we managed to get them all in the car as there was only just enough room for Leo and I. The weather was perfect with sunshine all day long. In the evening we drove across to the campsite and put up our tent along with the other model boaters. They were ever so friendly and invited us to their BBQ so we all sat round and talked about model boats until it was time to turn in.

The next day was very similar with the addition of an ice cream and the purchase of a model hovercraft kit from the hovercraft stand! Hopefully you'll see it on the water soon.

A link to our youtube video about the event: <https://youtu.be/zJhb77wLjzI> Event website: <https://modelboatmayhem.co.uk/>

Model boat flags: [scaeflags@outlook.com](mailto:scaeflags@outlook.com)

**Wiki & Leo**

**Fast Electrics by Paul Garson**

How time flies, as we already have four rounds of the 2023 Championship completed and the competition in the Club500 and F600B classes is really hotting up. Things in the Wackys and Mono1 classes have been a bit hit and miss as some of the competitors have not been able to race for various reasons.

On the 24th June round four of the 2023 Championship was run. Attendance saw the hard core racers in the Club500 and F600B putting their racing skills to the test and this led to some really exciting racing.



We have only managed to successfully complete two rounds of the Wackys and Mono1 races because we could not get enough competitors together.

The current championship standings in each class is as follows:

**Club 500**

Pos	Name	Points
1	Paul Garson	26
2	Leo Daniels	21
3	Wiki Daniels	19
4	Mike Durrett	12
5	Tony Simons	6

**Club Contacts - Your Committee**



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**F600B**

Pos	Name	Points
1	Paul Garson	33
2	John Martin	23
3	Leo Daniels	16
4	Wiki Daniels	9
5	Tony Simons	6
6	Alan Whitbread	4
7	Steve Greenslade	2

**Wacky Racers**

Pos	Name	Points
1	Tim Kozlowski	18
2	Jason Collins-Webb	10
3	Steve Greenslade	7
4	Leo Daniels	6
5	John Martin	3

**MONO1**

Pos	Name	Points
1	Tim Kozlowski	18
2	Steve Greenslade	12
3	Leo Daniels	4
4	Paul Garson	4



A not so Fast Fast Electric boat

## Club Contacts - Your Committee



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**Scale Leader**  
**Lawrie Cooper**  
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A replacement propeller for the F600B's has been decided on and will be put to the final live test at the July meeting where it will be the only one allowed to be used. If it proves successful, then at a price of less than £2.00 each we should have a winner.

It is still hoped to have a riggers hydroplane and cat day and maybe even have a few races. The date has yet to be decided and will be published once agreed.

The winners from last year still need to be awarded their respective trophies but at this stage it is proving rather difficult to get everyone together but hopefully in the coming months this will come to fruition.

Well to end just a punt for fast electrics, if you want to add a bit of excitement to at least one of your Saturday mornings a month come and join us. There is something for everyone from the more sedate CLUB500s to the wildly fast Mono 1s and the F600B's and Wackys give something in between. It's really good fun and not just the racing, there's also the racers.

*See you Lakeside*  
**Paul**

### Tug Towing by Tony Simons

The numbers attending tugs have fallen off a cliff. This year with one retirement (Colin you are much missed!) Also (greatly missed!) Due to circumstances beyond his control Dave, a stalwart from the beginning, was not able to attend. Last year there seemed to be several new tug skippers honing their skills, is there something I need to offer other than money to get you back?

At the June session only two of us were present for tugs so we devoted our time to weed clearance initially because it wasn't possible to get away from the pontoon or platform then continued to widen the cutting area.

In May three of us were present two of us had the pleasure of taking our latest large tow around the course marked out I am pleased to say towards the end our last efforts at docking were nigh on perfect sadly Lawrie missed that bit for Facebook, it looked like Richard, and I knew what we were doing! Appearances can be deceptive!

Our number three has a tug in build but usually I have a spare tug available this was launched and put to use demonstrating how to operate a twin screw tug using the propellers only with great success.

Lawrie will be running "Scale" alongside tugs the intention is to use the course of the day for both activities you are welcome to use your tug for both.

Any thoughts you have to improve the experience please let me know.

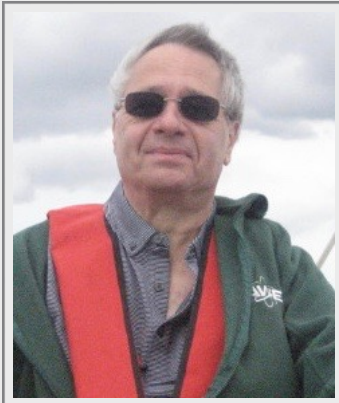
Wishing you tight prop free towing lines.

Tony

### Yachting update by John Price

There is very little yachting activity to report as the latest two regattas have been cancelled due to the excessive amount of

**Club Contacts -  
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**Some Maritime funnies for children better than adult ones**

Q: What do you call a boat that doesn't use naughty words?

A: A censor-ship.

Q: Where did the Monkees keep their sailing gear?

A: In Davy Jones' Locker.

Q: Why did it take so long for the sailor to pull up his anchor?

A: It was farther than he FATHOMed (fathom is a unit of length, usually for depth)

Q: How did the priest sink the brand new sailboat?

A: He christened it with holey water.

Q: What kind of knot does Santa use when sailing?

A: A Cringle.

Q: Where do ghosts like to go sailing?

A: Lake Eerie

weed at Hi5!

There are plans afoot to cut the weed so I'm hoping the next Regatta will take place on the 16th of July. It will be for DF95's and One Metres



This Fiesta yacht has been kindly donated to the club by Ron Burch's son. I have bought a new set of sails which I hope to fit soon. It is generally in good condition, having been well built.

There are a few cracks in the deck but they can be temporarily fixed with insulation tape. There is a new deck with it. The rudder and winch servos are both working. Anyone who wants to try yachting will be able to borrow it. They will just need to supply their own receiver, battery and transmitter. Contact me if you're interested.

**John**

**Scale by Lawrie Cooper**

Scale has been quiet, (did I miss anything on the 10th June?) but here are some photos, including a scale yacht!



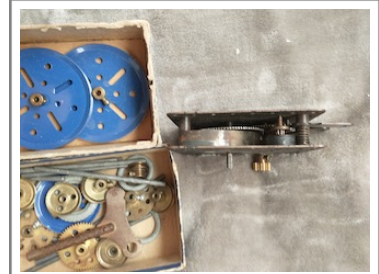
Q: How do you make a sailboat look younger?  
 A: With Boat-Tox.  
 Q: What happened to the sailor who did poorly on his sailing test?  
 A: He got C-sick.  
 Q: What's the polite term for an overweight sailor?  
 A: Portly  
 Q: Who is the author of the book "How to Sail"  
 A: Bo Ting.  
 Q: When did the sailor get a knockout?  
 A: When he was boxing the compass.  
 Q: Why do they have helmets on sailboats?  
 A: To protect the bulkhead.  
 Q: How big was the shipwrecked sailboat?  
 A: It was capsized.  
 Q: What kind of sailing ship serves ice cream cakes?  
 A: A Caravel (sailing ship used in the 15-16th century)  
 Q: Why didn't the rope speak English?  
 A: It was Flemish (flemish is when a rope is coiled flat).  
 Q: Why did the angry sail fall down?  
 A: It blew a gasket.  
 Q: What did the two ropes do after falling in love?  
 A: They got hitched (hitch is a type of knot).  
 Q: What do you call a sailor when he sits in a wooden crate?  
 A: A Jack in the box.

## Trading Post Offers

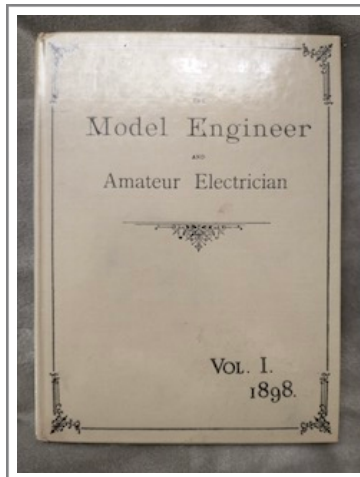
Proceeds from sale of these items will be donated to club funds. Bids over £5 for books please. To buy or for more details please contact Tony Tel: 07747 642234 or Email: [tony406@btinternet.com](mailto:tony406@btinternet.com)



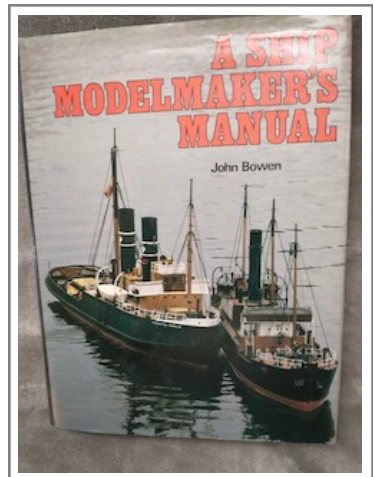
This motor, esc and programming card was bought to power an Aero Kits Patrol Boat.



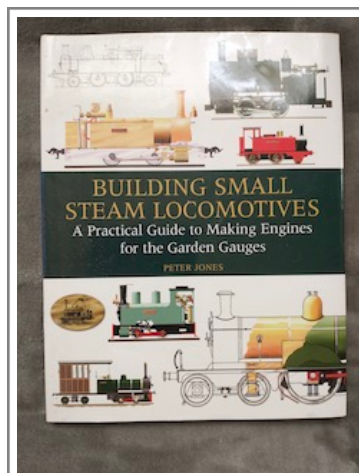
An early spring wind up motor from Meccano in working order has brake & reversing levers. + assorted Meccano gears & pulleys



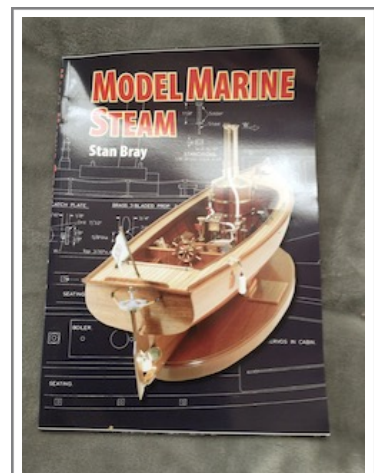
Historical electrics when dynamos ruled



Shows details of fittings deck gear etc for ships from 1950s to 1980ish



Shows how to machine parts, design etc very good guide



Shows boiler and engine construction