

Hartsholme Electric Model Boat Club, Lincoln

Summer Newsletter

May 2011



Word is that Phil Horton has given up model boats to go kayaking. . . . Hmmm!

A Sad Premonition.

I don't easily give in to pessimism but find my expectation for the future of the Club is beginning to sink very low. This is just my personal view which I haven't discussed with anybody else. It was Pete reaching the grand old age of sixty that led me to ponder on the future.

It cannot be denied that there is a total lack of enthusiasm by the vast majority of members to do anything for the Club other than to pay their subs and turn up to do some sailing. They may argue that that is all that they joined the club to do. Unfortunately, a club could not operate and survive if that were the attitude of every member.

Those who have made the effort to make the Club 'happen' have done so for several years. They are now saying that they feel that they have done their share. Nobody can argue with that. Clearly, then, the future for the Club is bleak. Nobody seems to care as long as they don't have to get involved. There may be precious little to get involved with if things don't change.

Ed

Newsletter Content.

The ideal entries for the newsletter will be those that relate to the Club, models, members, competitions, etc. Ted and Graham have each penned a poem. Mike has passed on ... no!, wait for it ... an interesting article on relationships, nothing to do with the hobby but it fills a page. Therein lies the risk. I am forced to pad out the newsletter with generalities and it has become more of a comic cut than a Club specific feature.



Send in some articles or the cat gets it!

From the Bridge

Well finally the signs of spring arriving are everywhere, crocuses are just about flowering, birds are gathering nesting materials, and my lawn looks as if it has already started growing!!!

The cold hard winter, the worst for some time, (Frank remembers the one from 1947, and says this was colder!!....), is now over it seems and we have survived, yet again. So if you don't get further than the café on Sunday mornings,, The ice has definitely gone!!

Free water this week brought a motley crew of shipmates to the lake. Blinking in the bright spring sunshine as they wiped the traces of their long hibernation from their transmitters Graham, as usual, turned up with flat batteries and was forced to spectate rather than actively sail.

Darren's son Logan was out on the water with his model boat, nice to see young blood getting interested,.

All seems set fair for a great summer ahead, Mandy reported a very healthy membership level (has everyone paid their subs??), and Peter has a full schedule of competitions for the year, with something for everyone.

We hear that recipes are already being finalised for the cakes for the Summer Picnic evening, an event that simply cannot be missed for not only the boating, but also the superb catering.

Don't forget that three members of the Committee, will stand down in October, which may seem a long way off, but isn't. Who among you will step forward to fill these places????? Someone must care enough to volunteer surely!!.

We look forward to seeing some newly completed models on the lake again this year. We hear there are several on the go at present. As we know that the quality of models produced by members of HEMBC is extremely high, we cannot wait to see the results.

So, let's make this a splendid year, we are traditionally a friendly and light hearted club, which doesn't take itself too seriously. That is probably the reason the club thrives Long may it continue.

Your committee wish you an enjoyable summer ahead with H.E.M.B.C and hope you will get the most from your continued membership.

Regards from John, Peter, Mandy and Graham.
Committee of H.E.M.B.C.

THE CLUB'S COMMITTEE

At the AGM the Chairman, the Secretary and the Competition Secretary advised their intention to stand down at the next AGM. If there are members who are willing to step forward to fill the vacancies then all is well. What happens if nobody is prepared to stand for election? Well, actually, it is very serious. It is all specified in the Club's constitution.

Without a Chairperson it is not possible to hold legal club meetings. That means, in effect, that the Club ceases to exist. It will only become viable again when a Chairperson is elected.

Without a Secretary there is nobody to record the Minutes of each meeting. If the Minutes are not recorded then the meeting is not legal and can take no decisions. The Club grinds to a halt. It also means that the insurance policy will not be renewed. From the 14th January it will be illegal to sail on Hartsholme Lake because it is a City Council stipulation that anybody sailing a model boat on the lake must have insurance that has been issued by our Club.

Without a Competition Secretary then all you can ever have is 'free' sailing. Some might welcome this but many members do enjoy the added interest to their hobby that competition provides. It means no competitions, no Summer Picnic, no Poacher's Cup and no Night Sailing competition. A sad loss really.

It is to be hoped that there are members who will be prepared to step forward for election. The existing committee members are not involved in this ***and will not provide you with a solution.*** It is strongly advised that members discuss this seriously and frequently to find and persuade suitable 'volunteers' to accept nomination.

Fail in this and you may find that you have nowhere to sail next year.

THE PROPELLER.

The propeller is one of the smallest working parts of a boat. Has it ever crossed your mind just how technical this item really is? To choose the correct one for your boat you need to consider:

1. The diameter of the shaft. That's the easy bit.
2. Will it be plastic, brass or some other?
3. How many blades?
4. What pitch will the blades have?
5. What diameter of the propeller is required?
6. 3, 4 and 5 are all affected by the motor that will drive it and the voltage at which it will be run. A lower revving motor with, perhaps, a higher torque, will be best suited by a standard multi blade propeller of larger diameter. A high revving motor may perform better with a smaller two blade propeller with a coarser pitch. Too small and there will be lots of froth and no push and too large will spoil the performance. Too large will also heat the motor, the controller and the battery. Too much heat = "**FIRE!**"
7. Which way will it turn? We describe its rotation by viewing it from behind the boat so the usual choice is anti-clockwise, commonly referred to as 'left hand'. If you order that nice Robbe propeller then when it arrives it will be the opposite 'hand' to what you want. On the continent they set their 'hand' by viewing from the front. Well they do make poor decisions - like driving on the right. Most people are right handed so the right hand is the primary hand with the best hand/eye co-ordination. That is the hand that should remain on the steering wheel while the left hand changes gear, applies the hand brake, dials the phone number, opens the drink, combs the hair, picks the nose and changes the CD disk. Simple logic.
8. Perhaps there are two propellers. Do they turn 'in' or 'out'? Full size ships usually have them turning 'out' but the experts advise that they should turn 'in' on a model because it helps to hold down the stern of the boat.
9. For a very high performance speed model then you may choose a surface piercing propeller. Now how a propeller that is not completely submerged can produce a better performance is a question of the physical characteristics of water. No, you won't get an explanation here – give us a break!!!



Commodore's Comments

Last year's competition showed that the Challenge Cup is the jewel in the Club's competition calendar. The races are keenly supported and there are almost twice as many competitors as compared with the numbers who usually take part in the other competitions.

At the time of going to print Mandy has a commanding lead. Phil, a newcomer to the racing, is galloping up the table. John S. has shown a remarkable improvement in his results. Looks like being a fair old ding-dong challenge as the season progresses. Excellent!

The Frequency List

Our thanks go to Les for maintaining the list for many years. He has now handed it over to Dave Smith. Members are reminded that they must not operate a model on a frequency other than the one allocated to them. If they turn up to sail on another frequency then they scrap the advantage that the system provides and may spoil another member's morning. If you have a problem with this then discuss it with Dave.

Poacher's Cup, 12th.June, Boston. Notice to Members Attending.

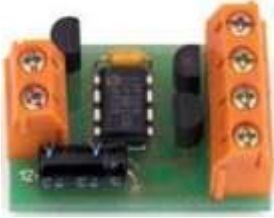
It is very important that these rules are observed when accessing and leaving the Boston Club's Marina.

1. On arrival at the blue gates press the intercom button on the left post and say "Boston Model Boat Club member. Access is required to the boat pond."
2. The gates will open to allow just one vehicle to pass at a time.
3. Drive your vehicle at 10 m.p.h. with the hazard lights flashing. Cameras will be viewing. Pass the lorries and continue to the boat pond.
4. When leaving the pond site drive to the blue gates at 10 m.p.h. with the hazard lights flashing .
5. Please stop your vehicle well back from the gates. Confirm "Exit" with the controller via the intercom on the left post.
6. Please be aware that the gates will open slowly and only allow one vehicle to exit at a time.

The Boston Club Committee thank you for your co-operation. It would be unfortunate if any of our members were to upset the landowner and cause difficulties for the Boston Club.

Simulated Arc Welding Flash Effects.

This might be of interest to a few members.



Price: £17.35 (Including VAT at 20%)

Supplied complete with LEDs

First Class Recorded/Signed for delivery.

From their blurb:-

Simulating the white flash of arc welding. Arc Welding flash effects with a random pause feature. Adds character to any manufacturing facility or machine shop in your layout. Great for inside of factory buildings, garages, under cars, construction scenes, trackside welding etc.

The arc welding effects board consists of two totally different flash outputs, each producing an arc welding flash.

Supplied with one white high brightness LED and one blue, and the resistors for 12 volt operation.

There is also a third resistor supplied, which could be used to dim the effect of the blue LED, to give the display a more life like flash colour.

The effect of using the blue and a white LEDs without doubt improves the flash effect the unit produces.

The effects controller is 34mm x 21mm and will fit in most small buildings or can mount it under the layout. You can also run wires from the circuit board to the LEDs and place it almost anywhere you want to.

This product was designed by us and is still currently manufactured by us. We are therefore able to offer full technical telephone/email support if required.

Find them at: <http://www.microminiatures.co.uk/acatalog/Arc.html>

It's been suggested that we could extend the Club's rescue services.





Your CLUB
needs
YOU
to help
to run it!

LEDs

Extract from a Marine Modelling International article on LEDs:-

“You should not connect LEDs in parallel unless each LED has its own series resistor, this is because the LED operating voltages are not well matched and one LED will tend to take most of the current and hence be brighter.

If you do find you need to connect more than one LED to a single resistor then you should probably at least carry out comparison checks on the bench to make sure that they are reasonably closely matched before committing them irretrievably.

If you find that the LED produces a narrow beam and you need it to be more diffused then you can file off the ‘domed’ end of the epoxy lens without harming it.”

Well, you won’t if you are gentle! It would probably improve the light if you polish it after you have flattened it. Ed.

Enough to end it all.

Submitted by Mike Gaskell

In 1927 Edwin Wakeman of Manchester committed suicide, leaving this note;

"I married a widow with a grown daughter.

My father fell in love with my stepdaughter and married her - thus becoming my son-in-law.

My stepdaughter became my stepmother because she was my father's wife.

My wife gave birth to a son, who was, of course, my father's brother-in-law, and also my uncle, for he was the brother of my stepmother.

My father's wife became the mother of a son, who was of course, my brother and also my grandchild, for he was the son of my stepdaughter.

Accordingly, my wife was my grandmother, because she was my stepmother's mother.

I was my wife's husband and grandchild at the same time.

And, as the husband of a person's grandmother is a grandfather, I am my own grandfather."

Some Lincoln History



Archeologists working on a dig near the Castle unearthed these remains. An early politician afflicted by 'Rectum cranium locatum forcibilis' which is still prevalent amongst these people today.

Regatta

By Ted Hooker

It has been a long hard winter
With snow frost wind and rain
But at long last spring has sprung
Regatta time again

The one thing that is needed
To make Micro Magic fun
Is a fair and constant wind
And preferably the sun

You watch the weather forecast
Each morning of the week
Yes the wind it blows as forecast by the telly
But Saturday on Hartsholme Lake
Not on you're flipping Nellie

Mandy's here cap in hand
To commandeer your cash
So let's get started commodore
Let's just have a bash

The one thing you can count on
Is the constant banter
With someone sure to say aloud
I'll win it at a canter

But wise men proffer caution
Before any coming match
And say not to count the chickens
Before the chookies hatch

No matter what the outcome
The important thing is this
That we all enjoy the afternoon
And try not to take the !*?x

The Winter Chill.
By Graham Hobbs

I came down in December
My hands were cold and numb
I couldn't feel my footsies
I couldn't feel my bum.

I couldn't use the car park
Because of all the snow
I couldn't walk the pathways
For slipping to and fro

I struggled to the lakeside
And saw to my surprise
I couldn't sail my tugboat
For all the blessed ice

So I slithered to the café'
To see who I could find
Perhaps to drink some coffee
And suck a bacon rind

Half the club were sitting there
All wrapped in scarves and jackets
Slurping coffee hot and strong
And biscuits by the packet

What's it like down at the lake??
Is it still iced over??
Some smart arse said 'I understand,
The water's clear in Dover'!!

So the café's been our hang out
From December through 'til now
We all survived the winter
But heaven knows quite how

But now the sap is rising
There's buds on elm and oak
If the sun persists, I'll once again
Become that sailing bloke

There's plenty of the lake to sail
Not frozen now I see
It's also somewhat warmer now
And that suits chaps like me.

A Cautionary Tale.



The Maritime Manual of Seamanship, Rule 101, states: “ Never leave a submariner alone at the helm. He may suddenly revert to his odd habits”. Actually, that may read “old habits” but the ancient and well-thumbed manual is difficult to read.

If you have a really sharp eye then you may see him hiding at the stern on the port side!



The long weeks with the lake frozen got the better of somebody's frustration is that Rick?!



All the animals are safe on board the Ark and for forty days and forty nights it bobs about on the water. By day forty-one, Mrs Noah has had enough and lays into the old man about the smell. Well, you can imagine it, can't you - elephants, hippos, rhinos, two of everything pooing everywhere. So, Mr and Mrs Noah, the three sons and their wives all get to shovelling until there's this huge steaming mound in the sea.

And there it lay, ignored and unloved, until in 1492 this chap Columbus sailed west from Plymouth



Photo courtesy of Mike Gaskell

Failed! Pete's a tough judge.

Mike reckons you can see them keel hauling the crew that were on Watch at the time of the accident.

Gossip & Scandal

There has never been a submission for this column. Being of no interest it serves no purpose. It is discontinued.



Has Adrian been selling his models?



Is this necessary? Why don't we just tow it?



For Sale.

Two yacht hulls; no charge but a donation to the Club's funds would be appreciated.

Phone Ted Hooker on 01522 881954



Another day, another dollar, one of many, . . . gone!

From 'Dover Beach'.

Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

Matthew Arnold (1822—1888)

It ~~seems~~ that nothing changes



The End.