

Hartsholme Electric Model Boat Club, Lincoln

Winter Newsletter

November 2009



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Cox

Um, is the café open?

Hello again and Welcome to you All,

Well, another year has passed since our last Newsletter and, as last year, this too has been a very busy and fulfilling one.

We have seen many new members joining us and this in turn has brought various new models to the lakeside. Everyone has their own favourite types of model and the variety of models on the water each week is incredible. To our newer members we extend a very warm welcome and hope your enjoyment of our club is as great as ours.

Not only do we have more boats sailing, but we also have some superbly built boats and the overall quality is continually rising. Many clubs would have difficulty in meeting the standards we now display.

Our mix of members, from youngest to oldest, interact extremely well and everybody takes part in healthy debates over the "How do I?" questions and problems relating to methods of construction, modification or repair.

We have been very active on the competition front, with eleven power boat events and seemingly endless (actually 24) yacht regattas. Our sailing skills and our competitive edge have improved significantly from all of this.

Nevertheless we again failed to win the Poachers' Cup and for 2010 we plan to train harder (or cheat!). Many thanks are due to Pete H. and his helpers for their unstinting, and unsung, efforts in organising all this. Our trips out included supporting Mobile Marine Models open day, CADMA at Doncaster and the popular Spilsby Show. Our displays for each of these events were outstanding, as was the consumption of hot dogs and ice cream by certain members. We engaged many members of the public, both young and old, with our models. The Warwick Show was also attended by several of our members, but in this case only as spectators/customers. Moving our Summer Picnic to Saturday proved a success and will be repeated this year; thanks are due to Dee, Pete et al.

Finally we say a belated "thank you" to Frank B. for his many years service as Club Treasurer, and it is with great sadness, that we record the passing of Brian Webb following a long illness; he was truly unique and will be fondly remembered by many.

Chris, Graham, Peter and Mandy.



Summary of the AGM, 15th . Oct 2009.

Chairman's Report.

Chris reminded the meeting that this would be his final report. We have had yet another very successful year, membership has increased by 20% and our finances are very healthy indeed. On the competition front there was a very full calendar with the plank race as a novelty event in July. There are even more events planned for 2010, subject only to the vagaries of the weather. Rather than review the year in detail, I propose to leave you with a reminder of some Issues facing the club. Although discussion has taken place at past meetings no decisions have yet been taken on any of them, but they are not going to go away!

Firstly there is the major issue that the club survives in its present form solely on the efforts of a small group of members, led by Peter H. Unless more members are prepared to get actively Involved In the week by week running of our club it will slowly die. Secondly we are short of bench space at the lakeside; perhaps the club might purchase at least one, possibly In memory of past members? This would surely help both the club and the park. Thirdly is the matter of rescuing boats "dead in the water". Why should you all rely on one person to fetch the "W" float from the boathouse, it is not heavy. Fourthly is the matter of congestion, both at the lakeside and in the car park. As membership increases this problem also increases.

It is a fact that if all our present members turned up on the same day we could not accommodate them or their cars. A solution, or solutions, to this will need to be found unless membership declines. Finally the matter of trolley parking may be resolved by some judicious pruning of the holly tree, perhaps around Christmas?

In conclusion, Chris thanked all committee members past and present for the work they have put in and support they have given over many years to turn what was a moribund club into the success it is today.

Competition Report.

Power and General.

Pete H. thanked those who had given so much to making this year's competitions and exhibitions such a success; in particular Dave, Dee, Mick and Graham. The winners of the various competitions are detailed on a separate page.

Pete also made the point that while he was prepared to continue for one more year he intended to stand down at the 2010 AGM in order to take a year out so that he might enjoy entering some of the competitions.

A full table of all competitions and other events for 2010 is enclosed with this newsletter.



Pete is a tough judge.



Worried about global warming? Don't forget that Chris has the Club's collection of plans. Some of them are quite old. There could be some for an Ark - possibly on papyrus?

Treasurer's Report.

Membership is presently 65, with 61 sailing members, 1 associate and 3 family volunteers. This is an overall increase of 14 on last year, with 13 more sailing members. Finances are still healthy and the accounts are summarised below:

| | | £ |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| General Income. | Subs | 1165.00 |
| | Donations | 29.00 |
| | Interest | 12.05 |
| | Total | 1206.05 |
| General Expenditure. | Insurance | 585.19 |
| | Stationery | 73.45 |
| | Stamps | 14.65 |
| | Maintenance | 20.00 |
| | Fees | 35.00 |
| | Donations | 80.00 |
| | Subs Refund | 4.00 |
| | Total | 812.29 |
| NET GENERAL INCOME | | 393.76 |
| Competition | | 245.00 |
| Competition Expenditure | | 113.55 |
| NET COMPETITION INCOME | | 131.45 |
| RNLI: Income | 24.00 | Donation 24.00 0.00 |
| Exhibition Expenses (Tarpaulin) | 25.00 | -25.00 |
| NET OVERALL RETAINED INCOME FOR YEAR | | 500.21 |
| OPENING BALANCE | | 1182.28 |
| YEAR END FINAL BALANCE | | 1682.49 |

Subscriptions for 2010 are unchanged from those of 2009.

Secretary's Report.

Much of what I have to say has been included in the Welcome page but there are one or two specific points I wish to make. Firstly I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their support and labours on behalf of our club and secondly I thank all those who provide models and help run our superb club displays at external shows. Finally and not least I wish to thank the members at large for being themselves, for their kindnesses, for the variety and quality of models at Hartsholme and for paying their subs.

In conclusion I would like to mention Brian Webb who sadly died this year. Brian was an ex RN man with a wide variety of interests including motor cycle racing, engineering and model making in all its forms and who specialised in "taking on" authority figures who offended his sense of decency and Justice. Many members will have happy memories of Brian, with his salty wit and ready laughter; he was certainly a "one off" who will be remembered with fondness here at HEMBC. The breadth of his interests and contacts can perhaps be measured by the fact that at his funeral service there was standing room only. Farewell Brian!



"No, I definitely ordered 30 millimetres"

Nominations for, and Election of, 2010 Committee.

As indicated at the last AGM, this year Chris Brown stood down from the committee. The meeting gave him a hearty vote of thanks for his many years of committee service, initially as Competition Secretary and more recently as Chairman. John Pell (Jnr) had indicated his willingness to stand and was unanimously elected. Graham, Peter and Mandy had all offered themselves for re-election to their existing posts and were also unanimously elected.

General Business

- a) Committee Service. At present the rules state that the full committee is voted in for one year only, but each member may offer him/herself for re-election each subsequent year. It was suggested that this could lead to difficulties of continuity if several members stood down simultaneously, and that perhaps elections for two years might be preferable, with "half" the committee standing for re-election each year..
- b) Congestion at lakeside/car park. Various options were discussed but no decision taken.
- c) Provision of facilities for practicing tug-towing.

It was agreed that all the above would be discussed at future meetings with trials of proposed solutions taking place and firm actions being brought to the next AGM.

- i) Recovery of boats "dead in the water". It was agreed that the club's Rescue Boat be decommissioned and that in future

all recovery will be by use of the “W” frame kept in the boathouse. It was further agreed that responsibility for any accidents/incidents occurring to the boat being rescued rests solely with the owner of that boat.

ii) Concours Competition. For a variety of reasons it was agreed that this competition, previously held In April, be abandoned.

Yachting.

Commodore's Comments (or Illusions of Grandeur).

The Hartsholme Challenge Cup.

It wasn't too long into the year when it became apparent that the fleet was growing and that the yachts were all Racing Micro Magics. We have had races where there have been ten starters. It means that the Hartsholme Challenge Cup has evolved into a 'class' type of race and is all the better for it. The yachts are closely matched and the racing has often seen some close and exciting finishes.

There is some ongoing discussion concerning some changes to the rules for next year. These are mostly prompted by experience this year and aren't major in their effect. The racing year will be reduced from All Year to a season of March until October. Even the most intrepid amongst us have found some of the winter regattas to be something of a trial.

For the benefit of members considering whether to join in the regattas next year it might be helpful to mention one of the changes. Whilst you may sail any yacht that can sail freely and unaided from and to the launching point, only Racing Micro Magics will be awarded points that count towards the cumulative score to decide the winner of the trophy. This ensures fairness by only rewarding those who sail equally matched yachts. The Racing Micro Magic has several features that make it ideal for our purposes. It is small enough to transport to and from the lake without any disassembly being required. Its keel is not too deep for the edge of the lake. It will make progress in the lightest of winds when some other yachts simply do not move. It does struggle a bit in the strongest winds but fortunately the trees surrounding the lake do tend to reduce the strength of the worst. The nice part is that you can sail all afternoon without the need to change batteries. If looking to purchase a kit or complete boat then be aware that there are two versions.

There is the 'Micro Magic', the initial yacht introduced by Graupner, and the 'Racing Micro Magic'. The original is cheaper but you will guess that it is not competitive with the later version which was developed to produce an improved performance.

At the time of writing it is Mandy who is heading the leader table with Pete a little way behind in second place. A special mention for John Pell (Jnr). He obtained his rMM well into the season but has scored well since then. He will certainly be a serious challenger for the trophy next year. There are several more regattas before the end of the year so nothing is certain. We have found that fortunes can vary a lot even between heats let alone between regattas. Whoever wins the trophy it is a hard won prize. It has called for the participation in dozens of heats and for achieving sufficient success to earn the highest total number of points. Well done indeed.

Competition Results for 2009 Events.

Achiever of the year award, 2008; Les Belton

Committee member award, 2008; Frank Butler

Target Competition;

- 1 John Stanyon
- 2 Les Belton
- 3 John Pell

RNLI Steering Competition;

- 1 Dave Smith
- 2 Phil Cocking

Concours Competition;

- 1 Jonathan Cox with Shamrock
- 2 Ray Motley with Rosie
- 3 Eric Rountree with Mighty Servant "1".

Paired Steering Competition;

1. Eric and Adrian Rountree
2. Jonathan Cox and Dave Smith
3. John Stanyon and Darren Hall
- Joint 4. John Pell and Frank Butler,
Graham Hobbs and Mick Coney

Lakeside Picnic; Best boat to take home:

Ray Motley with Rosie

Cont'd.....

Midsummer Cup;

1 Dave Smith

2 Iain Fraser

Joint 3 Jonathon Cox, Graham Hobbs

Plank Race;

1 Chris Brown

Runners-up: Stuart Cox, Adrian

Rountree, Frank Butler

Lincoln Cup;

1 Dave Smith

2 Adrian Rountree

Snooker on water;

1 Darren Hall

2 Ian Fraser

3 Les Belton

Autumn Steering Competition;

1 Jonathon Cox

2 Dave Smith

3 Adrian Rountree

Night Sailing Competition for the Ian McIntosh Cup:

1. John Firth

2. Eric Rountree

3. Ray Motley, Jonathan Cox, Graham
Hobbs.

Reminders and Odd Bits. (I heard that!)

There is a lot of club information, masses of pictures and other interesting stuff on Jonathan's website. You will find it at: <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/stuart.cox>

Here are some websites that you might find useful:

Folkestone Engineering Supplies

www.metal2models.co.uk

No minimum order. No VAT. Reasonable P & P.

Select on line and then order by phone.

Certainly worth a look.

Model Fixings.

www.modelfixings.co.uk

Large range of screws, nuts, etc. Down to tiny sizes.

Technobots.

www.technobots.co.uk

All sorts of useful stuff. Good range of crystals but choose carefully - there are 'dual conversion' amongst the others. You can buy single ones.

Vapextech batteries.

www.vapextech.co.uk

Competitive prices for NiMh batteries and packs.

Most are cheaper than Model Power.

Gossip & Scandal

We have this spare page which could be a bit of fun. It would need members to feed in some titbits—no, not Page 3—but then again!

Some hopefully fictitious examples:-

- * It is rumoured that our Chairman has invited Gordon Brown to the Lakeside Picnic next June. The media seem certain that he will be free to attend.
- * According to Iraqi TV our winning tug towing team have been invited to Umm Qasr in 2010 to train their tug skippers. It appears that the word 'scale' was lost somewhere in the translation.
- * Lincoln City Council have denied reports that there will be exploratory drilling for oil beneath the Hartsholme Lake. The new structure in the middle of the lake that caused the report is merely a mobile phone mast. So that's alright then.
- * Members are reminded that when models rise from the surface of the lake they should change to 35 Mhz. This can be avoided by the use of 2.4 Ghz.



Is that Dave at it again?



**Never fear, the warmer days
will come round again.**