

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

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



January 2019

Issue 161

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## Dates for your diary

- **Thurs 17th Jan** 8pm  
Club evening meeting @  
Tidmarsh village Hall  
Bring & buy, Boats in Build,  
Concurs Competition Judging
- **Thurs 7th Feb**  
Beale Park Opens 10am
- **Thurs 14th Feb** 8pm  
**Annual General Meeting**  
@ Tidmarsh village Hall
- **Sun 3rd March** 1pm  
Yachting: Tune up/advice/have  
a go/bring any type of Yacht.  
Outside Lake
- **Sat 9th March** 10am  
Tug Towing: Bring any tug for  
Tune up/advice or just come &  
have a go with a loan tug.  
Inside Lake
- **Sat 30th March 10am&1:30pm**  
Club500 & F600B Tune up/  
advice/have a go with loan boat  
inside lake. The same with  
Faster boats on outside lake.

## 🎄 Winter & New Years edition 🧊



Warmer & sunnier times at the Beale Park Model Show in May

## Chairman's Corner by Tony Simons

By the time you read this it will be 2019. I wish you all a Happy New Year!

### Awards

The December evening meeting is the one where the lucky few are presented with their trophies for winning the various club organised events along with the runners up plaques followed by a buffet meal.



MTMBC Trophies and other goodies ready for the award presentations and consumption

## 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)

### These items are **For Sale** following a bereavement:

IOM Q9 designed by Kim Furniss  
 It comes complete with Sail Box and A, B & C rigs.



Registered No: 1973 (originally owned by Merlyn Coates)

Servos are : Winch: Futaba S5801 ; Rudder: Hitech HS645MG

Receiver: Spektrum AR600

Battery: probably needs replacing

Would make an ideal model as an introduction to IOM sailing.

£240 ONO

Contact Trevor on 07920 584 193

### Scale & Steering

Chairman's Trophy

1st Tony Simons

2nd Colin Mears

### Fast Electrics

Club500

1st Colin Mears

2nd Tony Simons

F600B

1st Andy Strickland

2nd Colin Mears

### Yachting

DF95

1st Keith Vale

2nd John Price

Vic/F1E/DF65

1st John Lovegrove

2nd Janet Burch

Handicap

1st John Price

2nd Keith Vale

Waterford Clock

Chris Withey

Rose Bowl

Mary & Dave Parker



Chris Withey was awarded the Waterford Clock for his work taking on, Improving and maintaining the MTMBC Website. Presented by your VP Editor at the pub. Please see Chris's section about the website on the following pages.

Mary & Dave Parker were awarded the Rose Bowl. Dave for services to the club and Mary for letting him do it.





## Trading Post

### For Sale

A black dragon force 65 (similar to the one pictured) complete with A and B rig (A rig with dragon logo)



All there except I would replace the battery

£100 ONO

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Contact Trevor on 07920 584 193

Not every year there is an award for some mishap or other e.g. "Involuntary Member of The Submarine Fleet" awarded to any member who sank their boat in front of witnesses, if you haven't heard there wasn't an award this year so your are all safe.....until next December.

You may also be pleased to know an excellent model of "Titanic" has been found a new owner, I had been thinking of using it as one of next year awards no prizes for the category.

Since last September despite the run down of "On the water activities" a lot has taken place, I had a meeting with the Kent Model Boat Display Team at the Warwick International model boat show to discuss May 2019 Beale Park Model Boat Show followed by a meeting with the Beale park administration.

### RS Design Spark x channel

At the November evening meeting a presentation about 3D printing and the "Cross Channel" challenge for a 3D printed model boat was given by Gary who is deeply involved with the team attempting to get a 3D printed model boat across the English channel, I think it is safe to say all present were enthused by the twists and turns as the story unfolded.

After initial explanations of the project and unexpected directions the design took it was the involvement of Reading Bus Company as they have a large 3D printer, an invite down to Portsmouth to use the largest test tank in the UK to gain knowledge about behaviour of the model in various sea conditions, followed by trials at Beale Park outer lake and finally trials in Poole harbour navigating round Brownsea Island or at least that was the plan,



Trials/filming on the outside lake, Can you spot the drone?

but the boats navigation system had other ideas that when diagnosed it seems the model was trying to return to Beale Park outer lake. Given the choice of tidal seawater or Beale Park I know which I would choose. Gary discussed various problems experienced with the design and answered many questions from members it is fair to say we had a very entertaining evening.

At this moment the French authorities are not proving very receptive to the cross-channel attempt forcing the team to re-think a suitable challenge for the 3D printed boat.

### Beale Park Model Boat Show May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

I am asking for volunteers to give a few hours, half a day or a full

day to assist in putting on this show, by having many of us split over the weekend there is no need to be present for the two days. The format is expected to be much the same as 2018, sadly Portsmouth Warships didn't appear and at the moment it seems unlikely they will be present at the next show. We discussed "Have a go" boating and it is hoped the Surface Warship Association maybe also be able to run their fleet of small lifeboats as an attraction for children.

We are also looking to have a club with radio controlled trucks as an added attraction but this is still in discussion.

Approximately seven clubs have stated they will be attending we expect more but it is believed some delay committing until after their AGM as committees may change.

### Evening Meetings

**January** evening meeting is "Bring and Buy" if you have anything you wish to sell or hope to make a purchase this is the opportunity.

**February** evening meeting is the AGM, as in the past two years I would like to circulate the minutes to the membership in January to allow time for any issues to be raised and discussed prior to the AGM. Unless any matter arises that requires further discussion at the AGM we can make this a painless process.

As ever any member with a club related issue doesn't have to wait until the AGM the committee is always open to constructive discussion.

### Simons Brothers Salvage

A rumour has surfaced that the Chairman intends to expand his underwater research and recovery business, so ably started at the last Model Boat Show. A photo of his next intended project is attached. It seems he has obtained a Lloyds Open Form Salvage contract from Cunard, the owners of the defunct White Star Line, and is going after RMS Titanic.



### MTMBC Website

I've been looking after the Club website for around 9 months in more or less its original state. If anyone has suggestions for improvements or additions please feel free to get in touch.

I think most aspects of the club are well covered in its pages, though perhaps a photos page might be a useful addition.

Many club sites have a page with a limited number of relevant photos with a sentence or two of explanation, if you're interested send the photos to me with a few words attached.

The site offers some limited statistics on visitors, I thought the

## Club Contacts - Your Committee



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following might give an insight on how the site is used:

Statistics over the last quarter (Sep to Dec 18)

- Total number of visitors - 479
- Number of pages visited - 1,706
- Top 3 pages visited - Home (492), News & Events (227) and Fast Electric (177)
- Although the majority of visitors come from the UK we've also had visits from Australia (4), France (3) and China (2)

Regards Chris

### *Fast Electrics by Dave Parker*

#### 2018 Review

Another enjoyable season of Fast Electrics came to a close with the final races of the championships on Saturday 27th October.

It was a good year weather wise with no meetings being cancelled and most were completed without delays for inclement weather.

The mornings of race days were well attended but unfortunately the enthusiasm for running in the afternoons was limited to a few stalwarts, and on occasions, a few others interested in trying out their boats.

The F/E section took an active role in the Beale Park Model Boat Show in May running invitation Club500 races and demonstrating F600B races for other clubs and the public attending.

Chairmans Day included some fun races with Club500 and F600B boats competing. As has become traditional these races had an unusual twist to help improve the action and make it more exciting.

Myself and Nathan Vosloo represented the Club at rounds 2 and 5 of the Electra championships here at Beale Park. Nathan taking victories in Mini Mono & Mono 1 in Round 2 and Mono 1 & Mono 2 in the 5th round. I finished first in Mini Mono in the 5th round.



Some close Club500 racing at the Beale Park Model Show

#### Club500 Championship results

Colin Mears is Club Champion this year with Tony Simons just



## Club Contacts - Your Committee



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**Representative**  
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managing to hold on for the runners up spot. The competition for second place was very tight especially towards the end of the year. Take a look at the points score between 2nd and 5th places.

Competitor	No.	points	pos.
Colin Mears	6	42	1
Tony Simons	5	23	2
Andy Strickland	4	22	3
Joshua S	3	21	4
Harry S	14	20	5
Graham Coles	12	15	6
Matt Richardson	11	14	7
Alan Whitbread	7	8	8
Lawrie Cooper	9	6	9
David Walters	1	4	10
Colin Sayer	15	2	11
Leo D	10	2	12
Wiki Daniels	13	2	13

Club 500 races have been well attended throughout the season with 4 new racers joining the usual suspects. At the penultimate meeting it was necessary to split the races into two heats in order to keep the number of boats to a manageable level for the race controller and scorers. This worked very well so there is no limit on the number of competitors that can take part. We can simply split races into 2 heats or more if necessary.

So now is a good time to build yourself a Club500 for this seasons racing.

### F600B Championship Results

This one went down to the wire with Andy Strickland taking the title of F600B Club Champion 2018 and the 2017 champion Colin Mears taking the runners up spot.

Competitor	No.	points	pos.
Andy Strickland	14	38	1
Colin Mears	4	33	2
Tony Simons	1	26	3
Matt Richardson	15	22	4
Graham Coles	12	9	5
David Walters	3	8	6
Alan Whitbread	7	6	7

### Wacky Races

With only 2 rounds of the championships completed it would appear we need to generate more interest if Wacky Races is to continue in 2019.

## Club Contacts - Volunteers



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## Run What Ya Brung

A good variety of boats were starting to appearing towards the end of the season which bodes well for RWYB in 2019.

### 2019 Preview

#### Club500

It looks like we will have the competitor numbers to continue racing Club500s for a full season again next year. With some new competitors entering the fray at the end of last year, and hopefully some more joining in, it should be an exciting championship again in 2019.

#### F600B

Hopefully F600B competitors will want to continue racing in 2019. The numbers attending in 2018 have been modest but the success of our champion Andy Strickland should encourage others to give it a try. He started as a novice in the latter half of 2017 racing the F600B have a go boat and as a first time competitor, with a new boat, he dominated most of the 2018 races.

There is tentative interest from 2 members who may join the existing F600B racers this year if we are able to make some more boats available.

#### Whacky Races

To try and make Wacky Races more inclusive a number of ideas are being considered and may well be trialled in the early part of the 2019 season.

1. The course will be made smaller and moved closer to the bank. This should make it easier for smaller boats, inexperienced drivers and promote closer racing.
2. The course could include a short and long lap. The best boats/competitors will use the long course and the rest will race on the shorter one.
3. If this works, and there are enough competitors, the establishment of 'amateur' and 'professional' groups could be introduced to compete at different levels in the same race.

## Run What Ya Brung

Attendances were sporadic in 2018 but a good variety of F/E vessels were run by various members. This provides some encouragement for the coming season. RWYB is unstructured and casual providing plenty of time for social interaction as well as action on the water. So why not come for the banter and to run your electric boat of any type on any race day Saturday afternoon.

### Electra

MTMBC will host Electra's visits on Sunday 14th July and Saturday 17th August on the outside lake. Racing starts about 10am and continues throughout the day until about 4pm

Once again you are encouraged to race as a guest if you have a suitable boat or come along to watch and chat to the competitors.

### Other important dates

I anticipate that the Section will once again play an important role in the Beale Park Model Show on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th of May and hold some fun races at the next Chairman's day on Sunday 21st July

*See you lakeside Dave*

## Club Contacts - Volunteers



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### The Engineer

An Engineer dies and goes to Hell.

Dissatisfied with the level of comfort, he starts designing and building improvements.

After a while, Hell has air conditioning, iced water, flush toilets, and escalators, and the Engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day God calls and asks Satan, "So, how are things going down there?"

Satan says, "Why, things are going great. We've now got air conditioning, iced water, flush toilets and escalators, and there's no telling what this Engineer is going to come up with next!"

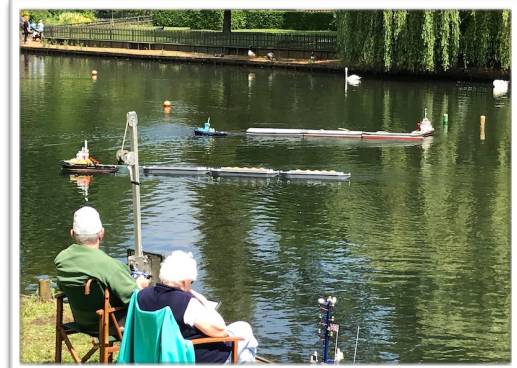
God is horrified. "What? You've got an Engineer? That's clearly a mistake – he should never have gone down there! You know all Engineers go to Heaven. Send him up here immediately!!!"

### Tug Towing by Tony Simons

There have been a consistently good number of members at the tug sessions with a lot of activity on the water with an interesting variety of tug types and sizes appearing, it's good to see the interest in all types of tugs from the original steam to latest state of the art.

Many are always exploring additional features to enhance the tug performance. I certainly find the conversations about how to achieve them very interesting, one of the innovations being explored is the use of brushless motors in the Azimuth drives by our VP editor, all in the quest for more power. I am speculating we may see the fastest tug in the club emerge in 2019 (That maybe worthy of a special award!)

Unfortunately, there were insufficient runs to award trophies in any category for 2018 as you will have seen the competition is relaxed & friendly, we try to mix old hands and new for paired tows and there is nothing to stop anyone taking the barges round on their own as a single tow.



A more relaxed approach to  
Tug Towing competition

At the last meeting we had a practice session for the team demonstrating "Tug Towing" at the May show that seemed to go well - suspiciously too well.

Also as part of the May show subject to insurance cover we may share towing the rescue boat around the lake with two passengers on board who have had their names drawn from a raffle, still several hurdles to jump before this becomes an event.

Plan B: Phil is the organiser for the Kent team he has several costumes one being Gandolph his beard is real, we could tow Gandolph around for a short while.

(If the above looks likely to happen I serve notice now, I am not planning on being towed in the rescue boat as my fellow tug skippers tend to tow me under the low over hanging trees)



Billy no-mates? No! Jon gave Tony the wrong day for the  
Tug Towing meeting.





Satan says, "No way, I really like having an Engineer on the staff. I'm keeping him."

God says, "Send him back up here or I'll sue you."

"Yeah, right," Satan laughs, "and where are you going to get a lawyer?"

#### **Bottle of wine...a touching story.**

For all of us who are married, were married, wish you were married, or wish you weren't married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a Bottle of Wine.

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road.

As the trip had been a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman.

The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail; until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

'What in bag?' asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, 'It's a bottle of wine ... I got it for my husband.'

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder,

she said:

'Good trade.'

## **Yachting By John Price**

### **Lovely Yachts**

Now that our 8 house guests have left and I am sitting in the shattered remains of our house, my thoughts are turning to calming, watery matters. Unfortunately I have the lurgy at the moment but as soon as that has gone it will be time to look at the weather forecast and get up to Beale Park.

The pontoon rebuild has been postponed until the summer but a small addition of some buoyancy is planned soon that should make it more level and stable.

Now is the time to give our yachts a good "once over". Check hulls for cracks and leaks, renew any frayed rigging or sheets, make mast head wind indicators, check batteries, order new ones, check out radios with particular care for servos (I've just had my transmitter serviced and both stick units replaced, the tracks were worn out), lubricate rudder bearings, goose necks, turnbuckles and anything else that needs to move smoothly. Also make sure your deck eyes are all secure. I'm sure you will find other things that need a bit of TLC once you start looking.

Yachts are so reliable that we tend to forget about maintenance but things need to be done before the start of the season so that, at the first regatta, people don't miss out on races because of some malfunction.

The 2019 season kicks off on March the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 13:00 with a warm up event for us to check out our boats on the water. If you need help with anything you can bring along any yacht. If anyone wants to try yachting, come along and have a go on one of ours. There should be time to fit in some unofficial races too. If you need to have your Sunday lunch then come about 2 o'clock, we'll still be there as long as the weather is OK.

Official racing starts in April on the 6<sup>th</sup> with ViFi65 (Victorias, Fiestas and DF65s ) at 10:00 and Handicap for any yachts at 13:00.

21<sup>st</sup> of April is DF95 in the morning and IOM in the afternoon.

28<sup>th</sup> of April is ViFi65 in the morning and Handicap in the afternoon.

A busy month for the sailors.

Wishing everyone blue skies and northerly winds for the whole of 2019.

### **Scale by Colin Mears**

#### **Overview 2018**

We have come to the end of another sailing season. I hope all of you who were at Scale Sundays enjoyed the sailing and banter. Regrettably the number of members attending the scale events were down this year. Where have all those wonderful scale models gone?

#### **Ideas for 2019**

Are scale sailors tired of the competition at meetings being similar in format at every meeting or would they prefer an afternoon with relaxed sailing and chat? If any of you have any ideas for changes to scale meetings please let the committee or me know and we will try to accommodate your ideas.

One idea I have been toying with, is at one or two meetings next season all the members present will judge the boats and place them in order of preference. Boats will be given points based on the static judging. Boats will then sail a course where points will be given. The boat with the best combined score will be the

I JUST discovered my age group! I am a Seenager (Senior teenager). I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 55-60 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work.

I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared?

And I don't have acne.

Life is Good! Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a Seenager.

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much.

People do not decline mentally with age; it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains.

Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!!

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names.

So please forward this to your friends; they may be my friends, too.

winner. Another possibility will be to judge the boats on the water for realistic sailing.

It is your club please let the committee or me have your comments on the above.

Finally, I would like to stress that all club members with any boat (or without a boat) are welcome. It is big lake with plenty of room for all of us.

I nearly forgot, if you have a scale boat and only want to sail it in the company of other members but do not want to compete bring it along, enjoy sailing it and join in the banter.

Hope to see you lakeside next season.

Colin

### From the Editor

Anyone who was interested in the photos of the CMB4 (Coastal Motor Boat 4) at Duxford in the last copy of VP. Here is an explanation of how they were operated from one of our members Joe Lliffe.

The torpedo was carried on the stern deck facing forward. The CMB was running fast towards the target, the torpedo engine started. The torpedo was then slipped off the CMB stern but was going forwards. The CMB then had to get out of the way. The CMBs had a crew of two. The engine was direct drive with no gearbox or astern drive. The Navy was based in Finland and sailed across the Baltic to attack the Russians at Kronstad.

For further details you can take a look at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HM\\_Coastal\\_Motor\\_Boat\\_4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HM_Coastal_Motor_Boat_4)

