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



April 2019

Issue 162

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Fast Electrics

- Club500
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- First meeting of 2019

Quiz Night Special

Dates for your diary

- **Sat 6th April** **Round 1**
Yachting DF95s **10am**
IOM **1pm**
Outside lake
- **Sat 13th April** **Round 1**
Tug Towing Free sailing &
competition **10am > 3:30pm**
- **Sun 21st April** **Round 1**
Yachting Fiesta/Victoria **10am**
Handicap any yacht **1pm**
Outside lake
- **Sat 27th April** **Round 1**
F/E Inside Lake **10am**
Club500 & F600B
Wacky Races & RWYB **1:30pm**
Outside Lake
- **Sun 28th April** **Round 2**
Yachting Fiesta/Victoria **10am**
Handicap any yacht **1pm**
Outside lake
- **Sat 4th > Sun 5th May**
Beale Park Model Boat Show
10am > All Day
Inside lake



Quizmaster Ian with the winning team at the AGM & Quiz Night

Chairman's Corner by Tony Simons

Membership

I would like to say welcome aboard to new members who have recently joined and thank you to members that have renewed their membership, my thanks to Roger for his efforts in negotiating with Beale Park to streamline the process and reduce paperwork.

If payment was by BACs but you didn't let Roger know please contact him so that he can issue your 2019 card/s then he can update the records he forwards to the Beale Park so that your electronic Beale Park token can be updated on their system. If you have been in contact with Roger but not received a membership card please call/email to let him know.

The first time you enter Beale Park after renewal please give the slip of paper that came with your new membership card to one of the reception staff, they will use this to identify you have paid and will update your Beale Park token

I have agreed with Beale Park to issue a reminder: Please be aware your reduced season ticket to Beale Park as a member of our club gives you access to the outer lake, inner lake, toilets and café. It isn't a ticket to roam the park in the same manner as a member of the public who has paid the full fees.

Concurs de Elegance

The Club Evening Meeting on 17th January included a display of boats in build, Bring & Buy, Concurs Competition judging. Raffle, tea, coffee and biscuits.

Dates for your diary

- **Sat 11th May** **Round 2**
Tug Towing Free sailing & competition **10am > 3:30pm**
- **Sat 12th May** **Round 2**
Yachting DF95s **10am**
IOM **1pm**
Outside lake
- **Sat 25th May** **Round 2**
F/E Inside Lake **10am**
Club500 & F600B
Wacky Races & RWYB **1:30pm**
Outside Lake
- **Sun 26th May** **Club Sunday**
From **12pm > 4pm**
Scale competition **Round 1**
Social sailing any type of boat inside lake
- **Sun 9th June** **Round 3**
Yachting Fiesta/Victoria **10am**
Handicap any yacht **1pm**
Outside lake
- **Sat 15th June** **Round 3**
Tug Towing Free sailing & competition **10am > 3:30pm**
- **Sun 16th June** **Club Sunday**
From **12pm > 4pm**
Scale competition **Round 2**
Social sailing any type of boat inside lake
- **Sat 22nd June** **Round 3**
Yachting DF95s **10am**
IOM **1pm**
Outside lake
- **Sat 29th June** **Round 3**
F/E Inside Lake **10am**
Club500 & F600B
Wacky Races & RWYB **1:30pm**
Outside Lake

Jon entered his recently acquired Mobile Marine Models Tug in the Concours de Elegance competition and was clearly delighted with the winning trophy presented by John Price. I am not sure that John was quite so impressed with his attempted celebratory kiss.



AGM & Quiz Night

The AGM was held in February, my thanks to the membership for permitting me again to circulate all paperwork, collect comments that need resolving in advance, once again a very short meeting permitting time to get onto something more interesting. Ian very kindly organised a quiz containing a fair number of nautical questions as is fitting of a model boat club. I am happy to say that I had the privilege of working with an excellent team consisting of Guy Carter, Renee Carter, John Price and we managed to **win!** with 16 points. (That's a first for me in several years)

May 4th & 5th Beale Park Model Boat Show.

For the benefit of new members this is Beale Parks show, Kent Model Boat Display Team with our club jointly organise this event. Members are requested to volunteer anything from a few hours to a whole day to assist in putting on the show.

I will circulate a list of areas to cover and request you to please let me know if you can help and when, normally all duties are covered permitting half day inputs by individuals more is always welcome. The show has a variety of activities taking place on the water as well as displays of a wide variety of models display.

At the time of writing we have approximately 17 clubs attending the May show.

We are joined this year by Swindon Radio Controlled Trucks with a large operating display to be located in the Beale Centre, also there will be a selection of models for sale on a stand raising money for "Help For Hero's alongside will be a Willis Jeep.

Civil Consultancy (Chairman's version)

March 11th our chief consultant in all things civil (alias Membership Secretary) was spotted rectifying the gravel areas that had sunk. (Strong suspicion something stronger than gravel



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

For Sale



Meccano Evolution 5

Electric motor, gears & full instructions. Complete as far as I know plus a few extra pieces. **£25**

Contact Chris Withey
chriswithey@sky.com

maybe in the white bags the clue maybe the cement bag in the bottom left of the picture.)

My thanks to Roger for coming up with a plan and executing it with help from Beale Parks Ray & Andy.

Civil Consultancy (Membership Secretary's version)

I see our Chairman has been at it again - encouraging you to publish pictures with only half the story attached - he would make a good tabloid journalist - you should consider offering him a job!

He fails to record several pertinent facts that you may wish, in the long tradition of true and noble reporting in VP, to correct. Especially if you are going to publish that second rate picture!

1 - The chairman was deeply involved yesterday. (I cannot be too rude, as he did buy me a sausage baguette!)

He played a big part in making the magic mix, which was then placed in the magic white bags, which he carefully positioned in such a way that he splashed himself every time. He then used his Thames Water approved safety boot to batter them into position.

2 - He refers to me as a civil consultant. Please understand this is a double-entendre meaning not only can I, with some knowledge of what happens when you mix sand, cement, and some duck-fouled ballast prior to putting them in a non-waterproof bag, and leaving them in water for evermore, advise the chairman on the easiest and cheapest way to reinforce some of the failing sections of bank, but also, I can do it politely! (I was always suspicious of the term "civil engineer". My experience of these gentlemen has been that should anything affect the smooth progress of their latest pet project, they can often prove themselves to be extremely uncivil, in terms that would make a trooper blush!

3 - Should any of your readers have their suspicions about the use of the heavy duty rake in my hand, it is intended in this instance for the easy moving and spreading of ballast, but the I suppose that as the ballast is generally covered in duck-muck, you could say it is also useful for muck raking! So when doing your stint as chief grass and weed strimmer during the summer, you will feel like a real journalist!

4 - The chairman notes the help given by the park rangers. He fails to mention that whilst they were very helpful in using their rather large pick-up truck to transport heavy materials from my car to our compound, he fails to add they have also dug a large hole immediately inside our gate, making access for those of us too senior in years to shin over fences, rather perilous. Some excuse about providing a water supply to the "dry plant" area, and the nearest water main, supplying the cafe etc, happens to run right under our entrance!

5 - Last but not least, I must emphasis that our chairman has photographed the work at a "Work in Progress" stage. Today's programme was intended to show the chairman this system will work, but the amount achieved was limited by how many bags of sharp sand I am prepared to load into my car, and by how long muscles would survive! Probably two further sessions will be needed, but we might get away with one. Watch this space!

Regards, your civil membership secretary. Roger

Web Site Gallery

If you haven't seen it already Chris has created a new menu option - Gallery - this will display photos of club events and models.

A number of photos have already been submitted, so why not send him your interesting club photo, but please remember to add a short caption to any you'd like added.

In order to make space on the menu for the new Gallery option the Contacts page has been appended to the Members page.

Fast Electrics by Dave Parker

The first Fast Electric meeting of the year took place on Saturday April 30th in warm sunshine and under a cloudless sky. This "come and have a try with a loan boat, or bring your own boat, tune up advice, practice and free sailing" format attracted a good number of existing racers and potential racers from the wider membership.

Club500

All is looking good for another full season of racing. Indications are that once again we will have a full field of competitors including some new entrants.

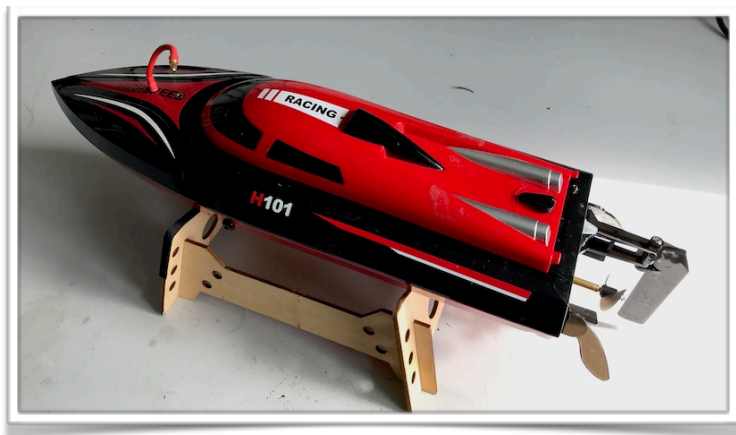
F600B

We have managed to source some suitable motors for replacement, or for fitting to new boats. There are now 2 options should racers suffer bearing failure in their motors. 1) Dave can replace the bearings at a cost of £12 or 2) Buy a replacement motor at a total cost of £26 which will include a water cooling jacket.

Talk to Tony or Dave.

Wacky Races

Activity on the outside lake included testing of potential HAG boats. There is still some work to do on these boats but when they are complete there should be a medium speed and a high speed boat available for members to give Wacky Races a try.



This is a Skytech H101 modified to suit our requirements. The slower of the two boats but stable and easy to drive. Following our testing a little work is required to ensure it will self right and then it needs some radio gear fitted and it will be ready to go.

Club Contacts - Your Committee



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Treasurer & Steam Team Leader
Ian Hughes

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Membership Secretary
Roger Strudwicke

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This is the faster boat but a handful to drive at maximum speed. It is a Pro-Boat Recoil which I just need to fit with a safety loop and it should be ready to go.

Run What Ya Brung

This part of the day was well attended with a good variety of Fast Electric boats running at various times.

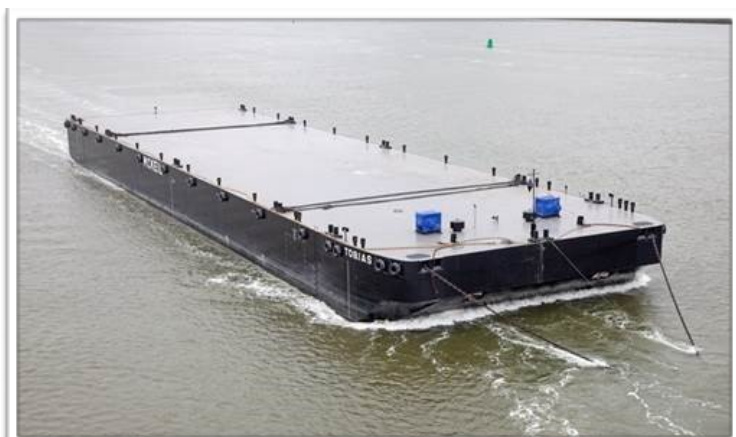
Unfortunately there was one sinking which should provide more work for the High Tech department of Simons Bros. Salvage.

The large R/C model rescue boat was in regular use. This boat offers a convenient option to launching the full sized rescue boat.

See you lakeside Dave

Tug Towing by Tony Simons

A small number of hardy tug skippers attended on a dry but cold a draughty day, we all took shelter in the club house for lunch to get out of the wind. Some of the skippers took the small barges around the lake for an exercise, I would have liked to join them but managed to leave my transmitter in a very safe place...at home. Peter had his scale model of a large transport barge to test ballasting, his barge is of the type used to transport large sections of oil production platforms similar to the pictures below.



Peter has given me an outline of how such a barge was picked up by tugs when loaded at a fabrication yard the tow down a restricted channel followed by a re arrangement of towing tugs

Club Contacts - Your Committee



Yachting Leader
John Price

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Ladies & Associates



Representative
Janet Burch

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for the deep sea on a long haul. I will be discussing this with fellow skippers as it brings additional challenges to our existing exercises.



If anyone would like to build a crane we can mount across two of the 4' barges with the lift being radio controlled we can then un load Peter's barge and relocate the load to a given position using two tugs either side of the crane barges to manoeuvre.

"Have Ago Tug" Hagrid has suffered a seizure of one of its drives, I have removed it to rebuild, hopefully Hagrid will be back in service at the next towing session on twin drives.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Saturday 13th of April.

Tony

Quiz Night Special

On the night the quiz included some interesting questions on Nautical Terms, which I think it's fair to say, the competitors struggled with. Ian has kindly sent me the questions and answers for VP readers. How many did you know?

Q1 What does CABOTAGE mean?

Answer: Shipping and sailing between points in the same country or territory by a shipper or haulier based in a different country.

Q2 What is a COCKET?

Answer: Official shipping seal; customs clearance form (from old English law).

Q3 What is FARDAGE?

Answer: Wood placed in the bottom of ship to keep cargo (on top) dry or to prevent goods moving around in hull. Sometimes also known as DUNNAGE.

Q4 What is a GUDGEON?

Answer: Metal socket in to which the Pintle of a boat's rudder fits or used to create a hinge point.

Here are a few new ones you can have a go at.

What is a BALLASTER?

Answer: One who supplies ships with ballast.

What is a BOLTROPE?

Club Contacts - Volunteers



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Dave Parker**

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**Scale Leader
Colin Mears**

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Answer: Strong rope stitched to the edges of a sail.

What is BOTTOMRY?

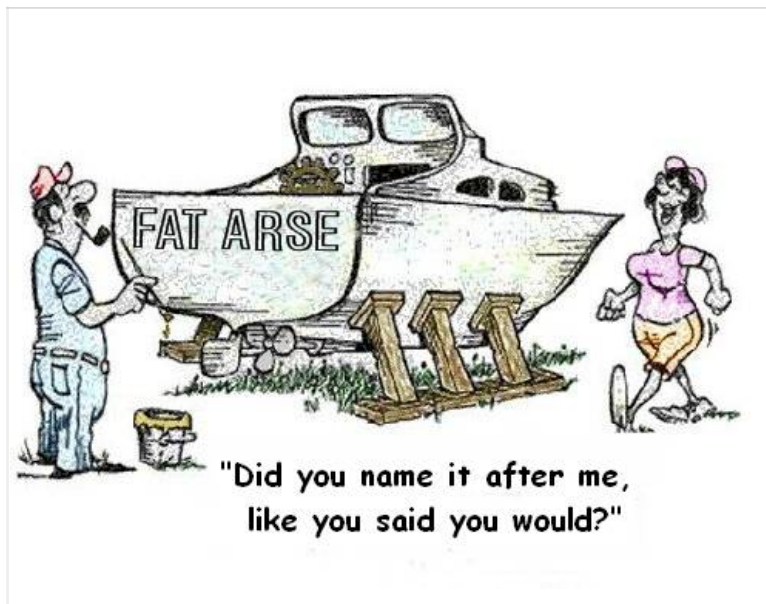
Answer: Using the value of the ship as collateral to finance a sea voyage.

Apologies for a slightly shorter newsletter this time. I have included some funnies in this part of the text to avoid having to make major changes to the layout. ed.



WARNING! GRAPHIC BOATING INCIDENT.

THIS IS A PICTURE OF A MAN WITH JUST SECONDS LEFT TO LIVE AND HAS NO IDEA IT'S COMING!
(FRIGHTENING!)



£25 cash in hand and I will reveal which member of your Committee sent this to be include in VP. ed.

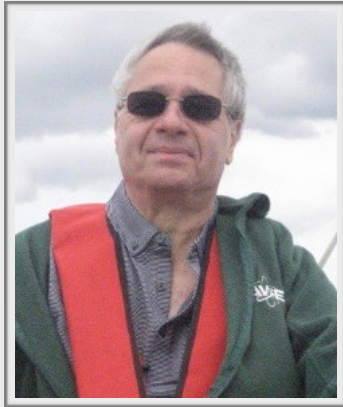
Engineers

Understanding Engineers 1

Two engineering students were biking across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?"

The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want."

Club Contacts - Volunteers



**Webmaster
Chris Withey**
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The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice; The clothes probably wouldn't have fit you anyway."

Understanding Engineers 2

To the optimist, the glass is half-full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty.

To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

Understanding Engineers 3

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers.

The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!"

The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!"

The priest said, "Here comes the greens-keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello George,

What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?"

The greens-keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime!"

The group fell silent for a moment.

The priest said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight."

The doctor said, "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything she can do for them."

The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night

Understanding Engineers 4

What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers?

Mechanical engineers build weapons. Civil engineers build targets.

Understanding Engineers 5

The graduate with a science degree asks, "Why does it work?"

The graduate with an engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"

The graduate with an accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with an arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

Understanding Engineers 6

Three engineering students were gathered together discussing who must have designed the human body.

One said, "It was a mechanical engineer. Just look at all the joints."

Another said, "No, it was an electrical engineer. The nervous system has many thousands of electrical connections."

The last one said, "No, actually it had to have been a civil engineer. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area?"

Understanding Engineers 7

Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.



Here are some Funny Boat Names!

I know of loads of people who own boats seem to like naming their boats with some silly boat names which are a play on words in regards to their floating vessels.

Here are some very funny examples I've come across due to my extensive shonky research!

Would you call your boat any of these? I'd be tempted!

Some of the best funny boat names I've seen include:

Seas The Day

She Got The House

Feeling Nauti

Usain Boat

Nautiboy

Unsinkable II

Aboat Time

To Sea or Knot To Sea

Costaplenty

Beeracuda

Passing Wind

She'll Get Over It

Hydro Therapy

Bow Movement

Farfrompuken

The Codfather

Pier Pressure

Cirrhosis of the River

Campbells Condensed Sloop

Marlin Monroe

Aquaholic

Dijabringabeeralong

Moor Often Than Knot

Yeah Buoy

Understanding Engineers 8

An engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess."

He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn back into a beautiful princess and stay with you for one week."

The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want."

Again, the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog - now that's cool."

And Finally

Two engineers were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking at its top. A blonde walked by and asked what they were doing.

"We're supposed to find the height of this flagpole," said Sven, "but we don't have a ladder."

The blonde took an adjustable spanner from her purse, loosened a couple of bolts, and laid the pole down on the ground.

Then she took a tape measure from her purse, took a measurement, announced, "6.5 metres," and walked away.

One engineer shook his head and laughed, "A lot of good that does us. We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

Both engineers have since quit their engineering jobs and are currently serving as elected members of Parliament.

