

Ribble Model Boat Club

September NEWSLETTER 2012



Shortly after our return from China, my wife was rushed into hospital with pneumonia, consequently this newsletter has been much delayed. Please accept my apologies for that. Malcolm

Sadly, we report the death of Rowland Johnson. The club was well represented at his funeral - please see page 2

HAYDOCK SHOW

This spectacular show passed off well at the end of August and was bigger than ever. The theme was "Tugs" and there were hundreds of tugs present. Your Chairman and tug nut Phil took the opportunity to take an individual stand behind the club stand to display his entire tug fleet which has long been an ambition. His tug Tai Koo came second in the Best Tug In Show competition. The Club stand was well populated by good models and quite a few tugs. Gerry Cox won the Best On Stand Award with his tug model of Oakgarth. Thanks to all members who took part and manned the stall.

We played "Tug Football" on both days and it was particularly spectacular on the Saturday. We challenged the Isle of Man club to a return match following our defeat at Blackpool last year. Amazingly 12 tugs, six a side, took to the pond and indulged in 25 minutes of frenzied mayhem which we won about 20 goals to 7. A large crowd enjoyed it and I am told it will be on You Tube. The commentator and pundit Dave Wolley said it was the best thing he had seen on a pond for a very long time!

We also played amongst ourselves on Sunday with 3 a side and again it went down well - as did one or two of the tugs! The chairman loaned out some crystals to allow all to participate and some were not returned, can you bring them to next meeting if you have any such tx/rx crystals.

Looking forward to next year when the theme will be "pleasure boats" which we assume will not extend to the "perfumed sampans" plied by the night ladies of Hong Kong!

BLACKPOOL SHOW

The Blackpool show will soon be upon us and is as usual at Norbreck Castle hotel Blackpool on 20-21st October.

We will have our usual stand and no doubt IOM will be seeking tug football revenge. Lots of traders present.

Details will be discussed at the October meeting and arrangements will be managed by Tony as your Chairman will be 12,000 miles away in Australia and NZ at the time.

I believe there is no free admission but entry is £5.50 on the door or £9 for both days. Setting up times are as usual on the Friday afternoon and early Sat morning.

OTHER EVENTS

We have been advised that Bury MBC will be running their annual tug day at the Bury Lido on Sunday 23 Sept from 10 am, and Etherow club will be holding their first "Warships Day" at their pond on the same day. All are welcome and it doesn't have to be a tug or warship. Take your choice.

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will be one of "Phils technical talks" and will be an illustrated wide ranging talk on hulls, both real and model, including amongst other topics-

Hull openings, markings, anodes, terminology, plus stability both real and model, scale speed, realism and weathering, et al. In short something for everyone and not to be missed.

Many people build extremely detailed models with the right number of rivets etc but this often stops at the deck level or waterline and ignores the wealth of detail needed on a hull to bring it to the same standard.

If any member would like to bring along a model or WIP hull we can make suggestions on how to detail it.

CLUB TRIP

For some time we have considered a members day out to Barrow to visit the DOCK MUSEUM (major model collection) and the docks themselves and generally make a day of it, there may be a beer involved!

A date has been set for SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, departing at say 9.30 am.

This will be a car based outing needing two or three volunteer drivers with passengers contributing to fuel costs equitably.

A good departure point would be at the Church/pond car park at Leyland as this is free for those leaving a car behind.

Would any member wishing to attend please let Phil or Stephen Rawcliffe know a.s.a.p so we can organise logistics and numbers, if you don't want to drive you can go as a passenger with someone. We will then get back to you to confirm the final arrangements.

Tel Phil 01772 629363

Stephen 01253 875520

Rowland Johnson

RMBC member 1997 – 2012



Following early retirement from his career as a Life Insurance Inspector Rowland found time to develop his life-long interest in all things technical culminating in a revival of his childhood interest in model boats.

Originally a member of Blackburn MBC he was one of the dozen or so people at the inaugural meeting of the RMBC in Oct 97 where his enthusiasm and encouragement contributed to the club going from strength to strength.

He scratch built boats to a standoff scale achieving great satisfaction from producing them entirely from unwanted (for the most part at least!) household items. His material of choice was cardboard and he devised his own laminating method to produce sturdy and durable models.

To promote the hobby to youngsters in the local area the club occasionally visited schools and youth groups with a mobile pond and selection of boats where Rowland's chosen livery of bright yellow proved a great hit. He took great delight in their reaction at being told they were made of nothing more than old cornflake packets and bits of everyday objects.

After a few years the post of Club Secretary became vacant and Rowland volunteered to fill the position. It was a role he pursued with characteristic dedication and professionalism and was rarely seen without his with his clipboard and pen, taking notes and forging new contacts.

Failing health and the loss of his wife led to Rowland's interest in sailing his own craft diminish for several years but throughout he always encouraged and supported other members and he never stopped promoting the club and making new members feel welcome. Whilst unable to help out with the more physically demanding pond maintenance activities he always turned up to provide moral support and much appreciated tea and biscuits.

In 2007 he stepped down from being club secretary and was awarded an honorary life membership of the club in recognition of his devotion to, and furtherance of, the club.

Despite his declining health his interest in his model fleet revived and he managed to occasionally sail them again prior to becoming wheelchair bound for his last few years. With a little help from club members however, he made sure that even that did not deter him from attending the monthly meetings, pond events and model boat shows. Model boating was a passion he held to the end.

Rowland passed away on the 4th Sept 2012 age 84. He was a true gentleman, a ready wit and good friend. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed.

Dave Pye

I am sure that we would all like to express our thanks to Dave for all the help that he has given to Rowland in recent times. Without his efforts, Rowland would not have been able to attend the club events that he enjoyed so much.