

Ribble Model Boat Club

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2014



The last two meetings went well under the guidance of Dave Pye. For those unable to attend the following is a resume.

The **March** meeting was attended by 20 members and Dave and Jerry did a fine double act on 'aspects of boat electronics' which was well received.

The **April** meeting was attended by 16 members as a "bring a model" night and it is pleasing to note that 8 "projects" were brought along and everyone had something to say about them.

The **May 12th** meeting is a technical night and Phil will update his "20 modelling no no's" with a slide show of accumulated modelling bloopers, followed by some demonstrations about how to do it right. We will also look at the first stages of dealing with a fibreglass hull, fettling etc, and Dave Pye will present a session on batteries. This is exactly what model boat clubs are for, so a good turnout please and can we please have as many members as possible bring something along either to seek advice or to give advice on problems solved. Any boat or part boat welcome.

On a housekeeping note, some member's subscriptions are still outstanding, please pay at the May meeting, also tickets (£2) will be being sold for the **JUNE 9th BBQ** meeting/pond night.

If anyone has any relevant DVDs or Videos for Dave to copy for the club film library please bring them along, they will be returned when copied.

POND MATTERS

Unfortunately, at the moment the pond is infested with the dreaded green algae weed and is virtually unsailable. Barry is arranging for the pond to be treated in the winter as a preventative measure, but clearing what is there now is difficult.

We are hoping that in the 3 weeks now remaining to the May 17th Fun Day the weed may improve. If not we will have to do some physical removal in the morning.

The pond nights on Wednesday evening are still there if anyone wants to go down, but the weed will be a problem We are proposing to check it before the May meeting and advise members then of the Wednesday night situation.

I am pleased to report that despite some nail biting moments the flags have now been laid at the pond and facilities are much better. Barry will now source a suitable table/bench.

The story of the flags bears some telling. All was set for the weekend of 26/27 April with Community Service teams set up to do the donkey work. Your Chairman went to Berry's Merchants after Easter to order a ton of sand and 4 bags of cement and all details were taken, but right at the end they announced that the very earliest they could deliver it was Monday 28th! Cancel order. Then proceed to B&Q for discount Wednesday and ordered 40 x 25KG bags of sand and 4 bags of cement for delivery on Sat morning. Sorry, we only do deliveries for orders over £100, and it will be £20. So I agree we will collect it on Saturday morning and duly paid, with 10% discount.

Now 40 bags of sand is no small quantity so what to do about transport, fortunately Jerry agreed we could use his van, so it was arranged for him to attend at 10 am on Saturday to collect from B&Q.

Chris Morris was supposed to come and act as our resident "expert" and bring an angle grinder and cement mixer, but unfortunately he has not been well, in hospital in fact, and his attendance was touch and go. I rang him on the Friday evening to check and he said he had been feeling worse, but he would see if he could make Saturday. In the event he didn't come so I thought we had lost our flagging expertise. I am sure we all wish him well and a speedy recovery.

I then got an email from the Probation Service to say that their Sunday supervisor had gone off ill after an op' and they could only do Saturday, but to make up would arrange for TWO teams and supervisors to attend on the Saturday! This seemed like a bit of overkill with possibly 14 people falling over each other - and could they also come on Tuesday to finish off if not completed. This would be difficult as I was to be away on Tuesday.

The weather forecast for Saturday was not great, but I arrived at the pond about 9.30 am to await developments, fortunately the rain stopped just then and the sun came out.

Just then four young ladies with tattoos, and ciggies in mouth approached me at the gate and announced that one of them was being married that day, the reception was in the club and they would be using the garden for photos! It was all arranged with the church. Can it get any worse? Actually they were due at 3pm and the photos were in the top end of the garden so no conflict, phew!

At 10.15 the teams arrived, fortunately just 7 of them and 2 supervisors. Specially chosen as "The A team", one was a groundworker, two were builders, and one was a plasterer, and the two supervisors were also handy at ground work. Great you may think, but the first hour was spent with everyone having their own opinion as to how the flags should be arranged, on what kind of base, at what angle etc, etc. Fortunately the supervisor had a flat bed van so he took me to B&Q to collect the materials which was not without some bureaucratic delays at B&Q.

When we returned a degree of agreement had been reached and with my casting vote on method, work commenced, but without a mixer or Stihl saw. The cement was just mixed on the grass.(what grass).

They worked briefly until 12.15 then it was "dinner", so off to the chippy for an hour. On return to be fair they all worked well and hard as roles and method had been agreed. A race against time, and the arriving bride saw the job done by 3 pm and they were off!

One kept saying, "not bad work for a gang of criminals eh", to which his mate replied, "no, but I was innocent!" It was very entertaining, and in the end a good job was done, the sun shone, - the long delayed flagging is complete.

HARROGATE M.E. SHOW.

A reminder that the Harrogate Show is on from 9 - 11th May and is an excellent day out, with a very good and increasing model boat content. Some of the engineering models are magnificent. Your Chairman has 4 boats on display on the "Model Ship Society" stand.

REGATTA/FUN DAY 17th May

The annual fun day is almost upon us, hopefully the weed will subside in time. Final arrangements will be discussed at the May meeting and duties assigned. Can we have a maximum turnout for this, our biggest club day. Also could all those members who have been acquiring/building Pollux tugs bring them along for some tug action and/or football. A chance to test them out!

Put the date in your diary/calendar now.

