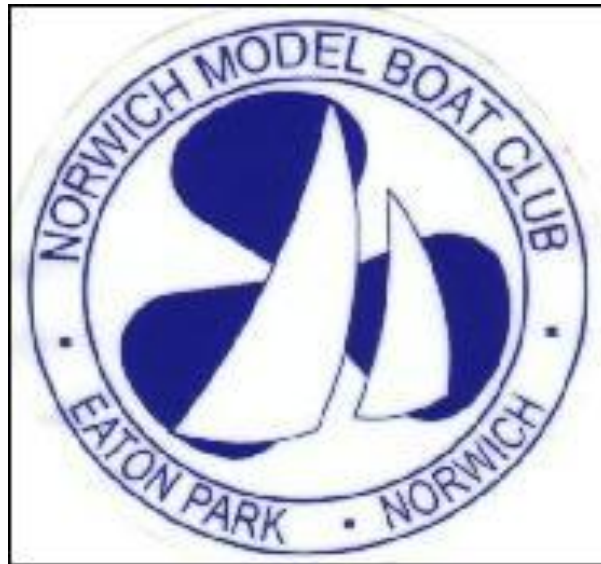


Norwich Model Boat Club



www.norwichmodelboatclub.com

The Crow's Nest
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May 2010
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Chairman's thoughts' - Dennis Pond

It doesn't seem possible that three months has slipped by since the last newsletter. This period has been dominated by the three following events: - the new committee, a frozen pond and the double yellow line bombshell.

As I only served very briefly on a previous committee, I feel I have really been pushed into the deep end. It has been a sharp learning curve and I hope I have not caused too many ripples. I think and feel that we are all settling in together. We have had a few hiccups with the paperwork as we are running without an admin officer, but I think it is all now under control.

The frozen pond did create difficulties for many weeks and only the brave ventured into ice breaking. However, it is all gone now and hopefully we are in for a long period of good weather and great sailing.

The council are looking into some specialised cleaning equipment for the pond following our previous request. It will mean some input from members to make the thing viable on a cost basis. This was discussed by the committee and it was felt that this would be acceptable if it solved the weed problem.

We now come to the most contentious issue of all, the double yellow lines. For those who have not seen the considerable correspondence from the club to the Council and back, I will give a very short summary.

Notice of the intention to install lines first arrived to me by e-mail on 29th January. We decided that the way forward was to ask for a twelve month deferment to push for a car park. A written submission for a stay of execution was also submitted for consideration at the meeting. I also asked for a meeting with the Transport Manager at the Council, which Tim and I attended, and came out feeling hopeful. We also contacted the Friends of Eaton Park, the local Councillor, the Bowls Club and Simon Meek at the Council. We were to attend the NHAC meeting on the 25th March at City Hall, but a week before; I was informed that the proposal was to go ahead. We decided that there was little point in attending. It was passed on the due date and the lines are to be implemented within two months. I have requested that we should be given two weeks notice before the work starts.

This is a regretful state for the members, and I am very sorry that I and the rest of the Committee were not able to stop this, despite our best efforts. All we can do now is to concentrate our efforts into pushing for a car park, albeit I fear, far less than what we really need. I'm afraid that there has got to be a certain amount of realism adopted, as the forces reigned against any parking in the park are quite vocal.

Disabled Blue Badge drivers will be able to park up to three hours where the lines are installed; otherwise it's ten minutes for unloading. The place to unload is the rough ground

near the bus stop. Any member with any other suitable suggestions, please contact myself or one of the Committee.

On a lighter note, we have a full regatta list and quite a few outside shows to look forward to in the summer. I therefore wish you all 'happy sailing'.

Mid Season members Meeting

As you may remember, I suggested this meeting when I was first appointed as Chairman as I thought twelve months between meetings was too long. I would be grateful if you could give me any feedback as to its value.

Various correspondences from the Council were read out informing members of the latest news.

1. Liquid Plastics have agreed to make a site visit on Friday 14th May to look at the leaking roof. This was first reported on the 19th January and has taken all but four months to reach this stage!
2. The Council are in discussion with English Heritage about a car park for the new skate park. Depending on their response could determine how the Council moves forward on our proposed parking area.
3. We had two complaints from the Council. One concerning disabled users, the other about IC boats. A reply was sent stating that the disabled members were fully adhering to the parking requirements, and the protocols for IC racers were fully explained. The club has no control over members of the public.
An incident concerning a disabled member of the public was also reported and an e-mail was drafted and sent to Open Spaces at the Council. As you can see from a copy of the e-mail which is included in this newsletter, the club has perhaps in the past, too often been blamed for actions of the general public.

There was some criticism about the way the club website is being operated. I have had a discussion with Paul Holman, who feels that due to work commitments, he has not been able to devote enough time to this project. Therefore, he has decided to pass on the mantle to somebody else. I have been approached by another member who is prepared to take this on, so I hope to be able to inform you via the notice board, very shortly, who will be the new Webmaster.

There followed a lively debate about steam boiler testing which was raised by Alan Jones. He was unhappy about the delays and specific protocols. Bill Porter and Ken Crook said that in future, a booklet would be issued to all interested parties and an appointment system would be introduced in collaboration with Paul Reed. Alan also felt that if it helped the situation, he would be prepared to pay a fee for testing. Paul Reed does this on a voluntary basis; the alternative would be to send all boilers to an outside agency. This would be very time consuming and expensive, so it was felt that the most appropriate way to overcome this was to offer Paul Reed an honorary membership. A decision was taken after the meeting by myself and Tim Beare and his membership fee is to be returned.

This concluded the meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Tim Beare

No Report Submitted.

Vice Chairman's Report – Paul Holman.

Is it May already?

I'm sat here 2 days before my annual trip to France, fishing for a week & have promised Dennis that this would go out before I left, so here goes.

You will no doubt notice that this instalment is a little thin, for whatever reason I've received only 1 report from your section heads this month – Thanks to Peter Wilkinson for making the effort.



Is it really that quite?

Newsletter Input

In the last newsletter, I suggested it would be nice to have input from the membership, well, surprise, surprise, with the exception of a couple of photo's from Josie Stone, nothing has been submitted. Come on people, give it a go, there's enough of you with opinions on a Sunday morning, let's see them in print.

Website

Due to some pretty major changes in my work this year I've hardly been up the pond on a Sunday, in fact I've not sailed a boat since last autumn.

However, I have been made aware that there are members who are not happy with the website content – not, I should add by those relevant people, but by Dennis.

I have therefore agreed with Dennis that if somebody else wants run it, they are more than welcome & if they contact me I will hand over the passwords etc', this will mean the new editor coming over to Watton one evening to sort the details.

On the odd occasion that I've been up on a Sunday, it's been good to see some of the Grey Jobs out & about & making a bit of a comeback & I know of a few on the slipways as we speak.

For Sale Page

At the end of the Newsletter is a for sale page, this is open to anybody & pictures are welcome (preferred) to accompany your ad'.



Nice Ton Class Minesweeper

Scale Section – Peter Wilkinson

Scale Regatta No: 2 report.

Due to the Bad weather on the 28th Feb', the first Regatta of the Season was cancelled.

We had mild, Overcast weather forecast for the start of the Regatta, with rain later in the day.

The conditions meant that all the Captains had a good first round & the calm water allowed them to show their skills around the buoys, especially Bill Porter, with his boat Felix.

However, by the time round two began, a slight breeze & rain had set in & this made the Harbours particularly difficult to negotiate.

For the close run points we used the Boston Harbour to decide positions between Tim Beare & Tony James, with honours going to Tony.

Results:

1 Bill Porter

2 Neil Gunn

3 Tony James

Notable mentions include Trevor Hurrell, Captaining his Flower Class Corvette – lights & all – excellent.

Neil Gunn also entered the competition with his lifeboat – between rounds, he took the opportunity to take some photographs which will hopefully soon be on the website (*They will if I ever get them! PH*).

Thanks to all who took part. See you next time.

Fast Electric Talk – Gary Ewing

No Report Submitted.

Yachting Section – Brian Jacob

No Report Submitted

Up Steam – Bill Porter

No Report Submitted

Digital Photos – “artistic” Licence.

You’re on the pond, your boat is perfectly placed for a nice low shot with the sun coming over your shoulder, everything’s perfect – except when you look at the shot your eye is taken by the Giants in the background or the telegraph pole growing out of your superstructure!

Back in the day of 35mm this would be just too bad & hopefully your depth of field would have been set to put the background out of focus, but in these days of digital photography we have art programs such as Adobe Photoshop to come to our aid (I use one called CS4).

With a little practice, you can replace (Clone) the offending items & create the “Perfect” shot.

I recently took this shot of an IJN Battleship and then cloned out the background, it’s not for everyone, but might be of interest to some of you.



Before



Background cloned out



There are several of these Art programs freely available on the Internet these days & a search of Google will throw up loads of easy to follow lessons on this & other simple techniques.

Members Items For Sale

FOR SALE. (Ready to sail - charge batteries + go!)

'Minerva', a 25" long Balsacraft 'Samurai' model,
powered by a MFA 'Stingray' 600 motor, and fitted with
Hitec 2-channel radio gear, including transmitter and
a spare set of crystals. £70.00 or near offer.

Contact Lez Brambley 01362 - 690777.

Norwich Model Boat Club Regatta List 2010

	Zone A	Zone B	Start	OOD
3rd Jan	Free Sail			
10th Jan	Free Sail	7 Cell Fast Electric	10.00	Gary Ewing
17th Jan	Free Sail	Mono 2 Class	10.00	David Clague
24th Jan	Free Sail	12 Cell Fast Electric	10.00	Gary Ewing
31st Jan	Free Sail	Jetski Racing		David Clague
7th Feb	Free Sail	3.5 Tunnel Hull / 7.5 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
14th Feb	Free Sail	Mono 2 Class		David Clague
21st Feb	Free Sail	7 Cell Fast Electric		Gary Ewing
28th Feb	Steering Course			P Wilkinson
7th mar	Free Sail	7.5 Tunnel Hull / 10.6 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
14th Mar	Free Sail	Jetski Racing		David Clague
21st mar	Free Sail	12 Cell Fast Electric		Gary Ewing
28th mar	Free Sail	3.5 Tunnel Hull / 7.5 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
4th April	Free Sail	Mono 2 Class		David Clague
11th April	Free Sail	7 Cell Fast Electric		Gary Ewing
18th April	Free Sail	7.5 Tunnel Hull / 10.6 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
25th April	Steering Course		10.00	P Wilkinson
2nd May	Mid Season Members Meeting Clubhouse		10.00	All Members
2nd May		Jetski Racing	10.00	David Clague
9th may	Free Sail	3.5 Tunnel Hull / 7.5 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
16th May	Warship & Submarine Meeting	Free sail	10.00	Dennis Pond
23rd May	Free Sail	12 Cell Fast Electric	10.00	Gary Ewing
30th May	Free Sail	7.5 Tunnel Hull / 10.6 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
6th June	Club Open day / Bring & buy sale		10.00	All Members
13th June	Steering Course		10.00	P Wilkinson
19 - 20 June	Oxburgh Hall Show			Dennis Pond
20th June	Free Sail	7 Cell Fast Electric	10.00	Gary Ewing
27th June	Free Sail	3.5 Tunnel Hull / 7.5 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
4th July	Free Sail	Jetski Racing	10.00	David Clague
11th July	Free Sail	12 Cell Fast Electric	10.00	Gary Ewing
18th July	Free Sail	Mono 2 Class	12.30	John Middleton
25th July	Steering Course	7.5 Tunnel Hull / 10.6 Mono	10.00	P Wilkinson
1st August	Gorleston Gala Day			P Wilkinson
8th August	National Submarine Meeting	Free sail	All Day	P Holman
15th August	Free Sail	3.5 Tunnel Hull / 7.5 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
22nd August	Free Sail	7 Cell Fast Electric	10.00	Gary Ewing
29th August	Club BBQ & Bring & Buy Sale		All Day	All Members
4 -5 Sept	Great Yarmouth Festival			P Wilkinson
5th Sept	Free Sail	Jetski Racing	10.00	David Clague
12th Sept	Warship & Submarine Meeting	7.5 Tunnel Hull / 10.6 Mono	10.00	P Holman
19th Sept	Steering Course		10.00	P Wilkinson
26th Sept	Free Sail	12 Cell Fast Electric	10.00	Gary Ewing
3rd Oct	Free Sail	3.5 Tunnel Hull / 7.5 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
10th Oct	Free Sail	Mono 2 Class	10.00	David Clague
17th Oct	Free Sail	7 Cell Fast Electric	10.00	Gary Ewing
24th Oct	Free Sail	Jetski Racing	10.00	David Clague
31st Oct	Free Sail	7.5 Tunnel Hull / 10.6 Mono	12.30	John Middleton
7th Nov	Steering Course		10.00	P Wilkinson
14th Nov	Free Sail	12 Cell Fast Electric	10.00	Gary Ewing
21st Nov	Free Sail	Mono 2 Class	10.00	John Middleton
28th Nov	Annual General meeting 2010 TBC		10.00	All
5th Dec	Free Sail	Free sail		
12th Dec	Free Sail	Free sail		
19th Dec	Free Sail	Free sail		
26th Dec	Free Sail	Free sail		