

The MBA Dover Newsletter



Issue 52 Spring 2017

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017, the Spring edition of KK.

In December we held our Christmas social which was really nice and cosy, the landlords of the Cricketers pub had laid out everything for us with Christmas crackers and decorations., this made the atmosphere feel very Christmassy and set us up for the festivities to come. The food was a tasty as always and there was plenty to go round. A fuller report will be found on page 5.

Our Treasurer Dave Cowlin has left us for a new life in Gloucestershire so that he and Olive can be nearer to their family. Dave has been a valued member of the MBAD for many years and latterly took on the job of Treasurer. We would like to thank Dave for his hard work in doing this very important job for us and for being so much of an active member.

The treasurers job is a very responsible one and we are very happy to learn that the position will be temporarily filled by Ted Goldring. Ted is already our Membership Secretary and he has now also offered to do this extra job for us. Thank you Ted.

Not only do we lose Dave as Treasurer, we will also loose seeing his wonderful models operating at our regattas, he regularly operated his immensely complicated Dredger, Admiral Day to the delight of the watching public and club members alike. His rowing models are also very well respected and drew huge crowds whenever he had them on the water.

Although he has taken these model with him to Gloucester, he has donated his paddle tug 'Faithful' to the club, and one of his rowing models has been gratefully accepted as a gift by your scribe Alan. The legend of "Operation Frankton" will continue with a new operator so we will still see his work in action at Kearsney.

Work has now started in Russell Gardens to remove hedges and tidy up the landscape, most changes are in the old tennis courts and kitchen garden areas and beyond. The contract was given to English Landscapes who we know very well as our park keepers are employed by them at the moment, however work has now stopped due to the wildlife nesting season starting and will not get going again until the Autumn. Our park keepers will be taken in house in the next few months so they will revert to being Council employees.

The shed floor in the brick built storage shed has now been repaired, Peter noticed a sag in the boards so an investigation took place which resulted in some major work needing to be done..

Due to dampness getting into the floor joists they had rotted badly, as more boards were taken up, more rot was discovered. Over half had to be renewed at the far end of the building. Just to make sure, the boards nearest the door were taken up as well, a small amount of repairs were needed here but it was generally in good shape. This work has taken up some of our valuable funds but the costs could have been much worse. Peter, Alan, Len and Kelvin spent three days doing the work overseen by our new Treasurer Ted, therefore only the materials have to be paid for.

Peter has also fitted two large van type locks to the garage store to secure it from intruders, so that should keep the little darlings out!

Have a great season and happy boating Alan.....
members being able to do the work the costs have been drastically reduced.

It has been decided that the Yacht Section will now have their own dedicated pages in the KK Newsletter. The Yacht Representative, Mr Reg Steel has started by sending in the following article with his proposals to change the racing rules. At the February club meeting, Reg submitted these proposals to the membership. The club voted unanimously to give Reg permission to make any changes necessary.

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Article for MBA Dover, Kearsney Kapers Newsletter. By Reg Steel

Last year we were joined by two new members in the yacht section – Andy Allen and Mike Worsley. They arrived with slender, modern, potentially quick boats but as they had deep fins with bulbs, they fell foul of the weeds and soon found that they were uncompetitive. Andy acquired a Fairwind towards the end of the season and the good news is that Mike has also just bought one as well. Fairwinds appear to be perfectly suited to the Kearsney conditions. Speaking to Len Ochiltree recently, he has one for sale which is evidently in pristine condition but without a sail servo.

As ever, there will be yacht races every other week on Sundays starting at 10am.

The first race of the spring series, comprising six events, is on the 5th March 2017.
The first race of the summer series, comprising six events, is on the 28th May 2017.
The autumn series starts on September the 3rd and comprises seven events, finishing on November 26th in time for the annual prize giving on December 6th.

Although the yacht section representative, I'm a comparative new boy, having been a member for about three years. Over the past year there has been a number of our members who have told me that they think that the scoring system of giving the winner fifteen points, second fourteen, third thirteen, and so on, is unfair.

As a result I investigated the matter and find that over the last five years or so, the scoring system has been changed a number of times and that in the process there have been a number of ruffled feathers and a certain amount of bad feeling. Before my time, I hasten to add, but something that has stopped certain members competing.

As one of our regulars pointed out, The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) who do know a bit about sailing big boats, little boats and model boats, have a suggested scoring system for model boats, which we believe is the fairest and best way forward.

To that end I put a proposal for change to the monthly meeting of the club held at The Cricketers on 1st February 2017. It is based on a draft kindly prepared by Alan Hounsell, one of the sailing stalwarts, and is as follows:

Yacht Race Information

A Series of Yacht races will consist of a pre-determined number of "Race Events" and discards.

Each Race Event will consist of 3 races. Points will be awarded to each Yacht according to its placing in each race (see scoring system below). The best two race results (lowest scoring), out of the three held at each event will be combined to give an overall position/points for the day (in the event of a tie the end of year rule will be used).

Race Event discards should make the overall number of "Race Events" that count towards the Series result an odd number to minimise the likelihood of a tie (Even number of Race Events = 1 discard: Odd number of Race Events = 2 discards). The best "Race Event" results will be combined to calculate an overall position at the end of each series (lowest combined score).

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A minimum of three Yachts must cross the start line to constitute a "race". Each race will have a maximum duration of five laps. Racing will continue for 5 minutes after the first yacht crosses the finish line, and any yachts not finished at that time will be awarded their finishing position based on their position around the course at that time.

A running total of the series points should be published on the Club Web Site

Scoring System

1st Place = 1 point, 2nd Place = 2 points, 3rd Place = 3 points and so on.

Retiring boats score one point more than the last boat had all starters finished. All boats not entered in a particular event will score two points more than the last boat had all starters finished.

Cancelled events do not score any points.

If there is a tie on total points at the end of the series, between two or more boats, the tie will be broken in favour of the boat or boats with the most first places, and if the tie remains, the most second places, and so on, if necessary, for all the events that count for the total points. If the tie still remains, it shall stand as the final result.

FAQ's;

- Why only count 2 races out of the 3 at each Race event: This makes it possible to recover from having a "bad" score or even a "retirement" in one of the races.
- Why have "discard" Race Event results in a Series: As above, and it means that if a competitor cannot make all the Events in the series they still have an incentive to attend.
- Why have "lowest" first scoring: By starting the scoring low and working up you can have any number of competitors and anyone missing a Race / Event is scored against the number of boats that actually took part, rather than having a "fixed" score. Reg...

Yacht For Sale

Member, John King has been in touch, he wishes to sell his yacht which is a "Joysway" Dragon Force boat. John has been unwell and that is the reluctant reason for the sale. He has not given me a guide price for the model but just wants to get a reasonable return for it, I have checked the price in the magazines and see it originally cost in the region of £159.00 including radio.

The boat has not had much use and is in almost new condition..

Give John a ring and have a chat to him if you are interested

His number is 01304 -852984 (St Margaret's)

Jubilee Seaways

Having DFDS ferries operating out of Dover has been a feature of the port for several years now, so when a new ferry arrives it is cause for some celebrations. One new ferry did arrive in late 2016, she moored up in Pencester Gardens, the new ship was named “Jubilee Seaways”.

By now you will have realised that this new addition to the DFDS fleet was in fact a model ship built from LEGO bricks. I say a model but she was 12.035 metres long (40feet) and had a beam of 1.67m. There were 1,015,000 bricks used in the construction which weigh 2,860 Kgs.

All this effort was to celebrate DFDS’s 150 years of operation. The Jubilee Seaways is mounted on a very smart trailer towed by a tractor unit all in DFDS livery, It will visit the companies ports and locations in the UK and abroad over the next few months.

LEGO is also a Danish company, They are based in Billund in Denmark and have been making the product since 1932, an obvious reason for building the model from the famous little toy building blocks.



Left....

The ‘model’ parked in Pencester Gardens Dover.

The best looking castle in the country is showing in the background.

The ‘rig’.....

It’s a Scania R440 tractor unit in DFDS



logistics livery with a 40ft trailer. The poppy was commemorating Armistice day that fell the week before the visit.

We are fortunate to know one of the ‘Lego’ chief designers, Guy Bagley. He is a member of the Black Park model boat club and attends many shows that we do with his family. He is also responsible for the (smaller) Lego built model boats that he regularly demonstrates at these shows. When we were at the Warwick show, he told us that the ‘Jubilee Seaways’ would be in Dover on these dates so we had some previous knowledge of the visit. The next day the model appeared at the Cruise Terminal in the Western Docks.

The next project for the designers and builders of LEGO, is going to be a full size tractor unit built from these bricks, so what you see in the photograph here, should materialise in Lego form sometime soon!

Christmas Social December 7th 2016

As mentioned on the front page, we held our annual Prize giving and Christmas social at the Cricketers pub on the above date.

It must be said that it was a very nice atmosphere this year with the staff at The Cricketers really making us welcome with a nicely laid out seating plan and tables that were decorated with crackers and a Christmas tree illuminated in the traditional manner in the corner.

The guests had brought along raffle prizes to add to the ones supplied by the club, this made a very interesting and varied amount of different articles that would see a good boost to club funds.

The proceedings started with the presentation of the trophies that had been won by individuals in the Yachting and Powerboat sections over the past year.

The pictures tell the story but there was one picture that we were unable to get and that was the winner of the Summer series yacht races and the second place for the Spring series, Alan Hounsell.

Alan had sent his apologies, and a very generous donation to club funds including a much sought after raffle prize, thank you Alan.

The yacht section award 1st and 2nd prizes to their group whereas the powerboats only a 1st prize.

As is traditional, and as I mentioned at the prize giving, the signal "sail before steam" means we start with the yachts.

1st place in the **Spring** Series was won by ... Andrew Goldsack.

2nd place was won by..... Alan Hounsell

1st place in the **Summer** Series was won by ...Alan Hounsell

2nd place was won byAndrew Goldsack

1st Place in the **Winter** Series was won byAndrew Goldsack

2nd place was won byReg Steel



The power boats section

1st in the **Barge Pushing** was won byBernard Le Ny

2nd Len Ochiltree

3rd Peter Cook

1st in the **Towing** competition

2nd Len Ochiltree

3rd Kelvin Castle.

Bernard Le Ny

1st in the **Steering** competition

2nd Bernard Le Ny

3rd Alan Poole

Stuart Silk

1st in the **Club 500** races

Joint 2nd Len Ochiltree

Neil Terry.

Peter Cook

Well done to all the competitors !

International Model Boat Show. Warwickshire

Quite a number of our members attended the International Model Boat show held at the Warwickshire exhibition centre on the Fosse Way between the 9/10/11th November 2016.

This year, Neil Terry wore his Kent Model Boat Display Team hat and displayed his models with them this time; the MBA of course, did not participate as a club.

Also displaying at another group was Alan and Kim who were there with the Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society.

The show was well attended on all three days by the general public, however there were a few regular traders missing this time. A lot of modellers rely on obtaining their supplies from the traders and when they are not there it can be a little disappointing. There were however some different traders who were selling items of interest, Axminster power tools were there and the Balsa Cabin, I had not seen these before at this show. In all there were 22 different suppliers displaying their wares. The clubs, over 30, had assembled a large amount of high quality models on their stands; most of them had been placed in different locations which helped to make a varied display, this meant that the show was not the same as last year; this statement has been heard before and is an unfair comment in most instances.

Many of the clubs put their models on the large pool that was run by Steve Dean, Steve rallied the modellers to get them on the water on time and to commentate as they sailed along. The exception was when the James Bond boat and the Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society were on the water; our own Kim Belcher took the microphone to give a very well informed commentary on these subjects, he is well qualified to talk about lifeboats and the James Bond boat, the builder, Chris Scott, is a personal friend and Kim has written articles about it in the modelling press.

Some exceptional models were to be seen on the water, I could not spend a lot of time with my camera due to manning the stand but here are a selection of the ones that will interest the MBA members there were too many to describe but I must include some that are relevant to members here at Dover.

The two carriers that displayed together were the USS Kittyhawk completed by Paul Chilcott and Neil Terry's HMS Illustrious.



Bottom left is the very attractive P&O Ferry, Pride of Hythe or FE V, that it was called before.



And bottom right is the Trinity House Light vessel number 17, better known to all of us as the **South Goodwin** Lightship. This model was to fairly large scale and interestingly, had a Propeller!



Graupner Queen Mary 2

On a visit to our local model shop “Turners Models” just before the New Year, I was attracted by the window display which had a pair of the Graupner ‘ready to run’ Premier line models displayed.

One of them was a large power boat, a French Riviera, 72ft yacht at 1/20th scale. It was a big model, over 1 metre long with a beam of 270mm.

The other model displayed was the really impressive “Queen Mary 2”. Cunard’s flagship cruise liner and one of the largest passenger ships afloat.

I first saw this model on display in a model shop in Dortmund Germany, it really made a wonderful sight. It is over 1.7 metres in length, fully detailed and is built to a scale of 1:200.

It was labelled in Germany as “Die Konigin der Meere” (The Queen of the Sea.)

These two models were on loan to Turners from the importers, to buy one does cost a lot of hard earned cash but what you get is a fully functioning stunning scale model of this iconic British liner.

To build them from scratch would cost as much as the asking price anyway.

The two models in the window of **Turners Models** in London Road Dover.

Shirley always has a wonderful eye catching display in the window of her shop.



Queen Mary 2 Graupner have a large range of ready to run



Also in the range are large 1/25th scale German Lifeboats, those of you who visited the International Model Boat show at Warwick will have seen the “Harro Koebke” on display, this was one of these models imported from Germany by our good friend Phil Locke. Other models are warships and tugs and service craft, perhaps this is the way to go if you need a well finished model, off the shelf!.

For Sale

I have had an email from Bob Davis who unfortunately has said that due to illness he wishes to sell his boats. We think of Bob as being a sailboat man but he has obviously been constructing power boats as well but now wishes to sell them

Springer Tug £30.00

Sun 21 Tug £30.00 with plans

Sea Commander £100.00 high standard finish

Large 48" Motor Boat £150.00 ready to go

Bob Davis **(01303894870)**

Please contact Bob on the above number , many thanks Alan.....

We had an email from George Boyd who is selling a Speedline Trent class lifeboat for a members widow.

It is almost untouched and has all the very good quality fittings with it, George has suggested £600.00 for it, these kits do cost around £1.000 new, and that is if you can get one.

Contact George through the Facebook page on our site if interested..

List of outside events

Below can be found a list of outside events for 2017, this list is always subject to change so please check before attending.

Some are events that individuals regularly attend and others that the MBA club attend as a group, Those that the club attend as a club are in red.

Coalville show	1st /2nd April
Dortmund.....	5th /9th April
Knightcote LBES	13th May
Summers Pond.....	10th /11th June
Alfold.....	29th /30th July
Dover Transport Museum.....	19/20th August
Maidstone Cygnets Boat on the Mote.....	20th August.
Heron MBC Regatta.....	27th August
Ramsgate Ships rally.....	3rd September
Headcorn.....	9/19th September
Calais France.....	7th 8th October.Awaiting Confirmation)
Warwick Boat Show.....	9/10/11th November

Bernard Le Ny had managed to contact the Calais Model Boat Club who have given us their diary dates and an invitation to go over and visit them. They have their Exposition Internationale Modelisme Naval on the Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th October to be held in Calais. It would be nice to attend that one.

The first Illuminated event for 2017, 18th March

A beautiful week which just about continued into the Saturday, made our first Illuminated event a pleasant evening, however for the first part we wondered of this would be a two horse race! Young Blaise and Bernard were the only members with boats on the water for about half an hour, they were eventually joined by Stuart and Freddie Silk and then from out of the gloom came Mark Burton with his newly acquired tug, DHB Doughty with full lighting. Stuart had his springer tug based Fire boat and Freddie had the police version, they both had very colourful lighting and flashing lights and with sound! Blaise and his grandmother were running the ready to run tug Richardson that has the lighting already installed, this was the first time that he had actually ran it in the dark to appreciate the effect, a nice starter model for our younger members to operate. Bernard Le Ny had a new model scratch built from plans in a French model magazine, it was a modified customs cutter design that he calls Ar Vag. The lighting on this model was very comprehensive and really came into it's own as the darkness fell. The effect was really good so, judged by our Chairman's wife Sheila Cook, Bernard was awarded the trophy. Five models, with twelve members, let's hope more will support this event next time.



Blaise with his tugboat



Bernard's "Ar Vag" with tug "Richardson" in the background