

F.G. Wright

SOLENT R.C.M.Y.C.

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I am pleased to report that the membership is stronger than it has ever been. At the last committee meeting it was reported that 55 had paid up in the Sail and 20 in the Scale section. The turnout of the Scale enthusiasts on Thursdays and Sunday mornings has been very good this summer and on occasions members have had to wait for crystals to become available. I am told this is due to the calm, pleasant mornings occurring on these days. Marblehead racing on Sundays is well supported and very keen and on a number of occasions all the crystals have been in use. The R36 Sunday racing has not been well supported. This class has much better support in our once a fortnight Tuesday mornings racing at 11.00. The first series in this racing is complete; eleven different members raced, the best entry on any one day was nine and five qualified for the Spring series which was won by Alan Ford followed by Norman Woodwell and Jack Fry. In the RM fortnightly Friday series twelve members raced, the best entry on one day was ten and five completed the series, the first three being Alan Ford, Jack Fry and Norman Woodwell.

The committee had a very long discussion on the One Metre Class, the more important points being:-

- (a) for and against a one design, the framing of rules which can be administered
- (b) might it replace the R36, possibly on Sundays?
- (c) could the club stand three classes?
- (d) Nationally approved rules do not yet exist

In the end the committee decided to shelve the matter by adopting the following proposal:-

"There is a strong interest in the club for the Bob Underwood One Metre as a one design class. The committee favour this and recommend it to the AGM for its adoption".

This obviously stops those waiting for a decision from buying or building and virtually delays racing for another year as the club programme is out before the AGM.

Jack Fry tells me that Chris Jackson can arrange for a meeting of One Metre boats at the Woodley Model Yacht Club which sails at Dinton Pastures Country Park, Wokingham. The proposed date is Sunday, 1st November. Those interested could take part in the meeting or go and see what it is all about and possibly get the National Authority to produce a rule.

At a lakeside committee meeting it was decided to continue both mid-week series to the end of October, just as the Sunday series does. We all know the more foolish members carry on sailing all winter till the next season starts. The committee agreed that someone should sort out a pursuit handicap series to continue the unofficial racing and ensure that those who were always at the front had such a handicap as to stop them from catching the first away. It was hoped that this would encourage new or inexperienced sailors to have a go; to have a clear start line and be in the lead perhaps for the whole race must be good. The question of mixing classes was met with blank stares. If any member is, or knows anyone who would like to have a go at handicapping the fleet I would be pleased to give him the job, otherwise it will be 'muggins' who sticks his neck out.

We are now at the time of the year when we should be reviewing the past season to assess its successes and failures. In doing this any positive ideas can be considered and there is time to get the 1988-89 programme modified. Looking at the year's records it seems that only 20 - 25 members sail at Setley once a year or more, and even less race. Is this good enough with a sailing membership of 56? The Scale section have had a 50% turnout on occasions.

Since the last newsletter the following club events have been sailed:-

The Roy Evans Memorial Trophy for R36 was won by Alan Ford followed by Walter Newton and Norman Woodwell, all using GRP 'Perishers'.

The Gascoigne Trophy was won by Alan Ford with his wooden Cedar 4. Second was Bill Wright with his GRP Shogun and third David Watson with his Kevlar Tracer.

The Charlotte and Kate Trophy, Alan Ford, Dave Watson and Bill Wright.

The Electra Trophy was won by Walter Newton, second Norman Woodwell, and third Robin Wheeler Osman, all using GRP 'Perishers'.

The Setley Trophy for R36 Match Racing was won by Robin Wheeler Osman, second Martin Houlton and third Jack Fry. This was Robin's first big win, he did not put a foot wrong all day. Well done, Robin!

On the 6th September, a strong Solent team of 6 RM's went to Gosport to try to retain the Team Trophy, an annual event between Solent, Gosport, and Guildford. In his first race Bill Wright dropped a turn off the winch. He managed a quick repair and was able to finish. In Chris Thomas's first race his batteries packed in but he managed to finish sailing round the course close-hauled. This was quite a performance down wind in a blow. A new pack of batteries and all was well. As the day wore on the wind got stronger and those with storm rigs used them; those without lurched, dived, fell over and shot about the pond in all directions. Except for the swing rigs, which after a violent broach, sat fluttering head to wind for ever. Boats in the other teams started collecting the last two or three places and some were forced to retire due to dismasting and flooded electrics. As Dave Watson remarked "It's now like Ten Little Nigger Boys".

At lunch, the halfway point, we were just in front of Guildford by one point. This year Solent were in charge of the racing. We laid the marks, set the courses, and our faithful schedule controllers, announcers, race recorders and line judges were doing their duties as efficiently as ever. After all 18 competitors had sailed in 6 of the 9 races intended, the officials, Etta Newton, Ann Watson and Walter Newton, called the helmsmen together and suggested it was pointless to continue with incomplete teams. It was then coming up to a Force 7, starting to rain and a decent chop beginning to stand up. Chris Jackson of Guildford suggested that those left, wishing to sail, should have two more races with mass starts, whilst the scorers did their totting up.

So Setley, after a slow start, won easily, beating Guildford by 52 points and Gosport by 137. Alan Ford had the best result with 8 points, Jack Fry was 3rd with 15½ points, Dave Watson 4th with 17½ points, Bill Wright 6th with 20½ points, Tim Baker 9th with 31 points and Chris Thomas 12th with 36 points. In the team were two old Trappers finishing 3rd and 12th; a Cedar 4, 1st; a Cedar Cup 9th; a Tracer 4th and Shogun was 6th. The best swing rig boat was 5th.

BOATS FOR SALE

- RM 'Lost Love' with one rig and full electrics
Mrs B Duke, 31 Marran Close, Lymington - 75307
- R36 Taxachun swing or normal rigs, no electrics - £50.
Bill Wright, 22 Swallow Drive, Milford. Tel. Lymington - 45722
- R36 Perisher, the famous Hobjoblin, 3 normal rigs, the deck needs
fitting, no electrics - £60. Mrs Evans, 2 East View Road,
Ringwood - 2379.
- R36 Taxachun 2 swing rigs, 4 suits of sails, no electrics - £55
Derick Cobden, 19 Stourcroft Drive, Christchurch - 478612.
- RM Sea Urchin - all electrics, 3 suits sails - £250 ono.)
RM Lost Love - working rig. Offers.) Jim Munt
R36 Perisher. Offers.) 48 Western Rd
Lymington

STOP PRESS

Yesterday, Sunday 27th September, 16 Marbleheads assembled for racing at 2.30. The start was delayed due to the rare panic of having to allocate crystals and competitors preparing themselves for quick changes.

All 16 boats completed their racing programmes!

Robin Wheeler Osman with a 'BITZA' based on a 'Lost Love' was third on the day's racing!

There were three of Bob Hoare's 'BUCCANEERS' on the water!

Is this a record?

Is this a warning of things to come?

I can think of 2 regulars and 3 occasional racers who were missing.

Will we be receiving resignations from our overworked and underpaid race officials?

OH WOE!

AWF

SCALE REPORT

The weather has been particularly kind to the Scale section this year, consequently we have had large gatherings at Setley on both Thursday and Sundays, indeed on some occasions we have run out of frequencies.

We extend a very warm welcome to our new members, and trust they will enjoy our company at Setley. Our new member, Nick, has a fine model of the ~~Queen~~ **CARDIFF** Queen, a valued addition to the superb collection of models currently on show at Setley.

I would like to congratulate Dave Boothroyd on becoming our first member to produce a fully operational submarine; no doubt others will follow and Dave's experience will be most useful, especially on the correct dress for recovering a faulty submarine from the bottom of Setley.

Our thanks are due to Tony Raymond for his efforts in producing a very professional sequence indicator board, an item which has become increasingly necessary with the full meetings we have enjoyed recently. Our thanks are also due to Dick Richards for his model docking area, complete with warehouses, etc. The docks have been well used, although Dick hasn't received any docking fees, as yet; fortunately he didn't expect any either.

This brings me to the next point, which is competitions. In view of the amount of people using the docks to test their skill at navigation, it seems that some form of competition would not come amiss; maybe we have a volunteer who would come forward and organise some events for the club.

I visited the opening of the new Bournemouth Leisure Centre on Sunday, 27th September, but due to a misunderstanding over dates, there was a rather poor attendance. The lake which was intended for a model boating display was unfortunately covered with weed and our efforts were badly curtailed. I understand the council will have the weed cleared by next week. The lake might be of use on rare occasions for Scale members but not deep enough for sailing.

Vic Ward