

SCALE SECTION. OCTOBER 91

The summer finally arrived and we had some very good Sunday meetings at the pond, the record being 17 boats with 11 on the water at one time.

Our Membership now totals 30 and its nice to see several new members with new boats and a couple of fine vintage craft. One a Fire Tender which cost Alan Andrews £3-12-6d (including Purchase Tax) in 1956 and which goes really well due to a few mods and a bit of modern battery technology. The other is a splendid cabin cruiser built in 1933 and owned by Mr Ridley-Martin. Other launches this summer were David Ellis's "Volcano" and Bill Palmers "Imara" both built to extremely high standards. It was also nice to see steam back at Setley with Grieg Reid's superb steam launch. Several other boats have new owners, James Turner having achieved some financial wizardry is now the proud owner of an excellent River Class Minesweeper built by Alan Stimson and Mervyn Burston a Robbe Police boat from the same yard.

Mervyn recently competed in an Endurance event run by Tone Valley Model Club at Taunton. He didn't win but put up a fine show completing 106 Laps of the course which was on the River Tone, covering 13.25 miles in 12 hours from 3pm to 3am. By this time all batteries, Mervyn, and Barbara were exhausted. He raised £105-65 through sponsorship for the Charity CLIC (Cancer and Leukaemia in Children).

Vic Ward had a clear out at home and arrived one Thursday for a sort of car boot sale. Everyone was very busy sailing their boats until it became clear that he was'n't selling the stuff, he just wanted space at home and wanted it to go to club members who might find it of use. Suddenly his car was surrounded and cleared out in record time. He nearly lost his spare tyre as well!!!!

There are several new buildings on slipways for the coming winter including my "INGA", Tony Raymonds "Hudson Sound", George Plummer with his high tec three screw "Percassa", Alan Stimsons "Brede Lifeboat", Tony Leighton's Narvic Class German Destroyer Z37, Peter Hook's "Belfast", and Charles Somerville's steam powered narrowboat. All this activity should give us an excellent exhibition in the Spring.

This year it will be held on Saturday 14th March at the Methodist Church Hall in Highcliffe as a joint venture with the Lifeboat Association who will have a stall, a raffle, and provide, for purchase, refreshments and sandwiches etc. It is a very good hall, larger than we had at Greystones. Admission will be free with a donation to the lifeboat as before. It is hoped that Westbourne Models and possibly G.K. Models will also be there. There is parking for several cars at the front rear and side for unloading and a Pay and Display car park adjacent. More details nearer the time.

Hoping to see you at the annual Lunch,

David Boothroyd.