

Letter from Solent

Autumn 1996

This is my favourite time of year and I guarantee that it will be the best time of the season to sail model yachts at Setley Pond. On the cool days a stiff northerly blowing from the top end of the pond with plenty of wind shifts. On warmer days a gentler sea breeze coming in from the south, the water will be rising with the autumn rains, what more could you wish for!?

The new programme is enclosed with sailing dates until the end of March 1997. This will be our autumn / winter sailing calendar and I hope you will join us for the scheduled and handicap yacht racing.

It is nice to see new skippers joining the club with all of their enthusiasm, it rubs off you know! It also gives some of the long standing club members new interest, especially when we see elegant new boats appearing. I am always amazed at the fine craftsmanship and the ideas developed for your model yachts.

I hope that the trophy events on the Sunday programme will have better support than last year. Etta puts a lot of time and effort into making the events run smoothly and the racing is always excellent and good fun, so please come and join us.

The weekday sailing is of course very well supported and we have a great time with about fourteen skippers turning up for 36" and one metre racing.

An observation! we only have one skipper in our sailing fleet who has not retired - poor Hugh!

Much of the success of our weekday sailing is due to our honorary lady member Joyce - who will be there "whatever the weather" - to collate score sheets and calculate the results.

We have arranged our annual luncheon and prize giving to be held at The Watersplash Hotel again this year. At the request of committee members, a survey was carried out on restaurants and hotels locally and we agreed that The Watersplash still gave good value although we would require improved service from the staff.

What would we do without help from Etta, Joyce, Paddy and Ann. I should like to thank them very much and also the committee members. This voluntary help and the keen interest shown by them is what makes our club the best club in the country!

ISC

PS If you are interested in a talk on sail and boat tuning please contact me as soon as possible.

SCALE SECTION SEPTEMBER 96.

The Scale Section continues to prosper with 46 paid up members and one Hon. member, i.e. Ernie Powell who has moved back to New Milton from Somerset and we look forward to seeing him at the pond again.

The events held this year have been well attended and hopefully enjoyed by all. Firstly the Highcliffe exhibition in March which helped raise £501 for the R.N.L.I. It might interest members to know that since we started doing this joint venture with the Highcliffe branch of the R.N.L.I. the amount raised now stands at £2568.45. Thanks to all who support this event.

The first steering competition was held on a lovely evening in June and attracted 12 entrants and many more spectators. Times varied from the winning 2m 40sec by Andrew Davis to 7m 35sec. Mark & Jason Woodford came second and third. The second event was held in very different weather. Strong gusty winds with the threat of rain all day. However we got away with it with seven having a go. Peter Oram won with 2m 46sec with Andrew Davis and Bob Cowie coming second and third. Three Ladies then had a go at an easier course all winning a small prize. Thanks to John Frost and Richard Graham for organizing these events and to John for providing the prizes. Also to Andrew Davis for making the splendid marker buoys.

Several members attended Poole Park at the end of June and Eastliegh Club's open day at Botley Grange in July which was very well organised as usual with more free sailing time this year together with the usual competitions.

Charles Somerville gave a talk, on behalf of the club, to Highcliffe Probuss club during July, on model boating which was well received. The 'speakers fee' was donated to the R.N.L.I. Thank you Charles.

The Exhibition at Thorndon School Eastliegh, renamed "Model World" on 1st Sept. was the best yet. We had a large stand with over 30 boats on display and of course there was also flying, car racing, trains, aircraft, trade stands, Military, war games etc. etc. The event had been well publicised this year and I received a letter of thanks from the Rotary club, who organise the event, saying that over 3000 people visited this year, the highest ever.

Following concern at the A.G.M. about safety especially with Steam Models and Insurance cover we have appointed Andrew Davis and Grieg Reid as Testers and have been getting set up to follow the M.P.B.A. guidelines for testing Boilers and pressure vessels. It is hoped to have all members who have steam plant registered and their equipment certificated by the end of the year and we will probably affiliate with the M.P.B.A. Next Year. In the meantime the club has had to write disclaimers. It is believed that all clubs are now insisting on test certificates for steam models.

All that remains this year is of course our Sundays and Thursdays at the pond and the annual lunch, details with this newsletter. We hope to bring a few models as usual to decorate the dining room and that the scale section table will win most of the raffle prizes! Its traditional!

DGB 23/9/96