



Setley Sail

November 2015 - Autumn Newsletter

Scale Captain's Chat

Hi Folks...

The Winter Newsletter already!! I can't believe we are at the end of another season at Setley! Where has the time gone? Before I get into club matters and news I feel I must apologise for my lack of attendance at the lake in recent months; I have had numerous family and personal events that have all seemed to fall on a Sunday or over a weekend, however I hope to be back to my regular attendances again in the New Year.

We had a fantastic exhibition at Milford in September and as reported below we raised a record amount in aid of the Air Ambulance and the RNLI and my thanks go to our sponsors HSBC and Wightlink and to all of the Committee and Club members who worked so hard to set up and run the day and exhibited lots of fabulous models to make the event such a success.

On a Club issue, together with the Committee I have been in discussion with the Sailing Section Secretary and Committee to update the Club Constitution, but also to look at resolving lake use by the two sections of the Club,

The Sailing Section have been trying to recruit new members but have had a problem with not being able to offer week-end racing to prospective recruits, we in the Scale Section also felt that we were not getting 50% of lake availability for us. After a long discussion we have come to the following agreement, which has already been approved at the Sailing AGM and will go before ours in March. The proposed availability is as follows: -

Scale Section will have use of the lake on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons after 1.30pm and all day Thursday and Sunday,

The Sailing Section will have use on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings up to 1.30pm and all day Tuesday and Saturday.

(As the lake is a public facility we cannot prevent others using the lake but on Scale days we are able to charge visitors £1.50 to cover insurance etc to meet Forestry Commission requirements. The Sailing Section will no doubt have to control public use during their times of usage but I am not sure what that will be).

Another matter arising is that the position of Club President, currently held by Ray Fiddler of the Sailing Section, is to become vacant. Sailing member and ex Sailing Secretary Martin Houlton has been proposed but will also need to be voted on at our own AGM when I will be inviting Martin to attend. During his time as Sailing Secretary Martin usually took time to visit our exhibitions and occasionally visited the lake on Scale Days. We can of course propose our own candidate.

As you are aware I had to cancel the Setley Cup Steering Competition due to bad weather and I am afraid that it will not be competed for this year! We do seem to have had a lot of bad weather days this summer or is just the Sundays I have been free to come to the pond???

Lorna has once again taken on the task of organising our Xmas Lunch which will be in a new venue this year, my thanks to her for her dedicated effort and I look forward to meeting many of you there, if however you are unable to attend please accept my wishes to you and your families for a Happy Christmas.

Finally on a sad note I was sorry to learn of the death of Mel Crocker, he was an excellent scatch builder of sailing models. Our thoughts go out to his family at this sad time.

David

In Memoriam - Mel Crocker

With great sadness we have to report that Mel Crocker passed away on 4th November 2015. His family were at the bed side. Although in recent times poor health had kept him away from Setley Pond, Mel was one of the club's most accomplished scale modellers. Scratch built in timber, his models were authentic in every detail. The funeral was held at Christchurch Cemetery Chapel on Friday 20th November. Our thoughts are with his family.

You may contact David Edwards if you would be interested in owning one of Mel's beautifully constructed model sailing ships.



Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 12th Dec. Xmas Lunch: South Lawns Hotel, Milford-on-Sea; 12.30 for 1pm

Sat. 12th March 2016 Highcliffe Exhibition: in aid of the RNLI; Methodist Hall, Highcliffe.

Editorial: Life up a Tower



This year, for once, I managed to avoid spending all my money at the Southampton Boat Show... instead I got persuaded to join the National Coastwatch Institution!

To be honest, I'd been wondering about it for some time, but had assumed that they would have had no difficulty manning Calshot Tower, the nearest station for me to get to. Not true! So now I'm spending part of my time doing 3 or 4 hour watches some 100 feet above the ground at Calshot Point.

The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) is a voluntary organisation set up in 1994 to restore a visual watch along UK shores after most of the Coastguard lookout stations had been closed. It's motto is "Eyes Along the Coast" which sums up what we do! What we are mainly watching for are people in distress or danger. In particular, water users who are not equipped with VHF radios with which they could call "Solent Coastguard" for assistance or rescue. So normally not the

large ships going up Southampton Water, but situations like a kite-surfer becoming exhausted, a capsized sailing dinghy in the shipping lane, or people in a broken down speedboat waving for help.

Should an incident occur our job is to report it to the Coastguard who are in charge of all maritime search and rescue ("SAR"). It would be the Coastguard in Fareham, not NCI, who would call out Calshot Lifeboat even though the lifeboat station is directly under the tower (on the right in the photo)! However once the lifeboat is launched, and if requested by the Coastguard, we are equipped to take advantage of our high vantage point to direct the lifeboat to the casualty using the private SAR VHF frequency (channel 0). Calshot NCI has "Declared Facility Status" meaning it is a recognised SAR asset. To maintain the required standard, new recruits like me have to undergo a training programme over several months before being assessed and certified as a Watchkeeper.

Although we offer primarily a visual facility, the NCI has it's own national VHF channel (call direct on channel 65) which can be used for small boats to do radio checks and to request a report on local conditions (our call sign is "Calshot NCI") thus reducing traffic on the local Coast Guard channel

(67) and from the distress channel (16). The station is manned during daylight hours every day except Christmas Day by at least two and more normally three watchkeepers.

So why do we commit to climbing almost 100 feet of near vertical ladders at least four times per month? Apart from making a voluntary contribution to marine safety, it has to be admitted that you do get a spectacular view!



Peter Taylor... your Editor.

Milford Charity Exhibition 2015



(photos: Jim Forrester, David Hardy, Peter Taylor... many more on the web site!)

This year's Charity Exhibition at All Saints' Church Hall in Milford on Sea on Saturday 5th September has proved to be our most successful yet. Both the main hall and the smaller refreshment room were buzzing with visitors throughout the day. About £322 was collected in the buckets (some £150 in notes!). Adding the proceeds from the Wightlink Raffle, teas, tombola, etc. brings the total to £544.27 plus a generous donation of £500 from HSBC Lymington giving a total of over £1000. In addition the RNLI stall took nearly £400, some £140 more than last year; a record show indeed.

This year £400 of the takings will go to the RNLI with the Air Ambulance receiving £144 plus the HSBC donation. That is because we did the opposite split in 2014.

Feature Article: S.S. Vega and the Jersey Model Boat Club

Back in May of this Year Shirley and I had our now regular yearly holiday in the Channel Islands, this year to Jersey. We timed our stay to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Islands at the end of the war in Europe. A lot of special events take place during the week of festivities, and being the 70th a lot of effort was made to make it extra special.

When war was declared in 1939 the rationing of some foodstuffs and other essentials was introduced. Subsequently, in the following year registration for evacuation for women and children for those who wished to go was carried out. Also added to the list was males of military age who were required to join the forces and any one else who wished to go, subject to space being available. On June 19th the British Government demilitarized the Islands and all troops and Militiamen were withdrawn and by the end of June all those leaving had departed. German forces landed in Guernsey on the 30th June and by the 4th July the remaining Islands had been invaded and occupation was complete.

After the Germans invaded the Islands in June 1940 limited supplies were organised by them and conveyed by sea from occupied Europe, mainly France, but as the war progressed so the quantities failed to meet the requirements of both the population that remained and the occupying forces. When in June 1944 the D Day landings took place the situation rapidly deteriorated, the Germans no longer able to easily traverse the waters between Europe and the Islands. It was only after agreement was sought, by the Red Cross, the German Authorities and British Government approved relief supplies being allowed shipment into the islands under strict rules and control, thus avoiding imminent starvation.

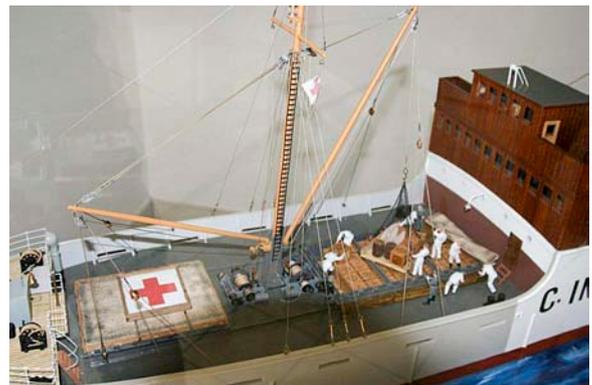


Jersey Model Boat Club decided last year that as a suitable and lasting contribution to the celebrations they would build a model of a small steamer, the *S.S. Vega* that, during the time from December 1944 until the end of the war in May 1945, carried out six voyages under the Red Cross Flag, and between Spain and the Channel Islands, carrying Food and Medical supplies and other essential items.

The steamship *S.S. Vega* was registered in Stockholm and flew the Swedish flag. She had

a gross tonnage of 1073, and was 226' long with a beam of 35'1", a triple expansion engine with one propeller producing 550 ihp. She was built in Gothenburg in 1933 and continued in service after the war.

The model *S.S. Vega* was constructed by members of J.M.B.C. over several months during 2014/15 and represents the vessel docked in Jersey Harbour unloading its vital cargo under the watchful eye of German soldiers and officers. It is a waterline model and is at 1/35 scale, resulting in a model 6'8" long by 1'0" wide. Materials used included 5mm plastic sheet, plastic skirting, 5mm and 12mm plywood, an old aluminium table frame with folding legs (?), various paints, Dolls house wallpaper, calico, varied adhesives and I am sure many other bits and pieces model makers tend to use !! Original plans, old photos and, the club admits to a little bit of guess work, was used in the





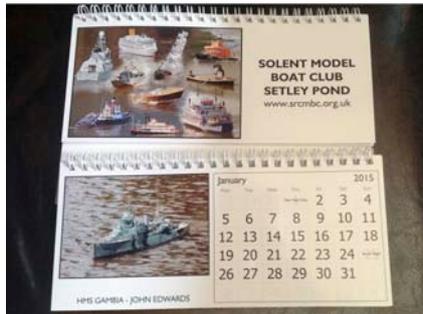
build. It is hoped to use the model to collect funds for the British Red Cross in their continuing work.

Our visit to the Islands is always enjoyed, and our time spent with the Jersey Model Boat Club at their new premises where we were made very welcome, and being there during the Liberation Celebrations was very special.

David Hardy

[Editor's Note: my thanks to David for his article about Jersey and the S.S.Vega. I'm always keen to publish more contributions from members.. why not get your name in print!]

Club Calendar for 2016 - almost sold out



The 2016 Club Calendar is a Desk Calendar similar in format to the one for 2015 (shown in the photograph).

Priced at only £4.00 each they have been selling well and only a few copies are still available. If you are still hoping to buy one, contact Lorna as soon as possible... or you may be disappointed!

News from Sponsored Guide Dog "Zeb"

Update 1
Settling in



Zeb is off to a flying start

SPONSOR A PUPPY

You're helping Zeb find his feet

Zeb's incredible journey to become a guide dog has begun! He recently moved in with his wonderful puppy walkers, Jim and Hazel, in Essex.

"Zeb has settled in with the family really well" said Hazel. Zeb initially slept in a special indoor puppy kennel. Having this dedicated area helped him to feel secure and build his confidence in the new environment. Now Zeb is settled, he chooses to sleep in an adult dog bed: "Zeb loves his new bed, but now he can get out whenever he wants, he likes to wake us up at 5:30am!" laughed Hazel.

Jim and Hazel live with their son and daughter and their pet dog, Isca - a yellow labrador. "Isca is Zeb's new best friend and he just wants to play with her all the time" Hazel smiled.

Hazel takes Zeb to Guide Dog's puppy training classes once every two weeks. She told us: "We practice Zeb's recall and he is coping really well with learning these commands." Recall is Zeb's ability to return to his handler when called. It is so important that Zeb learns this, to enable his future handler to locate him. Well done Zeb!

Hazel and Zeb recently visited the local village fête: "Zeb was very well behaved and remained unfazed, despite being surrounded by excitable children!" said Hazel. It is really important that Zeb is calm in places full of distractions, because he needs to remain focused when he is guiding someone with sight-loss in the future.

Zeb is getting on brilliantly with his puppy walkers and we are very proud of all his progress. We can't wait to catch up with them in our next Pupdate in February!

Zeb's favourite toy is his cuddly bear!



For more photos of your pup please visit <http://bit.ly/Zebgallery>

"Zeb" is the Guide Dog being sponsored by the Club. For members with their own dog(s) the Guide Dogs web site has health and wellbeing advice on the web at "sponsorapuppy.org.uk/doghealth" and training advice at "sponsorapuppy.org.uk/training".

Members Adverts and Announcements

Ferm Scroll Saw (from John Edwards) : Years ago I bought a Ferm scroll-saw, intending to use it to cut out curved shapes of ships frames, but I only rarely used it. It could go cheap to any of our members who might make use of it. By arrangement I could bring it to the pond.

Contact: John Edwards
Email: johnedwards@srcmbc.org.uk

Salisbury Model Centre (from Richard Scragg): If the members are like me and having trouble trying to locate bits i.e. brass tube and the like, building from scratch I have come across a model shop in Salisbury... SALISBURY MODEL CENTRE, 37 FISHERTON ST. SP2 7SU. Tel 01722 334 757. web: www.salisburymodelcentre.co.ukHe has a small shop (he is ex-army)and if he doesn't have it in stock he will do his best to get it for you. I found everything I needed in stock. He is open all day Sunday, easy parking behind Sainsbury's and a quick walk through to Fisherton Street. Hope this will help some of the members. Regards Richard.

Westbourne Models has relocated (from Roger Yeatman): the new Retail shop is relocating literally across the road at No 6 The Coach Houses.... Just off Robert Louis Stevenson Rd BH4 8ED. We understand the move is almost complete and the shop has opened on the same opening hours as the old one.

Cornwall Model Boats has changed address (from David McNair-Taylor): from the 5th May the new address has been: Cornwall Model Boats Ltd, Unit 3B, Highfield Rd Ind Est, Camelford, Cornwall, PL32 9RA. Tel: 01840 211009

They have a list of Solent Club members so you can ring and set up your discount account if you wish to purchase from them with the club discount (but please note this does not apply to all items that they supply).

Club Contact Details

For 2016 Club Calendar, Club Merchandise, and Membership Matters

(if your address, email, or other membership details change) :

Contact: Lorna Soffe, 1 Stoneleigh Avenue, Hordle, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 0GS.
Email: membership@srcmbc.co.uk. Phone: 01425 615305

The Newsletter and Club Web Site (www.srcmbc.org.uk):

Contact: Peter Taylor, 84 Priory Road, St Denys, Southampton, SO17 2HS.

Email: info@srcmbc.org.uk. Phone: 023 80554670 (leave message on answering machine!)

Photos and Articles for the web site and the Newsletter are always welcome! Send them to me and I will do any necessary formatting and art work. You don't need to know computer programming to get your work displayed on the web for the world to see!

For Other Club queries etc. :

The Scale Section Captain: David McNair-Taylor,

18 Wilton Gardens, New Milton., Hampshire, BH25 5UT.

Email: scalecaptain@srcmbc.org.uk. Phone: 07887 967887