

... a model club ***not*** just for boats



## 2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY

**NEWSLETTER**

**WINTER 2011**

## Notes from your Editor

Happy New Year, to all our readers...

Its always a quiet time of year for outdoor hobbies that rely on the weather, though the brave members of the L&DMBC do still meet on Sunday mornings in the park. Although not sure how much sailing takes place! The winter has been tame this year, so far, with no repeat of the negative temperatures endured for the last two Christmases.

We do have the Model Engineering Show at Alexandra Palace, which will have taken place before you read this and more importantly, our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Open Day in April to occupy our thoughts. We are hoping that some dignitaries from the Council, along with some media coverage, will join us. Its been done before, at the reopening of the lake following its last dredging and general tidy-up, have the video to prove it (somewhere!).

Are there any articles out there for this publication? The cold months are the time to fill blank pages....hint hint...

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## Dates for you Diary

February 5<sup>th</sup> IPMS show Milton Keynes

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Day

Club Night guest speaker - 9<sup>th</sup> February, Jeff Wyatt from Wydon Crafts will be giving a talk on Ropes, Rigging, and the making of Fenders for model boats.



Have you any items to sell  
or that you want?

Use this page

to contact fellow members...

Contact: John Morgan  
or any Committee member



# Luton & District Model Boat Club



1992 - 2012

Anniversary Open Day

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012

Put a note in your diaries and look out for details to be announced at Club nights.

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## 2011 Christmas Party

The last club night of the year is always the Christmas get-together, which comes complete with food supplied in part by the members but to a greater extent by our in-house caterers, Lynn & family. And what a spread we had...



An intriguing quiz and a memory test kept the grey-matter working, all teams did very well, the scores were very creditable and close. Unsurprisingly the team with the most hands won!





This year we even had a cake. Our chairman, Dave Abbott had the pleasure of being the first to cut the cake. As I recall, he did not have to be asked twice.

A surprise guest was Ken Gould and his wife, Lyn. He had (somehow) managed to contrive a family visit with our club night – well done Ken. And just what will the excuse be for the next time?



With plenty of donated raffle prizes, Lynn and Nikki were kept very busy. Nikki did a great job selling the tickets and then helping with the draw.

All seemed to have enjoyed the evening, as the hall was still busy well after closing time.

A big Thank you to those who helped with prizes, games, ideas and food.

## Notes from your Raving Reporter

You have probably heard by now, that I have emigrated to Hampshire. The locals are kind, but speak a version of English that takes some getting used to. Mind you, a few I have met will never speak recognisable English. My new abode; being a bungalow, has eased the pain of using the stairs. Please, no jokes about; it would have been cheaper to fit a Stener Chair Lift. I suggested this to Lyn and my body became painful. The last incumbent had a perchance for PINK, so some (well quite a lot) of redecoration is necessary. Luckily, I am not good at painting, as I am sure you have noticed on my models, but who said stand off scale was naff.



Talking of models, as I am still a member of the Luton & District MBC, so you will still see me popping up; at our shows, do I hear low moaning and the grinding of false teeth? For my present local boating needs, I have hitched myself and boats to the local club, Solent Radio Control MBC. There are two branches, split, 120+ RC and 45+ Sail, using a fixed share

of lake days for both disciplines. We sail at Setley Lake in the New Forest, some four miles from my home.

I say lake, as the surface area expands and contracts according to the prevailing rainfall. Low rainfall and a huge sand bar runs across the middle, a downpour and the car park is flooded. We therefore prefer just enough rain to gain middling conditions. As you can see, there is no hard standing, so wellies are a must. The lake is shared with other non members, namely horses, donkeys and cattle, who like to come down for a drink and a paddle; regardless of any boats which may be using the same stretch of water, no consideration I say.



The biggest drawback by far; is no coffee on arrival, as Lin refuses to attend, something to do with travelling distance. So at great expense, I have had to invest in a new flask and thermo cup. The members I have so far met are a little more reticent and conservative, not at all like the ruffians one meets on a Sunday morning, down at Wardown Park Lake. This I do miss; being one myself. There are other elements I also miss.



As there are no monthly club meetings and the committee gather at the lake to do the club business. No verbatim records seem to be kept of these meetings, so the only way of obtaining information is by the club news letter

and e-mails. The only time we can all meet, is at the Scale AGM in April. The Sail have their own AGM later in the year? By the way, if you wish to do both activities, you have to join both sections? I find this way of boating somewhat strange and unrepresentative. More alarming; is that they have just upped the membership fees by 50% without asking for approval from the membership.



Poole Park, you've guessed it in Poole; is not too far from us, so one sunny Sunday morning, Lyn and I made our way there; to meet with the West Hampshire Modellers. On arrival, this small group of friendly boaters greeted us with; smiles and a cup of coffee each. Pictured are Shelley and Barry Thomas plus mascot dog, these two modellers are the driving force behind

this great little club. We chewed over the local boating cud and I was then offered and accepted a go with a fast RAF Rescue launch. Me with anything fast, clearly they have not seen me driving before.

After handing back a complete boat, I listened intently to their story; of how they finally obtained permission to use the reed bed lake. It seems the model yachting fraternity next door, wanted no other boaters within the whole 18 acre park. As Poole Council is a pro active multi use sports body, the only restriction to the W.H.M. is all must use 2.4MHz. equipment.



On the large open lake, there was two gaily painted war canoes; complete with twenty four oarsmen in each, racing to the beat of their war drums. We watched them for a while; I then said to Lyn, I could do that. Her answer is not printable within these pages. Also within the park was dingy racing a miniature railway track around another small lake, kids climbing area, restaurant and lots of field activities plus a main railway line as a back drop and of course the sea, all in all; a great day out, try it when your in the area.

Our bungalow should be shipshape by the New Year, but no workshop yet, as the garage is still full of boxes, her boxes. I plan to escape soon and show my face at the Alexandra Palace Exhibition, more moaning and tooth noises? If he will have me, I will be on the MPBA Stand, acting as carer to Dave A. God knows who has been covering for me since I left Dunstable, but you have my sympathies.

As I will miss the Warwick Show and Graham's mega breakfasts on the way in. I will have to wait until Ally Pally for all the gos.

As this is supposed to be a model boating report; I will look for more clubs to visit and report on. You never know, I might find other outcasts from our club.

I close this report by wishing everybody, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and may all your boating be without incident (Tony).

Best regards  
Ken & Lyn.



## International Model Boat Show, Warwick 2011

We had a fast, good set up with Jill and Graham in the chairs (literally) giving us the build instructions!



Ten members formed the gang that Thursday, who all worked very well together. During the last construction attempt in Alexandra Palace at the beginning of the year, the build had to be stopped and parts pulled apart following the incorrect sized panels being inserted to form the cabin walls. I for one had a very clear memory of this and was determined that the same mistake would not be made here!

I did comment to Graham that I thought the stand needed some TLC, some of the dowels had broken off in their opposite holes

and the “windows” were coming apart. Graham’s answer was that this was the last outing for the stand in its current form, so watch this space...

Terry had an answer to a broken dowel. I tried blackmail, but receiving no coins of the realm, here is the photograph.

Between these two photographs, you have to look hard through the cabin window, we have the team, with the exception of Kay (getting the tea?) and of course the cameraman – me.



Our secretary was to stay in the local Holiday Inn, nothing strange in that, however, one night room service took on a new meaning when Graham threw open the door of the room he had been allocated, to find a lady in the process of getting ready for slumber. Much embarrassment all round, if Mr R. can be believed. Reception eventually gave Graham the key to an unoccupied room. He doesn't know if they met again at breakfast, as he did not recognise any of the ladies with their clothes on. Yes, I know, an old joke.

We (Kay and I) had a close call on the Sunday, we nearly did not arrive for our stint on manning the stand until the afternoon. A clue, the date was the first Sunday after the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. On paper there are three roads to our estate, but only one is open to traffic, bollards stop all but pedestrians and cyclists. Guess which one the local scouts and other uniformed personnel use to form up the remembrance parade? Our timing was, however, perfect for we had set off just as the police were laying out the cones. I have yet to ask our fellow residents if this happens every year.

Chatting to the organisers as we packed up, there had been a very good visitor turn out. Indeed trying to find a seat in the restaurant at lunchtime was not easy and I believe that there was an overflow area somewhere as well.

I was pleased to see some boats available for the kids to have a go with, though it did seem to be short lived ie. a short time slot.



With all hands to the pumps, breakdown was very fast, taking just 55 minutes. Usual thanks to all who turned out to build, man and then disassemble the stand.



**END OF MAGAZINE**