

Autumn Edition

2015



.... a club NOT just for boats

Luton & District MBC

Editors Notes

Well the AGM is upon us again. What the next year brings no one knows, but with your support we should go from strength to strength. The questions that need to be asked are simple.

Does the membership wish to carry on with local events?

Should we expand to have a go boats?

Do club members want to do one of the bigger shows, if so which one/s?

Is there anything that the membership wish to do or explore?

Things that we do need to do are raise money for our club, raise our profile within the community and bring in new members.

Other ideas that have been raised are closer ties to clubs within our area, not just boating but the flying clubs, truck and tank clubs and the local railway club.

Any other ideas please see the committee members and have a chat!!

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A Night Sail

With the summer nights comes the clubs Night Sails. Very informal, but those who attend seem to enjoy them. I would like to say it was a glorious summers evening, warm breeze blowing, the summer sun still in the air warming our upturned faces, the smell of BBQ's drifting through the air. What we got was a Typical British summers eve, overcast, damp, and no bacon rolls.....but we did have tea! Thanks Terry.

Pictures speak more than words, so here they are....



John Weedons 'what if' boat, mainly due to the fact I can't make my mind up what it is!!!
Dave Seth's' Thames Tug, a stalwart performer whenever it's out.



Tony Daltons Cromarty Shore, a superb example of rescuing something from the bin! Mike Dowsetts' Atlantic tug. Not to shabby for a RTR boat.



Mollie Carmans' Club 500 cutting through the water. Probably being operated by Tony Martin who seems to like fast boats!



A Kyosho Fairwind yacht, not sure whose boat this was, but a great little sailing boat to throw in the back of the car!

Thanks to Dave Thompson for the pics, this one in particular showing a great mirror image.

Thanks to all those that turned up at the night sail. Unfortunately these are the only pictures I have of the event!

See you at the lake sometime.....

A roving reporter.

It's mine:- (Bob Vaughan)

Hitchin Market Days Out

We have now done several of these since the start of the year, so I will roll the last few we have done into one article. We had a Big Boys Special, where we displayed aircraft helicopters tanks cars and boats. Thanks to all those that turned up and helped out. It does make a big difference if we have members turning up, even if only for a couple of hours. There was also the Hitchin on Sea day where the market celebrated the seaside, with sandpits a petting zoo and bunting etc. and the Hitchin Gala day raising funds for local charities. As we attended all 3 events it would be unfair for 3 articles. In all cases there is the setup, ably completed by Dave Seth, Sharon and Dave Thompson, Mike Skuse and Pete Carman. Others then turn up and fill the tables with models.

We have taken over the Clubs Club 500s and down rated them so kids can have a go on these boats. I say kids with the loosest of terms, mainly its mums and dads who go on them. For the Gala day and Hitchin on Sea days we had a collection box out, which we asked for a Donation to have a go on the boats. I know on the Gala day we raised £33.75 for the local kids Hospice, But we have not been told what we arised at the Hitchin on Sea day.



A wonderful picture of the waders sunning themselves by the water's edge.



A Picture of most of the CREW at Hitchin on Sea day



Dave Thompson looking sheepish at the Punch and Judy show!





Terry, Pete and Mike playing at silly buggers!

The Big Boys Toys day was a bit disappointing on turn out. Although we did enjoy ourselves. Bacon rolls and cake were eaten, and Pete Carman bought Terry Martin a very large Danish pastry! Thanks to Lynn Martin, John Allen Mike Skuse and all the others who helped out doing the kids boats. A big Thanks to Mike Dowsett for filling his car with models and coming along. To Jon and Kay, who turned up as well, the biggest surprise for us!

I would personally like to thank Dave Seth and Mike Skuse for the transport of the tables etc. to and from the events this year, to Dave and Sharon Thompson for tea duties, pictures and keeping me in line. To Terry and Jill for the cake, humour and pens when required, Lynn and Tony Martin for helping with the kids boats (tony please bring the batteries next time!) Joe, who just appears and disappears! Mike Dowsett for the sheer range of models crammed into the car, and to Graham Rumble, for making guest appearances and ACTUALLY sailing boats at the event!!!

We are not booked in to do anymore events at Hitchin this year but that could all change!

On a side note, Charlotte the Market Manager has also said she has no objections to us raising funds for the club through hiring out the club 500's, something to be discussed at the next meeting!

Harpenden Armed Forces Day

June 2015.

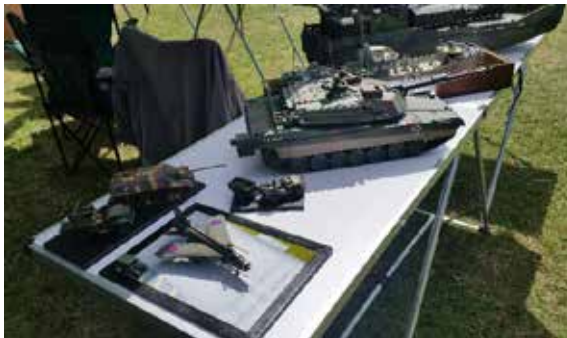
We were invited to this back in January, I took it on not really knowing what was expected from the club other than the request could we put a display of Military boats on! As we got nearer the date, information was getting hard to come by, but an email arrived stating we had a gazebo and that they were building a pool for us to sail in!

Upon arrival, I could find no one in charge, but I saw one man hurrying around everywhere, this turned out to be the event organiser!! He pointed to where the gazebo was set up for us! I then unloaded the car and waited for others to turn up. Others never turned up but Dave Seth did with tables and boats, then the Thompson brothers, Colin Saville, the Martin clan etc. we hurriedly set up as the day promised to be really sunny.

Well the sun did shine, and as usual tea was drunk and cake eaten. Brian and Dereck kindly went to the shop and got some food for us and the sun shone on. I have to say it was one of the most relaxing days I have had in many a month.



Brian, in sunglasses! In the background is the pool that was built for us! We were surrounded by the Royal Anglian Regiment demonstrating weapons, helicopters and other military paraphernalia. The whole show was about raising funds for Help for Heroes and SSAFA, both worthy causes to support.



We put on a decent display of military boats and a few tanks!!! Dave Seth's' landing craft always draws a lot of attention. He puts it down to being camouflaged.





There were large crowds around the show all day, and lots of interest in all the models displayed. We have an open invite to next year's event, and I hope we can double the size of the contingent!!!



The last couple of pics of Tony Martins plastics that were put on display, I was surprised they didn't melt! And a nice example of a patrol boat...but again no idea whose it is!!!! Sorry.

Pete C

Stevenage Open Day

A personal view from a nightmare day!

Another bright day, as this was going to be a 12 hour day, I thought it wise to get there early so as to get the tents up etc. Unfortunately things conspired against me. My job required me to go to work! Sometimes I really envy the retired members of our club!! By the time I got there tents were up people were enjoying themselves and I had missed breakfast!!! The usual setup was evident with the RNLI raising funds. Luton club donated a Tug to the raffle to help raise funds. This I had picked up from an elderly gentleman who had rung me up saying he wanted to give it away. This seemed a fitting solution.

Bill the Stevenage chairman invited us to a Club 500 race. As I was the only person with one, it fell to me. Never having raced before I had the rules explained. The race course is M shaped and was quite fun. I led for most of the race but hit a buoy, dislodging my motor and forcing me to stop dead in the water. So out of 6 boats I ended up in 4th position. There was to be a second heat in 30 minutes so off to charge the TX and main battery. On the second heat I got off to a great start. I led into the first corner, then completely lost count of what was happening, due to 1 boat being dead in the water, another having lost signal and going in circles in the course and me lapping other boats. Turns out I won that heat! A third heat was arranged and off we went again. Again I led from the front, but again lost where I was within the heat. I had an on off battle with Bill till his boat was taken out by another boat! After all was said and done I was the overall winner. My prize was a bottle of Cava! We had all bought raffle tickets, but again everything conspired against Me., I had to go do a family thing!!!!

I HAD JUST LEFT WHEN THEY DONE THE RAFFLE! Mike Skuse rung me as the first well the Trent Class 2.4 GHz model still being there and he got me a bottle of wine instead! When I returned Bill said that as people were drifting away the event would end early.....as within 30 minutes!

No pics of the event...something else that didn't go right!

Pete C

LUTON OPEN DAY

THE DAY ARRIVED.

SO DID THE RAIN

CANCELLED!

Fletcher Class Destroyer goes down in Wardown

The second voyage of Brian Thompson's latest plastic magic came to a sorry end when she sunk in mysterious circumstances on Sunday 15th August. She was trailed earlier in the week and sailed fine. This time she was out on the water for about 30 minutes when she suddenly sunk stern first. Our intrepid photographer Dave 'I have my camera' Thompson was on the scene to capture the moment she slid beneath the waves!



As you can see from the above pictures, nothing seems untoward, sailing majestically along.



A dramatic end, she was still going forward while the water rushed over her stern. No other boats near.



Nearly gone then only some superstructure floating to show where she had gone down. Boats came to the position immediately to help with the rescue, and Pete C was suited and booted to go in with in 3 minutes.



Despite the search and then subsequent deployment of the rescue boat, only the superstructure was recovered, due mainly to poor water visibility. Pete C went to the lake every day to check water quality, and the following Sunday the rescue boat was deployed for over an hour while a fingertip search was done in the suspected area. All to no avail.

Tony Martin was repairing a bait boat for a friend which had sonar on it, that was deployed as well and after a fruitless hour of searching with that at the same time as the fingertip search, that idea was also given up. It seemed the destroyer would stay down in the depths.



The following days we had some heavy rain, this could produce a couple of results, clearing the suspended silt so we could see the model or completely move or cover the model, meaning recovery could be very difficult. Again the water clarity was checked

but it was still zero visibility. Pete C spoke to Mike Dowsett to see if he had a quad copter fitted with a camera and GPS, which he did have. It was agreed we should deploy that if possible as a last resort.

Sunday the 30 August arrived and still no sign of the destroyer. Mike Skuse was first down the lake, but said water quality was poor again. Looked like we were not even going to search that day. Upon entering the compound and looking into the lake we could see the bottom. The

main rescue boat was deployed. Pete C going solo due to the shallows where we thought she had gone down. The water being a foot deep at this point in the lake.



Sitting in the boat gave rubbish visibility to the bottom of the lake, but standing up gave a better view. Unfortunately the destroyer was still being elusive. I think this destroyer had an identity crisis thinking it was a submarine!

The rescue boat was bought in and a new plan devised. 3 men in the boat, 1 looking forward with the viewing bucket under the water, one looking over the stern, deploying a mark one eyeball, one standing doing the manoeuvring. Dangerous but it seemed the only option!



Mike Skuse was the mark one eyeball, he said he felt sick doing this! Tony Martin as the viewing bucket operator and Pete C as oarsman. Plan of attack was to slowly steer from the landing stage to the area of search slowly. With 3 sets of eyes at different heights we should see something! 5 minutes of searching and still nothing. More members turned up

to see what was happening.



Tony thought he saw something, so it was all stop, only to find out that nothing was visible. Then all of a sudden Mike called out that he definitely had the destroyer in sight. A bit of deft manoeuvring and the rescue boat was in a position to commence recovery. Tony and Pete were blind as they were facing the wrong way so all was down to Mike to give instructions to the crew!



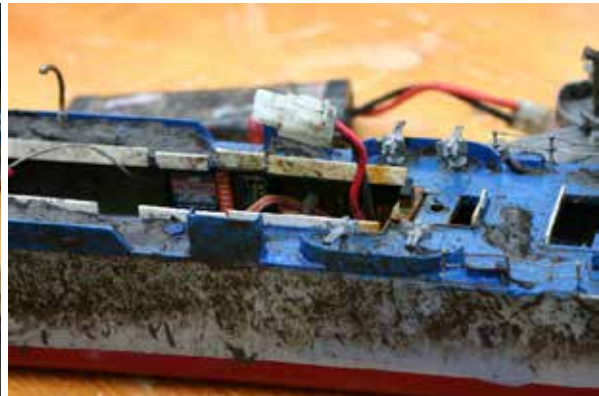
While Mike pulled the main hull off the bottom of the silt, he lost the superstructure, also there was an American crayfish living within the hull, with a menacing pincer, so the whole rescue boat was pivoted through 180 degrees so Tony could now recover the superstructure.



All parts recovered and smiles as the intrepid crew come back to land!



She looked a sorry state, silt was everywhere, there was a crayfish inside and the Esc had corrosion on it. She was put on a bench and the battery was disconnected. Next pictures!!!



Some great weathering here!!! The last picture is the crayfish that was living inside the hull. It was forcibly evicted without a warrant from the bailiffs!



A phone call to Brian Thompson and he came down the lake to collect his boat. One thing that did become apparent was the reason she sunk. The rear deck appears not to have been secured properly. Three things that come from this rescue are.....secure all the hatches, add some foam into the superstructure and hull of the boat to help her float in the event of a sinking, and finally we will not stop looking for a lost boat!

DIARY DATES

17 SEPTEMBER – NIGHT SAIL 6-30 ONWARDS

26-27 SEPTEMBER – ST ALBANS MODEL SHOW

NEW EVENTS WILL BE POSTED SOON!

A Tribute to the Martin Family!

