

# *Club Magazine*

**AUTUMN EDITION 2016**

# **Luton & District MBC**

*.... a club NOT just for boats ....*

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# EDITORIAL

By Sinker Dalton

So far we have had a reasonable summer. We have had lots of sunshine with a few showers during the months of July and August with temperatures hovering around 20 to 25 C° plus the forecast for the beginning of September is forecast to be warm as the French and Spanish have agreed to send up some of their warm dry air despite the outcome of the Brexit vote. I have not been around for a number of the events taking place during June, July and August thus I was not able to product an article for the Club Open Day, however, Dave Thompson provided some photos and Pete Carmen the verbal dialogue as you will note should you decide to read on.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new members that have joined the Club over the last twelve months the list is as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>
Barry Cole	June 2015	James & Julie Griffin	April 2016
David Jazini	Oct 2015	Barry Dearmer	Feb 2016
Mohammed Wasi Sheikh	Sept 2015	Gerry Davey	Aug 2016
Paul Ward	Nov 2015	Don Howell	Nov 2015

I know Dave Jazini and have spoken to Gerry Davey when he joined the Club in August. I have not spoken to any of the other new members, however, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the Club, please do make yourselves known to me (Tony Dalton – Club Editor) I would be pleased to meet you and discuss any sort of modelling topics, maybe I will be able to persuade you to do an article or two for the Club Magazine?

Finally I would like to thank all of those who have made the effort and produced articles and photos for this issue of the Club Magazine.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Pete Carmen

We have been down on numbers on Sundays this year, but those that have been down, seemed to enjoy themselves. Bacon Roll Sunday is still going strong, but it doesn't have to be bacon! If you bring something, I will cook it for you, but please be sensible, a BBQ cannot cook grains of rice!!!

Hopefully we will be invited to go back to Hitchin Market next year.

It has been proposed that next year we do a day out somewhere. Venues suggested have been, RAF Hendon, Duxford and the Imperial War Museum. Any other suggestions please inform a committee member. These day out will be open to all, so it is up to you!

In the pipeline, we have looked at doing a coffee morning up at Luton Hoo. Would anyone be interested??? This would be open to partners as well!

The Landing Stage is nearing completion; we do aim to finish it very soon now!

This year we have had only 1 sinking. Mentioning no names!

I had a word with the council about the lobster legs we are finding. We have been told it's the seagulls pulling the Crayfish in the lake out and eating them on the concrete area as they smash them against the floor to get to the meat!

# **A YEAR IN REVIEW**

***Pete Carmen***

I was initially asked to write about the Gala day, but thought a general overview would be better. We started this year's events in June (mainly because do Mayhem in May!!) We started off slow this year, and it did not get much better! We are provided with a gazebo by the market and we take our own tables. Set up is always from 8am onwards and we aim to be ready by 9am. It doesn't take long to set up now with practised hands. Hitchin Market also provide free parking for us in the traders car park. We always take the club 500's for the kids to have a go on. Sometimes you cannot move for those waiting, other times there is no interest at all. This all depends on the weather!!

At one Saturday, Macmillan were doing a cake sale in the market, several of us bought cakes there, and shall we say that next time we will donate the money and not take the cakes! None of us bought the same cakes.....but if I can liken it to eating saw dust, I would not be lying! Also as usual, we normally drink copious amounts of tea. After last year we did learn a few things. Never let kids have a go on your own boat. I know I had one totally broken (and still is) as it wrecked a gearbox which cannot be repaired or replaced. Dave Seath had one of his boats rammed at full speed into the submerged planter, so now only the club boats are handed over as they have a speed restriction. This year Jon Allen has come over and helped out on the boats, a big thanks to him. To some of the other peeps who come over.....Aggie, transport manager, Dave and Sharon, tea persons extraordinaire, Tony D found of info on electrics, Mike Skuse for supplying battery charging equipment and giving me a lift (he will not let me drive, something about going too fast and saying good bye to his bum on the way through) Mrs Seath for the rolls! Terry and Jill, for sampling all the tea and cakes and bacon rolls first just to make sure nothing is off!

To the GALA day!!!!!! This is held in July and is a fund raiser for local charities and causes. The high light of the day is the Duck races at 1-30 pm. Last year we slightly helped out at the end with getting the ducks out of the water and rescuing ducks that go out of the marked lane. This year, we were asked to help out at the start of the duck race as marshals.....to those that have never seen it the river has 2 parallel ropes down the center, and the ducks (which are numbered) are propelled up the course by means of a petrol pump blasting out water through a hose. This year, the pump would not start!!! So we were asked to not marshal but with a board to propel the ducks up the course by hand! Last year they had 1 race.....this year they had 3! Splashing a board in the water to propel 300 plus ducks up the river.....FUN. There was a running commentary by the DJ, and the many comments from the crowd about us cheating! i.e. throwing ducks up the course! We completed the 3 races in about 15 minutes for each race with a small rest in between. None of us win any of the races though!!

Getting back to the days we do go, we generally put on a varied display of boats, but nothing too large. I spend much of the time repairing the club 500's. this is normally changing batteries to minor repairs when the kids start bashing them. Hitchin is a relaxing day out for most of us, and next year we hope to be invited back. So if your about and fancy a couple of hours in the market, come over. Dates will be posted from April 2017.



# PICTURES FROM HITCHIN DUCK DAY

By Tony Dalton



Setting Up



Still Setting Up



Start of the Duck Race



Half Way Down the Course



Nearing the Finish



The Finish





Many Spectators – Hoping to Win



Pete Doing a Strip?



Pete – Is he asleep?



John mending a Club 500



John still mending a Club 500



Job Completed – Have a rest

# PICTURES FROM CLUB OPEN DAY 2016

By Dave Thompson



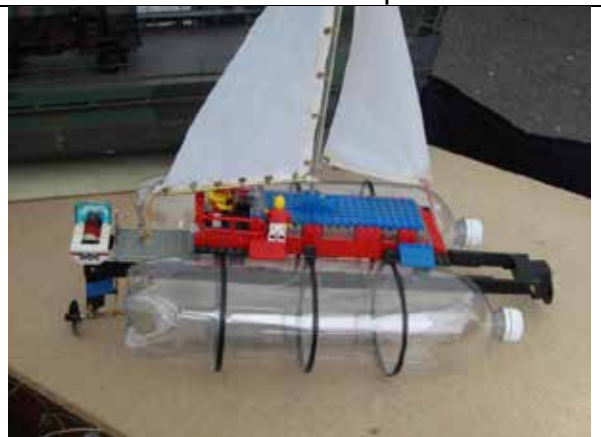
Gazebo's all Set Up in case of Rain



Looks Like the Club Shop was There



John Allen's Paddle Bottle Boat



Dave Seath's Leggo Motor Sailer Bottle Boat



Jim Stenhouse & Dave Thompson's.  
Pusher Prop Bottle Boat



Jim Stenhouse & Dave Thompson's.  
Square Rig Bottle Boat





John Allen's Rotary Sail Bottle Boat



Sinker D's - Failed Bottle Boat



Bob Vaughan's New Steam Boat



John Allen's Rescue Boat in Harbour



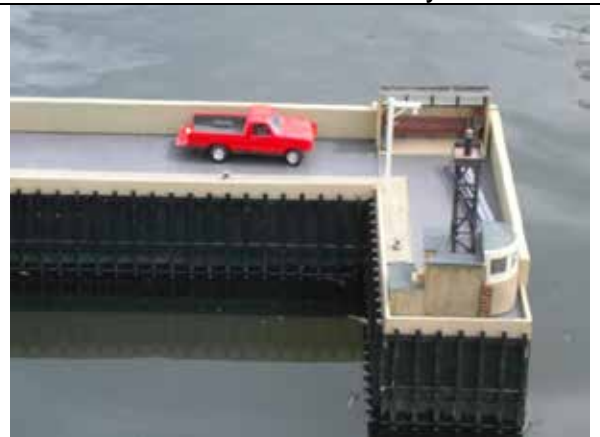
Dave Thompson's SUNRAY Tug



Phoenix Under Way



Brian Thompson's Drifter Sea Spirit



Club Harbour





Joe Wejman's Little Tug



John Allen's Rescue Boat



Brian Thompson's HMS Snowberry  
Corvette



Joe Wejman's Crane Boat from the film  
Murphy's War

## ***HITCHIN MARKET SAIL***

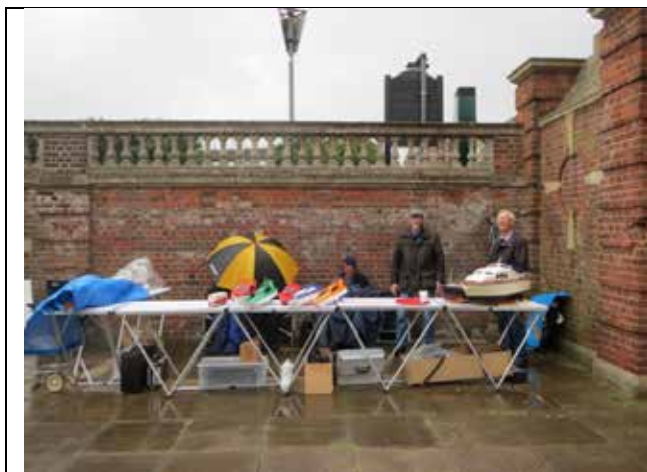
**Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 by Tony Dalton**

I arrived at about 9am on Saturday morning walked across the car park and looked over the wall, at first site I could not see anyone there, I then realised that the team had relocated from the usual position back up against the wall, well out of the wind and shielded from some of the rain. Went down the steps to greet everybody when, as forecast it started to rain (Pict 1).

Sharron and Mike immediately dived under an umbrella (Pict 2). The rest of us braved the weather including Dave Seath seen here sailing a boat (Pict 3).

This first spell of rain did not last very long and picture 4 shows Dave Thompson drying off the boats.

During the day we had a few people interested in having a go at sailing the Club Boats (all money's to charity) and we all wandered off to look around the Market and the Town during which time Terry decided to treat himself to a large roll, as you do, and it looks as if Mike Skuce is checking his watch and timing how long Terry will take to eat it?



1 On my arrival – yes it's Raining



2 Sharon & Mike Hiding under the Umbrella



3 Dave Seath Braving the Weather



4 Dave Thompson Drying Off

The rain kept returning during the morning but the sun came out during the afternoon thus it turned into a very nice sunny day. There was a Diesel Train running from the town centre square giving rides to all the children, supposedly, I thought that there were more grown-ups on the train than children. I know my eyesight is not all that good but it looks as if Pete is sitting in the front of the Train and has taken control?



5 Yes you guessed it Terrey's Eating again is that Mike timing him?



6 Is that Pete Driving the Train?





7 Pete's trying to fix a Club boat



8 Pete's Still Trying to Fix That Boat

One of the Club Boats gave some problems in that the motor came away from its mountings (broken elastic band) not only that the metal retaining clips were also giving trouble Picture 7 shows Pete trying to fix it, later on Jon Allen took over but in the end the entire cabin top was removed in order to gain access to the motor mountings, Pict 8 shows Pete removing all the surplus sealant from the Cabin/Hull.

I think we had a good time and everybody enjoyed themselves we all packed up between 3 and 4pm pity there was not more members in attendance, after all it was the membership that vote to dump the big exhibitions and aim for the local venues of which Hitchin Market is one. May be see you there next time!

## **3 Counties RC Truckers**

By John Weedon

Just to keep you Model Boaters updated, our August meeting was well supported by about 24 Drivers and at least 40 Lorries and Trailers – to say the least there were some amazing paint jobs and Trailers.

Monthly meetings are held at the Haversham Village Hall, just north of Milton Keynes, near Wolverton. Our next meeting is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 10 am to 4pm with free tea and coffee, all are welcome.

Look on Face book under “3 Counties RC Truckers” for loads of photographs

Also in August we were invited by Steve Horn an ex-truck racer to put on a display at Silverstone Race Circuit for his Truck Festival, it was a great weekend with about 800 trucks on display along with Truck Racing, Pick-up Racing and Miget Racing on both the Saturday and Sunday. Our display was in a large shared Marquee plus and outside area

We arrived on the Friday to set up and were met with an uneven floor to set our road layout on but needless to say we managed to overcome this problem using penny washers and screws to hold the MDF panels down. Set up took about three hours once we got going.



On the Saturday and Sunday we had an assortment of drivers over both days but a minimum of about 40 of our members attended some from as far afield as Kent, Southampton, Norfolk, Lincolnshire and even further north.

Truck and Trailer wise was once again varied with about a show of 100 Lorries and Trailers, everybody had a good time what with running the trucks in the outside area and driving them around the Silverstone Roads. On the Friday and Saturday evening we also had night driving until late using the Trucks headlights.

It was a good weekend with very king weather especially for those camping, on top of this the public seemed to enjoy our display.

It must have pleased Steve Horn (The Organiser) as he has invited us back next year with hopefully the marquee all to ourselves which means more road panels will need making.

Many thanks to Colin Saville for bringing along his automated entry barriers and sleeping in the marquee with another of our members providing us with added security.



Once again take a look on Face book at the many more photos, probable 300 to 400 that you can browse through.

## ***REPAIRING A QM2 DRIVE POD***

By Tony Dalton

Having built the QM2 it was inevitable that problems would arise with the propulsion PODs. The first was with water leaking into the pods via the very short propeller shafts which had plain running tubes (no glands), this was cured by replacing all the running tubes with ones that were larger in diameter and had glands at either end and were also packed with grease. This modification did indeed stop the water ingress but eventually one of the shafts detached itself from the motor shaft as they are only bond to each other with cyanoacrylate (no room for grub screws). This is a short article on how I repaired the detached shaft.

Firstly the superstructure was removed to allow access to the engine room (Photo1). The two supply wires and the retaining screw were then removed from the problem POD. This allowed the POD to be lowered from the bottom of the hull (Photo 2). The POD was placed into a vice on the milling machine (Photo 3) and the rear cap/plug was cut away (Photo 4) to gain access to the motor and the loose shaft (Photo 5).

The Motor and Shaft were then thoroughly cleaned to remove any grease/debris before being fitted into a lathe and aligned ready for bonding (Photo 6). A small amount of thick Cyanoacrylate adhesive was then applied to the motor shaft before sliding the Tailstock (holding the propeller shaft) up into position on the motor shaft (Photo 7). The assembly was then allowed to cure for a whole day (overnight).



1 Superstructure Removed



2 POD lowered from the Hull



3 Machining away the Rear Plug



4 Rear Plug Removed



5 Motor & Loose Shaft Extracted



6 Shaft Aligned ready for Bonding



7 Shaft Bonded to Motor Shaft



8 Motor & Shaft Fitted into housing

With the Propeller Shaft bonded to the Motor, grease was applied to the front of the motor and the propeller shaft and then the complete assembly was inserted into its housing (Photo 8) after which a quick test of the motor/shaft which confirmed that all was satisfactory.

Next job was to make a new end cap to replace the one that was cut away to gain access to the motor shaft assembly. A 15mm diameter length of Perspex rod was machined to size on the lathe (Photo 9) and after trial fitting it to the housing it was bonded into position (Photo 10). When cured the assembly was then tested using a power supply (Photo 11) to ensure that the assembly performed correctly.

The assembly was then masked (Photo 12) to allow the item to be painted with Halfords Red Oxide primer followed by a coat of clear satin varnish. When the paint was dry the propeller was re-fitted and the complete assembly assembled and wired back into the hull and tested to conform all was working satisfactory (Photo 13).

It was now time to carefully re-assemble the superstructure back into position and perform yet another final test before putting the model back into its transport/protection box.

I do hope you found this short article interesting and have taken note that when constructing a model, due consideration should be given to its servicing and repair requirements – you have been warned?

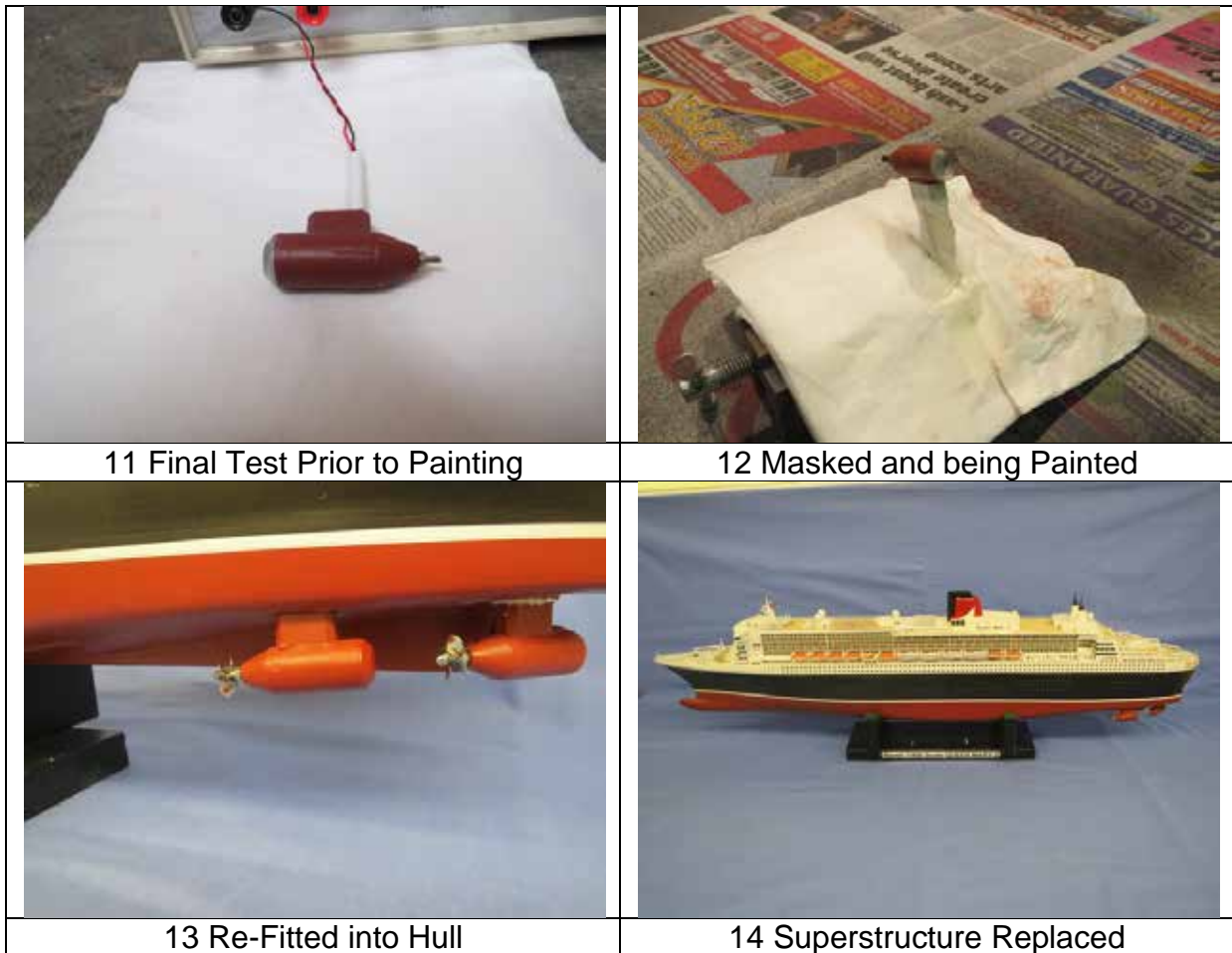


9 Machining the new End Cap



10 New End Cap Bonded into Housing

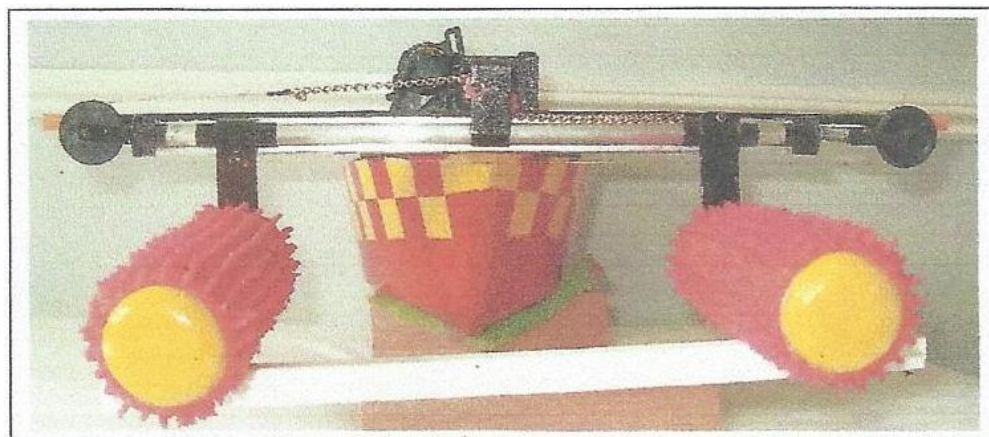




## ***THE CLUB RESCUE BOAT***

By John Allen

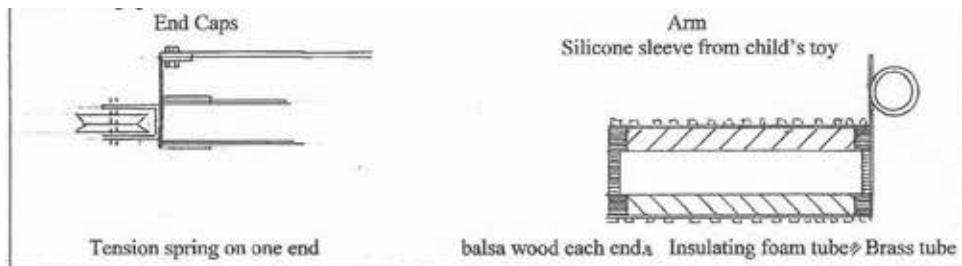
I first thought about building a rescue boat about two years ago after seeing my yacht stranded in the middle of Wardown Park Lake due to the lack of wind



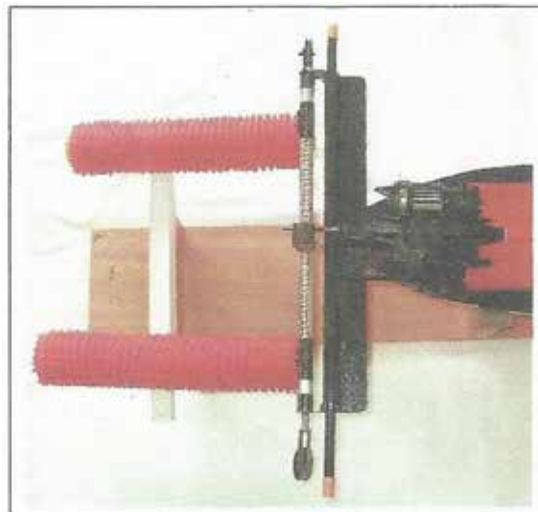
Picture 1

Picture 1 above, is of 'MARK 1' my first attempt. The drive motor is the geared back axle of a small car I purchased from a charity shop.

The arms are made from brass tube and plate soldered together. The arms slide along an aluminium tube which is held in place by the end caps (**Fig 1**). The drive chain passes through twin sprockets and is connected to a length of stainless steel wire which in turn is connected to the arms, one is connected above the pulley wheel the other below the pulley wheel to ensure that the arms move in opposite directions when drive is engaged



**Fig 1**



I thought it looked OK but catching a stranded model proved to be difficult due to the width of the adjustable jaws. So I moved on to a 'MARK 2' version.

The 'MARK 2' (**Photo 2**) used a different type of claw, based on a screw thread which is shown in more detail on the MARK 3. The MARK 2 boat proved to be unstable and lacked power.



**Photo 2**

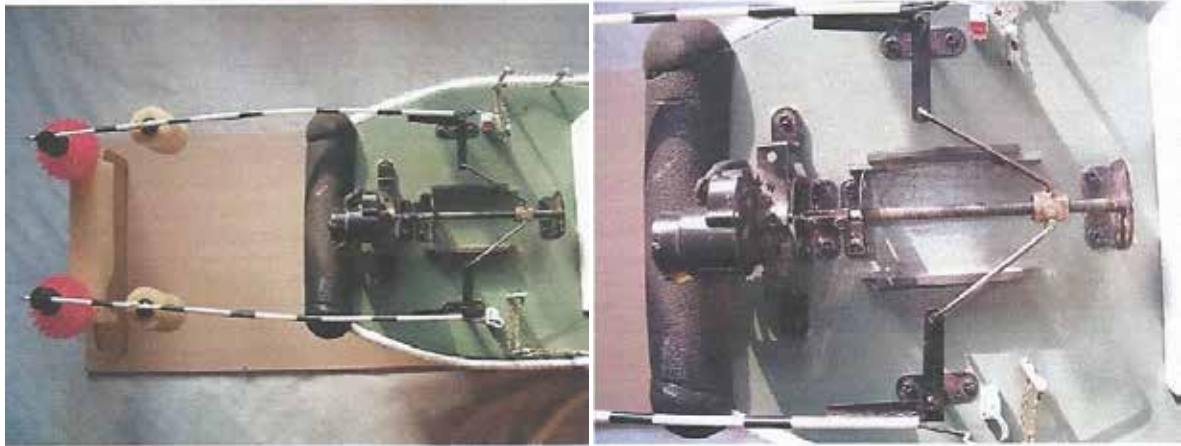
The 'MARK 3' (**Photo 3**) is a scratch built twin hulled craft. The deck, cabin and guard rails are idea's taken from various pictures see on the internet.



**Photo 3**

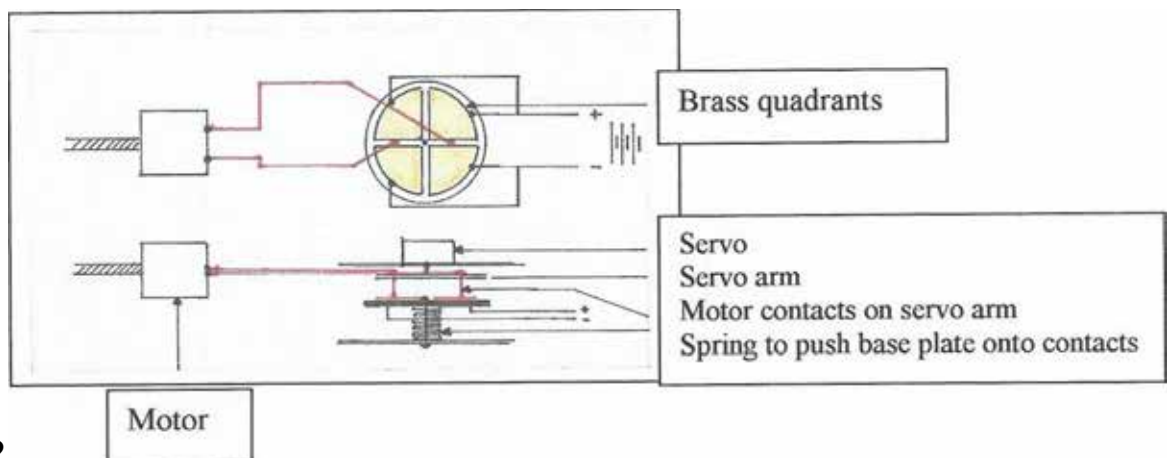


The claws are operated by link arms which are connected to a nut which moves along the screw thread which is driven by the motor. Opening or closing of the claws is dictated by which direction the motor is running (**Photos 4 & 5**)



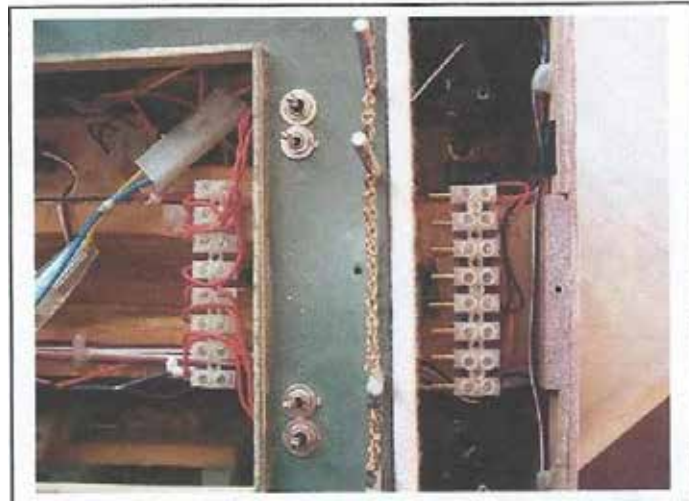
**Photos 4 and 5**

I made a simple current reversing switch to operate the claw motor by mounting four brass quadrants on a base plate and connecting them to a battery. The motor leads are connected to a servo arm which when operated selects direction of rotation, see **Fig 2**.



**Fig 2**

All the operating switches have been mounted on the deck for ease of operation. To enable the deck to be completely removed for access to the components in the twin hulls I made an 8 pin connector from terminal blocks using brass rod for the male pins **Photo 6**



**Photo 6**

Below are some photograph's taken of 'RESCUE MARK 3' on trials, attempting to retrieve the Mark 1 boat on Wardown Lake.





# DAVE THOMPSON PHOTO GALLERY

Pictures from the 'Dave Thompson' collection  
WICKSTEAD PARK MAY 2014







## THE CLUB SHOP

The CLUB SHOP is now run by John Allen there is an enormous range of parts and products in stock to help you with your modelling needs, if you have a requirement for something, ask John or Pete Carman on a Sunday morning down at the lake

John is currently busy cataloguing all the club shop stock including taking photographs of most of the items, a daunting task. Look forward to seeing it published!

**A list below will give an indication as to the range of materials that is held in stock**

Balsa Wood, Coloured Foam Board in Red, Green or Grey (2 x 3ft)

LEDs, Motors 180, 280 and 540 types, Connectors and Switches

Digital Multi meters, Small Speakers (4 and 8 ohm)

A Range of Power Supplies, Humbrol Paint (Tinlets)

Tweezers and Clamps, Gears, Cogs, Pulleys and Worm drives

Nuts/Bolts/Washers, Plastic Box's, Brick-a- Brack

A number of ready built model boats some in need of TLC – see Pete Carman

## **DIARY DATES**

- 18<sup>th</sup> Sept** 3 Counties RC Truckers meeting – Haversham Village Hall, Milton Keynes MK19 7AN  
A RC truck meet from 10am till 4pm £6 for drivers, free to spectators. Free tea and coffee, soft drinks and cakes at reasonable prices! If you fancy something different, go along!!
- 24-25<sup>th</sup> Sept** St Albans Model Show – Townsend School AL3 6DR  
Set up on the Friday from 16-30. Please come along and help set up, the more the merrier, also we need some display items!!! This is a model show, not just boats so if you have something different, please bring it along. Don't forget, that at this show, if you display an item, you can win the Roy Davis Shield. This is not judged by us but by 3 independent judges.
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Nov** Warwick International Boat Show – we will not be showing at this show, but feel free to go. This is an excellent show where we all stock up on those items we need for our winter builds.

## **CLUB MEETING DATES**

Monday October 10<sup>th</sup>

Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>

Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>

**Activities for the above dates to be decided by the new committee**