



Message from the Commodore for 2016

If the format works why change it, so again this year a short inspirational missive from El Commodore.

GREETINGS FOR THE 2016 SEASON FROM YOUR COMMODORE

Felicitations fellow Members on the start of the new season. Let us hope that the weather gods look kindly on us although I must admit that of late my influence in that department appears to be sadly diminished.

Enjoy a carefree start because my challenges loom in the future - even more so because as well as the 2016 water jet task, some gluttons for punishment have decided to run rehashed versions of last year's straight runners and rubber powered craft. Look out for further details and alterations (*your editor threatened to put them in this issue, but they will be on the website for sure!*)

A list of fixtures and dates is complete and a much reduced swan-song visit to Warwick is on the cards, (*check with Brian King*

and Jason Fleming). The Committee is also considering future alternate competition venues on the other Island so keep watching this space. [*You could always let us have your suggestions too!*]

Good sailing and my very best to one and all,

The Commodore

Notes

The first event scheduled for this year is **Tug Towing** on the **17th April at Silverdale**, starting prompt at 10:30. Please attend early to assist course set-up.

Club subscriptions became due as from the AGM, only paid up members are eligible to enter competitions.

John Williams is again asking for any comments or suggestions for Mannanan 2016. His contact details are on the last page. Page 6 for more details discussed at the last meeting.

Special points of interest

- Commodores message
- Events for 2016
- William Hilary RNLI display
- Roy's bench
- Editor's comment
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- Mannanan 2016 discussion
- Winter projects
- Feedback
- Boat for sale

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MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB EVENTS 2016

Date	event	time	venue
03/01/2016	Ice breaker sail in	10.00 - 12:00	SILVERDALE
10/01/2016	William Hilary static display for RNLI	14.00 - 16.30	DOUGLAS
27/03/2016	EASTER SUNDAY		
17/04/2016 wet alternative 24/04/2016	Tug Towing	10.30 - 1300	SILVERDALE
01/05/2016	Scale competition CLUB	14.00 - 16.30	SILVERDALE
08/05/2106	Vintage Yachts	13.30 - 16.30	MOORAGH PARK
15/05/2016 and 22/05/2016	free		
28/05/2016 till 18/06/2016	TT fortnight		
29/05/2016 [Sunday]	Spithead Review	18.30 - 20.30	ONCHAN
25/06/2016 26/06/2016	Mannanan 2016	10.00 - 16.30	SILVERDALE
03/07/2016 [Sunday]	Port Erin LB Day	11.00 - 16.30	PORT ERIN
07/07/2016 weather suitable 17/07/2016 evenings tba	RC yachting evening(s)	18.30 - 21.00	ONCHAN
23/07/2016 [Saturday]	Ramsey LB Day	10.00 - 16.30	RAMSEY
28/07/2016 [Thursday]	Transport Exhibition IOMSPCo	All day	PORT ERIN
07/08/2016	Steering Competition	14.00 - 16.30	SILVERDALE
18/09/2016	Vintage Yachts	13.30 - 16.30	MOORAGH PARK
21/08/2016 till 03/09/2016	Festival of Motor Cycling		
24/09/2015 wet alternative 25/09/2015	Venetian Evening and Onchan Commissioners Shield BBQ	18:30 - 21:30	ONCHAN
11/11/2015 13/11/2015	Warwick International Model Boat Show	3 day event	WARWICK

Event dates can change - check web-site for definitive calendar

Events confirmed

Regular Sunday sailing takes place at Silverdale every Sunday of the year.

Time shown is event start time, please allow time for your and CLUB set-up.

Throughout the summer regular yachting takes place Wednesday and Sunday evenings at the Mooragh Lake, Ramsey, after 6pm. Spring and Winter yachting days are Sunday afternoons and a weekday afternoon.

Evening sailing will be tried again at Onchan, days will be decided based on weather forecasts and emails sent as early as possible.

Onchan informal boating

Now that Onchan boating lake is re-filled members are invited to informal boating on Thursday and Sunday evenings from about 7pm. There are plans on the calendar for some Summer evening yachting too.

Ice Breaker Event

January the third and it was still raining, had been since mid-November, with no indications in the forecasts of it ever stopping, so it was quite nice and surprising to see so many Club members and partners at Silverdale having a warming tea, coffee or chocolate in Jim's chatting all thing boating and such. I think Mike Kelly actually got a boat on the water and maybe one other, but a nice gathering for the start of the year at least.

William Hilary display

The second event of the year was the display given on the Sunday afternoon following the Sir William Hilary memorial service January 10th. The display was actually the section of the display used at the Warwick 2015 Show and included other Club lifeboats as well. It was a really well turned out showing and received many



The display
Les Quayle photography



congratulations from lifeboat and other service attendees, including visitors from the UK who were so impressed that a) there was an annual service and b) that we as a Club turn up with such a display in support.

Some of the modellers
PO Douglas RNLI

Doug Wheelers workshop sale.

Recently held at Silverdale with the cooperation of Jim of Jimbo's Icecreams, was a two day sale of Doug Wheeler's workshop contents as well as several of his models, started and finished.

At the end of two days the fund had received nearly some £1400 which was passed to Eilis Wheeler. She

was so impressed that she made a donation back to the Club for it's efforts and passed on her thanks to all those that organised, set-up and controlled the process and to all those that came along and made donations for goods.

I have since seen several of the models under the hands and guidance of their new owners

looking very good on the water at Silverdale. I should think several will appear again in upcoming steering events and such. I'd need to check OTW scale rules but know that they'd be also eligible for 'Spithead Review' as well, as it's the model not the builder that is recognised.

Roy Watterson memorial bench installed at Silverdale

Despite poor wet weather, family, friends and Club members gathered at Silverdale Lake on the morning of Sunday 31st January to remember Roy Watterson by installing on site a bench to his memory. The bench, made by the Disability Workshop Unit, Douglas, funded by donations and the Club, is to be used by those coming to Silverdale to watch the model boats, to sail their model boats, or just to sit and appreciate the beauty of the place.

Permission was granted by DEFRA for its placement, and the family feel sure that many people will take advantage of the bench to take the weight off their feet with this

additional seating on the lakeside.

A very informal group gathered, nearly twenty, to hear some thoughtful words from Jason Fleming and John Williams, to witness the initial placement even though the weather was overcast with a

slight rain. Three hardy members also took the opportunity to have a quick 5 minute sail on the water afterwards.

Donations are still being accepted by the Treasurer towards the bench costs.



Nearly all those attending
Bill Callow and myself missing.
(photograph - Kim Holland)

Of course, as I took the above as a
video I was able to swing about and
found Bill and Dave alongside me
keeping quite! GOTCHA



Editors comment

Greetings to you all, as you know these Newsletters get issued every quarter so for new members this will be your first. Don't fret as all the old copies are available on-line via our website and go back a long way.

Indeed, new members can find a lot of information on the website including events calendars, pictures at previous events, previous winners in competitions, dates of committee meetings and the latest videos of Club members creations. The Club's "Constitution and Operating Rules" are also there to read as is our "Safeguarding Children" policy document. So, if failing to find what you need – ask – someone will point to someone who knows...

LMEX Alexandra Palace, London

Myself and Theresa attend off Island Shows with other Clubs to which I have membership. One, AMBO, is a particular favourite of ours and we have been around the country with them over the years, Harrogate, Warwick, Sandown and Shepton Mallet and this year we'd decided to do the London one that everyone talks about, the London Model Engineering Show. It must be said that AMBO's approach to a show or display is quite laid back, it's the boats and the members present that the punters want to see so we don't do a great deal of additional glitz and such to try and win BiS awards. I'm

Also, in months when there's not a Newsletter I try and issue a Newsheet just to keep members up to speed on results and Club information (if any). I started this year so early days as to whether Members find it useful, I have had two favourable comments on the Newsheet so far.

Our eager Commodore has again some challenges for you (if you want to participate) which seemed to be well appreciated by the Mannanan crowd last year. A Third item is included this year plus the old one's from previous (rules and guidance on the website).

Mannanan 2016 is being planned too, we are already getting enquiries from across the water. There is a later

piece on Mannanan here in which some changes are indicated for this year, requests for help in the organising and any comments or suggestions from you, the Club membership are most welcome.

Especially as regard the scale competition and its rules for judging. For instance should we stay with the explicit scale rules adopted from the NWA Clubs some years ago, or decide on our own simpler quicker method (to be created) or rely on guest judges and their own personal favourites which may or may not reflect a particular boat builders expertise.

Still enough of me, enjoy, Ed.

always asked to bring rope making stuff, knotting and sail making details as these are always top of model barge makers' lists of wants.

You have to book early to get any deals on accommodation anywhere near Alexandra Palace as it is just outside central London! We got a 3star in Barnet for £90 a night B&B which included parking but first come only. We were 4.5 miles away and chose to get visitors Oyster cards for travel on the buses.

The Show is busy, but the venue is old and tired, cold and not exactly busy with displays.

As the title says it's engineering so not many boat Clubs attend, even local Clubs have travel times of 4 hours to get there. There are r/c trucks, lots of model railways and lots for children too. Even the RSPB attend! Parking on site is very limited and to cap it all there was snooker on as well so they got the better food and parking. And an ice skating ring next door too.

Still we enjoyed it, the location and view across London is fantastic, and would attend again, it is more attended than Warwick. It's expensive to stay, but food and variety is terrific.

Mannanan 2016 discussion.

As time is getting short for this year's main event, organiser John Williams is concerned that last year although we had a well organised day 1, day 2 fell short on expectations due to time shortages and delays.

There were many 'On the Water Scale' entrants to get through which took many boats off the scale competition tables, which meant that the judges there did not get cleared to start till late. They also had entries in the OTW. Once the OTW finished there was a large gap in proceedings which included a dinner break. Free sailing during lunch was difficult as boats still had to be judged etc. The scale judging finished later than expected and to try and maintain public interest some of the Commodore's challenge entrants were run as we did not wait longer. It was also timed for the 'Fun Event' to start at 3.30pm for which many watchers were waiting on for.

So how do we keep the momentum going across day 2? We discussed changing event order etc but realise the biggest time user is the scale event. So this year the scale competition judging will start as soon as possible, even if all boats have not arrived. Once a boat is displayed as the owner wishes the judge can start if available. A displayed ticket lets the judge know the boat is ready, and when judging completed another is placed saying its been done.

The method of judging is against a scale standard and not boat v boat, so can cope with boats arriving later or being taken for other competition. What is required is stewarding to control access to the scale area so that only boat owners getting boats for the OTW get access – no public please – and allow the judges to get the job done quicker. Last year members just left the tapes down!

What was also discussed is the type of judging used. The Club Scale competition is assessed by a third party and is very much boat v boat and the judges favourite. The Mannanan scale is based on the NWA method where points are assigned for basic aspects of the build etc. The same applies to all boats categories (even here there are serious concerns as for a kit the hull receives no points, even if it's plank on frame!).

The scale judging is hard on the judge too, applying the points as per the standard is critical, hence few volunteer, they sometimes take flak (unfairly) as without the judge there's no competition anyway.

So this year the judge(s) starts earlier (as soon as they can) and does nothing else but get the judging done, no setting up or course building and such – we have many Club members that can do that. [They can of course participate in the OTW, if they've entered].

Also, like last year, the OOD's operate a very controlled system getting OTW boats stacked up ready to go without gaps. The course will be shorter and closer to the public side so more lake is available for launching and recovery up the lake. Boats will launch and recover at the top gate.

The scale judge is already known, and the Club would like volunteers to come forward to learn and assist that process. The Club has in the past agreed that it takes two full events learning the ropes before a new judge is set loose – so any volunteer will be with an experienced judge. Most of our judges have also attended courses at UK Shows to gain experience as well.

The Club has two judges, plus one, one year qualified, it desperately needs more, a minimum two more, so that the roles can rotate enabling a judge to compete too.

So please have your say and lets try and improve the two day event as a spectator and competitor experience. It's probably a silly question, but how many members have waders to assist in setting up for instance?

Winter projects – Kimosubby Shipyards

Three years ago I was asked by our Lifeboat trainer on navigation could I provide him with some model buoys. I located a card/paper set at Marcle models and made them, but they were quite small, about 40mm maximum, alright to place on charts but that was all. I searched the inter web of all things and found a free download of a Tsunami Buoy made in China. From that I designed and made a full card/paper set of 13 buoys. These were much bigger, about 150mm (6 inches) and I eventually rigged them with appropriate coloured flashing lights.

I posted them on Model boats for interest. About 6 months later I received an enquiry from the USA regarding the buoys. "Did and could I make a set for sale?" The agreed buoys were to be IALA A and B which results in 16 buoys for COLREGS plus the extra Tsunami buoy as they're quite prevalent in USA waters. The client trained ships officers in navigation and thought model buoys with appropriate light sequences ideal for training. These buoys were made from styrene card, so took longer as they had to be painted. Also, these buoys have separate Arduino mini boards to control the light sequences so each buoy could be used individually. In fact some of the buoys were set-up with a selectable set of permitted flash sequences.

That set was shown at LMEX which generated another

order for a set plus another model boat club, Kent, took copies of the plans and electronics and are building in liaison with me touch buoys for steering competitions plus adding other gizmos.

The first set was sent to California in February this year, arrived safely and intact. Immediately I got a call for another set from there but to be sent to the Isle of Wight, could I make a set in three weeks?

That second set actually from start to finish took 26 days, one of my suppliers had sent in error wrong items and again in error re-sent the original error! Still, they were sent too and well received.

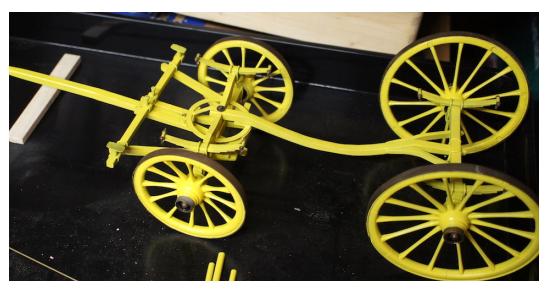
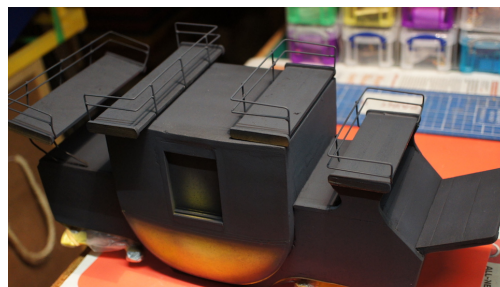
I still have another two sets to complete, my lifeboat trainer wants a plastic set with all the light selection too. I've now got some very small Arduino boards (postage stamp size) so can retro fit his paper buoys to the new standard.

With Kent we now have touch sensitive buoys, and buoys that respond to more than one touch, first touch say green, second amber third red etc.

I also had orders for some sails for barges from the LMEX, which have been done and a very strange request taken on from a client here in Ramsey, a model at 1/8 of a 4 in hand Georgian Private Mail Stage Coach, done in the colours of the one he owned complete with all the signage plastered all over it. He'd acquired one on eBay that was similar and part rough built, wrong colour, poorly painted and lots missing, Still its been a good project and different.

Oh, and a very interesting find whilst working out the decals required for it, I've found a source of paper from which one can print white lettering onto decal paper, how about that? That's white decal onto coloured backgrounds even black!

Ed



Biking and Brian

For those who've heard the rumour and gossip – yes poor Brian King had a accident on his motor bike leaving Silverdale the other week, luckily he was not severely hurt – dislocated left ankle and about 8 weeks in a solid boot and crutches. Still, talking to him he admits he was very, very lucky.

We are aware that some personal data is held within the Club, contact details and addresses for example. Without the details we'd be a bit hard pressed to contact you.

Most group emails are sent out as BCC, and we will now endeavour to ensure that ALL group emails from now on following this format.

WW II warship for sale

This boat was built some years ago by one of our late members in Ramsey. A large scale build and commonly seen sailing on the Mooragh lake with some drastic stage effects associated with smoke, bangs and black powder! It is not HMS Ramsey (painted out the bow) nor is it HMS Sheffield as assumed nor is the pennant number 865 correct. Altogether a mystery, but the nearest I've found so far is the P and O class destroyer, the single funnel, twin gun turrets forward and aft etc would agree to that, though it might just be a large scratch amalgamation. The model includes a mass of

electrical "stuff" under the decks, a speaker and so forth. The radio system is 40MHz and is Digiflex gear. The Tx is being sort. LOA 1200mm with a 150mm beam, twin motors and I think I can remember rotating turrets and such. There is certainly a lot could be done with this large model. Asking price in the range of £150 but negotiable – initial queries to me please. Ed.



FEEDBACK

Please send your comments and ideas to John Williams regarding **Mannanan 2016** and the format of the event, even if it's to agree with our thinking.

John Williams vector@manx.net

Brookfield, Douglas Road, Ballabeg, Castletown, IM9 4EF.

We also think it important to have a dinner following the event for prizes etc, so any suggestions as to a suitable venue to JW too.

If you have an opinion on the judging method used, then again express it please. If you want to see the current system get in touch with me and I can ensure you get a copy of the format employed. It is not secret and actually all Club members ought to be aware of how points are awarded/lost etc. Contact me for a copy.

Feedback and any comments are always welcomed, thank you.

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