

# Shiaulley lum-lane

MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB NEWSLETTER



Established 1985

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## Commodore's review of 2013 and hopes for 2014

The Commodore, our one and only Robert "Bob" Bagshaw used his Annual dinner speech and his remarks for the AGM to highlight what was a very busy and resourceful 2013. With some unique events during the year, namely a return of vintage and radio controlled sailing in Ramsey, a fantastic Pageant of boating at Milntown, an exceptional 10 day exhibition at the House of Manannan, and a final very rewarding away trip to the International Model Boat Show at Warwick dominated the list of a truly busy year.

Several Club members received his acknowledgement for services to the Club and his now annual Commodore's award went to Jason Fleming and John Williams. Their enthusiasm for our boating events seems endless, and Jason's skills at the Warwickshire Show greatly contributed to the Club's proud achievement of "Best in Show." And, of course, the Club would not have even been there but for "Grumpy's" determination and drive.

He then pondered whether we could match that year with this? He stressed his and the



Club's determination to continue to have fun and be seen to enjoy our boating, encouraging others to join in, whilst at the same time maintaining and improving the quality of boat building by some serious competitions along the way.

He also, and we agree, wants to see radio yachting brought down to Onchan to highlight it's own particular excitement and charm, without the need for engine driven



I have to admit, I've seen that smile before, at Warwick 2013.

"foaming bow waves and breaking wash".

And he's also made a contribution again to your Newsletter, this time I managed to turn the tables on him with it, those who were at the Annual Dinner may remember. Read about it a bit later.

So thank you Bob, from me for all your encouragement, your Club loyalty and your wonderful humour and witticisms, an away trip with you is so, so much fun.

Here's to another year of boats and boating, whatever style that is.

### The Commodore

(PS subs are due says he who gets a free ride!!!)

A membership form is included herein. Page 7 Ed.

### Special points of interest:

- SIR WILLIAM HILARY SERVICE
- MODEL YACHT STARS ON STAGE
- KEVIN'S WW1 BIRD SCARER
- ANCIENT MARINER AND PLATT FIELDS, MANCHESTER
- EVENTS CALENDAR 2014
- TUG FOR SALE

### Inside this issue:

- COMMODORE'S MESSAGE 1
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## Editor's comment

I was re-elected at the AGM to the committee, and no-one even mentioned the Newsletter, so here I am again for another year, like it or not.

Please any items for publication are most welcome I'll even put in the words too.

As you'll read, there's quite a lot of stories carried over to this copy.

Again, there should be the events calendar within these pages, unlike last year, this Newsletter has been held back in order that it is as correct as possible before issue. We have to confirm dates with water owners and that can sometimes take a couple of weeks to do.

I think you'll agree that we've achieved our aim in ensuring there is a gap between event weekends where ever possible. Last year got very busy indeed.

Our success last year has already attracted two en-

trants off-Island for Mannanan. They are planning a week's stay, so lets make it a good one for them.

You've probably noticed I used a new way to get this Newsletter to you, via "Dropbox". You can also download a copy from the Club website. Why the change, well simply put, I have to keep the size of document (file) sent out to you directly to under 2Mb else I'll stuff your inbox and my provider outbox gets full too. By doing the delivery this way, you can download a larger file with locked in text and fonts and have the images best quality. I know that some of you have commented that the text bunches up with an ordinary file.

I still send a few hard copies out (5), to those that have no computer etc. I'm trying to decrease them as it costs to print and post.

Also, at the AGM I pondered whether we should

have a "facebook" image as another way to create a following for our events, and to try and recruit newer and maybe some younger members. That is on-going, and for those in the know, it will be a "page" format, not a "person" format.

There are some statements to create for the basic set-up, but I believe it could be beneficial and another means to advertise ourselves as it were. And before you say "I'm not on facebook and never will be," well, you can still read what is put there in the public domain, given the web address, you do not have to be a "facebook member."

Have a great year, and enjoy everything you do. Remember, you don't have to compete, but without participation what's the point of organizing events.

As usual, my contact information is on the last page, **Kim**.



One of the symbols for facebook

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## Sir William Hilary display - 12th January 2014

Once again the Club were requested by Douglas RNLI to provide a suitable display of model boats for the annual Sir William Hilary Service.

The display was at the Pensioners Hall [South Douglas Old Friends] where those that attend the memorial service are invited to "tea and biscuits".

A good turn out of vessels this year, with a fine display centre stage of 5 lifeboats, amongst about 30 boats in total. I also tried to impress with a working set of IALA

navigational buoys complete with their flashing light sequences

Ed.



The RNLI - funded entirely from voluntary donations.

Thank you Les Quayle for your first contribution to the Newsletter with this picture.

## High Society

Some of you may recall way back in September last year a request being passed around Club members from the Manx "Gilbert and Sullivan Society" for the loan of a model yacht.

For those ignorant of this high quality film and musical, it was composed and partially written by Cole Porter and the film version starred Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly and Frank Sinatra.

One of the many hit songs was "True Love" which was also the name of the large yacht a central feature of the show.

This yacht was a two-masted schooner, but, sadly no Club members had such a model (or owned up to one). Not

to leave them in the lurch, Brian King offered one of his "vintage yachts" which they gladly took up and borrowed for their show in October.

Brian sent me a couple of images of his yacht on stage. I don't think we have a category for that, but well done Brian.

Ed.



Brian's Yacht on stage in High Society



AND THE FILM  
VERSION STARED BING  
CROSBY, GRACE KELLY  
AND FRANK SINATRA.

## Is that mine in the fish pond, it'll scare the birds!

Last year one of our members suggested a display at the House of Manannan (as he works for MNH) and they thought it would be a good idea. He's Kevin Kinnin, and it was a great idea and what an event we had.

He's not adverse to model building, and size seems no object either, have you seen the tank he's building? Just ask him.

Well towards the end of last

year he told me he was making an item requested by MNH for their WW1 display at the museum. I wasn't sure I'd got the scale correct in my mind, so his wife, Linda, kindly sent me some images, referring to the item as "something different" to float in her pond - a full size model of a WW1 marine mine.

Whatever next?

[Did I ask that? Ed]



Well here's Kevin trying to climb inside it. He referred to it as a possible bird scarer!



Not that big - eh?.



## Ancient Mariner - early days and Platt Fields

In those days of old when I were a lad and Pontius hadn't yet received his wings, I lived Manchester, the town of liquid sunshine and like many other lads of my age I often used to go to my local park which was known as Platt Fields to sail my modest model yachts on the model yachting pond. Again like the ones in many other towns, it was the home of a serious model yacht club similar to those of Port St Mary, Douglas etc; before the war.

The Club had its own brick boathouse inside a chestnut paling enclosure close by the lake and inside all the boats were ranged in crutches around the walls with all the suits of sails hanging from clothes racks up in the roof. There was a table in the middle for maintenance work but no sitting accommodation as I recall. It was just a "shed" but it was never broken into or vandalised. The 'parkies' would keep an eye on it at times I suppose but it wouldn't last 5 minutes these days.

On race days, all the various classes were rigged on the grass outside. These ranged from the "baby" 36R's to the bigger 10 raters up to the very big A class, a real mixture of building techniques – mostly plank on frame but all beautifully crafted – largely by their owners. The only self-steering I can recall was Braine gear type.

There would be Club contests on a regular basis when I was permitted to "crew" for some of the skippers. This entailed walking round one side of the lake whilst the skipper walked

the other. The only warning that was issued was 'NEVER put your hand in between the bow and the bank to try and catch it;' at the speed they move they could nearly take your fingers off.

I was "armed" with a stout walking stick tipped with a rubber fender. I had to catch the bow of the yacht as it tacked in to my side, swing it round on to the other tack by tucking the stern in. Any sign of pushing = disqualification and your name was mud. The skipper was the only one allowed to touch any of the sheets or the steering bits. At the really important inter club meetings; competition was so fierce that crewing was not a job for lads. These meetings were quite common from spring into autumn, largely between the various clubs in the Manchester area but also from other towns on occasions.

Sailing at home was a definite advantage as the lads knew all the parts of the local lake where the winds turned very fluky. The Platt Fields Club (still in existence) used to do away matches too, even as far a field as Fleetwood for National regattas. Which in retrospect presents a problem. Bear in mind this was in the early Thirties. There were very few private cars about; public transport was mainly trams; charabancs were mainly of the toast-rack layout so the mind boggles at the prospect of physically shifting a team of say A yachts to Fleetwood and back in a day but they did it somehow

Sadly the war quickly brought this period

to a close. The mainly rather elderly gentlemen skippers faded away, the boats were dispersed, the lake was just kept "alive" to be used as an emergency water supply for the Fire Brigade until the end of hostilities but then it began to leak so it was the usual story of it costing too much to put right and as the demand didn't seem to be there, it was filled in along with the paddling (veruca!!!) pool. The large rowing boat lake was preserved and this is where the current RC Club sail (must be a bit awkward. There's a big island in the middle)

I hope this has been of some interest. If this is so I will pen some other jottings of times gone by

The Commodore

Many, many thanks Bob, and I'll continue the story.

Such an interesting little piece, so with my editors hat on I thought to check some of the detail, firstly where was/is Platt Field, who is the Club there now etc.

My first search for Platt Field was via good old "Google". Result, there is a website "Friends of Platt's Field", it's active and when I contacted them well, read on.



. I HAD TO CATCH THE BOW OF THE YACHT AS IT TACKED IN TO MY SIDE, SWING IT ROUND ON TO THE OTHER TACK BY TUCKING THE STERN IN. ANY SIGN OF PUSHING = DISQUALIFICATION AND YOUR NAME WAS MUD.



## Initial email to Friends of Platt's Field

On Nov 18 2013, Kim Holland wrote:

Hello,

let me introduce myself, I am the press officer for the Manx Model Boat Club on the Isle of man. I also edit our Club's Newsletter and regularly seek articles from Club members.

Why am I contacting you?

Well, our Commodore who is over 80 and fit as a fiddle can be at that age, often provides memoirs for me. His last was about how he started modelling on the Island after war service. His most recent submission I have attached to this email.

## The Reply

Dear Kim,

Thanks for contacting us regarding your Commodore and many thanks for forwarding his memories of Platt fields park.

1) Can you please let me know his name - as we always like to keep a record of people's memories for our archive. His will now be placed in our records.

2) The park - the first ever in the UK to be purchased by a city Council (rather than be received as a gift from a wealthy benefactor) celebrated its Centenary in 2010. We produced a book about the park (with people's memories in it) to celebrate the centenary - and I would be pleased to send you a copy to present to your Commodore.

Can you please let me know your address so I can post it

*In it you can read that his early child days were in Manchester and seemed mostly based about "Platt's Fields". I thought I'd better 'google' that and get some background and found you as first hit!*

*He writes about the local model Club based on the boating lake at Platt's Field and how it kept its boats (yachts) in a wooden shed, unlocked but never touched. I wonder whether you can add more to his story, such as the name of the Club then and now, I assume it still exists as you mention it.*

*We have our annual dinner next Saturday and he always*

to you - hopefully it will arrive in time for your presentation.

3) The Model Boat Club is still running - now called the South Manchester model Boat Club, and it still holds regular meetings every Sunday. I will try to find out who is running it at the moment and get back to you with their contact details.

Info re the Club;

The club was established in 1980 as the Platt Fields Model Boat Club with two objectives:

- To promote the construction and sailing of model boats
- To organise, hold and attend model boat competitions

In 1998 they decided to change the name of the Club to the South Manchester

*makes a wonderful witty speech and assists with prize giving etc. I hope, with your assistance just to surprise him a bit with some addition detail about his childhood days at Platt's Field.*

*Any small amount of information, local pub name, locals name for parts of the park, the current boat Club name etc. I'll definitely let him know you exist too, I know he'll be thrilled that his old play area is still there, almost as he left it.*

*My thanks for any help,*

*Kim Holland*

*Manx Model Boat Club*

Would there be an answer?

Model Boat Club so as to better reflect their location and the area of population they serve. The Club has the exclusive use of the boating lake and sails there every Sunday morning from 9.30am until approx 1.00pm. Visitors are always welcome, but why not become a member. Sailing is permitted at other times on this water provided permission is first obtained from the Park Managers office, and a current Club membership card is produced.

Best Wishes,

Victor Blunden

Secretary - Friends of Platt Fields

The book was duly presented at the annual dinner in November to a speechless BOB.



[www.plattfields.org](http://www.plattfields.org)

WHO IS  
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## MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB EVENTS 2014

Date	event	time	venue
05/01/2014	Ice breaker sail in	10.00 - 12:00	Silverdale lake
12/01/2014	William Hilary static display for RNLI	14.00 - 16.30	Pensioner's Hall, Douglas
23/03/2014 Wet alternative 30/03/2014	Blind steering fun event	10.00 - 12.00	Silverdale Lake
06/04/2014 wet alternative 04/05/2014	Steering competition	14.00 - 16.30	Onchan Park boating pool
20/04/2014 Easter Sunday	IOM and Vintage Yacht racing plus static boat display	14.00 - 16.00	Mooragh Park lake [salt water]
11/05/2014	Scale, On-the-Water and Static	10.00 - 13.00	Silverdale Lake
25/05/2014	Spithead Review [sunset 21:30]	18:30 – 21:00	Onchan Park boating pool
08/06/2014	Time Trial model boat races	12.00 - 16.00	Silverdale Lake – (confirmed)
21/06/2014	Mannanan 2014	10.00 - 16.30	Onchan Park boating pool
22/06/2014	Mannanan 2014	10.00 - 16.30	Silverdale Lake
28/06/2014 29/06/2014	Queenie Festival Weekend	2 day weekend	Port St Mary
06/07/2014	Port Erin Lifeboat Day	12.00 - 16.30	Port Erin
12/07/2014	Ramsey Lifeboat Day	12.00 - 16.00	Ramsey
20/07/2014	R/c yacht races [sunset 21:36]	18:30 – 21:00	Onchan Park boating pool
26/07/2014 27/07/2014	Southern Agricultural Show	2 day weekend	Great Meadow. Castletown
14/09/2014	IOM and Vintage Yacht racing plus static boat display	14.00 - 16.30	Mooragh Park and lake [salt water]
20/09/2014 wet alternative 21/09/2014	Venetian Evening events and Club BBQ [sunset 19:20]	18.00 - 20.00	Onchan Park boating pool
28/09/2014 wet alternative 05/10/2014	Tug Towing	14:00 – 16:30	Onchan Park boating pool
07/11/2014 to 09/11/2014	Warwick International Model Boat Show	3 day event	Warwickshire Exhibition Centre.

	Yellowed events are for Av-a-Go boats only, though modellers can bring boats for display and of course assist with operations
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Event dates can change - check web-site for definitive calendar

Events confirmed 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014 committee meeting

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

For sale - newly completed tug [well almost]

I have recently finished my Model Slipway Anchor Handling Supply Tug "Arif"

Propeller shafts, propellers and bow-thruster tube are installed, *all she needs is the installation of a bow-thruster and running gear* and she is ready to sail.

Due to lack of space I am putting this one up for sale, can you please circulate to members, anyone interested can reply to this e-mail address or give me a shout on 462207. Live in Castletown if anyone wants to come and have a look.

Few photos attached.

Cheers,

Graham (Clague)



Membership renewal form



Manx Model Boat Club 2014 Membership Application

Name..... Address.....  
Signed.....  
Tel No.....  
E-mail.....

Preferred frequency scale boats..... Yachts.....

Please hand or send this form to the Club Treasurer with your membership fee (£25 for adults, £20 OAPS & £10 for juniors)

Treasurer: Jason Fleming. Flat 5 Bridson House, Bridson Street, Port Erin, Isle of Man, IM9 6AN

Please copy form to use, Ed.



Happy New Year, exciting new season, any new boats about?

## MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB NEWSLETTER

Items for the newsletter may be sent via the secretary or direct to me as written or computer documents.

Kim Holland  
Greystones, 3 Lumby Terrace  
Shipyard Road  
Ramsey  
IM8 3DW

Phone: 815624  
E-mail: newsMMBC@wm.im

[www.manxmodelboatclub.org](http://www.manxmodelboatclub.org)

### Please Note

As a paid up Club member you are third party indemnity insured when sailing your model boat, even when not in competition.

ALL waters on the Island require this type of insurance cover, Onchan Commissioners for their boating pool, Ramsey Commissioners for the Mooragh Lake, DE-FRA for Silverdale and Milntown Trust for its lake and properties. If asked show your Club membership card.

If you are not a Club member you will still need to have third party indemnity and be able to prove that you have when requested.

## AGM - a few jottings

Brian Swinden stepped down this year after many years on the committee and was replaced by Norman Cadwallader, the rest remained unchanged.

The Commodore again stressed fun and enjoyment, there will be some serious stuff too, but the emphasis is entertainment.

Committee meet dates will be posted on the website for any members who might wish to attend.

We hope to return to Warwick and defend our shield success.

No increase in members subs this year.



Please meet Happy,  
Grumpy's Twin

## Sail loft secrets - [the bean spillers].

The committee's next meetings so far as planned

February 27th

March 27th

Both at the Archibald Knox Public House, Onchan, in the meeting room, starting at 19:30.

All members, or prospective members may attend if they so wish.

After rave reviews at Warwick with his rowing boat, a rumour has it that he has combined with another to produce a gondola and gondolier for this years show. Talks have already taken place with an Italian based in Venice and plans are afoot {actually a bit bigger at 1/16}.

and

It appears that a new committee member has taken to paddle boats in a big way - watch this space, or better still, watch for it on the water some time this year. I understand there is a major refit underway as I go to press.

**AND a final reminder that subscriptions are due, so no change this year from last, but as far as Ed recalls, no change for adults (working or not) BUT junior rate is reduced to only £10.**

**A form should accompany this newsletter - and this will be your last newsletter if you have not paid up for 21014 by the production of the next one. Ed.**

Model World, Ramsey are shortly to place a UK order for material, amongst which will be ply sheets.

If you want any ordering she is willing to add to her list so that you can get the larger sheets delivered with her order.

Give Linda a ring at the shop, you have no more than a week to catch her order.