



# MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

March 2020

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Hi All,

Welcome to your first Boat Club newsletter of 2020. In this newsletter you will find a copy of the proposed fixture list for the coming season which generally follows the format of last year with one or two additions.

Keep checking your e-mails as we will be sending out full details of each event a couple of weeks in advance of the event dates.

Brian King has provided an article on Vintage Yachts and also a suggested handicap system to be trialled at the Steering competition to try and 'level the playing field' for those who have single screw models compared to more manoeuvrable multi screw / thruster models.

Bob Bagshaw has proposed three Commodore Challenge events this year comprising a Time Trial on the main lake which anybody can enter, Tethered Paddle Boat on the small pool and Bamboo Sundae Tray Sailing Boats. See details later in this newsletter.

Don't forget that this is your club, so if you have any ideas of anything you would like including in the calendar then please shout up so that we can have a look and see what can be fitted in. The same applies for any articles you would like to see or submit for inclusion in the newsletter. Please e-mail me with any items you might have.

Regular sailing continues at Silverdale on Sunday mornings throughout the year starting at 10am and running through to about midday. Even if the weather is not too promising, the regular members still meet up on a Sunday morning for a cup of tea and chat in the cafe.

You can always find information about the boat club on the website which also includes more photographs of club events. [www.manxmodelboatclub.org](http://www.manxmodelboatclub.org).

Happy Sailing,

Jason Quayle

## 2020 Fixture List

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Tug Towing Competition	To be held at Silverdale starting at 10am.
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Vintage Yachts	To be held at Ramsey Mooragh starting at 2pm.
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2020	Steering Competition	To be held at Silverdale starting at 10am.
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Vintage Yachts at Fleetwood	For information only.
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	King Williams College Family Day	Boat Display & Av-A-Go Pool (details to follow)
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2020		To be held at Ramsey Mooragh starting at 2pm.
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2020	Practice	To be held at Silverdale starting at 10am.
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	"Big Night Out" event for the larger models in the club.	To be held at Onchan Park starting at 7pm.
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Mannanan Regatta (Free Sailing, On the Water Competition, Spithead Review & Commodores Challenge practice runs).	To be held all day at Silverdale starting at 10am.
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Mannanan Regatta (Free Sailing, Static Scale Competition, Commodores Challenge and Fun Events).	To be held all day at Silverdale starting at 10am.
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 (or Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> July if wet)	Av-A-Go Boats at Silverdale	To be held at Silverdale throughout the afternoon.
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Southern Agricultural Show Av-A-Go Boats	Great Meadow, Castletown from 10am.
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Southern Agricultural Show Av-A-Go Boats	Great Meadow, Castletown from 10am.

**POSTPONED DUE  
TO COVID 19**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2020	Vintage Yachts	To be held at Ramsey Mooragh starting at 2pm.
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	Port St Mary RNLI Display	Details to be confirmed
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 (or Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> if we		To be held at Onchan Park starting at 6:30pm.
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2020		To be held at Ramsey Mooragh starting at 2pm.
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Club attendance at the Blackpool Model Boat Show.	Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool.
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	Club attendance at the Blackpool Model Boat Show.	Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool.
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Annual General Meeting.	To be held at the Archibald Knox in Onchan starting at 7:30pm.
Sailing will continue throughout the winter season at Silverdale Glen Lake on Sunday mornings starting at 10am through until midday.		

**POSTPONED DUE  
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## Vintage Yachts

For those of you with an historical interest in yachts the club has arranged four dates for sailing on the Mooragh park. Last year saw a surge in interest due in part to the innovation of simple radio control into genuine old boats. This eliminated the need to rush from side to side in order to 'catch' the boats before they hit the side.

The first event is in April and all vintage yacht enthusiasts are invited to bring their either free-sailing or radio-controlled yachts for display or to sail. Ramsey Commissioners have granted us use of the covered bandstand area to display our boats and to use as a base to prepare the boats for sailing. This applies to the other dates except for the August date. It would be advantageous to get a permit to drive into the park. Once obtained it is valid for the year. Last year we had 11 boats present on one occasion although not all sailed. We used the small yachts to encourage children to 'have a go'.

It has been suggested that we have some informal radio control racing for both Marbleheads and 36R's so now's the time to start getting the boats organised. In the event of bad weather we just move to the next date listed. We have a couple of trophies available including the 'Nobby' award for the best restoration/most impressive model which could be presented at any stage over the summer.

Brian King

# Commodores Challenge 2020

For 2020 Bob Bagshaw has set 3 x separate Commodores Challenges which everybody is welcome to take part. The event will be held during Mannanan 2020 on 27th & 28th June at Silverdale, with practicing taking part on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May at Silverdale.

Bob has provided some rules for each challenge which you are welcome to interpret!

## Challenge 1 = RC Time Trial on Silverdale lake

**Course** = 4 buoys in rough 'T' shape -- buoys 1, 2 & 3 are more or less in line // to bank -- no 4 opposite no 2 to form gate & finishing line. Buoys No's 1 & 3 to be laid about 6 rods, poles or perches apart or 1½ chains, 33 yards or 30 metres - take your pick. Buoys 2 & 4 about 1 fathom apart forming the Timing Gate to be placed between 1 & 3 so that the gate is convenient for visual timing.

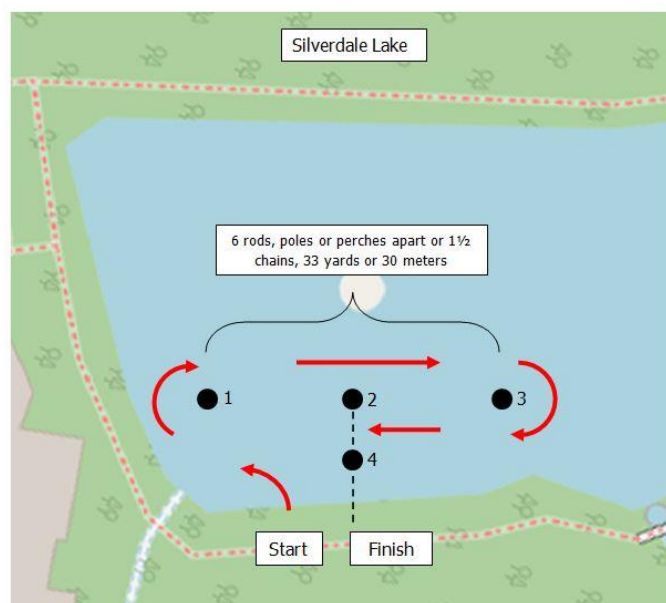
**Challenge** = boat to start with stern to a designated point on the bank roughly opposite to Buoy 1. Skippers (not necessarily owners) will give the timekeeper an estimated time for their run before starting. On command to start the boat will sail out around the back of buoys 1,2 &3, (NB-on surface) turning round to come back down in front of buoys (submerged if preferred) through the gate - bow crossing line to be timed. Boats then clear course a.s.a.p. WITHOUT crossing "line of start" in order to keep things moving!

**Scoring** = each second or part thereof either side of the declared time will incur 1 penalty points.

**Stopping** = aborted try.

**Marked alterations in speed** = extra 5 points penalty.

Moderate (but NOT exaggerated) zig-zag course on last leg allowed at timekeepers discretion but NO CIRCLING. Every sailable boat should be able to take part and skippers can share boats. Multiple runs should be possible and the worst scores discarded.



Obviously lowest score wins - in event of a tie the fastest time takes the trophy.

## **Challenge 2 = Tethered Paddle Boats on Small Pool**

Paddleboats can be either side-wheeler or sternwheeler.

Hull SKIN up to gunwale except for transom made out of centre cardboard tube ex kitchen paper towel roll.  
Hull max about 9"/225mm long.

No restriction on paddle wheel size.

Power source to be electric (brushed motor maximum 3 volts) OR clockwork and should be able to complete at least 3 laps of the pond.  
Bob has a selection of electric motors with double ended shafts & clockwork motors available for a small £1 donation.

Tether point about 6" apart, triangular tether with quick attaching ring at apex about 12" / 300mm from boat.

Competition = concours d 'elegance - Boats to be voted on for performance and appearance by fellow competitors and possibly spectators.



## **Challenge 3 = Bamboo Sail Boats on Small Pool**

Sail boat to be made using bamboo sunda tray (8" x 4" x 1") as hull. (Please contact Bob Bagshaw to obtain your tray).

Any sail / mast rig allowed - suggested sail material = paper or inside of cereal packet.

Wind power only will be from hand held small fans (or Mother Nature depending on the day).



Competition - as for paddlers.



## A Marblehead restored to the water

*Brian King restores a Marblehead and adds radio control with view to sailing on a very large lake.*

*Brian King writes:* Having just restored my recent auction 'buy' it was time to trial the Marblehead. Having access to a large lake is all very well but not when you have to run from one side to another—especially at 80 years of age and on your own! So a simple R/C control was needed and prompted by Gareth's recent articles in *The Turning Pole*, I decided that was the way to go.



*The boat as found. She was originally fitted with Braine gear to which radio control has now been added, but the boat can readily be returned to the original lay out.*

### Fitting radio was simple

It was dead simple — just make a new hatch that's a good fit. Cut a hole to match the plan shape of the servo to be used. Push the servo up from underneath up to the 'shoulders' and secure with the standard servo screws and then use sealant to make sure it is watertight.

From the topside, put a touch of light synthetic or waterproof grease around the base of the spindle. I then put a small 'o' ring over the spindle and pushed it down. Putting the servo arm on and screwing it down tightens it down on the 'o' ring and ensures it is watertight, or it is up to now!

### The aerial out of sight is led through the hatch

Turn the hatch back over and secure the RX and battery and connect. I used self-adhesive Velcro. I had an old 40 MHz set which I used, so had to feed the medium length aerial up through the hatch which I then took across to one of the shrouds and wrapped it round to secure it.

### Nylon traces fitted to the servo arm

I did not fit a separate switch just plugged the battery direct into the RX. Having fitted two nylon traces to the servo arm it was only a matter of using model aeroplane clevises to clip onto the quadrant and 'hey presto' I was in business. It really was a simple as that!



*Here she is restored and re-varnished. She will be under radio control to the rudder only.*

Having then sailed the boat I can only say what joy it was to stand on the bank and watch this classic yacht tack back and forwards without having to scurry back and forth. Of course the sails have to be pre-set according to where you want to go but there is a fair bit of lee-way (no pun intended!) The boat has lost none of its originality and takes all of 10 secs at the most (!) to restore to free-sailing. *With thanks to Brian King.*

Reaching beautifully and under control



## Sir William Hillary RNLi Display

Please see below a selection of photographs taken at the Sir William Hillary RNLi display which was held at the beginning of January.



## Do You Feel Disadvantaged?

It may seem a strange topic for a model boat club but while said with 'tongue in cheek' it could be said to arise within our steering competitions. It is recognised at present by having different classes based by model length. While this addresses the problem up to a point, it is not the whole answer as not only is size the problem, but also manoeuvrability according to the steering properties of the model.

While we all enter the steering competition and tug-towing for fun and the participation we sometime know we haven't a realistic chance of winning because of the boat we are sailing. Those with kort nozzles, twin engine steering, bow thrusters, schottel drives have an advantage.



It has been suggested we address the problem for the coming season if possible. We need a simple, easy to recognise system and I thought I would float some ideas for thought. Within each class length I would suggest a points handicap system based on steering properties.

Using a basic displacement boat with single rudder and motor as the starting point, i.e. nil points as handicap, then as follows;

Single kort nozzle	5 points added to score
Twin motors [with or without] kort nozzles	10 points added
Bow thruster	5 points added
All moving drives	10 points per drive

So if you had a boat with twin motors and bow thruster you would have 15 points added to your score.

This is only starting point to generate some discussion and to get thoughts. Feedback to the committee would be welcome.

Brian King

## **Blackpool Show**

The committee have decided that the club should attend the Blackpool show again next year to defend our Best Club Stand title. Dates for the show are Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, with full details being provided nearer the time. The photo below shows some of last years winning team.

