

# MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

April / May 2021

---

Hi All,

Welcome to your first club newsletter of 2021. We are a little bit late putting the list of sailing events together and publishing this newsletter, mainly due to the Covid restrictions, but now that we are all allowed to meet up again let's hope the weather is kind to us and we can look forwards to an enjoyable summer of sailing.

You will find the events list below with a brief description of the first event which is a Steering Competition on 16<sup>th</sup> May. We have included Mannanan on its traditional weekend at the end of June, although the event may be limited to local members this year. Having said that, the Government are pressing ahead with opening up the islands borders, so we have left space in August where we may organise a similar weekend for our overseas members and visiting modellers. Exact details to follow based on the borders situation and interest from our friends in the UK.

Regular club sailing has started again on Sunday mornings at Silverdale from about 10am onwards. Recent weekends have been well attended and it's nice to welcome a couple of new members to the club and to see some new models which have been sailing.

Some members have been kind enough to share their winter lockdown projects with us. I have included some of these in the newsletter along with photographs. Please feel free to contribute a few words or pictures of models you are working on by e-mailing them to [mmbc@manx.net](mailto:mmbc@manx.net) and I will include them in future newsletters.

Happy Sailing,

Jason Quayle

## 2021 Subs

A quick reminder to existing members that your subs for 2021 are now overdue. Please visit the club website to download a membership form and send this along with your payment to the club treasurer, Jason Fleming. If you don't join again this year then your details will be removed from the club register.

## Events List for 2021

The summer events list for 2021 is provided in the table below and commences with a Steering Competition on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at Silverdale starting at 10am. This event is open to all members and involves steering your model around a course laid out on the lake. Points will be deducted for each buoy which is touched or section missed. There will be classes for under 1m, over 1m, mini class (under 600mm) and micro class (under 450mm) boats as well as a junior prize.

I will send out reminder e-mails with details of the other events as they come up in the calendar.

Date	Event	Venue	Start Time
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Steering Competition	Silverdale	10am
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Vintage Yachts	Ramsey Mooragh	2pm
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Big Night Out	Onchan Park	7pm
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> June & Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Mannanan 2021 including Scale Competition, Spithead Review, On the Water Competition, Fun Competition	Silverdale	10am
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Tug Towing Competition	Silverdale	10am
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> July & Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	Southern Agricultural Show	Orrisdale Farm	9am
August (date to be confirmed)	UK Members Event	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Vintage Yachts	Ramsey Mooragh	2pm
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> September or Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Venetian Evening & Onchan Commissioners Shield	Onchan Park	6:30pm

## Obituary

Sadly this winter we have lost another member of the club when Mike Kelly passed away at the beginning of December. Many will remember Mike as a regular member of the club building, restoring and sailing a variety of models at Silverdale. He was a member of the committee and was always willing to help out at club events. The attached photograph shows Mike winning the Spithead review competition at Onchan Park 2017.



## An Update from Gareth & Elizabeth Jones

Thank you very much to Gareth & Elizabeth Jones who have shared a quick update with us on the latest from the Jones family boat yard.

Firstly, Kim, thanks for the info on the MYA fees. I was beginning to think Geoffrey Turner had forgotten about us odd MYA members. I have not had a reminder to rejoin the Manx MBC this year, but I will send off our forms later this month. Whether we will be able to come over remains to be seen. We are supposed to be going up to Harris and North Uist just after Easter to stay in the cottages we postponed from last year but I am not very confident that will go ahead either. The Marblehead weekend at Fleetwood has moved to a bit later in May, the weekend of the 22/23rd which might be possible for us, maybe less so for travel from the IoM.

We are both fine here, back in lockdown again. Our younger son is going to take over shopping duties for us so we won't be going out much except to take the trainee hearing dog for walks and it looks like puppy classes will revert to Microsoft Teams again.

On the model boating front, we finished 5 restorations last year. I think I sent you some photos of most of them but perhaps not the last couple. They were a Marblehead to the Jemima Duck design which turned out really well and is a very attractive yacht, despite its odd shape. There will be an article on it in the next Turning Pole, explaining how we recreated the hull lines using a laser level in our workshop and some clever software jiggery



pokery done by Earl Boebert in the USA. The other is an old unknown design, about the same size which also turned out well. It was named Toofa by Elizabeth as she thought it might be too far gone to be worth restoring when we were given it by an old couple from the Scarborough area. Unfortunately we haven't sailed either of them very much as some of the VMYG meetings have been cancelled and York MBC where we sail has been opening and closing all year and is currently closed again. We have also been very wary about going out where we might end up in close proximity to others so when we have been sailing at the York pond it has usually been in the week when nobody else was there.



We have done a major mod to our workshop and had the up and over garage door removed and replaced with a wide normal door and window. At the end of last year I removed the internal partition wall and door and extended the workshop into the end of the garage. I have dry lined it but left it open to the roof so we can rig pretty well any size of yacht by poking the mast up between the roof trusses. We also now have enough floor space to work on at least two boats at once.



We have three projects on the go at present plus a mod programme on some of our other yachts, The biggest job is probably the A class Phaedra 2 which we acquired at a VMYG meeting last year. We bought it as a bare wooden hull with a nicely cast keel. It has been beautifully planked in cedar. I have installed the internal structure, ribs, floors, tie bars and deck beams and over the last week fitted the sail winch and rudder servo. The deck has been cut out and trimmed to size but not fitted yet. I am planning to fit a radial jib, but can't make up my mind whether to buy the fitting or make one. The problem with buying one is the expense and the ones available are not very 'vintage' which might offend the purists. I need to decide before fitting the deck as it needs an appropriate substructure to take the loads. The deck is 1/32 birch ply.



The other two major projects are 10 raters. Nemax is being done for a chap in Derby, as a follow up to one we did for him about 3 years ago. It's an unknown design, I guess from the 50's, similar to a Stan Witty Barracuda. Elizabeth has stripped it back and removed all the paint and lots of surplus timber, including some bits of inch thick oak in the hatches. I have repaired the deck beams and fitted the sail winch and rudder servo and it's about ready for the deck to go on. After that its glass cloth and resin on the hull, which is nicely made in bread and butter fashion, but on the buttock lines rather than the waterlines. Michael Cresswell, the owner, is going to buy the mast and sails, probably from PJ Sails and arrange for them to be delivered here but we don't know when.



The other 10 rater is a Stan Witty Windwing, owned by Jonathon Blakeborough who is a local VMYG member who lives in York. He is assisting in the restoration as a way of getting some experience. He is quite keen but a bit lacking in confidence to get on with it. Elizabeth has got the hull rubbed down but it is now parked because the lockdown means we can't meet up with Jonathon, The yacht came complete with mast, sails, fittings and vane gear, together with a registration measurement certificate, completed by Graham Bantock in 1973.

I am slowly doing a bit of a mod programme on some of our yachts. Most of the dual control ones have homemade deck eyes made from 3mm brass rod. The eye has to be big enough to pass through the hooks on the end of the two sets of sheets to allow the switch from radio to vane and back. These look a bit clumsy and the mainsail is not very well held in the fully 'in' position. I am planning to replace the rear deck eye with a main sheet post but it affects the geometry of the simultaneous sheeting and still needs some way of swapping the sheets over. I am currently experimenting with one of our 10 Raters to come up with a good way of implementing the change and we have about half a dozen yachts that would benefit from being modified ranging from 36R to A class. I also want to build the current three projects on the go with the final solution to avoid changing them later.

Not much else to report. I hope everyone is keeping well and safe over there. How is Bob Bagshaw getting on these days?

Best regards Gareth and Elizabeth

## Isle of Man Lockdown Projects

Scott Booth sent me the following;

“I have a couple of projects on the table for lock down. The first is HMS Bluebell. I bought her from an auction. She has been stored in a loft for a very long time as was covered in webs and dust. All workings inside were seized.



Spend a good few nights freeing prop shaft, had to totally replace rudder servo as had rusted up inside. The old speed controller seems to work though it's not one I recognise.

It's all working fine and took hours cleaning and gluing, but she's done and was due to go back in the water for the first time this week but got lock down. She will go in when we are allowed.”

Thank You to Kim Holland for the following information on his winter projects;

“Hi Jason, Just three of my lock down projects this time.

Here's Nancy Grey, almost done - masts and spars made. Needs a coat of paint and some sails, hopefully sea trials at Easter if we're out and about. Also have to forge 3Lb lead ballast.



Next is Caroline North V2.

V1 is in the box, and I have re-used the build cradle for this version. I have copied John Hancox's cardboard method, almost, and this version is now correct in dimensions of breadth, depth and length using my one lines drawings derived from another vessel. Starting the time consuming part gluing stringers, and then carving stem and stern pieces from blue foam. Note the propeller shaft and engine floor have already been incorporated.



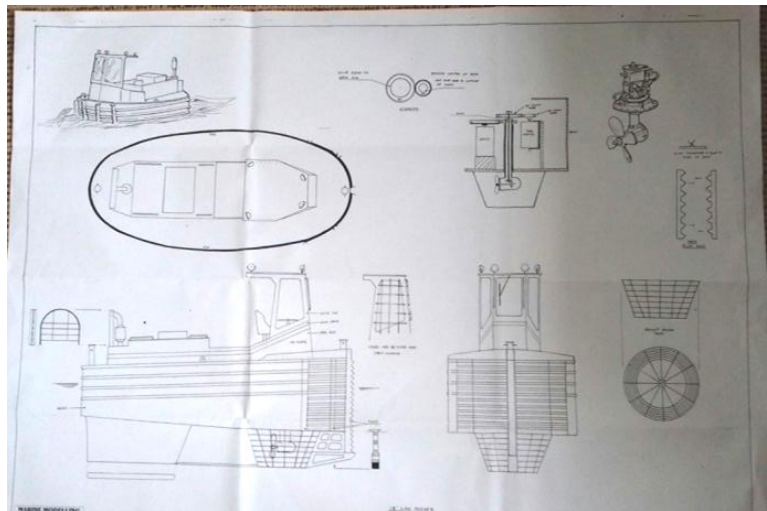
Thirdly, a new project. Our last time at Warwick found Brian King and myself studying Canadian log pusher tugs and their ingenious vertical motor shaft arrangement and 360' motor drive. Well, searching through my plethora of model plans I found this one. The final size, the oval shape, just fits on an A4 sheet of paper if angled correctly. I'll build at that size, but the pair at Warwick were probably double the size.

If anyone is interested I can make a better image and can then direct you to software on-line to scale that up onto A4 sheets, to cut and glue back to any size wanted.

Keep safe one and all.

Aye, Kim

PS should anyone want boat plans get in touch and I might just have it in my collection. I started a list but never completed it."



The final lockdown project is actually a project which I have been working on for the last 2 or 3 years! It's a steam launch based on the Marten Howes & Baylis model of Topaz. The model is owned by John Williams and I have been building it on his behalf. The hull is a GRP moulding, but the rest of the superstructure is scratch built from materials supplied with the kit. The model also features a working steam plant.



# Sunday at Silverdale

The final selection of images has been taken at Silverdale during some recent Sunday morning club meetings. In addition to sailing model boats, there is now a growing interest amongst club members in RC trucks and other RC wheeled vehicles. It is surprising how much additional interest these other types of models are generating – both amongst club members and the public.



Jim Patterson sailing his PT boat & Robbie Patterson (junior member) sailing the small yacht. Just behind Jim is new member Brian Marsh sailing his Pakasa.



In addition to the Pakasa & PT boat you can see Dave Costains new model in the foreground.



Scott Booths 'Ice Road Truckers' Big Rig, complete with realistic ice road conditions on a chilly Sunday morning in January.





This small truck was driven by Jason Fleming.



Nigel Latham scratch built this Unimog based on a Land Rover chassis.

Scott Booths HMS Bluebell at Silverdale complete with transport box.



This truck was built & driven by Bill Callow.

One of Brian Swindens impressive military trucks.

