



Hello, and another Newsletter for you all.

It is also available via the website for interested visitors, or if you've not paid subs this year!

A good start to the year, the weather has been remarkably friendly for us and sailings at Silverdale have been well attended. On one Sunday there about twenty people turned out.

So, what has been happening since the last NL, and what is going on below? See end of Show report.



We had another Model Show at Ramsey, a very good Vintage sailing Sunday afternoon at the Mooragh Lake and an excellent steering competition at Silverdale. Your committee have also laid advanced plans for this year's Mannan which will soon be with us, slightly earlier to avoid the Parish Walk and its numerous road safety closures and one-way routes. Silverdale is still busy on ordinary Sundays and Onchan is proving popular in the evenings, the next organised get together there is Sunday evening 28th May, pre TT.

Ramsey Model Show 2023, 25th March.

This looks as if it will become an annual event, we had a very good attendance this year and many people questioned whether we could make it longer and bigger. I know that a committee member of the Manx Flyers attended and was proposing a joint venture at some time. He is to get back after he has discussed with his Club.

Firstly, my thanks for help setting up go to Theresa, Brian King, Geoff Gell, and Brian Marsh and also Jason Fleming for his time making the Club's gear available from stores. Thanks also to Ramsey lifeboat station for the use of their sturdy tables.

To continue, this being our second showing the planning and set-up was a lot easier. We are obliged to the new running organisation of the Ramsey Courthouse, the Ramsey Community Hub, for permitting us to use the lower main hall once again. All charity and non-profit hirers are not charged the hire fee. [This is £90 the full day and includes use of the kitchen area and facilities.] The MMBC decided to donate to them half the day fee as we were permitted access on the Friday before to set out tables, and off-load gear, and then on the Sunday to collect any stored items left from the Saturday.

It has to be noted that we have to share the facility with the Market outside should the weather turn wet, luckily, we've not had that problem arise yet...

Any collections on the day are split with the RCH.

A slightly different table layout was used this year, with single width tables either side both supporting a rear shelf to raise models up and tables two abreast down the middle for larger boats, this enabled boats to be displayed without overhanging bows or sterns. An area was also created for a photograph display of Ramsey lifeboats over the years and some of Brian King's vintage yacht images. There was also a separate table for the period ships, especially HMS Racehorse and the Dent sailing/pulling lifeboat.

We also managed to get the MMBC banner out front supported between the palm trees on bungee elastics, together with a borrowed "Exhibition now OPEN" banner which we are sure bought in more of the passing public.

The display was split up, with an emphasis on lifeboat models as 2024 is the bicentenary of the RNLI, along one long side, the central run of tables held a general mixture of boats of all types and the tables on the other long wall more boats and those wonderful IOMSPCo models of Peter Iddon, Lady of Man and Mona's Queen.





Name cards used were as made for the Blackpool Shows and most boats had cards. There were new builds presented, Lewis long and son Sam with the pilot boat, much interest shown including a radio interview, and a recently restored HMS Hood Steam Pinnacle. Also Jason Quayle’s part built DUKW, and a very neat Manx Nobby from Geoff Gell, the “Cushag PL 41”.

Next page a few of the boats that I got images for, more on the website Gallery.





The Show opened at 10 and was quite busy till about dinner time. Lots of interest shown for the models and in Jason Quayle's Mannin dredger, running its routine at one end of the room. Lots of chats and discussion regarding the HMS Racehorse and several enquiries about later Club events and where we sail.

The advertising obviously worked, we had press coverage by way of Isle of Man newspapers coming and taking pictures and details and then the local radio, Manx Radio did an interviews as well, with Sam Long our new young member and with yours truly, that aired on the following Tuesday, the pictures were in the local press from Wednesday.

By mid afternoon we had no more visitors, and just after half past three we started to take down. It is always amazing how quickly a show hall can be emptied. By four we were stacking empty tables and folding tablecloths, its that quick.

The last boats were collected on Sunday morning and the Club items were collected by Jason Fleming on the Monday, he was working in Ramsey, how convenient.

There was only one incident of note, Dave Costain managed to lock his keys in his car on the first delivery of his boats to the vehicle. Peter Iddon did the honours, driving Dave back South to collect the spares, then back North to collect the car. Good old Peter...

And that front page image – well Dave Costain a couple of Sundays after the Show had a sinking of his boat at Silverdale and Nigel Latham manned the rescue craft with Dave to salvage the boat.

Vintage Sailing Sunday 23rd April

St Georges Day

Glorious sunny weather welcomed the many who came along to the Club's first vintage sailing session of 2023. Ramsey is noted for fine weather and she certainly played fine, just a gentle NE breeze coming onto the covered area on the Lakeside at the Costa.

The Mooragh Lake is salt water, fed via a sluice to the harbour and hence the sea. It is 9 acres of water, average depth about 1.2m, with an awkward Island in the middle which is a very good trap for yachts, especially free sailing ones. Due to this, we have started adapting the old yachts to take a simple r/c unit with rudder servo which enables the skipper to turn the boat without requiring a helper on the far side running up and down. Of course, it does depend on the units to work as intended, not always the case...

Brian King's report:-

This was the first event of the 'season' and how lucky were we with the weather. The best day for some time, light winds and sun! Kim and I were the first there under the bandstand, but we were soon joined by 'Possy', [Alan Postlethwaite] then Dave Kettlewell, complete with yachts. I had brought three boats and Kim with another three. With the boats in the water, we were soon joined by an appreciative audience, including Brian Marsh in full Highland dress and drum!

We were joined on the water by a couple of modern One Metre yachts which added to the 'busy' scene. I was sailing my newly renovated 36R, recently acquired from Jack Ball's heritage of yachts. Kim was also sailing a 36R, but an early one with a weighted rudder! Needless to say we have both fitted basic RC! We can't run like we used to! In the middle of all this, Mick Kneale turned up with a monster 'A' [?] class yacht, again probably originally fitted with a weighted rudder. It had not been in the water for nearly a century but looked like new thanks to Mick's efforts and skill. Mick had however fitted it with Braine steering which he was unable to utilise due to a loose rudder fitting. He did however put it into the water as a free-sailer. How impressive it looked with its 8ft mast sailing gracefully across the lake in the light wind. Luckily it went round in large circles so Mick did not have to chase it round! It actually 'landed' more or less from where it started after 10 minutes. A very successful first sail' although Mick can now see the point in RC!

We did have a 'newbie' turn up with a vintage free-sailer complete in its original tailor-made storage box. It is a '30 incher', very well made complete with 4 sets of sails and mast, just needs some TLC which the owner intends to complete and hopefully add to the fleet. [The boat was made by his grandfather when working in Spain and probably explains the fact that the whole could fit in a wooden box 38 x 12 x 12 inches. The mast had a jointed socket so that it could be taken apart to fit.]

Altogether a very successful afternoon which seems to have been enjoyed by the numerous spectators.

Brian.

Bill Bumpus and John McDermott sailed their IOM's whilst Will, a friend of the editor, sailed his wee free yacht, a Skipper 15 which is about 10 inches long. The 30 incher is the second of that size we have encountered this year, the first popped up at the Model Show in March and is to be restored to sailing condition this year by the editor, the owner lives in Andreas.

Here's a few images taken on the day, the unlabelled ones by Mike Kneale's wife.

Will's Skipper below



Mike Kneale (right) with the big one



The interested spectators and "experts" get up close to Mike's large yacht
Pictures taken by his wife.



An idea of the size of this yacht with its 8 foot mast

Kim's 36R with weighted rudder, rigging as received, and below with new rigging and sails on the water.



What could be nicer than two old wooden vintage yachts racing by!

And below frolicking with Dave Kettlewell's Dragon 65.

The



weather made the day, a variety of boats and people enjoying the sight of sailing boats of all types on the water. There are more images on the website gallery page, and any sent in can be added either by Jason Quayle or myself.

The next Vintage day on the calendar is July 9th, but there's nothing to stop us sailing them at Onchan on the 28th May.

Steering competition Silverdale 7th May 2023.



Fine weather and very little wind made for a good morning at Silverdale. As usual, after the course had been set-up and boats made ready a Skipper's briefing was held, with Brian King doing the honours at which the course is explained and the scoring methodology established. Over to Brian for his report:-

This was the first competitive event of the season, and there was a good turnout despite it being very misty with a light breeze. After a brief discussion the course was devised 'off the cuff' on the premise that we did not want too many 'run offs', and it worked! Nigel was the man who donned the waders, and the course was ready well before 10 o'clock.

The 'over 1 metre' class was held first and Jason Quayle was 'first off' with his Crash Tender. He set a cautious but steady pace which resulted in the loss of only one point.



Next off was Kim with his newly acquired large Fairey Huntsman, First time on the water and with large batteries and single brushless motor, Kim took some time to get used to the abrupt power input and lack of right hand turning! However, he did eventually finish with a loss of five points. Not bad for such a 'new' 'leviathan'!



I was next on with 'Victoria', Dave Cole's Windermere type boat which was having its' first tun out since he passed away. I found the large rudder difficult to control despite having the motor virtually on tick-over especially at the start. Turning in the circle 'finished me' and I ended up losing twelve points.



Brian Marsh was next up with his Malaysian gunboat Sangsetia. After a steady start he lost the odd mark here and there and was doing well until the last two 'obstacles', the touch and reverse and the turn 360 degrees within the circle, both of which defeated him leaving him with a loss of thirteen points.

There were six entries for the Under One Metre [but over 60cms] . Nigel Latham had his quite large modern tug Velox, under one metre but very wide! His very manoeuvrable



steering system was not working quite as it should but despite this he got round with a loss of just one mark.



Next up was Kim and his Landing craft. With a very steady pace he made relatively easy work of the course until he got to the touch and reverse. Despite having a wide bow [landing platform] he missed the buoy altogether! However, he realised his error just in time and 'cleaned' gate nine and also the turning circle. This made his round clean without the loss of any points.

John Hancox was next 'away' with his Fleetwood trawler FD 38 and after a four 'cleans' lost his course and concentration and had four 'fives' in a row. Even the ducks got out of the water as he tried to re-find the course. He eventually lost 20 marks.



The last one to start was Brian Swinden with his lifeboat and twin motors, complete with sound effects. He was doing exceptionally well until the next to last 'gate', the touch and reverse but for some reason got forward and reverse mixed up, to lose five points. Back on track, he 'cleaned' the last turning circle to end up losing a total of five.



With the Mini class to go, there were five entries, three got round in 'cleans' while I lost 11 points with DO 22 and John Hancox [Vital Spark] got round in 9. The 'practice' lap earlier paid off!



The three in the run-off were Kim, Brian Swinden and Dave Costain, and this time they were up





against the clock! A drawing 'short straws' Kim was first off with Nudger and he managed a clean lap in a time of 2 min 18 seconds. Dave Costain was next off with Active. [a tug] Going well, he kept a clean sheet until the last two 'gates' when he lost one point on each. His time was also slower at 2 mins 41 seconds.

Last but not least was Brian Swinden with Janeve, another small river tug. This was extremely manoeuvrable judging by it's zig-zag course! However, gate 10 [turning circle] took it's toll resulting in a loss of five points and a time of 3min. 28 sec.

There was only one entry in the micro class which was Jason Quayle's D class lifeboat but as there were no other entries there was no run-off.

Altogether, a very successful event as a result of a combined effort in setting up the course and good participation. *Brian King*

Many Thanks to Brian for the report, and to Jason Quayle for the pictures. Please, if you have any images or stories to pass along just contact me, I'm always looking for more to add to the NL, like the next item.

As from Monday 22 May 2023 at Port St Mary Town hall the following

Exhibition to tell the story of the Mona's Queen

An exhibition will commemorate the Mona's Queen later this year.

On May 29th 1940, the Isle of Man Steam Packet vessel Mona's Queen was lost after she struck a mine on her way into Dunkirk to help with Operation Dynamo.

An exhibition to commemorate the Mona's Queen will go on display for two weeks at Port St Mary Town Hall from 22nd May.

The exhibition tells the story of the Mona's Queen, and includes the original plans for the ship, launch photos, the apprentices model, original tableware, ship's pennants, photographs and video of the wreck today, as well as the stories of the other Steam Packet ships and their crews.

Next month, a dive team from the Isle of Man will be travelling to Dunkirk to photograph and video the Mona's Queen wreck.

Some of Peter Iddon's IOMSPCo boats are also on display.



Calendar dates

This coming Sunday, 28th May is the first fixture date for free sailing at Onchan Park, peace and quiet before the noise and bustle of the TT all starting on the Monday following. Just turn up and enjoy the boats and friendly banter.

Sunday June 11th is the Big Night Out, again at Onchan Park, but any boat is most welcome on the evening. I'll sort a poster reminder during a quieter spell...

Onchan Commissioners' have this on their FB pages and website too, many thanks to them.

Mannanan 2023 is the weekend after, 17 and 18th June. There will be separate emailing's regarding the scheduled events for that weekend issued in the coming two weeks.

Saturday will be On The Water, under and over one meter classes, with invited judges, which also includes the Manx Heritage trophy for the nest boat with a Manx connection. Free sailing for the afternoon, and free drive about for model vehicle owners too.

Sunday is Scale competition day, all entries must be owner built and please do provide some documentation at least giving scale, name and some detail that pertain to the vessel.

We finish with the Float comp.... nuff said!

Entries on the day please.

We are finalising dinner arrangements for the Monday evening following.

That's it everybody. Lets hope the good weather continues.

Happy boating, see you on the water, Kim

editor Newsletter

[Any errors are possibly mine, though I can usually find excuses to pass the buck.]