



MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB NEWSLETTER

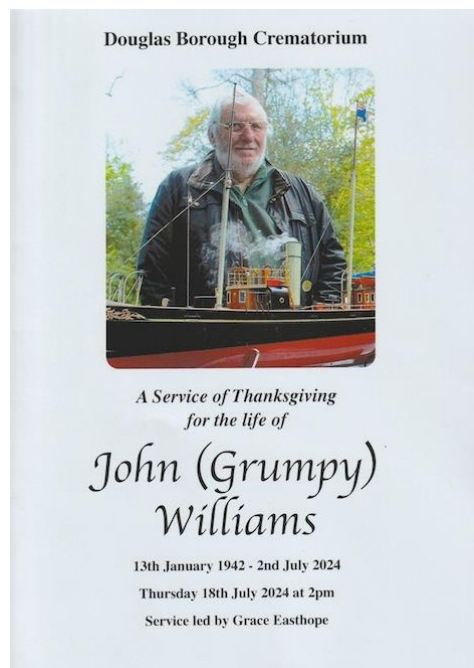
August 2024

Hello and we start with the sad news that one of our members passed away just after this years Mannanan event.

John Williams, affectionally referred to as Grumpy was a great Club stalwart. He provided the initiative and drive for the Club to become, for a period of years, one of the best to display its members' models at many UK venues. Warwick in particular was his brainchild, but we also had success at Ellesmere Port, Birchwood, Haydock, and Blackpool. He also pushed the Club to create the Av-a-Go fleet, providing the inflatable pool and encouraged the Club to get the large display marquee. Many of us will remember setting that all up at various events.

I was proud to be asked by Pat to provide a tribute, on behalf of the Club, at his final passing. It was quite amazing how all speakers summarised John in the same way, a gruff exterior with heart of gold. He left behind many wonderful memories, several large models, and a great void in the Club.

Rest in peace dear Grumpy.



Mannanan 2013



John with Roysterer
at Spithead Review
2006



Warwick 2014
Best Club Stand



I couldn't resist this last image, John, Bob and Les and Mary beneath the trees at our re-run of the Queen's Silver Jubilee River Pageant at Milntown June 2013. One idea that didn't come from JW but was certainly in his class.

Mannanan 2024 *Many photographs on website by Jason Quayle*

Our two-day event followed our usual simple and uncomplicated format, less competition and more free sailing and boat talk. Club numbers have slowly declined and this year we had some members unable to attend, holidays and the like. Some of our regular visitors still came, Peter Iddon and daughter Janet, as well as Mary and Paul Brassington. Also, this year we had a new visitor, Peter Ward and his wife, who happened to be holidaying, and both signed up as members on the Saturday even though they were leaving on the Sunday. A warm welcome to you both and we'll see you later this year at Blackpool. We caught you on camera too.



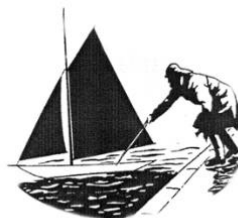
This year I tried promoting our event to Facebook, having become a secret participant to enjoy access to the VMYG closed group. I also used the usual What's on guides of the three local radio stations. Some people saw the post and came along, so it did reach out.

Saturday started at 8, maybe earlier for Jason Fleming, with Brian King and me arriving by 8.10. Set-up completed by 10, and registration started for OTW at 10.20 with competition underway soon after despite gentle rain. There was no point in delaying, forecast was for more rain later. The judges were to be commended for staying with us and the gazebo erected at the water's edge provided them with shelter whilst they steadfastly performed their task.

There was a major problem to contend with, that of floating green weed and an algal bloom which encouraged by the forces of nature accumulated at our usual operating area. Brian King spent a lot of time fishing out quantities of it with a small net. It did cause some problems wrapping about propellers and clogging rudders, but we managed to keep going. The wind kept the weed to the car park end, so the upper lake was quite free.

Keeping ample boats on the water for their viewing but juggling the skippers' entries so that we managed to get all vessels viewed and a winner for each class decided upon is no mean task, but eventually every entry made it, though some experienced minor problems.

The judges as well as picking from the two classes, under/over one meter, were also required to select a winner for the MNH shield, eligible boats must have a proven Manx connection, of which there were six this year.



The VMYG motive compares nicely with Brian above!

Results On-the-Water

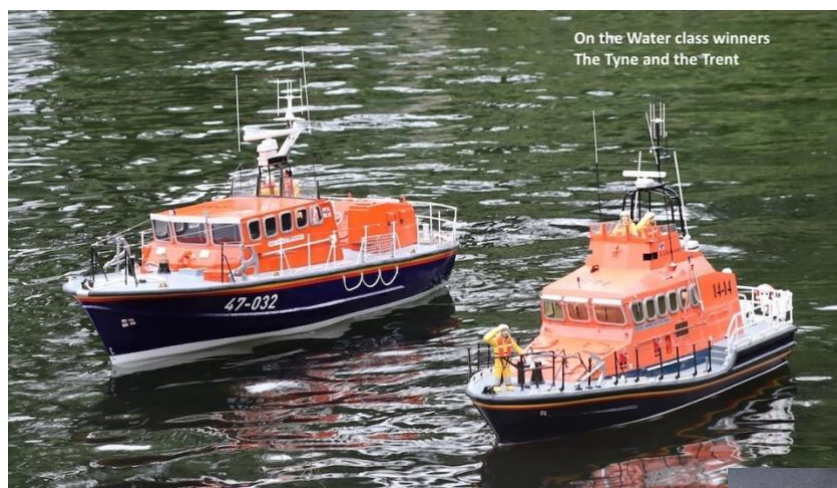
Judges : David Ramsbottom and David Barnes.

Under one metre

Boat	Description	Skipper	Manx connection	points
Manx Fairy	Fishing boat, ring netter	Brian King	yes	9
Mannin	Dredger, diesel	Dave Costain	yes	8
George & Mary Webb	Trent class lifeboat	Brian Swinden		9 +
Vital Spark	Clyde Puffer	John Hancox		8
Alligator	Motorised head	Paul Brassington		9
Abigail	Sinking coaster	Paul Brassington		9
Amphicar	Amphibious vehicle	Dave Sherwood		8
FV Marida	Thai fishing vessel	Andrea Sherwood		8

Over one metre

Boat	Description	Skipper	Manx connection	points
Sir William Hilary	Tyne class lifeboat	Brian King	yes	9 +
FV Rose	Steam trawler	Brian King	yes	9
Mannin	Dredger, steam	Jason Quayle	yes +	9
DUKW + duckling	Amphibious WW2 vehicle	Jason Quayle		9
SS Tynwald	IOMSPCo ferry	Dave Costain	yes	8
Douglas Currie	Solent class lifeboat	Robert Molesworth		9
AMY	Thames sailing barge	John Hancox		9
Theresa Mary	Thames sailing barge	Kim Holland		9



Under one meter went to Brian Swinden with his Trent lifeboat George and Mary Web, and the over one meter was also awarded to a lifeboat, Brian King's Tyne lifeboat, Sir William Hilary, the former Douglas lifeboat. The MNH trophy was allotted to Jason Quayle's steam dredger Mannin.

Following this event was rest for some and dinner, whilst others enjoyed free sailing, and the few visitors present were able to have a go with the Alligator head of Paul Brassington and Robert lending out his Watson lifeboat as well.



Some free sailing was achieved during the afternoon as the rain relented for a while, but once it returned the decision was made to close at 3pm. Leaving the main gazebo's up for the following day, all other gear was re-stowed in the trailer and we left hoping for better weather and maybe some more interested onlookers. Start time for Sunday was 9am.

Sunday's forecast was better, with the day improving as it progressed. Tables set up again and competition entrants separated to the top end. As usual, the Sunday is static scale competition time. Judges were Jason Quayle and yours truly, and we invited Janet to accompany us so she could gain insight into the mysteries of the judging process. Janet is a very good artist so it was interesting to hear her opinions and answer her probing questions as to how models are assessed equally.

There were few entries, a total of 8 in all classes, which included two amphibious vehicles, novel items for us both. As Jason and I had entries in different classes, we stepped aside when our class was judged. Starting at 10.30 we had completed by 12.30. Results are announced at the dinner.

Plenty more families about on the Sunday as the weather cleared and became warm and sunny, with a swirling lighter breeze than Saturday. The amount of floating weed algal bloom was more prevalent on the Sunday as the lighter wind collected it at the cafe launching end, swirling about the cafe front and back up the lake side used for launching.

All boats were heavily coated, and Paul's diving duck had problems within it. He didn't sail his submarine because of the weed.

During judging others were free sailing again, Paul as usual and Robert with his collection. Once judging was completed Jason Fleming and me had our small tug boats out as well.

Float Competition. Started just after 3pm

The decision was made to use the top end of the lake to avoid the weeded area. Skippers assembled at the top gateway and the float-fingers were on the opposite side. Naturally the wind decided not to cooperate, so uncaptured floats were carried down towards the carpark and the weed.

Competitors included myself, Janet, Brian King, Robert Molesworth, Paul Brassington, Jason Quayle, Andrea Sherwood and Jason Fleming plus others that I may have missed (sorry!)

Judy King was heard to comment quite loudly after a speed boat had taken the aft deck gear from a competing fishing boat "**who's that hooligan with the speed boat**" to be politely informed '**your husband Brian!**'. The speed boat also capsized a small competing tugboat (mine) which emulated an upside-down duckling with its wagging rudders and props still working. This boat was eventually salvaged by an alligator!



Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think results were: first float home Jason Fleming, most floats Jason Quayle and last float Jason Fleming (or Brian King the hooligan).

After all that fun everything was packed and stowed in the trailer again, and we departed by 6pm for our various homes. Another Mannanan done, and a dinner to attend the next evening.

The presentation dinner was once again arranged at the Palace Hotel, on the Monday evening. A very nice private room adjacent to the main dining area and at reasonable rates with attendees able to select options offered. Nice view over Douglas Bay, very much appreciated by Peter Iddon, who spent much time pondering why MANXMAN was on the wrong berth and not going anywhere.

Brian King officiated the prizes. On the Water trophies first, and then whilst announcing the scale results, the scratch first place to AMY by John Hancox, he gave apologies for the absence of John Hancox, who was only sitting about 10 feet away from him!

The Scale results were as follows:	Scratch	tb AMY	John Hancox
	Semi scratch	tb THERES MARY	Kim Holland
	Kit	FV MARINA	Dave Sherwood

The **Best in Show** is selected by a member and attendee ballot over the weekend. Only Brian knowing the result till announcing the winner as

BEN AIN
Brian Swinden

Well supported raffle, and again handled by Jason Fleming and Andrea whizzing around selling tickets. Much fun with the draw too, after which Jason also gave thanks to all our visitors for coming once again to be with us.



Vintage sailing Sunday 11th August Mooragh Park

A glorious warm/hot summers day at the lakeside. Brisk SE wind made for interesting yachting and a lower than our normal lake level made launching a bit tricky. That was probably my fault as we had moved this back a week to be free from Southern Show days and other conflicting events so missed the full tidal filling of the lake.

Once again I delved into that FaceBook thingy to try and advertise this, using the Ramsey Community page (very good response) and the VMYG site as well as an all Island What's on Group. People actually said they had come because they saw this poster on Facebook. It does work then, I'm pleased to admit.



We had a really wonderful afternoon sailing about. Most owners had adapted their charges to rudder operation by r/c, though the Kneale brothers had gone for full sail control as well. Their big boats looking fabulous out on the water, handling the stiff gusts well.



Here is Brian King's take on the goings on, I only corrected his count of the boats present.

Last Sunday saw the second vintage yacht sail-in of the year, although the first one did not take place because of the forecast! Well, this one was a great success with eight [twelve] models on the water during the afternoon. John Quaye made it for the first time with his marblehead which I had refurbished two years ago!

Mick Kneale had his very large yacht, 60 inches long and now fully radio-controlled. A fairly modern boat [around 50 -70 years old!], built of fibreglass we think around the fifties of an unknown class to us. It weighs 20 kgs! When first sailed last autumn without radio, it was a bit of a challenge following it up, down and across the lake. This time no such problem.

Danny, Mick's brother, had also installed technology for the same reason [in his marblehead normally vane controlled] and with the same success. He also found his 'lost' newly purchased sails which helped. His ingenuity in installing the radio gear without effecting the originality of the boat had to be seen to be believed.

I had my large 'new' schooner which was slightly under-powered with the light winds apart from the occasional small gust, as we all were at times. Kim was sailing his 36R with his 'magic. box' on the stern containing its radio gear.

After having a good sail with my schooner, I rotated to my 36R Bluebird which coped better with the light wind. In the meantime, 2 small 'free sailers' were having their own adventures. These two boats were genuine vintage semi-scale, possibly from around the 1900's, and seen for the first time Both

had some chasing round the lake due to the flukey wind but both completed their circumnavigation eventually of their own volition! A very successful afternoon which hopefully will be repeated at the proposed third sail-in during September.

Brian King

Just to add, during the two hours we had some 12 yachts out on the water, (10 in the photograph above and two late comers) some tiddlers like those from James Bishop and Alan Postlethwaite, several 36R and then the bigger Marblehead and larger yacht of Mick Kneale, and a radio controlled Contessa sailed by Rafe Kee his first outing in radio yachting. Lots of interest, lots of watchers and even possibly new members,

Thanks to all those that came along, those just to watch like Brian Swinden, Dave Kettlewell and Jason Quayle and all those to take part. There are a lot of photographs on the website courtesy of JQ.

Just shows, there's more to model boating than just charging batteries!

Events still to come this year.

September 8th Spithead Review

September 15th Venetian Evening

September 22nd Vintage Yachts again

October 19/20 Blackpool Show

Aye, Kim
Editor

Any errors are always mine, proof reading is a chore, no matter how many times I read through I'll always miss errors and mistakes...