



MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB

NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Failt ort, hello from me once again.

Lots more fun and activity to report on. Bless this weather, we appear to be getting all our events done in good fine conditions.

Spithead Review Sunday 19th July 2026

A very pleasant Sunday morning at Silverdale. Quite a lot of people about and stayed on to watch the boats, especially as Jason Fleming was already sailing HMS Nurton, a large scale ton class frigate made by one of our exceptional modellers, no longer with us, Keith Jewell.

Brian King had arranged two judges, Dave Hanscombe, ex RN, HMS Illustrious his last ship and now on the team in charge up at the transport museum <http://www.jtmiom.im> on the Jurby airport, tucked in just past the prison. It is free entry and well worth a visit, but check the website for when it is open, mainly weekends and bank holidays. The other judge was Tony Sloane, ex Harbour keeper at Castletown and a very keen boat enthusiast.

An entry list of eleven vessels, a wide variety of types and the judges admitted a quite hard task to asked to select a best. We persuaded Paul Bromley to enter as well, he was again sailing the submarine Upholder, so well done for a first competition.

A warm welcome to our regular visitors, father and daughter, Peter Iddon and Janet Wignall, and also along for a sail and watching Damir Cvijetic with his 3D printed small tug boat.

Once all entrants had all signed in it was a short skipper's brief to introduce the judges and then on the water with the boats. Those with multiple entries managed to juggling their time with each vessel, and eventually the judges had assigned a mark to all entered craft, though attempts were made to select a favourite duck from amongst the many joining in, and it seemed Brian King's RML was attracting our feathered friends as they mostly followed his boat about the lake.

The winning entry was HMS Nurton, sailed by Jasonn Fleming, a very worthy result appreciated by all those present. Keith made such a splendid job on the build, and Jason's midnight hours getting the boat up and running were time well spent.

NAME	BOAT	points	position
Jason Fleming	HMS Nurton Ton class minesweeper	10	1
Jason Fleming	HMS Snowberry Flower class corvette		
Brian Marsh	Perkasa class MTB Malaysian Navy		
Kim Holland	LCM 6 'Mike's Boat' landing craft + sherman		
Jason Quayle	HM Envoy Envoy class rescue tug		
Jason Quayle	RAF Fire launch no 94		
Jason Quayle	RAF rescue launch no 93		
Brian King	RML 452 Fairmile B rescue launch		
Paul Bromley	HMS Upholder submarine		
Dave Costain	Minegamo Destroyer 116 Japanese		
Dave Costain	Schnellboote German Navy		

Here's Jason being presented with the "Telegraph Trophy" by the judges, Nurton just visible in the background.

Below, Jason's other entry, Snowberry, in front of Nurton, so some sense of the size of Nurton



On the right is Brian King's RML 542 looking very smart and clean.



Also on display, were Bismark and alongside that Yamato, a work in progress, by Nigel Lathum.



Brian Marsh's Perkasa, and Damir's Tugboat.



Vintage Yachting, Sunday afternoon, August 2nd

This was our fourth get together of the season and a very pleasant afternoon it proved to be. A light cloud cover but warm with the wind coming initially from the SE as a gentle breeze, falling very light for a time and gradually backing to NE and gaining slightly in strength.

The regular suspects were in attendance, Brian King, John Martin and me, Kim Holland, but we were soon joined by Mark Shimmin with his marblehead **Averil**, then Jane Joughin and daughter with their inherited 36R **Winborne**, and Alan Postlethwaite who sailed an IOM as his radio for his marblehead played up.

Brian and Diane Swinden also popped along as well as Bill Harris and, though regular at the sailing, his first time with a yacht, a small Compass 65 r/c yacht, Damir Cvijetic.



Newbie Club member Bill Tyldesley was there as well, coming with son and grandson to sail his small r/c launch, no name as yet, and to seek advice as they are all new to radio boating. We quickly took Bill through the variety of necessary checks and procedures for radio control, explaining the various sticks, knobs and buttons on his set and why and how the various controls work and their functions.

Jane, after her first outing with us last month sort information on obtaining a suitable radio set for her yacht which Brian King supplied, and he will install for her when it arrives. Unfortunately, once again her yacht was snared by the Mooragh Island magnet, her yacht free sailing into it; but Damir had his small tugboat on hand, and he launched to the rescue and succeeded in turning the yacht's bow out enabling it to sail free and be captured on the far side of the lake.



Brian King had radio range problems, using a Planet TS2+2 unit for a first time in his marblehead. We did a check once he'd managed to wave down a passing pedalo boat to recover his yacht, the range did appear short compared to all the other sets in operation.

I was sailing what I referred to as the Suggs look alike hull to which I had added various fittings, mast and rigging plus making new gaff sails. Sailed well but as I was informed on the Facebook™ pages of VMYG the boat readily went into irons if the tack was too slow. My error I think was to have the fore and stay sail too loosely sheeted.



We ended the day, three of us casually seated together and Mark close by, sailing up and down talking tacks and gybes and all things sailing, and occasionally avoiding the other Lake traffic, like this paddle board.

A wonderful end to a very pleasant afternoon.

Our last date anticipated for Vintage sailing on our events calendar is 27th September.

Obituaries

It is always sad to report on the passing of a Club member, and I'm sorry to inform all that I am reporting here of three members who have left us this year.

The first member was Stan Watterson. He passed away January/February of this year. His time with the Club was before I joined but Jason Quayle did have this to add and a picture.

JQ : Some of the older club members may remember Stan Watterson who was the original club treasurer when the club was established back in 1985. Stan sadly passed away a few weeks ago, and his funeral was Thursday 5 February at Onchan Methodist Church.

NOTE: I had to scour the archives for a photo of Stan - he is on the right hand side of the attached - memories of former members.



(Left to right) Bob Bagshaw, Dr. Reville, John Blatcher — chairman of Hobby Time and Stan Watterson from the Isle of Man Bank who all entered Manx Model Boat Club Steering Competition on Sunday at Silverdale Glen.

The second member was Arthur Cowley, who passed in April of this year. A staunch member for many years and I believe once a committee member. I am also sorry to say I do not appear to have any photographs of Arthur nor any of his boats, and neither does Jason Quayle.

JQ : Members may have recently read of the passing of Arthur Cowley from Onchan. Arthur was a member of the Model Boat Club for many years and regularly attended events - particularly at Onchan Park.

His funeral was Wednesday 20 May at Onchan Methodist Chapel.

The third member was John Peet, who passed away July of this year. He was an extremely talented model maker, specialising in lifeboat models. He was renowned for the paintwork finishes he could achieve. He was also, by his own admission, a poor helmsman of his model boats, "they go to fast" he once told me, and he had the controls in his hands at the time and asking where was it?"

JQ : Members will be saddened to learn that one of our former members John Peet has passed away. John joined the club in 2004 and was a regular member for more than 10 years. John won 1st place with his lifeboat RNLB Gough Ritchie II during the scale competition at Mannanan 2010 - John is second from the right on the attached winners photo.



John's funeral was on Tuesday 14 August at Douglas Crematorium.

Blackpool Model Boat Show.

Well it's obvious that we are not attending this year, there was always some doubt when the dates were announced last year being early September. Members had already made arrangements for holidays and work assuming the show to keep to it's late season dates. This year we just did not have enough members with time to attempt the trip.

Our sincere apologies to our off Island membership for not coming over, there's always next year. I read and have copied this part of an article in from Model Boats which does suggest that the show will still be on in 2027 [dates not given yet] and under slightly differing organisation as well.

There is also a reduction in display area this year, only the one main hall in use and there will be no boating lake!

For the few that are going to the Show, you'll be pleased to note that the Illuminations will be on as they start as from the 4th September, so you haven't missed them! We all expect a report as well.

car park for wheelchair users.

For the last 10 years the Blackpool Model Show has been organised by the Component-Shop as a not-for-profit event, with any profits made either put back into the event itself or donated to charity. This year, however, the show will become part of a charity called The Modellers Society. It will continue to be run by same people, in the same way, but with a clear financial distinction between the show and the Component-Shop. Moving forward, the aim of his new charity will be to further support and promote the hobby.

Next event

The penultimate event on our calendar for 2026 is the Venetian Evening, two competitions in one, on Sunday evening 20th September at Onchan Park boating Lake. Sunset is at 19:21 when the boats are afloat for judging for the Lighthouse trophy. Prior to that the entries are assessed for the award of the Onchan Commissioners Shield, whilst in static display. Lots of time to get those lights working again.

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... like with the last Newsletter – "as my old headmaster used to put on my school reports "can do better!"