



# OXFORD MODEL BOAT CLUB

## August 2015 Newsletter

### What's On.....

#### August:

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Scale & Sail

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting at Jordan Hill

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Fiesta Round 7

#### September:

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting at Jordan Hill

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Watermead Open Day

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Fiesta Round 8

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> One metre Round 6

#### October:

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting at Jordan Hill

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Scale & Sail

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Fiesta Round 7

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> One metre Round

### From the Editor:

The 'Swarm' applied in June seems to have been effective in that there has been little problem with 'weed' since shortly after the application.

The Scale morning was well attended as you can see from Dave's report & photo. Let's hope this is a sign of renewed interest in scale, especially the big yachts. It's a shame that Dick had problems with his majestic A Class, I heard of a planned visit to our local model shop for a 2.4GHz radio so perhaps we will see it again soon.

There was a good turnout for the Fiesta Round 6, I missed out as I was languishing in the JR. We were sorry to lose Dave from the fleet but new member Rob has maintained the numbers.

DON'T forget the Watermead Open Day on 6<sup>th</sup> September. The arrangements will be discussed at the meeting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August.

If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to the newsletter please send it to me by the 15<sup>th</sup> August.

### JULY - SCALE SCENE:

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Our Scale & Sail morning attracted TEN skippers to the pond side in Hinksey Park for a Summer Sail & Scale spectacular, who brought along a varied selection of models.

Whilst the conditions were well suited to some, others struggled with the lack of breeze, these of course being the tall ships including Iain's J class and Paul's Pond yacht. Peter's Fairwind and indeed my own together with a couple of smaller yachts also found the very light airs difficult. I have picked out a couple of photos which might show the yachts in what action their skippers could coax out of them.

The power models of course revelled in this pleasant summer morning, none more so than Mike Prentice. I make no excuses for once again featuring this



beautifully detailed model. Mike was one of the first to arrive keen to take advantage of the early morning calm, which is essential for his model.





Amongst our newer members, Rob was running his Fairy Huntsman when not practising his newly built Fiesta. Another Huntsman on display came from the fleet of Nick Panter.



And now for something completely different, for some weeks now Allan Struth has entertained at the pond side with his amphibious model, charging into and out of the water, and scurrying about in and out of the water.

Alan has built a tracked model that can climb the steep sides to our water, whilst being able to race over the water and turn in its own length, I've even seen it attack with some vigour the Fiesta course buoys! A considerable amount of ingenuity has gone into the design of this model, and would easily merit an article on its construction.

A paddler of more modest dimensions and crewed by what appeared to be the cast of a Disney film provided lots of entertainment for the children gathered at the pond was the work of Doug Green, who also brought along his PT 109.





To many boats to mention them all but it was great to see so many of you coming along to enjoy a mornings entertainment.

Dave.....

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**JUNE - SAIL SCENE:**

**Fiesta Round 6 – 12th July - by Mike Robinson**

An overcast morning with a light breeze was blowing from right to left which meant we were able to set a traditional triangle and sausage course. Due to the threat of rain we started racing at 9.30 which turned out to be the right choice as it rained at about midday when I was on the way home.

There was some added excitement caused by a pair of swans with two cygnets swimming in the lake. Whenever one of our yachts got near them the cob became very protective with wings flapping and hissing! Luckily no damage was done and eventually the swans went off our course line so we were able to race uninterrupted.

We had a good fleet of eight yachts and welcomed a new member, Robert Craddock. On this occasion Iain got things just right and was consistently at the front of the fleet with Nick following close behind. My yacht was out of tune having been unused for a month. I will have to make some adjustments before the next round.

The full result was:-

1	Iain Smith	(19)	5	John Cox	(54)
2	Nick Panter	(25)	6	Alan Struth	(58)
3	Mike Robinson	(32)	7=	Peter Pulford	(65)
4	Keith Barney	(44)	7=	Robert Craddock	(65)

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**Fast Electrics. From a local model shop – by John Cox**

In recent years small and relatively cheap fast electric model boats have found their way onto the English market. Most of these originate in China and are better looked upon as toys rather than a serious model. Most sales go to relatives looking for suitable presents for Christmas or birthday; basically they are toys! Power and steering is usually an integrated unit with limited reliability and endurance. The hulls also can often be cheap vacuum or blow moulded styrene of limited strength while gaudy decoration does not suit more conservative British taste. Prices are usually between £20 - £50 which by today's standards is not too expensive.

The model subject to this article takes the above description to a much higher level and can be thought of a quality model suitable for serious use by enthusiasts not having the inclination to build from scratch. It was run at a normal Sunday morning meeting at the club water in Hinksey Park

The shots taken by Dave Smith, hopefully depicts the build quality of the model, while the 'on the water' images gives some idea of the potential speed; these shots were taken at about half speed as the boat was far too quick for Dave to get decent pictures if driven flat out.

The model, is a sleek and attractive modern design moulded in a heavy duty material, similar to that used for car bumpers. The hull is rigid throughout and when held up to the light shows no transparent areas in sharp corners, which is often a failing of ABS hulls. Spray rails are moulded in, assisting the general stability of the boat in both straight running and turns. The hatch forms the cabin and 'exhaust outlets' expected on modern full size craft. Removing this section allows access to the interior of the model. The hatch sits on a rubber seal and is secured by two turn buckles at the stern. Throughout the morning running no water entered the hull. The finish in silver and blue is not overdone (also available in silver and red) Most of the members present commented favourably on overall appearance.

The running gear consists of a standard 400 type motor driving a rigid shaft to an outrigger drive via a two bladed prop. Just aft of the motor where the drive connects to the prop shaft is a four bladed fan directing cooling air to the motor. A separate micro servo (standard item) takes care of the steering through a conventional rudder mounted aft of the prop. The servo is secured in a built in mount with a simple to screw fixing allowing the servo to be removed/replaced easily. Power to the motor and R/x is by a supplied 1100 7.4v lipo battery mounted in a cradle just fwd of the motor; fwd of that again is a sealed box housing the ESC and R/x; unusually for a 'fast electrics' the ESC provides for both forward and reverse. All the mountings in the hull are secured to the hull itself (no adhesives) by screws allowing all components and mountings to be removed, leaving a basic hull.

The R/c equipment is the latest 2.4MHz system with the transmitter being of the 'pistol grip' type. In passing I would mention that this was my first ever use of this type of T/x. *I was not impressed*, I am too old to change now! The T/x had a rudder trim allowing the boat to be set up for straight running without steering correction.

Start up with this model is not quite what most of us are used to. The procedure is to connect the drive battery direct to the ESC (no switch) and place it on the water; the T/x is then, and only then, switched on. A red light on the handset flashes for a few seconds as it seeks the right channel, once the light is steady the boat is ready for the off. This procedure prevents the model being started off the water with possible damage to fingers, especially the young (or old) The circuit is completed by a sensor in the bottom of the hull making the circuit connection through the water and the propeller shaft.

I will not elaborate on the performance as probably Dave's photos gives the general idea. The model is VERY fast driven flat out and at this time of year especially the wild life on the pond prevents too much exuberance. About ten minutes of general running can be expected from the 1300 ma battery but continuous running flat out would reduce this by about half.

The model comes complete with charger for the drive battery and dry cell battery for the hand set. At just under £40 I suggest this is good value for money.



**Oxford Model Boat Club.**  
**Minutes of meeting held 02.07.15**

Apologies.

- There were no apologies; 11 members were present.

Chairman's report

- There was nothing to report.

Treasurer's report.

- The treasurer is currently on holiday.

Secretary's report.

- The second 'swarm' treatment as been applied to the pond.
- At a previous meeting the Secretary gave details of a visit he and the Chairman had made to Williams Power Boats at Berinsfield which resulted in a possible visit to the company to see production of their boats. Although circulated by email little interest had be received. This comment provoked discussion and resulted in a renewed interest. A trip might be arranged in the near future.
- The 6th September 2015 is scheduled as Watermead Open Day which is always an event of interest.
- Details of events for the current month were read out.
- 1 metre events on the big lake are now on hold until autumn due to weed problems.

Scale Secretary's report.

- There was no report this month.

Treasurer's report.

- There was no report this month.

Any other business.

The chairman updated members on current availability of radio equipment which is undergoing changes with 27 and 40 MHz going out of production in favour of 2.4GHz systems.

If you are interested in submarines hang on to the older radio equipment as 2.4GHz won't work under water!

The meeting closed at 20.00