



OXFORD MODEL BOAT CLUB

JUNE 2015 Newsletter

What's On.....

June:

Thursday 4th Meeting at Jordan Hill

Sunday 7th Scale & Sail

Sunday 14th Fiesta Round 5

Sunday 21st One metre Round 5

July:

Thursday 2nd Meeting at Jordan Hill

Sunday 5th Scale & Sail

Sunday 12th Fiesta Round 6

August:

Sunday 2nd Scale & Sail

Thursday 6th Meeting at Jordan Hill

Sunday 9th Fiesta Round 7

Thursday 23rd April – Swarm Application

A good crowd of volunteers turned out to help apply the Swarm, it took us about one & a half hours to do the job. After this the boat was spirited away to move some of the one metre buoys on the lake.



Peter & Iain spraying the Swarm

Tuesday 28th April – Night Running – by Paul Izzard

Nine members came along for our first Night Running session. Organised by Charlie Newman this was a great success with many members wanting to repeat it. I had planned to take lots of photos but after the first one of Jason's Queen Mary (which I show here as it looks like a Viking funeral!) I realised I should have brought my tripod:



There were several tugs, John's Goose & Goslings, my Fiesta & an assortment of other craft all suitably illuminated. I tried using white LEDs on the deck of my Fiesta shining on the sails; the effect was very eerie (I thought that Fiesta racing in the dark would be an interesting twist).

The following photos are from Charlie & Dave



Sunday 3rd May – Scale & Sail by Paul Izzard

I awoke to the sound of pouring rain, then remembered that Dave would not be at the pond to record the models for this newsletter. Though reluctant to set forth my wife & I decided to combine it with a visit to the farmers' market. Once we had made our purchases we made our way to the pond just in time to see Nick Panter arrive soon followed by Michael Prentice.

Nick bought his Air Boat which is now quick enough if Nick can keep it upright, we had a bit of fun recovering it when it turned over, it got tangled up with some branches but we eventually got it back (and half a tree) with my ball of string!



Nick also had his Perkasa Torpedo boat which I think has three motors. It certainly is very fast so I had to ask him to slow down a bit while I got my photo.



Michael Prentice had his tug which he thought more suited to the blustery conditions. I had bought along a little paddle tug that I had just finished restoring, it did not like the wind or rough water. I had checked the ballast before I left home but on the pond it would not sit level and would lie with either side low depending on the state of the water & wind. More work needed here.



Sunday 10th May – Fiesta Round 4 – By Mike Robinson

The day started out overcast with a light breeze over the lake. As the morning progressed the sun came through but at times the wind almost disappeared. With a right to left wind direction a simple triangle and sausage course was laid and there was an excellent turnout of nine skippers taking part.

Before writing the report I must comment on the lack of discipline on the water. With a large fleet and at times light airs, it is inevitable that yachts sail close to one another.

The Fiesta class was originally designed as a starter boat for novice skippers but nearly everyone taking part at the present time has now got sufficient experience to have an understanding of the basic rules of sailing and, as a reminder, the following need to be observed at all times:

- Leeward yachts have right of way over windward yachts.
- Starboard tack yachts have right of way over port tack yachts.
- Inside yachts rounding buoys have the right of way.

These three simple rules ensure that yachts avoid each other and no damage occurs.

If you infringe the rule you are obliged to complete one 360 degree penalty turn whether you are called or not. This will inevitably relegate you back in the fleet so you should avoid breaking the rules if at all possible.

Finally, as an analogy, if you drove a car on the road without observing the Highway Code, just imagine the trouble you would cause!

Back to the racing! It was Dick Skinner showing well at the front of the fleet, trading places with yours truly. Third spot was shared between Iain and Paul then there was a large gap to the other five skippers, but without them, we wouldn't have such an interesting days racing.

The full result:

1	Dick Skinner	(27)	6	Keith Barney	(61)
2	Mike Robinson	(29)	7	Dave Smith	(66)
3=	Iain Smith	(36)	8	John Cox	(67)
3=	Paul Izzard	(36)	9	Peter Pulford	(75)
5	Nick Panter	(49)			

Sunday 17th May – One Metre Round 4 – By Mike Robinson

A lovely bright morning with an onshore breeze greeted us, however the far side of the lake was in wind shadow making buoys 1, 2 and 3 interesting! We were down to five skippers taking part which, apart from the start line, left everyone plenty of room to manoeuvre.

Iain has at last got his yacht going well and was soon showing consistently at the front of the fleet with myself and Dick snapping at his transom, but we all had some poor results at times which kept things interesting up to the last few races.

The full result:

1	Mike Robinson	(19)	4	Nick Panter	(38)
2	Iain Smith	(22)	5	Peter Pulford	(49)
3	Dick Skinner	(24)			

I will be en route to Oslo for the next event, Fiesta Round 5, so please find another scribe.

.....Mike

Saturday 16th May - Williams Power Boats by John Cox

Williams Jet Tenders is a local company employing about 50 people and operates from Berinsfield just South of Oxford. Due to a contact made through a local model shop, both the Chairman and Secretary were invited to attend a minor event connected with Companies input to the local community.

The company itself manufacture small boats or tenders used in conjunction with multi million pound 'gin palaces' and the like. The tenders are propelled by water jet turbines rather than props, making them ideal for water skiing and similar hobbies. The vessels are built to the very highest specification, most of the customers being very much of the moneyed classes where cost is of little consequence!



A Williams Jet Tender, more boats can be seen at [http: www.williamsjettenders.com](http://www.williamsjettenders.com)

The event is aimed at local youths who might be interested in working for the company or encouraging them to indulge in 'hands on' hobby rather than on online games or other non productive interests.

The company recruit eight candidates each year who are organised into four teams of two; each team being provided with identical fibre glass hulls (designed and made in the factory) and identical running gear purchased from commercial sources; this consists of brass racing props, brushless motors with ESC, prop shaft, rudders, servos, three cell lipo' batteries etc. plus everything else needed to finish the boat. All the items being identical, it is left to those taking part to build up the boats as they see fit. Once the boats are completed a competition is arranged to test the performance of the boats and handling skills of the participants around a course against the clock; later the same day all compete in flat out racing.

The eventual aim is to see if there is a suitable candidate who would be offered an apprenticeship within the company. Day release education is provided by Abingdon & Witney College. This is the fourth year of the event and has produced several apprentices, one of whom appears destined for major things within engineering.

The event this year was on 16th May with attendance by the MP for Henley on Thames in whose constituency the Company is situated, Abingdon College, The leader of South Oxfordshire Council, the Mayor of Abingdon, the local Parish Council and other worthy

parties. This year as an innovation your Chairman and Secretary were invited to attend and judge the static finish of the boats.

To add more interest to the proceedings the Chairman and Secretary put on a small display of their own unusual type of models which were well received.

The venue is close to the Berinsfield factory and consists of a large lake which is used for test and development of company products and also demonstrate to potential customers. There is a large clubhouse on site complete with kitchen and toilets plus a timber landing stage. The site would be a godsend to any model boat club! The site was previously used by a now defunct Water Scooter Club and is now on long term lease to the company.

The event was from 10.30 till 13.00 with a very acceptable buffet type meal and soft drinks in generous proportions provided free and organized by Unipart who also have a vested interest in apprenticeships and local employment. There was also the opportunity for trip in one of the company's boats to those who fancied a high speed ride.

We have now built up a good rapport with this company who would be delighted to show a group of club members round the factory. These tours are carried out on a regular basis both to potential customers and other interested parties. At a club meeting in the near future we hope to arrange such a visit. It is hoped members will support such a move and visit a successful engineering enterprise that is at the top of its game.

On a closing note; the company was started by the two owners using a parents garden shed; their effort and enterprise has now been turned into a major, multi million pound business; it is in no way connected with the Williams Formula 1 team who are based locally.



Our chairman inspecting the boats



A Goose's eye view of one of Williams super water jet boats

Proposed visit to the WILLIAMS Performance Tenders factory in Berinsfield.

Would any members who are interested in a visit to see these super boats being built please let me know so that we can gauge the interest before arranging a visit.

Oxford Model Boat Club.

Minutes of meeting held 7th May 2015.

Members present.

There were 11 members present; apologies were received from John Shinton.

Secretary's report.

The night run went well with no problems experienced. Although the safety rules put in place are obviously necessary should the event be run again it might be possible to be slightly less elaborate. Circumstances will dictate.

The 'swarm' has been successfully introduced to the small pond and the club is grateful for the help given by members. It might be necessary for further treatment later in the year.

The events for the forthcoming month were listed.

Treasurer's report.

Now that the swarm has been paid for and successfully introduced to the pond club funds stand at £807.

Any other business.

The treasurer reported that the Wychwood fair will be held on 6th September this year and the organizing committee has expressed the hope that OMBC will attend as they did so successfully in 2013. A pond would be provided.

It was agreed that this would be discussed nearer the date,

Dennis Payne reminded those interested that the 12?metre World Championship was being held in the USA this month.

The meeting closed at 20.15