



Southend Model Boat Club News Bulletin –April 2021

Hi All:

It has been a long and difficult winter and I hope you are all well and looking forward to a better Spring and Summer with the ongoing relaxation of Covid restrictions.

I can confirm that we had a committee meeting (outside the clubhouse in the cold) last Saturday. The major subject being discussed was the restarting of club events and I can confirm that the agreement is that we will commence club events on Sunday 2nd of May 2021. This will be under the current regulations in force at that time which will mean that access to the clubhouse will be restricted to race officials and in line with club risk assessment. No general access to members unfortunately. We hope this can be relaxed and be back to normal with social distancing after the next relaxation of regulations.

We have had a number of new members join during the shutdown. These include Michael Dempsey and Michael Dempsey Jnr, Russell Saunders, Anthony Pilton, Martin Golder and David Hewitt. I'm sure you will all join with me and welcome them to the club and render all help and assistance to them at the lake side.

We currently have 72 paid up members which is not bad considering the difficult times. There are a few members who unfortunately have not so far re-joined this year but I am sure the treasurer will be pleased to hear from them in the near future.

Based on the problems of the shut down the committee have also decided to extend this year's membership subscriptions so that the current 2021 membership will run to 31st March 2022. This will mean that the club financial year will change so that the future membership will be due from 1st April (Away from the busy Christmas period) which we hope will be better for all concerned. This change will mean some administration amendments to the club constitution, but we intend that these alterations be voted on at the club AGM in December.

The first club event will be the Club 500 Racing on Sunday 2nd May. The fast electric representative (Pete Moffat) has been working on a new scoring control system which will automatically score each lap. Hopefully, this will be up and running ready for this event and will involve fitting a small transducer into each boat which will be plugged into the receiver to power the system. Pete will be in touch with individuals likely to take part with the details when ready.

The 3rd May (Bank Holiday Monday) is the "Old Gaffers Sail" this is open to all yachts for a social sail but with emphasis on more historic type sailing models. All will be welcome and hopefully we can have a great attendance and an impressive spectacle of sailing vessels of all types.

Scale steering is on Sunday 9th May the scale steering course will be available for competition and practice sailing it will be great to see as many as possible scale boats of all types on the water to celebrate being back after the shutdown.



For more events see the Club Programme of Events for 2021 Version 2.0 which is attached. The only alteration from Version 1.0 is that the “Fright Night” Evening sail has been changed to 23rd October so that we don’t compete with the actual Halloween Night celebrations that you may wish to attend at home or with your families!

Regarding Away Events (shows) most of these have been cancelled this year due to covid and other shows we have had to drop out of due to various circumstances. At present the only shows this year at which Southend Model Boat Club will be represented will be Ramsgate Vikings Rally 5th September and Essex County Show South Weald 25th & 26th September. It is hoped that we will have a full programme of away events in 2022. The Away Team would appreciate more support from club members and if anyone is interested, to be part of the core team of helpers, if they can speak to the Scale Representative Frank Lunn who will be very pleased to discuss it with you. All support is welcome.

With regard to the lake, at present sailing conditions are good providing you can avoid the moorhen nest. The first dose of dye of the season has gone in to try to slow down weed growth. We have just purchased a new batch of club dye for the lake which should be good to last a couple of years. Also, the council is going to let us have their supply of dye so we can control when the water is dosed rather than the parks department putting it in at inappropriate times. The damage to the rubbing boards around the lake has been reported to the parks department and we await their response.

Colin and Glenn are looking into designing and building a boat launching system which will be designed to assist the launching of larger and heavier models. This will be a legacy of Ray Lloyd in his memory. Irene Longhurst has agreed on behalf of Ray to fund this project which we hope to have available in the future. Our thanks go to Irene for this offer a great legacy of Ray who loved his scale model boats so much.

The Club web site is being looked after by Lance Bennett and a great job he is doing. It would be great to have more items to put on the web site and I am sure Lance would welcome any contributions, articles or photographs that can be added to keep the website up to date. The club Facebook page is also a great source of up-to-date information. We are aware that under the Google search the address of the club is The RNA Club where we used to have our Friday evening meetings. A number of requests to google have been made to alter this but without success so far. All members are invited to join the Facebook page SouthendMBC, or SMBC if you are not already on just request to join the Private Group and your request will be approved.

That’s all for now and hopefully see you down the lake soon.

Kind regards

John Moore

Club Secretary

Southend Model Boat Club

17th April 2021