



## Southend Model Boat Club News Bulletin –July 2019

### Hi All:

The weather has warmed up and many of you will know there is a problem at the lake, the old perennial problem of weed. For those of you that have been down to the lake recently you will have observed that the weed has grown in most areas to within 3-4” inches of the surface and in some areas it has broken through to the surface. This obviously is not good for us pursuing our hobby. Sailing of yachts has been severely curtailed and even the use of short keels does not help the only sailing that can take place is with yachts fitted with sweeping keels like 8metre, Schooners etc. which seem to pass through the weed without getting snagged. Because of this the Racing Sailing Regattas on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> have been cancelled.

Last weekend the Scale steering was cancelled due to the weed situation, but the Club 500 racing went ahead and some tenshock racing took place this was not too seriously affected by the problem.

At the committee meeting on Saturday (Minutes of meeting attached to this news bulletin) the weed situation was discussed at length and the outcome of those discussions were, that to cut the weed and remove, as done in previous years only exacerbates the situation encouraging growth like pruning surface plants. The only way, to remove the weed during the growing season, is to rake up including the roots. To do this over the whole lake would be impractical due to the volume of material involved and the enormous effort required. However, to clear the area in front of the clubhouse could be done. This needs to be done before the Festival of Model Boating at the end of the month and it is intended to have work parties on Wednesday mornings and Sundays prior to the weekend of the 28<sup>th</sup> July.

The main method of control is Dye in the water. As you will be aware the council took control of the dye following the problem earlier in the year with fish disease. Unfortunately, this led to the dye being put into the water too late and allowing the weed growth to get a hold. The council are now regularly dosing the lake with the dye and are responding when we ask them to put more in. We hope later in the year to take back control of the dye so we can dose when necessary.

The other method of control is the weed eating Grass Carp. Many of you will have seen the size of the 2 fish which are in the lake, they are obviously eating a lot of weed and as the council now have a licence to add this non indigenous species into the lake we are investigating adding additional fish into the lake however to deal with the current weed problem we would need a very large shoal of them! This could be a solution to help during future seasons to reduce growth at an early stage. Normally the weed starts to die off in August so hopefully we can get back to a full programme of events shortly after then.

The festival of Model Boating was discussed at the committee meeting and it was agreed that we would make this event a one-day festival on the Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July, cancelling the Saturday which was going to be primarily sailing. The intention is to clear an area in front of the clubhouse (Working



Parties on Wednesday Mornings and Sundays) to allow the use of scale and other boats, to set out a steering course for fun sailing and possibly putting out the Dock which is in bits in the clubhouse!

There will be tables out on the bankside (Subject to weather) for static display of boats and we intend having a barbeque similar to the one we had at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year with burgers and bacon rolls (Subject to Kingsley agreeing to be the master Chef again).

The idea is to have a good fun day with as many boats of all types on display and on the water for the enjoyment of the members and to promote the club and our hobby to members of the public.

Please try to come along to either help, sail or display your boats and make it a great day.

We are in the process of trying to build a boat hoist for the larger boats to help with launching, Howard has tried out various versions and is now working on a final design so watch this space for further news. Thanks Howard for your efforts.

We have a Friday evening meeting at the lake side on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August. This is an informal evening when you can just come along and chat or sail your boats. There is no set programme so come along and do what you want the clubhouse will be open for tea and coffee as usual.

We have Affiliate Membership Cards for the Sailing club in the clubhouse for those that have not collected them already. These will allow entry and use of facilities of the sailing club when open. They are in alphabetical order for all members who have paid their fees. Please take your card when next in the clubhouse. We are arranging for cards for our new members.

New Year's Sunday Meal: This has been rebooked for next year at the Camelia Hotel and Restaurant on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020 so please put the date in your diary for next year! Thank you to Lesley for organising.

#### Away Events:

We have attended a number of away events already this year and these have successfully promoted the club to members of the public and we have had some response and enquiries. Thanks to all involved.

At present the future ones coming up are Ramsgate Vikings Show on 1<sup>st</sup> September, Southern Model Show on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> September and Essex Country Show at South Weald Park on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September. The lists for those who want to attend these are in the clubhouse. Please put your names down if you can help set up, man the stand and pack up at the end of the day.

You may be aware that a number of events have been cancelled this year by show organisers and so we are looking at attending some other events. It maybe too late for this year but we will have to see what response we get from the organisers. These additional shows are:

Model Exhibition and Steam Day at the Museum of Power Langford Near Maldon. On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October.



and

Shoeburyness Model Railway & Hobbies Show at Garons Park Southend on Sea on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November.

It maybe worth making a note of these dates further information to follow when I have it.

### **Forthcoming events:**

#### **July**

**28th Festival of Model Boating**

#### **August**

**4<sup>th</sup> Scale Steering and Club 500 /Tenshock Racing**

**9<sup>th</sup> Friday Evening Lakeside gathering and evening sail.**

**11<sup>th</sup> Late summer sailing regatta DF95 (subject to weed situation)**

**18<sup>th</sup> Late summer sailing regatta DF65 (subject to weed situation)**

#### **September**

**1<sup>st</sup> Club 500 / Tenshock Racing**

**8<sup>th</sup> Autumn sailing regatta DF95 (subject to weed situation)**

**15<sup>th</sup> Autumn sailing regatta DF65 (subject to weed situation)**

**21<sup>st</sup> Venetian Night 18.30**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Scale Steering**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Eastern District Dragon DF65 yacht racing run by Southend Model Boat Club at Coalhouse Fort Lake.**

### **Items for Sale**

I have been advised by David Wiggins that a former member & friend is selling an almost complete Model Slipway Vliestrom buoy layer wants £100.00.

We have donated to the club following the Blackwater Show:

A Partially built Robbe Kit "Dolly"

And a Un-started Robbe Kit "Paula 3"

Also 2 Futaba Attack 2ER 2 channel Radios. 40MHz

I will bring these to the festival of model boating if any interest we will auction off with proceeds to go to RNLI.

That's all for now have a great rest of the season and see you down the lake.

John Moore

Club Secretary

Southend Model Boat Club

10<sup>th</sup> July 2019