

# The MBA Dover Newsletter



Issue 40 Spring 2013

Welcome to the first edition in 2013.

Very shortly we will be starting our regattas again at Kearsney, over the winter not very much has been happening although the yacht section has continued to race when most of us have been either tucked up in warm workshops or just sitting in front of a cosy fire.

During December, the Christmas Social and prize giving took place at the Cricketers Public House. The membership and their guests enjoyed the event and all had a good evening. The winners for the years competitions were presented with their trophies and a full list can be found inside this issue. The Committee would like to congratulate everyone who entered the competitions, without entrants there would be no competition.

We would encourage all to have a go this season, remember there is no entrance fee and everyone is equal and judged by independent member's who normally do not compete themselves, and anyway it's just a bit of healthy fun..

In early December, we received news which shocked us all, Our friendly, helpful park keeper Dick had passed away suddenly. He had been the park keeper for many years and thoroughly enjoyed his job, he kept the park in tip top condition and was a credit to his employers English Landscapes. We will miss his friendly face and the immaculate grounds he kept and of course the help he gave us, towing up our laden trolleys with his tractor at the end of our regattas. Dick took a keen interest in our club and was always enthusiastic about the models operating on the lake.

Another piece of sad information was received just after Christmas when we learned of the death of one of our members Mr David Barlow.

David was part of the model yacht group and sailed occasionally with them, he was a quiet person who was learning to sail his model but did not enter many competitions, he just enjoyed his hobby.

We all now have a new park bench down near the lakeside dedicated to the memory of our former Chairperson, Jennie Hounsell. Jennie passed away in 2009 and as a tribute to her, Alan Hounsell decided to have a bench erected in her honour. We can all now enjoy sitting on the bench when operating our boats and remember Jennie who did so much for this club.

Unfortunately, it now looks like the Dover Regatta will not take place again this year, no communication has been received from the Regatta Core Group despite us trying to get information about the event. You will note that we did pencil in the dates for July so this will now be a club regatta at Kearsney.

In a similar vein, the Southern Model Air Show will not be using the Hop Farm venue this year, it is moving to Headcorn Airfield, and renaming itself as the "Southern Model Show". The change of venue is due to the problems encountered when the Hop Farm double booked the weekend causing the whole show to be cancelled. Our club has provisionally agreed to attend and has now been formally invited. The Maidstone Cygnets are again organising the model boat side with Phil Knell at the helm again.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 22 March for our first Illuminated event which will kick start our 2013 season.

Happy boating Alan.....

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## Round the world challenge or did it sink?

In October, an attempt to launch a pipe lagging galleon into the sea was made by Kelvin Castle ably assisted by your Secretary Alan from the beach at St Margaret's Bay. The weather was not kind and as the wind force and direction was not perfect, the model failed to get past the waves crashing onto the beach and it was damaged, Kelvin got a boot full while Alan cautiously stood back with the camera (Laughing).

The reason for all this was to see just how far this model might travel, the club's name and address was prominently displayed on the boat and a waterproof box also containing the details was added.

After repairs, Kelvin successfully launched it later into the Channel at Sandwich Bay, the photos show it sailing away, let's hope to foreign lands. We have asked the finder to get back to us with the details of where it might have been found and when, I have to tell you now that no such information has yet to be received.

So what has happened to our boat, she might have sunk or she might, just might, still be afloat waiting to be discovered.

The model was originally built by Chris West, she was double the size of our regatta boats and should have faired better in the sea, let's hope so....



## MBAD Club information

### **Model Boat Association Dover Club Committee Members July 2012**

**Chairperson : Mr Peter Cook** - ☎ 01233 641599

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**Treasurer : Mr Douglas Turton** ☎ 01227 752244

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**Yacht Coordinator :**  
**Mr Colin Goldsmith:** ☎



Model Boat Association Dover



### **MBA Merchandise**

Caps	£5.00
Sweat Shirts	£14.00
T Shirts	£8.00
Polo Shirts	£12.00
Enamel Pin Badge	£2.50

**Website - [www.mba-dover.org.uk](http://www.mba-dover.org.uk)**

# Christmas Social 2012

On Wednesday 5th December 2012, we had our Christmas Social and Prize giving evening. Perhaps due to the snow that we got on the day and the prospects of more that evening, not quite as many members as usual arrived to enjoy the famous Cricketer's curry that was laid on for us all to enjoy. We began the evening with the prize giving, the trophies for the powerboats and yachts were presented to the winners by our Chairman Peter. Below can be found the list of winners and many congratulations go to them. On the yachting side it was a clean sweep for two of our members, Andy and Colin, perhaps we might see a change next year as there are some newer members who are knocking at the door and waiting to open it! The power boat results were more conventional this year with a more varied cross section of members winning prizes.

Powerboat section ...Tug Towing	1st ... Len Ochiltree
	2nd....Alan Hounsell.
Steering	1st....Phil Ribton
	2nd ...George Cole.
Springer push	1st ....Len Ochiltree
	2nd....Peter Cook
Yacht Section.....Frostbite Series...	1st ....Colin Goldsmith.
	2nd ...Andy Goldsack
(2011)	
Icicle Series	1st ....Colin Goldsmith
(2012)	2nd....Andy Goldsack
Summer Series	1st ....Colin Goldsmith.
(2012)	2nd....Andy Goldsack.
Regatta Series	1st Alan Hounsell.
(2012)	2nd ....Andy Goldsack.



Andy Goldsack



Colin Goldsmith



Andy and Colin celebrate

their win's

Sorry but we did not get suitable pictures of Phil, Len and Alan receiving their awards.

able pictures of Phil, Len and Alan

(My thanks to Mark Sadler who captured these photo's for us on his mobile phone.)

The meal consisted of three varying curries and a buffet was followed by an auction of an RNLI Lifeboat model kit. Kim Belcher was the impromptu auctioneer. Kim thought that the proceeds could be divided equally between the Club and the RNLI , a decision that we all agreed with. A very respectable figure of £15.00 was bid by Andy Goldsack who won the auction. Andy's brother was a former member of the Dover RNLI Station.

The raffle was last on the agenda and due to the amount of prizes, this took quite a long time to complete, we must thank all those who donated prizes for the raffle, without these donations we could not have had such a successful outcome. .... Well done.

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*Latest....Southern Model Show date — 14/15 September Headcorn Airfield*

## MINIGEAR 4 Systems for radio control of small models.

Below is the advertising material from Deans Marine concerning their recently introduced micro radio control system, I first saw this product at the MEE exhibition in November, it is now possible to motorize small models and have them perform realistically.

**Ted Goldring** our membership secretary bought a set and has fitted it successfully into the Airfix Vosper MTB, we thought that an article on it and how it all went would be worthwhile, the following is the advertising blurb from Deans .....

**(From Deans Marine)**

To test the system out we have added THREE Channel radio to a 1/72 scale Airfix M.T.B. giving proportional speed control, rudder and operating fwd gun all under radio, and realistic planing speed on a modified plastic kit only 300 mm long. We have put together a set of 2.4Ghz radio, including transmitter, R X board with speed control (fwd only) plus two servos, 150 mah rechargeable li-poly battery, geared motor, 2 mm prop shaft, (adjustable for length, miniature hi-efficiency 3 bladed prop ( 8 types) complete rudder assembly, and silicone coupling.

Included in the set is a C/D of the construction pictures. This is not a set of instructions for each model, just guides as to which models we have tried and tested, and how we accomplished it.

The T/X is a full 2.4Ghz set that is capable of being bound to all R Xs in the range, so one T/X will suffice for a fleet of fast craft. The T X also incorporates a charger for the Li-Po battery.

So far we have fitted the system to a 1/72 scale Airfix MTB, A Revell Offshore racer. A 1/35th scale PBR from Tamiya is in the workshop, plus a 1/72 scale D.U.K.W. next on the list are the 1/72 scale E boats and S boats from Airfix and others.

### Model Accessories

**MINIGEAR 4 MICRO R/C SYSTEM 2.4ghz**

**MINIGEAR 4**  
**Systems for radio control of small models.**



**R.R. for the complete set £79.95**  
**from Deans Marine Chandlers**





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*(Ted's findings)*

The radio was obviously tested before fitting to a model and, unfortunately, found to be defective. It was sent back to Deans who replaced it immediately and to be fair, this was a set that had been on the stand at Sandown Park and had been demonstrated to many modellers. The replacement was fine however and the installation was started .

An Airfix model of the Vosper ( 1/72nd scale) was purchased and the hull parts were glued up to allow the test fitting of the radio, a cross member was needed to mount the geared motor on and then the prop shaft could be fitted. This was a straightforward job and presented no problem, care is needed to ensure the propeller clears the bottom of the hull and that the shaft is as low in the hull as it can be. The rudder was next and again no problem, make sure all is square and that the actuation arm is well below the deck. The little pushrod from the main board can then be tried and when happy, fitted. This determines where the board is located and keeping it clear of the hull bottom away from any moisture is a good thing. The spare servo arm was not used to control the gun traversing action in this case, but the option is there.

The speed controller is also built in to this board, the only down side is that it is a forward only controller, something that needs to be taken into consideration when operating the model.

All that now remains is to locate the battery, this is fitted so that when the superstructure cabin is removed the battery can be replaced and charged. It is a one cell 3.7volt Lithium polymer battery and is rated at 150 milliamps, pretty small and lightweight but it certainly gives loads of power and lasts for quite a while, when Ted had the model out for it's maiden voyage, he got a good 15 minutes running time out of it. The deck moulding was then fitted and because of the lack of openings, this effectively seals the control board in, so make certain all is in order before doing this stage.

The little bridge structure is made to be removable as we have just mentioned and then all that remains is to build up the rest of the kit and detail it.

The paint job really sets this kit off but being "grey," it really does disappear when it's out in the middle of the lake, not surprising really as its only 300mm long.

This success has really got Ted fired up, since writing about the Vosper, I have discovered that he now has converted the Revell PT109 1/72nd kit and has also fitted the gear into an Airfix Severn Class lifeboat (the models are getting smaller).

I do know that a Vosper "Perkasa" of the Malaysian Navy is nearing completion, this will be an impressive build and should look superb on the water.

There are a couple of problems that Ted has discovered, the little geared motor is noisy, the nylon gears are causing this so maybe some sort of lubrication will help. Secondly, because of the power transmitted to the fairly large propeller, the model takes on a pronounced list to port at top speed, this is due to the torque and paddle wheel effect, nothing much can be done about this unless a twin motor set up is used with contra rotating props.

This is just the next step in electronics technology concerning our hobby, in the near future it is bound to get even smaller and maybe I will be radio controlling my 1/1200 scale Triangs soon! Below can be seen the photos taken on its first voyage, I think you will agree they are pretty Impressive.



Vosper



PT 109



## Our Local Ports of Call

The clue was in the title but not being one to refuse any contribution, it has been decided to include interesting full size vessels in any of our ports

Originally my idea was to keep a photographic record of the more unusual vessels that frequent our 'local' ports here in the South East, however, a contribution was received from **Paul Middleton** who took a very interesting photo of a vessel in Watchet, Somerset. As a result, we will now include any boat that is interesting and has a link to model boats from any port.

You will realise from last issue that the boats featured in Ramsgate all had model related links, they were either very similar to some of the boats in our club or were similar to kits that are in production by manufactures of model boats.



Paul's picture fitted the bill perfectly, the boat was a former MTB of the Gay Class, "Gay Archer". This boat was fitted with a 40mm Bofors gun (De-activated I hope!) and two torpedo tubes. She looks to be perfectly preserved and in very good condition.. Of course, the prefix 'Gay' meant something very different in the 1950s

The link to model boats is that there is a kit of these boats produced by Nautical Marine Models, a review of the kit has recently been done by Dave Abbott in Model Boats Magazine.

The next picture is the RNLi Tamar class Lifeboat, Victor Freeman 16-13, the thirteenth of the Tamar's. She was moored in the river Camel at Padstow in November 2012. Padstow lifeboat is based at Trevoise Head, west of Padstow. The boat is the same class as this one but is launched down a slipway.

This boat is believed to be a boat on passage or sheltering in the estuary. I do know that there was a No2 station at Padstow which was on moorings in this location but this has not been active for many years now.



There is a good link again with model boats as there are at least two model manufacturers making kits of them, Model Slipway has a 1/15th scale version and Speed-

line Models make one in 1/12th scale. Both are impressive models and we have two in our club built and operated by the two Mark's

(Mclachlan and Streeting) Theirs are powered by the new brush less motors and really look great in operation, the Slipway kit is pretty accurate and a good manageable size. The Speedline kit is big, very big! At 1/12th scale she is nearly 5ft long and has a beam of 17inches.

The quality of the etched brass fittings is superb and the windows which are very noticeable on these lifeboats are laser cut from Perspex, they need making up from several parts but when done, they are superb. Under the rear decking is housed a "Y"Class inflatable lifeboat, this is a kit in it's own right and if purchased separately, costs £40.00. The whole kit can be purchased in stages to help with the costs, the hull and wheelhouse mouldings for instance, can be bought and fitted out before buying the other parts, but some of the etched brass parts are needed early in the build so this 'extra' will be an early purchase if one is going down this route.

With care this kit can be turned into a museum standard model, the company make several 1/12th scale lifeboats including the Severn Class and the Trent Class. Dover has a Severn and Ramsgate has a Trent so there is no excuse for not getting the details right in this neck of the woods!

Last issue I asked if anyone could identify the helicopter which had made a “sort” of landing on the flight deck of a warship. No answers were received despite there being a few aviation types in our midst!

I can tell you that the Helicopter was in fact a **Boeing Vertol Sea Knight** of the United States Navy, the ship remains a mystery however. Perhaps someone will rise to the occasion and inform us all, there is a clue in the number on the stern of the ship, she is American!



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It is unusual to get a nomination for Nut of the Month from the person who has done the deed, but back in December, Barbara and Derek Rudge both confessed to me that they had indeed done something each which would result in a nut of the month nomination, As they both do not attend the meetings, I thought that I would just record the misdemeanours in the KK.

Apparently Derek launched his speed boat only to find that there was no power. Barbara rescued him by ramming the model back to safety with her yacht, Only later did they discover that the ramming had put a large hole in the speedboat! But, better than that, Derek realised that the cause of the power loss was simply due to him using the radio set’s left stick in the lateral way allowing him to have the self centering function for his power craft instead of the up and down stick used for the yacht. He simply was using the wrong stick! ...They were duly awarded the trophies posthumously at the February meeting !

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We all know Kim (Belcher) is well known for getting the latest gadgets and information on all the latest products and as Kim is also happy to share his findings with other club members, I thought that I would tell you about his latest acquisition, it’s a range of lights and fittings that will revolutionise model boats.

The old fashioned grain of wheat bulbs have their place but with new technology the LED is a firm contender and by seeking out the latest technology a brightness of 15 lumens can be obtained from them nowadays. Dave Cowlin gave us a very interesting presentation on LED’s at the November meeting and I know he has also used bulbs from LED torches as his floodlighting on the Admiral Day Dredger. To take this one step further, a German company has built a range of lamps to be supplied to the modelling trade. They also use the parts of LED torches and the company Magnalight is the source.

The little picture on the left is the finished article slightly modified from what is supplied, it is a searchlight in 1/12th scale for his lifeboat. When illuminated it shines out bright and is a true representation of a searchlight in scale fidelity and operation. The light should of course be painted black, but it is very nice to see the item in it’s raw state, painting it will just make it another fitting.!



Ken’s latest cartoon

## For Sale & Wanted

John Chestnutt from Herne Bay "Herons" has been in touch and has a couple of models for sale from his collection, One is a Billings African Queen which is for sale at £120.00 and another, the River Queen also at £120.00.

John's number if anyone would like to contact him is 01227 372897.

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The model seen right is the Wind farm offshore support vessel semi kit by Andy Griggs of 'Models By Design'. Andy who lives in Dorset is a regular at most shows and is a trader specialising in fibre glass boat hulls. This model is the one used by Alan Noble in his endurance record attempt at Mote park last year. The picture was taken at Herne bay Herons open event which this club attended.



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During a winter sailing session, I was surprised to see two rowing models designed and built by Derrick Rudge operating on the lake. Rowing models are normally the domain of Dave Cowlin but Derrick is challenging Dave's monopoly by getting in on the act.

He has built a rowing boat with a figure dressed as a monk complete with hood ( a monk from Kearsney Abbey) The action is not as complicated as Dave's but it works, two servo's drive the oars from a linkage on the output shafts of the servo's with the gears removed. This allows the body of the figure to rock backwards and forwards as the arm rotates, the trick is to keep the servo's working together to give smooth operation. They did get out of sequence sometimes as the rotation of the motors is not identical.

The single paddle on the canoe model work more smoothly, the arms are arranged at 180 degrees to each other which allows one paddle to be in the water as the other is out, again the eccentric action allows the figure to move realistically. Derrick has an external rudder fitted to this model which is operated normally so all he has to do is to control the motive part of the canoe. It again works very well and it is difficult to spot the actuating arms when on the lake.



Left...The Canoe sporting a flashy paint job.



Right....  
The rowing monk...maintaining the link with Kearsney!

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### Jennie's bench.

As a tribute to Jennie Hounsell, Alan has had a bench installed at the lakeside in Kearsney Abbey. Jennie with her husband Alan were heavily involved with the Dover MBA.

Jennie was a former chairperson until ill health forced her retirement and Alan was the secretary for many years.

It is fitting for the bench to be sited in this location, so many pleasurable hours were spent here and now the whole club can enjoy resting here.



"A favourite place with many fond memories"