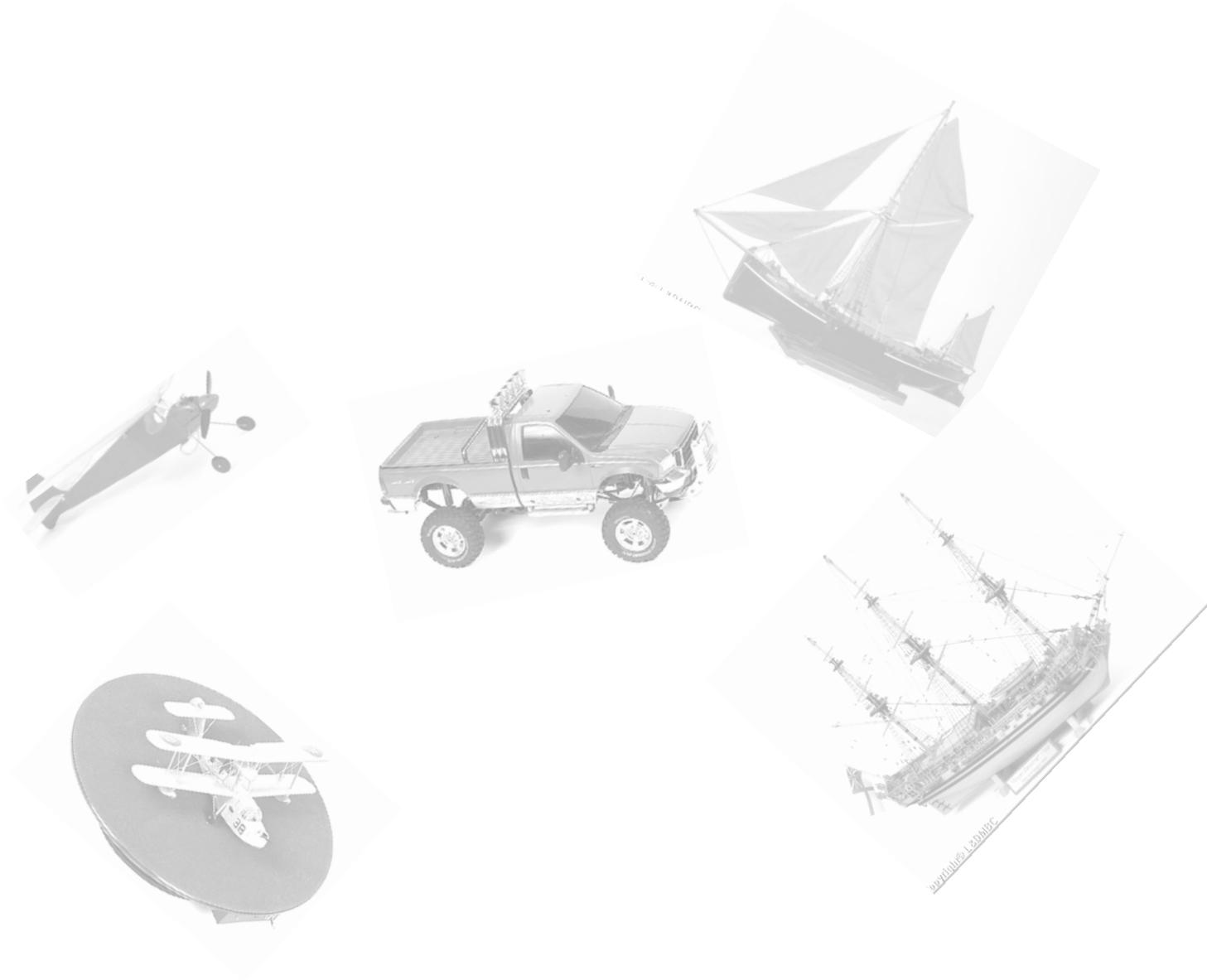


... a model club not just for boats



**NEWSLETTER**  
**WINTER 2010**

## Notes from your Editor

The Mag. is back... though we have had to revert to a text only format now that we have lost the use of a decent printer that can give photographs a quality finish. My fault I suppose as I had retired! Many options have been tried, but people are just too busy at their work these days to have the time for a bit of printing (quite a lot in reality) "on the side".

With the exception of the above, the club has gone from strength to strength, with new members willing to travel some distance to attend our meetings in Luton. Also our award winning display stand just keeps improving. Well done to its creators and craftsmen.

As a result of requests from members, evening sailings have been organised the last two summers. I'm very pleased to be able to report that they have been extremely well supported.

For some reason, Lyn Martin, with help from Gill and without any prompting from the committee, volunteered to give us refreshments at the lakeside, with Terry or Tony standing in as required. What a difference they have made over the last two years to our day and evening sailings. On behalf of all us, a BIG thank you to Lyn and her helpers.

Finally, thanks to Ken Gould and Tony Dalton for their excellent articles.

John Morgan.

~~~~~

*Following are the more important articles that I have not been able to publish previously, due to the lack of printing facilities. They originally came with pictures, which regrettably I have had to remove. Slight changes have also been made to match this text only version, so apologies to the authors.*

~~~~~

## Our 2009 Trophies Winners

Ken Gould - PP. your Editor.

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting last September, among many other decisions arrived at, there were new names on our club trophies. The “**Club Dedication Trophy**” recognizing the enormous amount of work a member has carried out behind the scenes, was awarded posthumously to Gill Abbott which Dave graciously accepted on Gill’s behalf.

Next was “**The Presidents Trophy**”. This is awarded for outstanding boat building and was presented by the Chairman to Tony Roffe for his “Calypso”.

Third but not least, was our Alexandra Palace Model Exhibition “**Best Stand Trophy**”. As a number of members were involved in the construction, it was Tony Dalton’s turn to hold it. He is well known as Mr. LED so there had been some modifications to the shield. His defence to the alterations is thus:

*Following the recent presentation of the London Model Engineering Exhibition Society Shield for services rendered in building the club stand and at the specific suggestion of our President, I have added a number of red LED’s to the shield – the reason being is that I happen to have a considerable number of red LED’s and just wanted to get shot of them. I should add that the battery does not last very long in illuminating the LED’s as it is only a single pen cell, which is all that was to hand at the time.*

*Mr. A Filament*

~~~~~

## A Very Special Report

Ken Gould

At a July 2009 evening sail, I took time out for a rest and struck up a conversation with Graham Crisp and Robert Redjak. Just as well I did, for Graham informed me that Robert and his wife Caroline had looked after my disabled son Allan until he sadly past away. This was partly instrumental in starting their many years of child care. This culminated in the Her Majesty the Queen honouring them with an **MBE** each, for over thirty years service to long term child fostering. Robert and Caroline Redjak received their awards from the Queen at a recent Buckingham Palace investiture. I am sure I speak for the whole membership, when I say hearty congratulations from them both.

~~~~~

**The Annual General Meeting**  
**of the Luton & District Model Boat Club 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010**  
**Held at the Warden Hill Community Hall Luton**

**Edited highlights**

**Chairman's report.**

Dave Abbott started by saying it seemed to be a quiet club year. The year starting off with being allocated a disappointing stand area the Warwick Show. The December club night was given over to our Xmas party. The New Year kicked off with the Ally Pally Show. We also had many visits to other clubs, Model Mayhem Weekend, Stevenage Open Day, Kettering Children in Need, Black Park Sunday.

Good use was made of Wardown Lake on weekdays and weekends and evening sails were well attended.

The club boat "Phoenix" has been finished and has had a lot of use. Club 500 fast/slow boats are only waiting for batteries from Howes Models.

The Chairman paid thanks to the Committee and the membership for making it such a great club.

**Secretary's report**

Graham Rumble said that as the Chairman had covered club activities he wanted to concentrate on the activities of the Committee. He paid thanks to the Committee for the excellent and professional way that they had carried out their duties. He highlighted the many projects they had undertaken over and above their normal duties. Some of these thanks included Terry Martin who led and was a major contributor in the refurbishment of the club boat "Phoenix". Also Paul Birtles who undertook the photographing of members boats and our exhibition stand and also designed the new club membership leaflet.

**Election of Committee members**

Ken Gould officiated at the election of committee members. Two nominations were received, Georg Izzard for the position of Membership Secretary. Proposed by Tony Dalton and seconded by Chris Jackson. Tony Dalton was also nominated for the position of General committee member. Proposed by Pete Carman and seconded by George Izzard. Tony Dalton was elected as a General committee member, whilst Dave Ford retained his position as Membership Secretary.

## **Trophy Presentations**

The Presidents Shield was awarded to Terry Martin for his work on the club boat "Phoenix". Unfortunately, the shield had not been returned in time for presentation and will be presented later.

The Club Dedication Trophy was awarded to Paul Birtles for his photography of club members' boats and art work for the membership leaflet. Paul not being present, he will receive his trophy at a later date.

## **Any Other Business**

The club magazine will now appear four times a year as an A4 6-12 page no picture publication. We have been given two printers to help with the print run. The CD version was not well taken up and has been suspended.

Regular Saturday working parties at the lakeside are envisaged every six weeks or so meeting at 10.00 a.m. for a couple of hours.

The trailer requires major repairs to the axles and bodywork; this is likely to cost £250.00. Graham Crisp will look into sourcing axles at a keener price. Alternatively we could hire a trailer as required, prices unknown at this time.

Dave Abbott gave detailed reports of the club's attendances at Wicksteed Park Mayhem and Black Park Open Day.

Members have reported rats at the lake. Graham Rumble and or Roy Davies are to liaise with the Luton Council to see what can be done to eradicate the problem.

Chris Jackson, although not a committee member, has taken over the supply of club regalia. The present range is: Polo shirt £12, S/SL £23, L/SL £24, Rugby shirt £22, Sweat shirt £18, Sweat shirt V neck £18.50, Fleece £19, Body warmer £25.50. Full details with order form can be found on the club website.

Membership categories are to be updated, committee to action.

Late payment of membership fees is to be addressed, committee to action.

Chairman asked the membership which events, shows and exhibitions they wished to attend in the forthcoming club year. Lakeside events to include dedicated Open Day, certain boat type regattas. There was no interest for a club day out. Members wanted a full season of boating activities advertised before the normal start of boating.

## **Gill Margaret Abbott 1947- 2009**

**Ken Gould**

We were astonished to hear of the sudden passing of Gill Abbott late last July after a spirited fight against that most insidious of diseases Cancer.

Members have expressed to Dave and his family their fond memories of Gill. Her laugh, her smile, her willing ways, her presence was so strong she filled a room just by entering. Gill was also formidable with the sewing needle, her Cross Stitch, Patchwork, embroidery and Card design techniques were of such a quality they were exhibiting at the annual St. Albans show to name but one.

Gill was a founder member and long serving Treasurer of the Luton & District Model boat Club. Our annual Bring & Buy Sale was successful in large part due to Gill's control of all things financial. Committee meetings held at her house, were also guided by her steady hand on the financial tiller. Gill was always ready with the tea and coffee, plus all manor of sweets, cakes and biscuits. Gill just knew how to do things right.

Gill was also much involved nationally with model boating, supporting Dave at many exhibitions, shows and competitions. Many will remember the great times they had at the annual modellers' spring meeting at Skipsea and at other venues; there, Gill would be at the forefront of the organizing. Acting together over many years they were superb ambassadors for our sport.

Gill also gave her valuable time and energy as Treasurer to the Luton Sea Cadet group and The Bramingham Ladies Society.

The funeral service was attended by so many people; it was standing room only at the back, entrance hall and outside the chapel. The officiator paid warm tribute for the life of Gill Abbott highlighting many of her attributes, not least the grandchildren's firm view that she was the greatest Grandma in the world. The service was a grand send off for a grand lady.

As no flowers were requested, Dave has asked that donations should be sent to the Pasque Hospice, Luton, Beds or the Macmillan Nurses.

Gill will be greatly missed by all her many friends and colleagues and our thoughts go out to Dave; his sons Justin and Mark and all his family.

~~~~~

## **Stop Press**

The Club display stand has won first prize at the International Model Boat Show. A well deserved "well done" to all those involved. Full details will appear in the spring edition of this magazine.

~~~~~

## **Club Trailer – update**

The trailer has been upgraded and repaired by Graham Crisp. He manufactured his own parts thus saving the club a three figure sum! What can we say, except... Thank you very much, Graham.

~~~~~

## **MPBA 2009 Non-Competitive Event held by our Club**

**Ken Gould - MPBA National Clubs Officer.**

To give you a little background to this event. You have to go back to the days when the MPBA was a strictly competitive minded Association. Now modellers increasingly want to show and run their boats without their handy work being judged. So the MPBA decided to run a trial of non-competitive boating events. One of the clubs chosen was ours. The on the water content was ours to decide and the enjoyment gained was also ours.

We decided to go for three events, Tug-Towing, Back-to-Back Steering and Fast Electrics. The event was spoken about at the last club meeting and hopes were high for a good attendance on the Sunday. Peter and Molly Carman were early birds and at the lake by 8.30a.m., ready for setting up. I arrived by 9.30 to give a hand with the island placing. As further members arrived their names were put into the hat for later.

For the first event George Izzard made his tug GAJ1 available for all to use. With two lighters attached to the tug, Tony Martin started off the towing by steering around a horse shoe shaped course; it was not a case of obtaining a clear round, more one of steering with finesse. Of the 22 members who had a go, 21 showed a good standard of steering with Tony Roffe being the dark horse, for one who professed to not having done this sort of thing before, he showed a remarkable degree of skill. As each finished their round, they were rewarded with a handful of jelly babies.

Only one driver managed to hit most of the islands and as the idea was to

avoid them, no jelly babies for him. While this was going on, others were readying our club boat "Somersby".

The names that were put in the hat earlier were now picked out at random to make pairs for the back-to-back. Even then there were two father and son/daughter pairs!! 9 pairs were prepared to take part:

Lyn Martin-Mike Skuce  
Edward Ashwell-Mike Dowsett,  
Nikki Martin-Rory Ashwell  
Chris Jackson-Terry Martin,  
Brian Thomson-Gill Martin  
Georgia Rumble-Graham Rumble,  
James Martin-Peter Carman  
Dave Seath-Bob Seath,  
Dave Jazani-Tony Martin.

Back-to-Back events have to be thought about before starting, or maybe not, as the captains left is the coxswains left, or could it, be his other left, right? I did notice it caught some out. The course was not complicated, just a circular route round the outside of the islands starting and finishing at the jetty

When the boating had finished, there was more than the usual amount of kit to put away and unfortunately less people to help this time. As usual the Martin removal Co. sprang into action clearing the lake of Islands and much more besides. There were a few others also getting stuck in.

I would also add thanks to Lyn and Gill Martin for all the hot drinks. I will finish where I started, the MPBA wishes to thank the Luton & District MBC and their members for their enthusiasm in supporting and taking part in this non-competitive event trial. As a token of their appreciation, the MPBA will give your club £25.00 towards expenses.

~~~~~

## **Looking ahead – to Autumn 2011**

To compensate for the lack of photographs in the magazine, the committee have decided to produce an annual CD compilation to be available with the autumn edition, starting in 2011.

So, please send me your pictures of our activities to me, with a short caption so that we all know what is going on.

By email: [magazine@lutonmodelboat.co.uk](mailto:magazine@lutonmodelboat.co.uk)

As CD or prints to: 11 Park Court, Sandy, SG19 1NP

## **What can your Club do for you?**

The committee is aware that model boating is still the dominant hobby at club nights, exhibitions and the magazine and they are eager to increase the prominence of our other disciplines.

So, please tell your committee about shows that we should be attending and the subjects for talks that you wish to see organised at club nights.

Tony Martin has suggested we attend the Milton Keynes IPMS show in 2011. If you would like to support our presence at this show, let Tony know.

~~~~~

## **The New Club Display Stand**

**Ken Gould.**

Paul and I had a gem of an idea, during last year's trip to the Dortmund Exhibition. As we wandered around the show, we were taken by the professionalism of many of their stands. Quite a number had a theme running through their displays. At no time did we see those manning a stand; sitting scoffing a sandwich in full view of the paying public. This struck a cord with me, as it is a pet hate of mine. Back in the UK, the matter was raised at the next committee meeting; with Paul showing a sketch of a stand design. The upshot of this was a working party of Paul Birtles, Pete Carman and I. We were tasked with coming up with a design for possible future club use. Our first brain storming session came up with a boat design, akin to a mix of a fishing boat/Dutch barge.

The next step was to submit the design to the full committee and then to the membership for approval. Once this was obtained, we three got down to the detail of how to bring this concept to fruition. The building workload was split roughly along the lines of spare time available and our particular skills. The biggest section was the wheel house; and had to be large enough to seat half a dozen people plus fit into the overall stand dimensions. As our largest event stand is at Alexandra Palace and measures 30' x 8', so the wheel house came out at 6' x 8' allowing 18' x 8' of stand space in front and 6' x 8' behind. The forward display maintained the raised centre area; which now looks like a ships hatch cover. We poached an additional 18" at the front, to accommodate the bow section. As we often accommodate the MPBA stand on our own stand, we moved it to the stern section were it had more room;

this gives an opportunity to include guest models as well as the core display.

There is a lot of kit to consider in this particular display, the wheel house had to be constructed in such a way that it could be erected and dismantled correctly and safely by any two members and the whole edifice had to fit into three carrying bags. The same criteria were required for the bow section and one carry bag, an aid-memoir is on hand for either assembly if required. We also took the opportunity to change the overall blue colour scheme.

### **Wheel House**

Construction of the main vertical and base frame members was made using 3" x 2" soft wood with smaller section intermediates. Each vertical had slots cut to take filler panels. The 12 cross pieces had tongues which fitted into the vertical slots. Heavy duty card, hardboard and Perspex panels slotted in between the sections. A wooden topping surrounded the frame. All were held in place by wooden pegs and a few support plates and screws. The front windows slope forwards in the style of a trawler. The interior was painted white, the outside varnish brown with pseudo wood panelling. With my bit finished, Pete took the frame home to design, produce and paint the 32 panels and window frames plus solving a tricky glazing problem, Pete also sauced a large cardboard tube, which when painted became our funnel. He also kindly transported the assembly around as required.

Added to all this were two working navigation light boards. These neon lighting boards were especially designed and constructed by Tony Dalton. At the front centre, we added working radar borrowed from the MPBA stand, a new scanner blade was fitted with text completed the job. Just behind cabin sits the funnel, to stop anything falling over, the MPBA stand and funnel was fixed to the wheel house by a support bar. We considered having a smoke generator inside the funnel; but that may have set off smoke alarms. A fabric roof and doors finished the job. The on site erecting time is approximately 60 minutes (we hope).

### **Bow Section**

It could not be too sharp for safety reasons, so we went for a blunt barge type. Two half sections of 5mm ply form the horizontal shape and are fixed to the tables. Attached to this is a vertical keel post and a hidden support leg. Two 6' sections of shaped hardboard topped with a round plastic section, the bottom has a plastic section with a runner to take a cloth screen. Both sections slot into the keel post, and angled brackets fixed to both vertical and horizontal surfaces; hold the two halves of the bow shape in place. The colour chosen for the hull was standard hull red and the bow sections were duly painted so. A raked cloth screen depicts the angled bow.

### **Fabrics**

With the decision not to use blue coloured material, the new colour scheme was; hull red for all side screens; the deck would be light brown depicting wooden planking. The centre hatch cover and wheel house roof is of light green to look like canvas. After much pleading and the promise of lots of extra Christmas presents, Lyn Gould took on the task of cutting and hemming all

this material, plus the making of the canvas carrying bags. Over 100meters worth of sewing was required.

### **Final Assembly**

Paul took on the mantle of all things artistic; he used his club logo design and newly designed text for the display advertising. With Dave's help Justin Abbott then produced a canvas flag for the mast. Come the set up day, Paul took a series of photos of the just completed stand and then with all the exhibits displayed, fine tuning their position for balance as only he can. I must thank Graham Rumble for interrupting his recovery; to weld up the metal stanchion assemblies and paint them. These are threaded with natural coloured ropes making up the exhibit safety lines. The ropes are kept taught with hooks to wheel house eye bolts and eyes on the bow sides, with the extra rope entwining around bollards. A mast positioned at the front of the raised hatch area holds our club flag with logo and club name, just in case anybody doesn't already know who we are, and what we stand for.

### **Conclusion**

It had taken the original three, several months of interaction and hard work to complete this project; with the added help of five others. Before launching it on the modelling public, we took the precaution of erecting the whole stand for the first time at the scout meeting hall. Just in case we had to carry out any last minute alterations. We are now looking forward, to rolling it out publicly for the first time; at the Alexandra Palace Exhibition in January.

We were also aware; it had to be flexible enough to fit into a small or medium show stand as well. From the start, we three did realise it was a departure from the norm, and hope you the membership take to this style of exhibiting now and again.

As we now have our own off camera area, you can take the opportunity to have a ten minute break or your midday nosh in complete privacy. The design and quality of the build is such; that it fits into 4 carry bags and will fit easily inside a car or on a roof rack. Our combined efforts should give the club several years of excellent use. At the January Alexandra Palace Exhibition all our hard work was voted best club stand and members were presented with a shield to prove it.

I shall finish by thanking Dave, Graham, Justin, Lyn, Paul, Peter and Tony for all their hard work and dedication.

~~~~~

# **St Albans Model Engineering Exhibition 2010**

**Tony (Sinker) Dalton**

It was raining Friday morning prior to the St Albans Show, so I thought I would be getting wet at the Club Hut as I had arranged to meet Graham Crisp to load his trailer of all the items required for the show at 3pm in the afternoon. Ed Solly had agreed to come along and give some help and when we arrived at the agreed time the rain had ceased. Terry and Tony Martin arrived with Graham and we got on with loading the trailer with all the items on Graham Rumbles list.

Having completed the loading it was noticed that one of the tyres was a little deflated so Graham departed to the nearest garage to rectify the situation, mean while the rest of us made tracks to Francis Bacon School, St Albans, where the exhibition was taking place. Graham Crisp eventually arrived and we began to set up all the tables. During the process of putting the covers on the tables, first Terry Martin and then David Abbott fell through the tables as the stretchers gave way. I am glad to say that no one was injured and the table layout was quickly altered so that it would not necessary to climb on the tables to pull the covers into position.

Having completed the stand construction, all the models where then put into their respective positions and we were ready to depart at about 6pm. I arrived at about 8.30am on Saturday morning to find Pete and a few other members were already in attendance. Pete had arranged with the St Albans club that we could go and use their boating pool early before the rush so that hopefully the water would be calm and no other boats on the pool so that I could sail my new model little boat 'Barchino' which is a 17cm long plastic Italeri kit and had been adapted for R/C. thus later on we duly departed to the pool side with boat and camera. With only one other boat in site, we managed to get some photos without any mishaps, other than being narrowly missed by a small straight runner, luckily there were not enough boats in the pool for me to accidentally sink.

On returning to the hall I wondered around to view our display and some of the other exhibitors. Phoenix the latest addition the club fleet was on display and certainly was a show piece with all its lighting. One of our display tables was devoted to war ships and displayed Dave Abbotts Gold Medal Winner HMS Iverston, a TON Class Minesweeper another table had a display of some very fine heavy trucks and there was an array of plastic models from Tony Martin, to name but a few of a very fine display of models. Adjacent to our stand was the MPBA stand with Ken Gould and Dave Abbott in attendance. Our old friends Stevenage MBC was situated next to us and also Welwyn Model Engineers were in attendance close by, with some steam models being fired up. There was a gentleman with a private collection of over 50 old die cast London Buses, trams and trolley buses etc which gave a splendid display and I am sure to some of the older visitor's rekindled thoughts of the past. There were two sets of railway models running which always draw the public's attention together with the wooden toy stand situated in the corner of the hall

Somehow I managed to get roped in to helping Pete Carmen build his Flat Top Aircraft Carrier which he had brought along as an exhibition build project. Initially myself and John Allen proceeded to mark out the deck and hull base together with the bulkheads on the foam board (the material chosen by Pete to use for this project) and then passed over the cutting to Pete (Project Leader) we naturally had ample suggestions, some unwanted, from the likes of Ken Gould and Graham Rumble to name but a few, however we plodded on. The first problem encountered was that the glue (Cyanoacrylate) that Pete had provided was almost fully cured in its bottle and the Glue borrowed from Andrew Hodgson was not much better, however, although the medium was thick it was just useable. By closing time we had the construction looking like a reasonably shaped vessel.

The exhibition closed at about 5pm and I took the rudder assemblies home to reduce their height. By the time I arrived on Sunday, at about 1pm in the afternoon, with the modified rudder assemblies, the vessel had progressed and the control tower had been added to the flight deck. We proceeded to fit the rudders and then the propeller shafts, and when this had been completed bonded on the other side of the hull and left it to cure.

Having done some modelling, I thought it was time to go walk-about around the exhibition and view the exhibitors in the other halls. I found the West London Meccano Society in the School Canteen, my first view of which was of a range of very old locomotives (Stevenson types) that made an excellent display, there was also a very large windmill over 7ft high, a range of army vehicles and a truly massive long crane. Passing through the Canteen and managing to avoid all the splendid cakes, I walked out into the rain to find the steam train was still running and a few brave fellows were still sailing their boats on the temporary pool.

Back quickly inside, I found the shop was in attendance selling metal and plastic raw materials together with some plastic kits, and yes I did succumb to the temptation of buying two kits, one a model of HMS Hood and another of a Tempest twin engine aircraft, should keep me busy over the winter months. Next I proceeded to the main hall, this is where St Albans display all their models, there was an array of different types of model boats together with helicopters, steam engines and plastic models of various types together with a stand devoted to practical demonstrations of modelling depicting an array of skills. The Life boat Enthusiasts Society was in evidence with an array of model life boats, as you would expect and tucked in one corner was a stand selling pop-pop boats, this bringing back some childhood memories.

I then went back to the gymnasium and out the back of the school to see the large trucks and cranes, but by this time the rain had set in with a vengeance, so one could say that rain had stopped play. I apologise to any aircraft enthusiasts, due to the inclement weather I did not go out to the field to view the flying, so I guess I get 0 out of 10 for that part of the report. The penultimate item I have for this report is that Ken Gould lost his balance on leaving the exhibition and tumbled onto the ground, no broken bones. Rumour

has it that it was due to too much brandy in his coffee together with the excitement of seeing all the splendid models on display (in their short skirts).

I should like to conclude this report by thanking all those who came along to give a helping hand, not only to set up and break down the display stands but also those who brought along their models that made such an excellent display and supported the club in general.

Happy modelling to all

**End of Newsletter**