

... a model club **not** just for boats



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2011

Notes from your Editor

So, another year begins for the Club... hope you have paid your subs... hint...hint...Just to keep you all on your toes!

Hope that you will all have a good boating year.

You will notice that we have a different format. After four hours of fighting to keep to the column format with pictures I gave up! So I hope it still is "a good read", or if that is too strong, at least no worse for the change.

Score: Computer 10, JM 0.

The first Committee meeting has taken place, where discussions took place on the exhibitions that are to be put in the diary. At this time of year we have the two big ones, Warwick and Alexandra Palace, where we will take our award winning display stand.

By the time you read this, a construction "dummy run" will have taken place at a secret location (we are still trying to find a free hall!), using existing parts but assembled in a new order. The stand will be subtly changed for the new season.

More construction work will be undertaken at the Lake, to make walking around the banks even easier and safer. Volunteers required, watch out for announcements...

Planning for our 20th Birthday Open Day, 22nd April 2012 is under way, put it in your diary now.

On the downside, Ken Gould has unexpectedly left the County and so the Club, to retire and live on the sunny (he hopes!) south coast. His inventive and legalistic mind will be greatly missed by the Committee and members. However, in spite of that, I wish him a happy and fruitful retirement.

Dates for you Diary

Nov 10th Warwick Show set-up

Dec 27th or 29th Sail & Meal

Nov 11th to 13th Warwick Show

Feb 5th IPMS show Milton Keynes

Dec 8th Club Xmas Party with food etc.

Sail & Meal

Organised by Peter Carman and will take place on either December 27th or 29th. See Peter for details and final date. After breaking the ice on the lake with your boats, replenish your energy with a restaurant meal, venue also to be advised.

IPMS Show Milton Keynes

February 5th 2012

Anyone interested in attending and supporting a club stand, please have a word with Tony Martin

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First, lets get some niggles out of the way

### Fast Electrics

**Please note** that, for the safety of other, slower and less maneuverable models, fast electrics are to be sailed either south of the tree at the end of the paved bank, or in the Gondia pond, the key to the gate will be available from the tea table on Sundays.

And

### Frequency Peg discipline

For our new members (and to remind us older ones!), here is how the frequency peg-board for 27 meg AM and 40 meg FM is to be used.

Firstly – unless you have the correct peg for the frequency you are about to use, **your transmitter is not to be switched on**. This includes the table area as well as the lakeside. So no covert testing of your kit while still at the tables!

Before switching on any transmitter, go to the peg-board and collect the peg with your frequency number or colour on it.

Do not place anything else in its place, as this may cause confusion as to whether the frequency is or is not available, especially if what you place there looks like a peg!!!

Always check the frequency, just in case it has been put against the incorrect label on the board.

If your required peg is not anywhere on the board, find it before using your transmitter.

Once you have finished sailing your boat on the water, return the peg to its correct slot on the board, there may be others patiently waiting...

Thank you.

## **AGM September 8<sup>th</sup> 2011**

32 members attended. Dave Abbott took the role as AGM Chairman.

### **Dave Abbott** - Presidents Report.

The Club have attended both the national shows in Warwick, where we won the shield for the Best Club Stand and Alexandra Palace, where we came second. Not a bad record! In addition we took some tables to the local St Albans SME exhibition and had a representation at Model Mayhem, Black Park and two events in Stevenage. Our home sailing Sundays and the three night sails have been very well attended. The only disappointment was the Open Day in July, which started damp and ended in a monsoon, just as we were packing up.

### **Graham Rumble** – Secretaries Report.

He thanked all those who have helped down at the lake and Lyn and Gill for providing teas on Sundays. The Club, with its large and enthusiastic membership, currently at 86, has a great reputation and is the envy of many other societies.

Ken Gould has moved away from the area but his place on the Committee will not be filled.

### **Terry Martin** – Treasurers Report.

Due to the increasing membership in the club, the finances are in good health. The cost of the hall is easily covered by the attendance on club nights. We have also received £150 from attending the National shows.

### Election of your Committee.

No nominations had been received and all the current Committee members with the exception of Ken Gould, who would not be replaced, were willing to work for another year. Dave Abbott suggested that all posts were voted for en-block. Chris Jackson proposed the motion and Dave Easthope seconded it. The vote to re-elect the current Committee for another year was unanimous.

### Club Trophies.

**The Club Dedication Trophy** – given to the individual, who has done a lot of good work for the Club. This was awarded to Tony Dalton for his help with electronics to members and the Club stand. He has also given talks at our meetings.

**The Presidents Trophy** – given to the individual who has produced an outstanding new model. This was awarded to Chris Jackson for his Clyde pilot cutter, Cumbrae.

There were no proposals received from the membership.

Any Other Business.

Ken Gould has sent his regards to everyone at the Club.

Chris Jackson asked if we had thought about attending the Allfold Charity Model Boat Show. Our secretary had heard of this show, but it had clashed with other events. He suggested that we would see how the calendar works out next year.

The key to the Gondia pond, where the fast electrics are to be sailed, will be available from the tea table on Sundays.

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Family Day, Fairlands Valley, Stevenage **23rd July 2011**

The Club attended this event, invited by the Stevenage Model Boat Club.

The Stevenage MBC and the Fairlands User Group have thanked the L&DMBC for their help at this event, both saying that they would have found it difficult to manage the crowds on their own and without the help of the club.

We have been mentioned in their dispatches!

Thank you to those who attended and sacrificed a free-sailing day to help organise the visitors.

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## **Weil's Disease**

Weil's disease is an infection caused by bacteria carried in rats urine which contaminates water and banks of canals, ponds, rivers and ditches. The risk of infection is very high in slow moving or stagnant water.

The disease, which is notifiable, is serious and requires hospital treatment.

### **DO DO DO**

Cover with waterproof plasters or gloves, all scratches, cuts, sore and skin affected by eczema etc.

Wash your hands or cover food with a wrapper before you eat.

Avoid any risk of falling in the lake. If this does happen, immediately wash or shower in clean water.

### **DON'T DON'T DON'T**

Don't put wet ropes or other objects in your mouth.

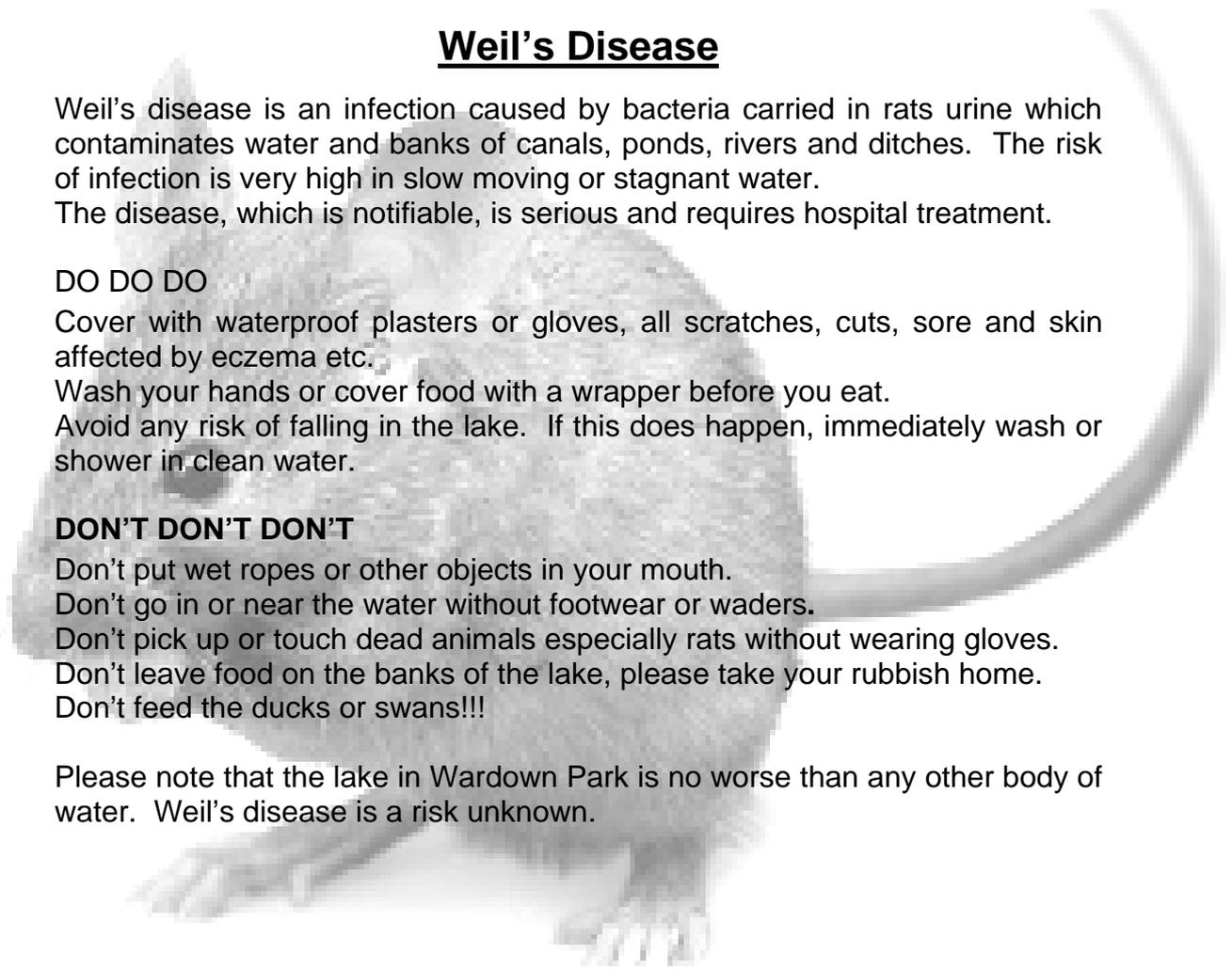
Don't go in or near the water without footwear or waders.

Don't pick up or touch dead animals especially rats without wearing gloves.

Don't leave food on the banks of the lake, please take your rubbish home.

Don't feed the ducks or swans!!!

Please note that the lake in Wardown Park is no worse than any other body of water. Weil's disease is a risk unknown.



## Open Day – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Pictures by Dave Abbott

It was not until 14:00hrs that Kay and I arrived at the park. As usual events in our 2011 diary had clashed, Kay had put her name down to do a sponsored run/walk in the Race for Life series. This now explains this photograph...



She “passed the hat round” and members and guests put in a total of £17, which in view of the rather small turnout, was excellent. Thanks very much to all who contributed.

Our guests, those who I managed to catch up with, included our usual crowd from Northampton and two “new” from Oxford. However, as already mentioned above, the representation from L&DMBC members was not the usual overwhelming numbers.

Yes, okay, July and holidays – July and typical school holiday weather. It was a pity given all the preparatory work that had taken place earlier to get shelter for the people and courses out on the water.



The day can be split into two distinct portions, for the most part dry, followed by an incredibly wet spell.

So, to Part One – In the Dry:

We had some courses laid out for our amusement, one was Radio Controlled Straight Running, a name that I thought was a touch misleading, for once through the start gate, there was no more radio control, the joysticks were not to be used.

After three goes I found the line to use and was successful most of the time, having said that, it was a calm day and if there had been a wind or a current from the feeding river then it would have been a different story!

Another course had, as its aim, an attempt to push a piece of polystyrene with the boat's bow, through the gates. That proved tricky and with no reverse available, course correction was not possible, as you would leave the polystyrene behind!



We had the boats for any children to have a go with and as usual, Lyn was on hand to keep our stomachs happy.



As members and guest drifted away and the sky began to look threatening once again, the decision was taken to pack-up. There was also a strong

possibility that there would not be enough bodies on the ground to help to dismantle the gazebos!

And so, we come to Part Two, which was so different, it could have been another day as the monsoon inevitably arrived. Fortunately, two gazebos were still standing, work stopped while we sheltered from the torrent. The tops had to be frequently drained of water as if left alone, the roof would suddenly tilt, pouring water through any gap onto the unsuspecting individual sheltering underneath. The noise had to be heard, to be believed!



I did not make a note of the time we stood around, but it seemed very long.

Is this the lake?? No, the tarmac, allegedly.

The water in the lake from the feed from the road, rose close onto two bricks before all became quiet.

Taking advantage, the site was cleared as quickly as possible, just in case of a repeat. We then all went home...



## St Albans SME Show September 2011

I seem to have lost my notes made while at this one, so, in spite of what Kay believes, it's just as well I have a good memory. Now, what am I chatting about??? Ah, I see what she means...

No matter, lets have a go. Unfortunately, there was a mix up with the dates for this year, those printed in the model boating mags disagreed with the other publications and web sites. As they were in the majority, it was not at all a disaster, indeed I do recall hearing in the speeches that just over 1000 visitors had come through the doors, slightly down on the previous year, they could have been planning to go on the following weekend? (I hope not...).

Regrettably, I missed out again on the flying display, I noticed a small band of on-lookers as I arrived, but leaving them until after looking at the exhibits in the other halls meant I was too late, a torrential down-poor struck the town, forcing them and the vehicle display to pack-up early.



As usual, our stand was large, filling a good proportion of the gym. Sharing with us was a magnificent 00 model railway layout of a London Underground station. It had a large collection of specially made LT trains from the 1950's to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and from both surface and deep tunnel lines. The four platforms at the station had two levels, so both train designs could be run together as they would be at a "proper" London suburb interchange.



It was good to see our youngsters joining in with some model making, always good for the image of the club and judging by the smiles on their faces, they were enjoying themselves.



The meccano enthusiasts were out in force with their (very) large, working models – imagine fastening all those nuts and bolts together...



Pictures from  
the Main Hall



With many hands available, the breakdown was very quick, thankfully although threatening, the rain kept clear otherwise it may have been a different story...

**End of Magazine**