



MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

GLOUCESTER & DISTRICT MODEL BOAT CLUB

www.gdmbc.co.uk

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Following the recent Annual General Meeting, the current Committee is now as follows:

Nick Handley, Chairman
Jeff de Cates, Treasurer
Chris Argent, Secretary
Andrew Short, Membership secretary
Graham Clark, Newsletter Editor
David Excell, Website
Mike Lane, Health & Safety
Doug Garland
Brian Evans
Mike Holliday
Bob Hinton

The club is still looking for an equipment officer to maintain the club's equipment.

I did it my way; a life in modelling.

Chris Reid

As I approach the final curtain I am now old enough to reflect on things past.

My modelling began with sixpenny gliders from Woolworths. Much later I got into radio control with an Aerokits Patrol Launch (1).



(2)

In those days you built your own radio equipment. Bang bang rudder only, and not very reliable. Boats were a safer installation. Later I designed an aircraft to suit the radio, again bang bang rudder and no throttle or elevator (2). Flying life tended to be short!

I designed and built this low winger (2) while working in the design department of International Model Aircraft Ltd (Frog). There then followed 32 years flying with the RAF when modelling took a back seat. On retirement, I bought a lathe, taught myself to use it and built a Minnie traction engine (3).



It took five years! I couldn't face doing another so went back to boats and model aircraft, the latter mainly my own designs. Several of these were published which largely paid for the rest. I always had a soft spot for DH Moths and reproduced this one featured in *Pilot* magazine.(4)



Also illustrated are a first model aircraft design which got me the job at Frog, and my last when advancing years made accurate flying more difficult.(5)



So I returned to boats various.



A *Fairy Swordsman* finished as a Ford racer (7), from a part-built sale purchase. Later completion of another part-built original Aerokits Crash Tender (8, 9).



I've also dabbled with a bit of design by reproducing a Vic Smeed hydroplane



from the 50s. Fairly recently I joined the *Magic* racing gang (12) with the club but found ten races in quick succession too much for my brain's endurance. Perhaps it

was that although once a full-size dinghy racer, I wasn't very good!



Right now, and possibly the end of the line, I am building an Artisanía Latina *Sanson* (13) – a nineteenth century steam tugboat.



The kit is a new experience. A multitude of laser cut ply parts, but no plan or build instructions, just 18 videos on YouTube! The build is proving tricky, not least as the videos recommend painting the bits as you build (14). I am not looking forward to planking the frames as it's 65 years since I did my last one!

GDMBC Calendar of Events for 2026



Club Events

January	2026 membership fees exercise
February	12 th – Committee Meeting @ HCA 18 th – AGM @ Hucclecote Rugby Football Club
March	12 th – “New” Committee Meeting @ HCA 14 Club stand at Filton
April	9 ^h – Committee Meeting @ HCA
May	10 th – Fun Day 16/17 Club stand at Castle Combe
June	18 th – Committee Meeting @ HCA
July	19 th – Fun Day
August	20 th – Committee Meeting @ HCA
September	20 th – Fun Day
October	15 th – Committee Meeting @ HCA
November	
December	10 th – Committee Meeting @ HCA

Third Party Events

14 March Filton Aerospace exhibition

9 May Canal Trust boat trips

10 May RNLI Knightcote

16/17 May –Castle Combe steam rally

al Sailing Knightcote

13 June Canal trust boat trips

5 July SARA Sharpness

5 July Navy Day Knightcote

11 July Canal trust boat trips

8 August Canal trust boat trips

6 September Steam Day Knightcote

12 Sept. Canal trust boat trips

Gloucester Retro ?

TBA September – Speech House Show

A SIDEWAYS GLANCE

By the editor

A couple of times each year members of the GDMBC are invited to the Steam Days at the Hereford Model Engineering Society's riverside site, next door to the historic waterworks museum. That too is worth a look. (Ask Ted)

The Hereford Society is mainly focused on steam trains that puff and snarl their way around a couple of large circular tracks, providing joy rides to the general public and their children. However, the Society also has a large model boating pool which is open to our members on Steam Days. Here, you can unfold your deck chair, pop your current favourite boat in the pool and enjoy the scene, while relaxing and listening to the barrel organ strains of 'Mac Knife', wafting down from the clubhouse threshold to the pool from the organ, poised above on of the Society's café and club house balcony.





The Hereford Organ Grinder at work with the perforated music cards dropping out at right



The Hereford Boating Pool

But I digress. The boating pool is great: about two feet deep with nice clean water and no weeds. If something should go wrong with the boat, retrieval is straightforward since the pool is accessible from all four sides of the roughly 90ft x 70ft water.

The organ grinder is a friendly chap and a fountain of information about the mechanical music dispensed by the blocks of perforated cardboard running through his box.

I have a soft spot for the brash fairground organ music that was the standard fare of late 19th and early 20th century entertainment. These machines were marvels of intricacy and craftsmanship not unlike that found in contemporary model boats, and examples are still to be found and enjoyed. If luck should ever take you to Amersham in Buckinghamshire, do make a beeline for the Amersham Fair Organ Museum, one of the town's best kept secrets! The collection was founded by Albert Edward 'Ted' Reed (1926 – 2022) who had a keen interest in steam engines and fairground equipment – notably mechanical organs. From the 1960s onward Ted expanded his collection to encompass the instruments on display at the Museum today. The organs came from Germany, France and Belgium, but play all the old-time favourites from Britain.

In 2004 a charitable trust was formed in order to safeguard the future of this iconic collection and make it available to the public, it is a lasting tribute to Ted Reed, whose dedication and foresight in preserving fairground organs and their traditional music will ensure that this important part of Britain's heritage is secure for future generations to enjoy.

CASTLE COMBE ENTRY FORM

Terms of Entry

1. By signing your entry form, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions below.
2. All exhibits must have valid public liability insurance, road cover and if applicable, relevant test certificate. Please bring a copy of required paperwork, an official may ask to see it. Failure to comply will imply that exhibit is not insured and may result in your exhibit having to be removed from the show under escort.
3. Owners must ensure that drivers of any vehicle entered hold a valid driving licence of the appropriate class for the vehicle exhibited.
4. The organisers reserve the right to refuse entry.
5. No exhibits/craft/trade may enter the show site before 12 noon on Friday 15th May 2026.
6. **No exhibits may enter the show site after 10am or leave before 5pm on show days.**
7. Exhibitors are not permitted to move any vehicle on the show field other than to and from the arena during public opening times unless they have permission to do so from a rally official.
SAFETY: THERE IS STRICTLY **NO** VEHICLE MOVEMENT AROUND THE RACE TRACK AT ANY TIME DURING THE EVENT.
8. Passes will be sent once your entry has been accepted. Passes are allocated one per entry and admit 2 adults and 2 children. Additional persons must pay the normal gate admission fee. Please display passes at all times. Extra vehicle passes are allocated at the discretion of the section organisers.
9. Any passengers on a vehicle must use a proper seat.
10. Generators not permitted to run between 10pm and 7am.
11. Well behaved dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead at all times.
12. If parked/camped on the race track, please vacate the area by 6pm on Sunday 17th May 2026
13. E-bikes and E-scooters are not permitted anywhere on the site. Failure to comply will result in the rider being asked to dismount and escort said item to either the campsite or parked vehicle. Repeat offenders will be removed from the show.
14. Entry forms are to be submitted to the relevant section organiser before February 28th 2026. Entries are accepted at the discretion of the relevant section leader. Their decision is final and has the full support of the committee.
15. Entries will be returned if insurance details are not completed or forms are not signed.
16. **Any queries, please contact the relevant section leader. Please remember all of the team are volunteers and will answer queries when they are able to.**

Castle Combe Steam Rally

We have been invited to display our boats, and sail them at Castle Combe Steam Rally. However unlike going to Bourneville or Nightcote where we just turn up, you have to submit an entry form with details of insurance and also send a stamped, addressed envelope in order to get your passes, because this is a rally where the general public attend and pay to enter.

Castle Combe Steam Rally

Entry Form for 16th and 17th May 2026

Website: www.castle-combesteamrally.co.uk

Email: enquiries@combesteamrally.co.uk

Entry form from Gloucester & District Model Boat Club member

You are invited to attend the 39th Rally with your boat(s)

This event will be held at the Castle Combe Race Circuit, Castle Combe, Chippenham, Wilts. SN17 7EYB

Proceeds from the Rally will be donated to the Jessie May Trust. We value your support for our continued success.

Point of contact

Section Leader: Mathew Edwards

Section: Models and Displays

Address: 29 Bennets Court, Yate BS37 4XH

Tel:07490 967980

Please read the terms of entry sent out with this form

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.....

Castle Combe steam Rally official entry form 2026

I would like to enter my.....
Days)

Attendance (Sat//Sun/Both

Brief history of exhibit(s)

Insurance Company..... Policy Number.....

NOTE: If any entry is intending to fire up a steam boat they must produce a current Test Certificate for the boiler, whatever the boiler size is.

Space required.....

Entries will be returned if insurance details are not completed or entry forms are not signed

Gloucester & District Model Boat Club

Member's name.....and number of attendees (for passes).....

Address.....
.....

Tel No..... Email
address.....

Insurance: Our Club's insurance covers Club activities and invitations to exhibit from other Clubs or organisations, it does not cover member's model boats from claims.

Insurance company
details:.....
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