

**GLOUCESTER & DISTRICT MODEL
BOAT CLUB
September 2025 Newsletter**

www.gdmbc.co.uk

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DGMBC at *Gloucester goes Retro*

THERE WAS a good turnout of members on 23 August showing our flag at *Gloucester goes Retro*.



The models displayed included a German submarine, amphibious road vehicles, paddle steamers, narrow canal boats, kit-built, scratch built, tugs, marine research, minesweepers and warships. Much interest shown by small boys, their dads and quite a few mothers!

A few members put their boats (here, Doug's 1917 MTB) on the adjacent water which drew much attention from the surrounding onlookers.



ANOTHER 'GRAND DAY OUT'



The Old Dock House, Sharpness

THE CLUB NEWSLETTER had already electronically 'gone to press' when on June 29 the Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) held its Open Day at the Sharpness Docks Lifeboat Station, at which the GDMBC was invited to play an active part by demonstrating our radio-controlled sailing craft and electric-powered models.

The event was located alongside and in a large pool adjacent to the 19th Century Old Dock House, with a spectacular 20-metre drop from the quayside to the low water mark from which water arrivals can ascend a ladder, and down which departures can reach their water taxi or depart for an emergency water call-out.



Our Club's gazebo was positioned on a causeway between the mainland cliff edge and the Old Dock House, with a spectacular view of the River Severn, but with only a 1ft drop between the causeway edge and the pool, which is an extension of the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal side-arm. The pool is used twice a week by SARA to train and exercise their rescue skills, and was an ideal location to exercise the Club's fleet on show.



Only a 1ft drop from causeway edge to pool surface; ideal. And a few of the club's models on show for the public.



Throughout the day there were demonstrations of rescue craft on the River Severn of which Club members and SARA visitors had a superb view of the exciting doughnut turns of fast craft churning a spectacular wash. SARA also held safety rescue demonstrations on and in the pool, a 'gladiator' challenge, and in between our Club enjoyed a beautiful day with use of the pool waters for what we do.



A Sara rescue craft points downriver for a quick trip to Lydney



GDMBC members poised for action with their transmitters in hand

Our crew turned up in cars at about 0900 with the gazebo components and folding tables ready for team assembly in the presence of a brisk breeze. By the time we were ready for action there were some 30 radio-controlled models on the tables ready for the public.

Throughout the day there was a constant stream of the general public passing by on their way to the Old Port House (food and drink on sale) with their questions.

Sara has approximately 260 members, with the majority classed as being 'operational'. The all-volunteer rescue organisation was set up in Chepstow in 1983 and became a Registered Charity two years later.

For flood emergency work SARA is part of the National Resilience Register and in theory can be deployed anywhere in the country in times of flooding. Normally it covers all of Gloucestershire, parts of Gwent including Newport, Hereford and Worcestershire and parts of West Mercia with teams

occasionally being called to support neighbouring SAR teams in surrounding counties.

In an average year it experiences a little over 100 callouts spread out across the disciplines. The running costs are between £200,000 and £250,000 a year depending on spending requirements. .

Sara says that the Hovercraft had more drawbacks and limitations on the River Severn than positives and while it worked to keep it operational, mounting issues coupled with its operational restrictions forced its sale earlier this year.

Aside from frequent work with emergency services, SARA often works with councils and the Environment Agency when required to keep people safe, also when asked also works with organisations such as the RSPCA when there is risk to wildlife. From time to time SARA has worked with marine vets when whales or dolphins get stranded. Sometimes farmers call for help with livestock that might be at risk or in trouble. Essentially, if someone calls and SARA can help it will do all that it can to maintain public safety.



SARA's Open Day was blessed with sunshine and a modest breeze, which brought a good public turnout from which our club also benefited. So SARA, thanks for the invitation!

Gloucester & District MBC visits Knightcote Military Boat Day

Simon Frost

SUNDAY THE SIXTH OF July this year saw four Gloucester MBC members travelling to Newhouse Farm, Warwickshire to visit Knightcote Model Boat Club despite a somewhat suspect weather forecast, so that we could participate in their 'Military Boat' Event. This and the Rescue Boat Day earlier in the year have both become popular days out for our club members and we are always made very welcome by the host club at their excellent facilities.



Knightcote Model Boat Club facilities, note the low water levels.

As many club members will know, Knightcote MBC has its own private water at Newhouse Farm along with a pavilion and kitchen. Part of the outside areas

are hard paved with plenty of tables and seating, a launching stage and a boat hoist for larger vessels. The site is now also home to the Leamington & Warwick Model Railway Society who have a fabulous 6500sq ft club house complete with lift to the 1st floor and within this building there are no less than seven layouts in scales from 0 (7mm/ft) to n (2mm/ft) plus outside a substantial three track Gauge 1 (1/32 scale) circuit for live steam and battery power.



HMS Gloucester Type 42 Destroyer.

There were around fifty models in attendance on the day including several superb models built by members of the Surface Warship Association one of which was HMS Gloucester, a Sheffield Class type 42 Destroyer. The prototype was launched in 1982 by Vosper Thornycroft at Woolston, Southampton and decommissioned in 2011 having sailed 787,928 miles.



The second vessel on the table is Doug's prize winning CMB

Our own Doug Garland, he who loves fast and powerful vessels managed to behave himself this year (last year he sank the camera boat for those who hadn't heard). After cruising around with his 1918 55ft Thornycroft Coastal Motor Boat in a most genteel fashion, Doug discovered that his superb CMB combined with his excellent conduct had caught the judge's eye and he was chosen to be the proud recipient of the Best Boat on the Water award. Well done, Doug.

The weather during our day out was varied, we had sunshine but also two substantial thunderstorms during which we found ourselves sheltering under umbrellas trying to keep both ourselves dry and the water out of our models, but as soon as the sun reappeared we had a quick syringe out of the bilges and cup of tea with some cake to console ourselves and we were back on the water, which resulted in a prize winner for Gloucester.



A RELAXING FUN DAY IN HEREFORD



Sunday 2 August was a great day at the Hereford Model Engineering Club: sunshine on the garden railway tracks and on the boat pond, where the water was so clear that you could count the tiles on the bottom.



The model boats were interesting too, two of which coincidentally dated back to year of original construction 1914. These were both 'rescue' boats. The first one to catch the editor's shutter was the *Edith*, a toy boat built from plans in *Model Engineer* magazine of that era. She was rescued, said the current owner, when he acquired her in 1954, when her innards were gutted and she was retro-fitted with a home-built steam engine and radio control at the time when this was the coming thing. The hull was made of paper, the decks of wood, and little else that would offend an eco-warrior. She reflects her elegant pre-WW1 design of a rich man's leisure toy. I like old boats

Edith needs careful attention both pre-launch and subsequent decommissioning: water, of course; steam oil and SAE Engine Oil; methylated spirits; and individual tools (forceps) for those essential adjustments. This is not a 'fire and forget' boat, but needs careful tending.

Next on the editor's list of 1914 'likes' was a tin-hulled General cargo vessel, rescued by a Hereford member off a tip some years ago. He dated the year of construction as being 1914, thanks to information stamped on the ancient steam engine then fitted. The model is resplendent with 'spot colour' and would put a 270 degree grin on the face on any self-respecting reader of *Boys' Own* (remember that?).



There was plenty of steam to admire.





There were two models of the Waverly paddle steamer on the pond, always popular in the West Country.



If your editor is not mistaken this is one of the 1940s Scottish 'Puffin' coastal cargo boats; corrections please in an e-mail.

IOM racing

As of mid-August we have had eight Sunday mornings of racing, with one cancelled due to the heat and the low numbers available. Attendances have ranged from five to eight with Brian ,and recently Simon joining the fray . Apart from two sessions with good winds, winds have been the usual light and variable. Racing being restricted to either one lap and/or the north east corner, where the buoys are closer together. On the windiest day, half of the fleet used smaller B rig sails. They won on the windiest legs and in the gusts , but lost out in the overall results. Water levels as everywhere have fallen , and for the first time in almost two years , at our last session we had to launch and recover the boats from the rowing boat tied up at the steps , as IOMs have quite deep fins . Boats currently being sailed range from RogerM's one year old 3D printed Alioth, an older wooden Nimbus, and various fibreglass boats - including a Red Wine ,built in 1998 and sailed by Brian , which currently leads the series with seven days wins from eight days racing , and cannot be beaten for the Trophy. Second hand boats need not be expensive and can be found on a number of websites. Some may need a lot of work to work well and the MYA forum may be a safer bet with prices ranging from £250 to around £800 for the newer built designs . If you already have one why not get it out and join us at the Docks if you don't fancy racing, or come to Ploddy for our twice monthly racing sessions. Dates are in the calender. Contact me if you need any more information or directions to Ploddy, where we can only sail on the dates agreed with the farmer and specified in the calendar.

Rodney Bottomley

FROM MIKE LANE TO ALL MEMBERS

*This happened to me on 3 August: my OP Power 4500 mah lipo battery caught fire when it was being charged. It was a good thing I use a fire retardant cover, as you can see it also burnt out the charger. So to all members **always use a FIRE RETARDENT COVER***



Gloucester and District Model Boat Club

Events Calendar for September and October 2025

If you intend to sail at any of the club's venues, please ensure that you have read the Club's Constitution, Appendices and the Risk Assessments before sailing. This is for your safety and the safety of others.
It also ensures that the Club's insurance is valid.

Please ensure that your details are on the ICE database, before sailing, you never know when they may be needed !

Regular Club Activity

Day	Time	Date	Location	Description
Tuesday	1pm – 3:30pm		Saul Junction	Club day, any model
Tuesday	6.30pm - Dusk		Gloucester Docks	Club day, any model
Wednesday	1pm - Dusk		Over	Club day, mainly motor boats but yachts welcome
Friday	1pm - Dusk		Over	Club day, mainly yachts but motor boats welcome
Friday	1pm - 4pm		Saul Junction	Club day, any model
Sunday	10am -		Gloucester Docks	Club day, any model
Sunday	1pm - Dusk		Over	Club day, any model

Organised Events

Day	Time	Date	Location	Description
Friday	1.45pm –	5 th September	Over	Micro Magic racing (Summer #11)
Sunday	1pm - 4pm	7 th September	Over	“Motor Boat” Trophy session (conditions permitting) ?
Sunday	10am -	7 th September	Knightcote	Steam Day
Sunday	10am -	14 th September	Ploddy	IOM racing (Summer #11)
Sunday	10am -	14 th September	Speech House	Vintage Machinery Show
Friday	1.45pm –	19 th September	Over	Micro Magic racing (Summer #12)
Sunday	10am -	21 st September	Over	Fun Day @ Over (Conditions permitting) ??
Sunday	10am -	28 th September	Ploddy	IOM racing (Summer #12)
Friday	1.45pm –	3 rd October	Over	Micro Magic racing (Winter #1)
Sunday	10am -	12 th October	Ploddy	IOM racing (Winter #1)
Thursday	2pm – 4 pm	16 th October	HCA Centre	Committee Meeting
Friday	1.45pm –	17 th October	Over	Micro Magic racing (Winter #2)
Sunday	10am -	26 th October	Ploddy	IOM racing (Winter #2)

FYI – Thursday, 16th to Sunday, 19th October 2025 - Midland Model Engineering Show at Warwickshire exhibition centre

Please be considerate when parking, especially by launching areas. Leaving space for less mobile members.

Please be aware of waterborne diseases, cleaning hands regularly, especially before having refreshments.

If an incident occurs, boating activities are to halt until the situation is under control, etc.

Caution to be taken when retrieving a stricken model. Always get assistance from another member.

Your safety and enjoyment of Club activities are the Club's main concern.

If you have any concerns about Safety or Club activities, raise it at the time or contact the Club's Secretary.

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear members: this issue was plagued during preparation by (a) a total failure of a PC computer running on old software, forcing a switch (b) to a laptop running on later software. The two software variants are not totally compatible with each other; hence amongst other things, the pagination. Sorry. Graham.