

GLOUCESTER & DISTRICT MODEL BOAT CLUB

www.gdmbc.co.uk

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Chairman's Chatters

Hello

It's that time of year again, leaves falling, rain and the temperature dropping very quickly.

After the very hot summer and lack of water at Over, we welcome the cold winter weather. But the club still carries on, with Micro Magic, One Meter sailing or just boating in general.

Ship building still continues by many members' and so does just sitting around enjoying other members' conversations.

I still continue to sail at Gloucester Docks on Sundays and Saul Junction on Tuesday and Friday afternoons when possible; if not, I will be motorcycling around the countryside or drinking coffee.

Looking forward:

The Club, has been invited to attend next year's Castle Combe Steam Rally. On behalf of the Club I have accepted this invitation.

The date of this event is 16 & 17 May 2026. They are going to build a 30 ft x 10 ft x 2 ft marine lake just for our use. If you enjoy attending the Vintage Steam Rally at Speech House then this is the event for you.

The message below is from the organiser:-

As mentioned we can offer free publicity on our Facebook page, free camping (including caravans, campers and such like, 24/7 on-site security and on-site medical services. We have a secure building that the models can be stored in during the night for peace of mind and each pass covers 2 adults and 2 children, so if members wish to bring family they may do so

I hope you agree with me, that this will be an excellent event for all Club members.

Remember, it's a hobby have FUN.

All the best

Nick.

Chair

Subscriptions Due for 2026

The Committee has agreed that that the annual subscription rates should continue at the same level as 2025 as follows:

Full Members (all people over the age of 16): £15.00

Junior Members (all children of 16 and under): £7.50

Additional family members (children and partners with the same home address as a Full Member): £7.50

Initial Joining Fee for all Full Members: £5.00

Late rejoining fee for any Full Member rejoining after the renewal deadline of Friday 6th February: £5.00.

Preferably please pay your subs directly into the Club's Bank account and ensure you identify the payment with your name and reference as GDMBC subs or similar:

NatWest account – No: 28247701, Sort Code 60-05-16 in the name of GDMBC.

If a bank transfer is not possible, the following alternative means are available:

- a) Cash or cheque to my home address – Flat 1 Beaconsfield Court, Christ Church Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2PR. or via Nick Handley or Chris Argent. Please identify exactly who it is for with the cash or cheque and use the full Club name on a cheque otherwise it may bounce.

PayPal to my personal PayPal account – gdmcb.treasurer@gmail.com – use the 'family and friends' facility, and please reference what it is for.

Please refrain from paying your subs until the New Year, but they must be paid by Friday 6th February 2026 or you will need to pay the late re-joining fee of a further £5. Your Treasurer loathes having to enforce this rule but we must have a definite cut-off date, so we are sure you will understand.

Jeff de Cates, Hon. Treasurer

I took this photo at the Fun Day at Over on 21 September, which shows right to left: Jeff, Dave S, Andy and Jeff's son Mark - all enjoying the sailing. Phyl Smith



AN INSIGHT INTO THE GLOUCESTER/SHARPNESS CANAL.

The October Forum

A FORUM WAS HELD in October about the management, structure with of course users' comments. It is some years ago since the last one held. When the next will take place, I have no idea. But this one was very interesting.

Users' comments are by far the main part of any forum, while I am pleased to say white collar workers and engineers were on stage to answer questions.

Canal Volunteers was the opening topic; it was explained that without them it would not be possible to run a canal. Particular point was made of recent presentations at Gloucester. Congratulations to our own Derek Young for his contribution as a volunteer.

The forum opening focused on the impact of sparse rainfall throughout the network. The CRT is committed to supply Bristol with a defined amount of water every day. This supply is pumped in at Gloucester. At the height of the drought, tidal movements and the upstream water supply had a great impact upon the pumping times. Enforced pumping stoppage loomed as less than one metre of water was covering the pump inlets, but luckily high tides and a couple of days' rain saved the day.

As an example of pump capacity, the forum was held in the waterways museum which would be filled in seconds. The last time Gloucester lock was closed to traffic was 1972.

Silt was the main topic. The river water once pumped into the basin could no longer be filtered and disposed through the pipes in Tommie Nielson's dry dock, the reason being that it was contaminated. It was hoped this would be rectified within the next year. The pump inlets are some 500 metres upstream from the outlet. Following a question about filtration it was explained that it was just impossible to filter the water being pumped in. It was pointed out that upstream of Gloucester there are filter beds in the river. These would be so costly to maintain that it was cheaper to dredge the dock basin.

The dock basin is to have a through navigation passage twelve metres wide and three metres deep, plus a passage from Tommie's dock. The general basin depth will be around one metre. Dredging is also planned beyond Llantony bridge.

Water levels at Sharpness were greatly hindered with limits on shipping, weights, size and power; also passage direction is of great importance, at times only one metre of water keel to grounding, all coupled with 15 minutes of dock manoeuvre time.

Jammed bridges. Sharpness swing bridge: the radius gap between the bridge

and columns were in danger of jamming. Also, the bridge edge could not be ground off anymore. The hot weather was softening the road tarmac, the weight of lorries was pushing the outer ring outwards, chippings were filling the gap, and this was all to be rectified as soon as the weather permitted. It was pointed out that bridges used to be painted white to reflect the heat, this might have a considerable bearing on the problem; good point we will look into it. One explanation was complaints from the pilots that reflections from the white paint on the bridge at Sharpness could be taken as the pier light.

Sharpness is now a very busy port with scrap metal and cement being the main movements. The dock is manned 24/7 with the tides controlling the main working hours.

Ted Tedaldis

GDMBC CLUB SAILING STATISTICS

THE SAILING YEAR of 2025 is now in the distant past so how did we fare? With the very wearing weather I have assumed we sailed 42 times at each venue unless stated otherwise, I have taken what I consider the average for each session.

- At Over we motor boat sail on Wednesdays and Sundays, I estimate eight on a Wednesday ten on a Sunday, total 754 sailings. On alternative Fridays we have Micro Magic or MM free sailing, MM racing day twelve, free sailing eight, total 420 sailings. This gives a grand total of sailings at Over of 1174 sailings.
- Ploddy is our next destination where we sail fortnightly, an average of seven and so 182 sailings.
- The docks where we have two sailings per week, Tuesday sailings are restricted because of the evening light I estimate around 30 possible sailings. I estimate an average of six sailors per outing giving a total of 432 sailings.
- Finally, Saul junction with two sailings per week; I estimate seven on a Friday and five on a Tuesday therefore a total of 504 sailings.

And so our grand total of sailings is just short of 2300 sailings.

The grand total looks good but the number of participants is quite small as a good number sail two or three times a week.

Anyway, all good fun.

Ted Tedalis

TED

Recently, new member Paul Jacques sent in a couple of smashing pictures:



Doug's beautiful Yacht, Imogen, being put through her paces at Saul Junction.



Paul's newly refurbished WW2 Minesweeper, HMS Bangor, conducting initial 'Sea Trials' at Saul Junction.

Issue 2 of the H&G book “*Rescued from Obscurity 2*” has been published.

Back in 2023 I learned that an issue 2 of the history of the H&G canal was to be published some time. I contacted the editor and after some persuasion he agreed to include the G&DMBC recognising its contribution to the canal, since we have sailed on this water from day one.

Searching around I found a number of photographs which I submitted, I believe they indicated the different aspects of the Club. I also submitted a write up on the early days of the Club, and persuasion has paid off with:

- a picture of Club members assembled on the slipway at Over, fifteen members complete with their boats,
- the second picture displaying our boats probably at the winding hole.

Also the write up in abbreviated form accompanies the photographs.

I feel very proud that the Club has been recognised in this way. I hope to have the photographs in the next newsletter.

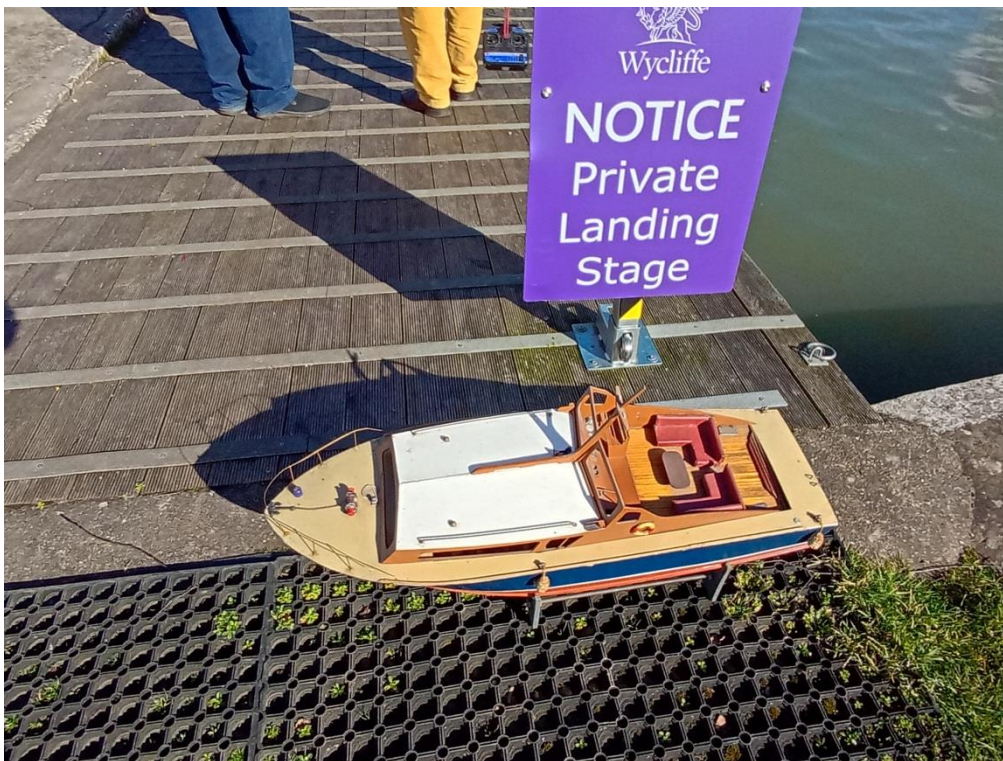
Tail up TED

THE SPEECH HOUSE SHOW





Rain nearly stopped play, but not quite!



Landing stage at Saul Junction

GDMBC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

DUE TO THE short planning period, the Gloucester Garden Centre, in the shadow of the enormous recycling centre, was the venue for this year's Christmas lunch. After finding a space in their large car park, we braved the labyrinth of hundreds of Chinese Christmas 'must-haves' and seated ourselves in the decorated restaurant 'grotto'.

The table was ornamented with mini Christmas trees and crackers, and we were able to help ourselves to large portions of Christmas fare and a varied selection of vegetables. Twenty members and partners settled down to consume the main course, followed by a selection of desserts and tea or coffee. The presence of partners ensured that members were on their best behaviour, and that any conversation on electronic speed controllers and sailors' luffing rights was severely restricted, and that any photography was banned on account of the silly hats being worn!

Our thanks go to the staff at the garden centre for organising a most enjoyable Christmas lunch, and we would hope that next year, with more time to plan, we might be able to organise a more extensive lunch, perhaps with a speaker and quiz – but any further suggestions would be most welcome.

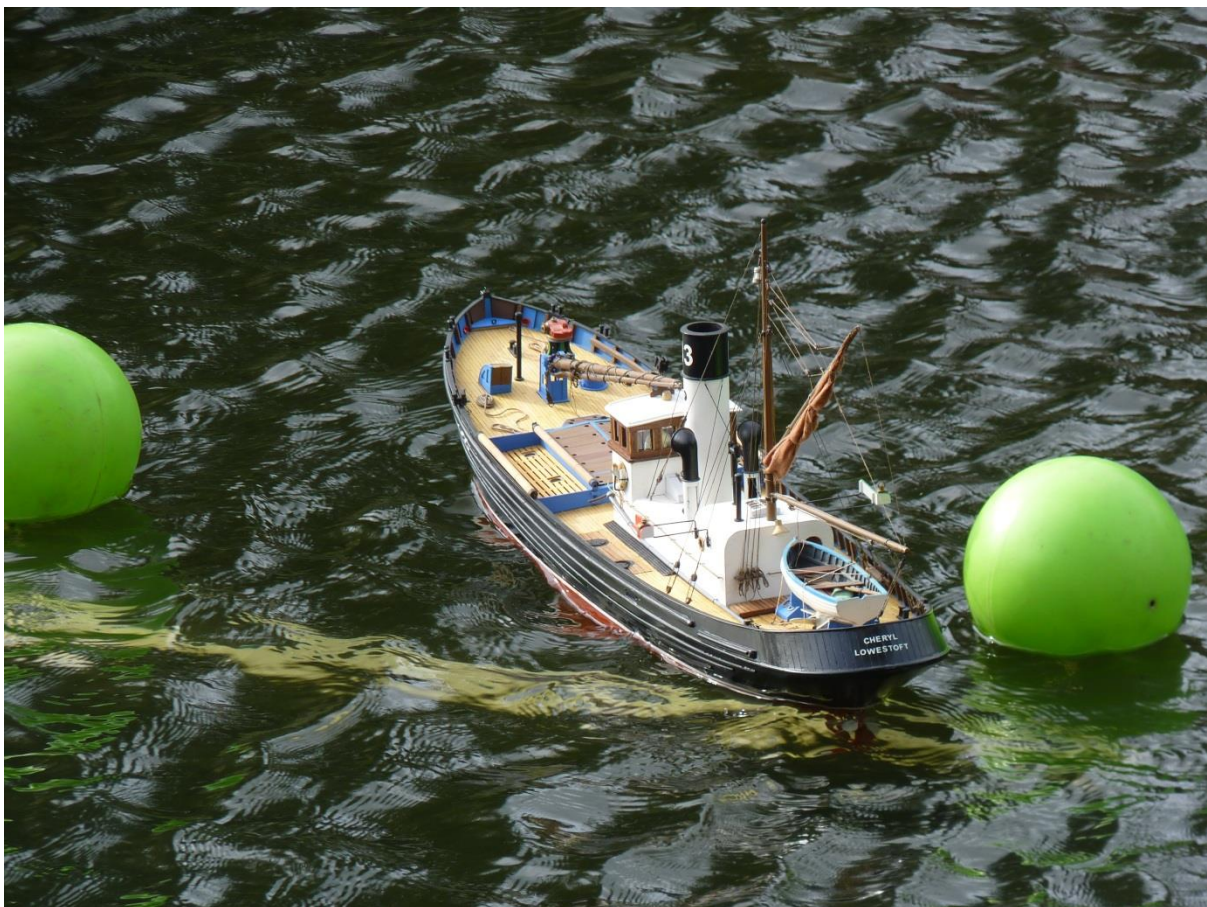
THE SH TUG

WE HAVE BEEN given a fine model tug by member Graham Johnson. This has needed some minor repairs which are being done. The model comes complete with radio control kit and we intend to let members use it as long as they treat it with respect. That should be handy on Fun Days when Bryan has laid out a course for us to follow, or similar fun events.

It is quite powerful and steers well. We will use it on other occasions when the public are invited to have a go such as the Speech House show.

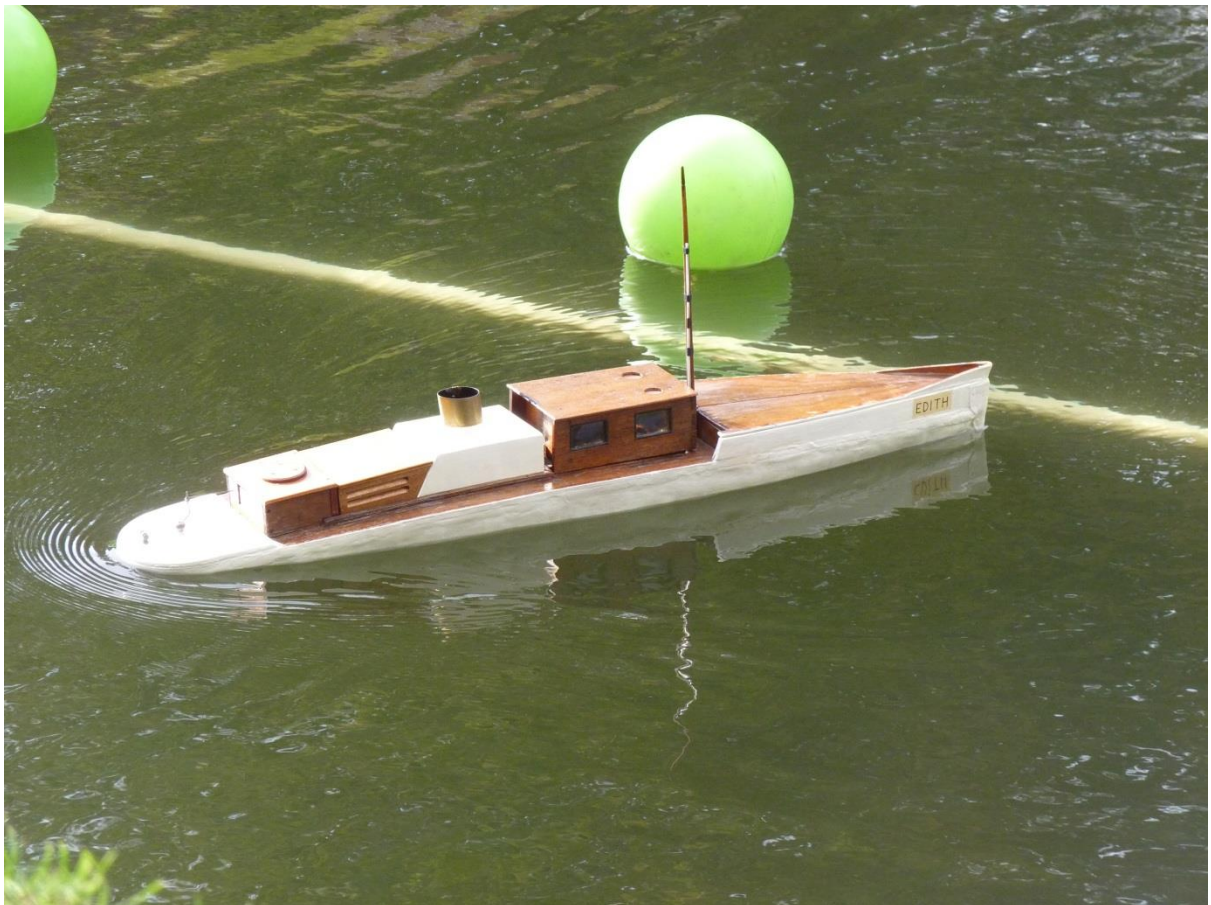
FUN DAY SNAPSHOTS

Here are random shots of members and boats negotiating parts of the latest course laid out by Bryan Evans:













Gloucester and District Model Boat Club

Events Calendar for January and February 2026

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-3pm		Saul	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	Club day, any model
Sunday	10am – 1pm		Docks	Club day, any model
Sunday	1pm - Dusk		Over	Club day, any model

Over is not available on other days without prior arrangement with H&GCT management

Organised Events

Day	Time	Date	Location	Description
Friday	1.45pm – 3.15pm	2ed January	Over	Micro Magic racing
Sunday	10am-	11 th January	Ploddy	IOM racing
Friday	1.45pm – 3.15pm	16 th January	Over	Micro Magic racing
Sunday	10am -	25 th January	Ploddy	IOM racing
Friday	1.45pm-3.15	6 th February	Over	Micro Magic racing
Sunday	10am-	8 th February	Ploddy	IOM racing
Thursday	2.00pm – 4.00pm	12 th February	HCA	Committee meeting
Wed	2.00pm -4.00pm	18th February	Hucclecote Rugby Club	Annual General Meeting
Friday	1.45pm-3.15	20 th February	Over	Micro Magic racing
Sunday	10am -	22ed February	Ploddy	IOM racing
Thursday	2pm - 4pm	12 th March	HCA Centre	Committee Meeting
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Please be considerate when parking, especially by launching areas. Leaving space for less mobile members. At Over, the area by "slipway" is for Blue Badge holders or unloading / loading only. When operating "Faster" models, please keep away from other users, to prevent swamping, etc. 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.