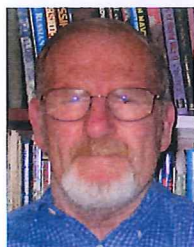




Above left: Liverpool MBC. This club was one of the founders of the Model Boat Convention back in 1987. Their stand reflected the 2012 theme of tugs. Above right: The Manx MBC maintained the event theme, but added some originality with their display representing different eras of tugs and all towing a large vessel.



The Model Boat Convention 2012



DAVE WOOLEY reports from Haydock Park with additional pictures from DAVE ABBOTT

This was held as usual on the Saturday and Sunday of the late August Bank Holiday weekend and this was the second year that the event had been held at Haydock Park Racecourse, in the conference facilities just by the main car park.

The Jubilee Suite and air-conditioned Conservatory area were additional rooms used this year as 27 clubs and 23 traders were booked in as well as some individual modellers. The Model Boat Convention Secretary is Jean Barlow who works tirelessly

with the committee to ensure the event is a success and this is very much a non-profit making group. There were two outside pools this year, additional catering facilities and of course you could always 'put your feet up' by resting in the covered grandstands which are just through the doors from exhibition rooms. The small pool had a miniature steering course and the larger one was used for free sailing. The only downside was that initially one or two of the visitors were unaware of the additional Jubilee Suite and Conservatory for 2012, this last having the Edinburgh MBC and Speedline Models as their main inhabitants. This was however all speedily resolved on the Saturday morning.

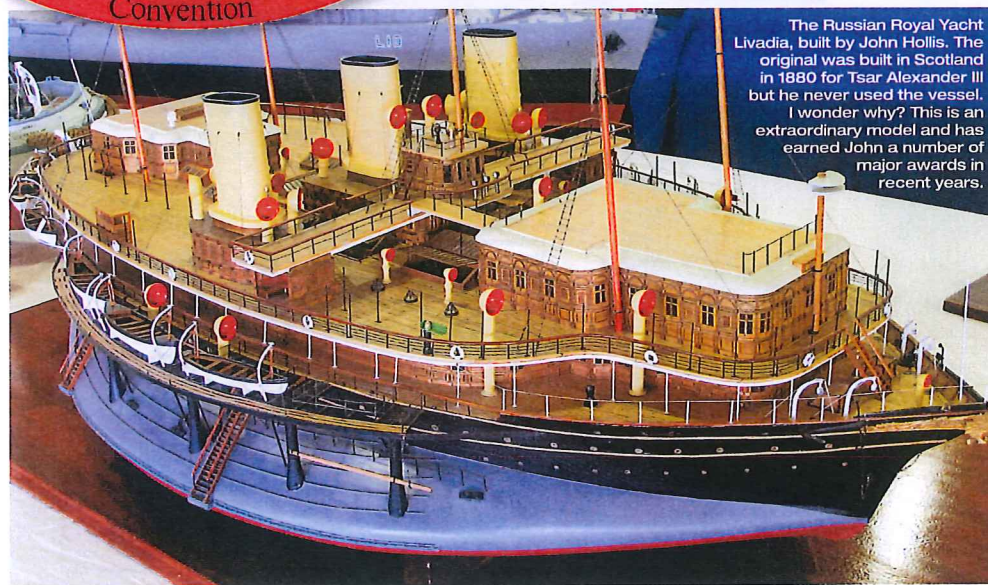
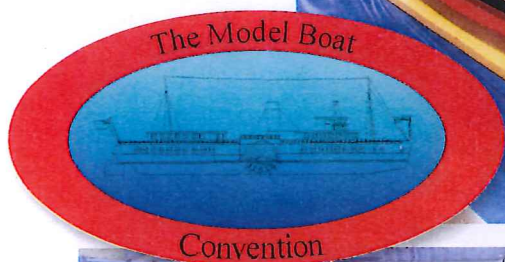
Competition models

Every year since its conception, the event has had a theme and for 2012 it was Tugs. So, no shortage of these as you would expect, but not to the detriment of all the other vessels and craft that we build and in all there were around 600 models on display. In the Tug category, the huge Sea Fax built by Ian Povey was in top place. It was particularly impressive and had a realistic feel with the crew working the vessel. In the Semi-scratch category, a superb 1:96 scale HMS Delight built by Allan Derham of the Surface Warship Association occupied the top slot. Allan's attention to detail is clearly evident throughout the model. Kit models are always a difficult class to judge as it has more entries than for any other category, but the models can all be so different. In the end, Mick Knowles of the Burton and District MBC took first place with his superbly built static kit model of Amerigo Vespucci. In the Scratch-built category, John Hamer was awarded top place with his steam paddle launch Samantha. He was also received the President's Award, judged on this occasion by Paul Freshney. Not all the models on display were entered into the competition and in some ways this was unfortunate, as many of them would have been in contention for awards. On the other hand, some of them had been seen before, so maybe their creators decided they did not wish to hog the limelight!

The three funnelled Russian royal yacht Livadia built by John Hollis is one such model. John's model has been around for few years now and is fantastically detailed, down to the Romanov crest on the bow. Another outstanding model was the 1:72 scale HMS Leopard Type 41 anti-aircraft frigate built by Gary Mills. Gary is also responsible for an equally fine 1:96 scale Type 12 HMS Brighton Type 12 general purpose frigate that was also on display.

Something different? Well, the fully functioning and superbly detailed model of the RNLI Hovercraft H-006 John Russell is currently being constructed by Tony Middleton and is an outstanding example of the model builder's art.

Right: A finely detailed and well researched 1:72 scale model of HMS Leopard by Gary Mills.



The Russian Royal Yacht Livadia, built by John Hollis. The original was built in Scotland in 1880 for Tsar Alexander III but he never used the vessel. I wonder why? This is an extraordinary model and has earned John a number of major awards in recent years.



Above: Scratch built from his own drawings and not yet finished, is this superb model of the RNLI Hovercraft H-006 John Russell being built by Tony Middleton. Below: The internal detail on the RNLI H006 John Russell is incredibly realistic. Yes, this IS the model



Judge's course

An annual training course is arranged for this weekend under the direction of Ken Daniels who is Chairman of the MPBA and a qualified judge. The purpose is to enable modellers to better understand what is involved and create a network of individuals who can apply the skills gained to judge fairly models both here and at other events.

Clubs

Gone are the days of just piling models on to a stand and hoping for the best. Clubs now very often design and lay out their displays with a theme in a way that is visually appealing and informative. Voted the Best Themed Stand for this 2012 Convention was that of Runcorn and District Scale MBC.



Above: Sea Fax by Ian Povey of Bryn Bach MBC was awarded Best Tug in Show.



Above: Bill Richardson demonstrated the art of wooden boat building on the Liverpool MBC stand. He is well known for his wooden boat builds including his model of the Matthew. Below: Ken Daniels (blue shirt with 'I am Ken Daniels' badge!) takes a number of modellers and possible future judges, through the methods used for fairly assessing a model.



Trade support

There were 23 trade suppliers booked in and the Convention Committee try to have a balance, such that they cover all of our hobby needs. There were some new names, including Model Sounds (see September 2012 MB Test Bench, Page 72) and also the Raven Moducarry System which is a modular r/c model carrying system for model boats as well as cars, planes and helicopters etc. Apart from standard designs, there is a bespoke service and their website is: www.moducarry.org.uk. Apart from these, there were many of the usual traders including Scoonie Hobbies, Metcalf Models, S&M Tools etc. etc.

The ponds?

The 2012 rematch on the small pool between the Manx (Isle of Man) MBC and Ribble MBC (based in Preston) with their tiny tugs was a truly frenetic affair and very

Above: A well deserved first place in Kit Class for Mick Knowles and his model of the Amerigo Vespucci.

Below: Andy and Debbie Griggs of Models by Design certainly enjoyed the 2012 Model Boat Convention!





Above: The award winners of the 2012 Model Boat Convention.

Right: Each year the Model Boat Convention has a Guest of Honour. For 2012 it was Jimmy Wood, probably one of the finest model ship builders the UK has ever produced, seen here (left) being presented with his memento by the Convention President Peter Elson (right).

Below: Rex Hunt (centre) with his 1:96 scale HMS Hermes. Although displayed as a waterline model it is a normal r/c sailing model. The hull is in two halves for easy transport.



Above: Some of the deck detail on Rex Hunt's HMS Hermes. All in all, this is an amazing model. Right: Hovercraft are ideally suited to pools such as this as Stan Robinson puts his military hovercraft through its paces.

entertaining for the spectators. For 2012, the pools were both sheltered as far as possible, which meant that the occasional shower did not halt proceedings.

Many club members made use of the large pool and the Chandler Family with their range of unique RNLI models were eagerly anticipated by the show visitors. The Association of Model Submariners also took full advantage of the clear water to demonstrate their models including a Victorian steam powered submarine.

Special displays

There were a number of special displays including a 'How to' by Tony Hartley giving building demonstrations based on the popular models of Glynn Guest. Also, Rex Hunt was able to attend with his amazing model of the aircraft carrier HMS Hermes. This is a spectacular model with a very large number of working features. The model represents the vessel as in the Falklands Campaign of 1982 and Rex brought his display with the prime purpose of helping to raise funds for the 'Help the Heroes' charity.

Conclusion

The venue has fitted carpeting, first class personal facilities, networked TV monitors and a decent public address system which is ideal for this sort of event, but make sure you don't miss a room or suite with clubs and traders in it. Visitors were provided with a map and signs and directions were very much in evidence around the venue, but one or two visitors still apparently missed out on seeing everything, so for 2013 the organisers and the Haydock Park staff, whose area of responsibility includes the directional signs,

will try to do even better. The price of food and drink was reasonable. Okay, apparently some visitors bemoaned the use of cardboard cups and the curry lunch option, but how much do you want to pay? What was offered seemed more than reasonable to me.

The organisers, who you must remember do it for no financial reward with any net surplus going to charity, worked their socks off and with 27 clubs and 23 traders, which was more than in previous years, have clearly got the format right. So, roll on 2013!

Above inset: On the Bury Metro MBC stand was this amazing collection of vintage tinplate Meccano clockwork launches dating from the late 1930's.

