

Close of Season Sail

1st October 2006

Inverleith Pond

This was our first event following the refurbishment of the pond during the summer months.

There was plenty (31") of relatively clear water with not a hint of rubbish, no swans and only two submerged obstacles to contend with. The first was a park rubbish bin that had been dragged into the dead centre of the pond by local vandals as the pond was filling. Unfortunately the top of it lies about 8 inches under the surface and so is a real hazard to yachts and the really large scale boats. The second (expected) was the dreaded outfall grating box! It continues to prove a real nuisance and, despite many warnings, a number of boaters ended up stranded on it. We shall have to come up with a solution to this over the winter months (removal being ruled out by CEC).

The day started rather badly with lots of rain and a heavily overcast sky. At one point it was touch and go as to whether we'd even bother setting up. However, when the time came, the weather cleared and dried and by early afternoon there was high cloud with bright sunny spells and only an occasional shower. All in all pretty good - at least for the scale boaters since there was no wind to speak of. Not so good for the yachters unfortunately.

We had a good turnout of folk, given the poor start to the day, and filled six tables with boats! It was a pleasure to welcome 4 members of the The Borders Model Boat Club.

Two competitions were run - Steering & Docking and two rounds of the Club Nomination event.

It had been planned to try a Novelty Class event, but there were insufficient entries for this.

The Steering and Docking attracted 8 entries (rather lower than I would have hoped for) but, never the less it proved interesting. Joint first place certificates were awarded to Gordon Dow (EMBC) with HMS Kedleston and to Alastair Sutherland (BMBC) with "Hysteria". Second place was awarded to Eric Carrington (EMBC) with "Grampian Orcades".

The event proved yet again, if proof be needed, that we must introduce a Class system based on overall length if there is to be a level playing field with everyone having an equal opportunity to win.

The Nomination Competition was opened to all, although only EMBC members are eligible for entry into the Club aggregate. We had six entrants for the two rounds and, despite the total lack of wind, only one managed to exactly equal their nominated time on one of the runs (Alastair Sutherland).

There was a lot of free sailing time available and most people took advantage of it, despite some glitches with frequency control!! A certain gentleman was seen wandering up and down the pond side crying "Whas goat 955?".

All in all it was a good day, with some very welcoming comments from members of the public. At one time we had quite a crowd watching the sailing - very pleasant to see.

Our thanks must go to two members of the Parks Department for 'rescuing' a rubbish bin that had been dumped right at the landing stage and also for the clear up of floating debris prior to the event.

My thanks are extended to David Hamilton, a true tower of strength, for not only loading and lugging all the stuff, but also for course laying (and clearing way at the end) and helping to run events, to Roddy Castle (the Beverage King), to Jimmy Kinloch (the Gazebo King) and to all the others who willingly lent a hand.

Especially thanks to our very own nonagenarian (Alex Chalmers) who was seen lugging stuff up and down the steps! Well beyond the call of duty Alex - thanks.

Thank you all for your support over what has been a rather trying year, albeit with some high spots.

In conclusion I'd like to express a vote of thanks to British Waterways Scotland and their staff (especially Alex Martin) at Lochrin Basin for their invaluable and courteous assistance during the year.

Iain Moffatt
Competition Secretary.