

Edinburgh Model Boat Club 'SubDay'

Our SubDay (and Scotland's first?) took place at Inverleith on Sunday 24th June. We could hardly have chosen a worse day with torrential rain greeting us when we arrived at 10.30. In fact it was so wet we spent the first hour sheltering under the trees and in cars before we could even start erecting the gazebos and display tables.

Fortunately this was achieved as the rain eased and the first of our guests from the Association of Model Submariners arrived after their tortuous journey all the way from Barrow. Thanks for making the effort to the 2 Daves and Peter. Eventually we had a display of more than 21 submarines ranging from unbuilt kits to monster fully submerging models. Almost the whole spectrum of submarines was represented ranging from the Holland through the WWI and WWII II type VIIIs to modern nuclear boats. Unfortunately no DSRVs were to be seen although we know of at least 2 in Scotland that are either built or being built.

Models to be seen included:

- British Upholder class scratch built
- British Piranha class P1 proposed project 1960 scratch built
- Israeli Gal scratch built
- Russian Charlie class nuclear scratch built
- British R7 R class built in 1917 scratch built model
- British Holland – the yet to be completed model started by the late Steve Webb
- American George Washington
- British 'O' class by Darnell
- British 'P' Class by Darnell
- British 'S' class by Darnell
- German Type VIIc by Krick
- German Type VIIc by Revell
- Russian Akula class nuclear by Sheerline
- American Skipjack class nuclear by The Scale Shipyard
- British Trafalgar class nuclear ('Turbulent') by Sheerline
- German U-25 type 1c by Krick
- German UB-16 WWI by Norbert Bruggen
- Japanese Oyashio class diesel electric by Small World Models
- Russian Kilo class diesel electric by Small World Models
- American Permit class nuclear by Matt Thor & Dave Merriman
- American Los Angeles class nuclear by Eden

During the day the Association of Model Submariners members gave an excellent exhibition of how radio control submarines should perform. These demonstrations showed how well submarine models could dive and surface and were highly appreciated by the hardy spectators. The speed and manoeuvrability of the boats both above and below water was something of an eye-opener to most onlookers. The ability of their 'captains' to know exactly where their subs were when submerged was also impressive.

One very clever idea was the use of flashing dog-collar units fixed to the top of the periscopes on David Jacques' boats. These could be seen when submerged and certainly helped to mark the location. David Forrest was using the 'pinger' he manufactures and sells (<http://rdforrest.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/>). This is an ingenious device that when used with a set of hydrophones enables you to locate a sunken model. Highly recommended for subs and useful for so many other models that are sailed in large lakes too!

A competition course had been laid out that involved diving and surface running and David Forrest eventually won this inaugural event with his Charlie Class boat.

Some entertainment was provided by the JMSDF Oyashio, which refused to surface after several minutes of satisfactory surface running. Fortunately it was within 'lassoing' distance of the pond side and was retrieved after about 20 minutes of effort. The captain claims he forgot to count the number of dives

he had made before the gas to blow the main tanks ran out! Hara-kiri being forbidden in the interest of public morale the captain lives to submerge another day :-)

Later in the afternoon the 103" Los Angeles was launched for the first time in ten years and ran encouragingly well even managing to negotiate a set of dock gates whilst submerged! Apart from a horrendous turning circle and an inability to stop very quickly the only problem was ingress of water into the bow wtc. This has subsequently been rectified.

A 'plastic magic' Revell kit was seen negotiating the adjacent steering and docking course that had been laid out for surface craft and looked like it could be in contention for the next trophy. And all the while David Jack's sub chaser was lurking in the background searching for targets!

Despite the worst weather we had in weeks this was an enjoyable and relaxed event with plenty of sailing time available. We have learned a lot from the experience and hope to make it an annual fixture attracting even more exhibitors in the future. Now it is on to more development and practice to try and compete with the standards that we have seen are attainable. Grateful thanks are due to all the hardy people who braved the elements to run the show – and keep us supplied with tea and cakes.