

## Borders Model Boat Club Visit to Tynemouth Model Boat Club July 2006

This outing was arranged by Brian Cook, the Club Chairman. A total of seventeen club members their partners and families assembled in Kelso at the unearthly hour of 8 o'clock on a Sunday morning and set off for Tynemouth in a mini-bus.

On arrival at the pond, which is situated on the sea front, we were offered tea and biscuits and had a good look at their pond and facilities. The club house is very secure and is used to keep most of the club owned large boats and each member has a secure horizontal locker in which to store their own boats. The types of boats vary as they do with most clubs, but here tend to be large scale to combat the wind and weather conditions that prevail as the pond is just over the road from the North Sea. This also makes it an ideal pond for yachts. We were shown one of the large models, a 12 foot long tanker that has to be loaded into the water in two parts then ballasted using car batteries and pond water. During this visit I came across a large model of the P.S. Waverley, a model I built some 30 years ago but at a different scale. This one was built by Alec Thomson who has had his models and their drawings featured in the modelling press over the years and in fact when I was building my version of the Waverley I was consulting his drawing as well as using the Ship's drawings. Alec had his fleet of Clyde steamers on the water. Jim Kinloch Esq would have loved to see this collection. The guys at Tynemouth put on a good display of boats both on the table and on the water. While talking to Alec I found out that he and I were at a competition between the Edinburgh Model Boat Club and the Heaton and Tyneside Club in the old Dunbar outdoor swimming pool back in the late 60's. Most of this competition was tethered hydroplanes, mad machines!

We were then whisked a short distance to the Coastguard station. Here we were shown round the station and given a short but very informative talk on the history of the rescue equipment and the building. We were then shown the latest rescue gear by the crew of the rescue Land Rover and then we went back to the pond. There we had lunch at the council franchised eatery at the pond side.

Whilst in the cafe a club member mentioned to me that one of the Tyneside members knew me and pointed him out, 200 yds away. Needless to say I did not recognise him but a few minutes later he appeared in the café and I then recognised him as an ex member of the Edinburgh Club who had been away from Edinburgh for 10 years or more but was still 'mad' about boats. We stayed at Tynemouth for another half hour and then drove to a convenient parking place for the metro where we travelled to the centre of Newcastle and the Discovery Centre. This is a museum centred round the history of Newcastle and Tyneside and has a predominance of ships. The first ship you see is the Turbinea, yes the real one, 12 inches to the foot! There is a large hall dedicated to ships of all sorts and the bits and pieces that go with them, dioramas of ships being built loaded, you name it's there, beautifully done, and if you have a few hours to spare in Newcastle visit this, its free. Don't miss the rest of the museum either, it is family friendly, something for all. Back to the metro then on the bus and the next stop on the road home, which was a surprise, was dinner in the White Swan Hotel in Alnwick. The nautical theme was continued here. The dining room is panelled using the wood from the liner Olympic and there is a model of the Titanic on display in the room. After dinner we journeyed back to Kelso arriving at midnight having had a superb day out.

Our thanks to Brian for a superb and very well planned day.  
And of course our thanks to the Tynemouth Club for their hospitality.

Ian Greig  
BMBC