

Hunter Laddie R.D.5

Building a Steam Drifter

My wife saw a 1:24 Drifter at a Queen's Park Show some years ago, liked it and suggested I should build her one. It was named after my grandson, who is the fifth R D Hunter, and born just after the maiden, pre-detailing sail. Members of the public have questioned me about the registration number!



Using a "Models by Design" 1740mm glass fibre hull [01] for the 30's Trawler *Alison*, similar to the preserved *Lydia Eva*, I have built a 1:18 Stand-off scale model of a typical 1920's Steam Trawler from basic materials i.e. ply, hardwood strip and brass sheet, wire etc.

The photo record is patchy as I did not intend to do an article, but I hope that they show the main features and that the gaps are filled by the words.

Using small-scale drawings and a visit to the Scottish Fisheries Museum, I based the design on my preferred details picked from pictures of drifters in Pottinger's "Fishing Boats of Scotland". The displacement of 40Kilos of such a large hull would make it very difficult to handle, so I opted for having only enough buoyancy to carry the hull; superstructure, motor and battery. This I estimated would be 17 Kilos but it turned to be 21Kilos.



The Hull is divided into five compartments [02 & 03 & 04], one is watertight, the others are

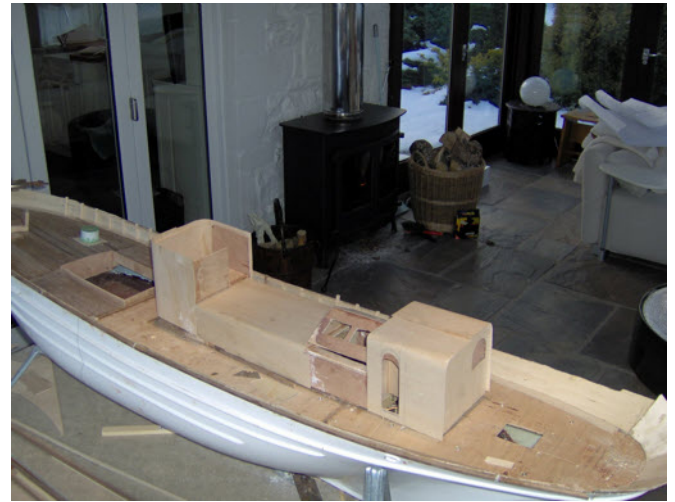
free flooding up to the LWL, and two have access panels to allow the fitting of additional foam buoyancy to fine tune the trim. Aluminium baffles are fitted to prevent cross surging.

Of course, it weighs more than 21 Kilos as I lift it out, with water pouring out as it sits on the jetty, but it soon becomes light enough to handle.

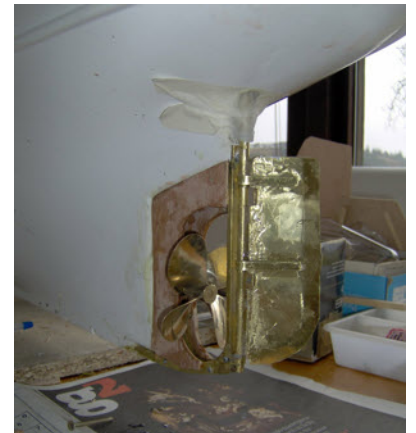


The superstructure [05 & 06 & 16 to 18] is a simple series of boxes clad in thin ply to simulate the steel plating. It is held in place by 4 strong magnets, which also anchor it to the car-transporting cradle and are the electrical connectors. The funnel is drainpipe. Commercial cowl vents are fitted on brass tube for

height. The crew are cut down and modified 1:12 Dolls house figures. The navigation lamps swing out and switch on. I used high brightness LEDs, and you can see them easily in bright weather. The nets are sections of an ASDA body “scourer” with added ropes and floats . The fish creels were hand made using garden tie wire, which was also used to bind the wooden “blocks” which are in fact only drilled through.

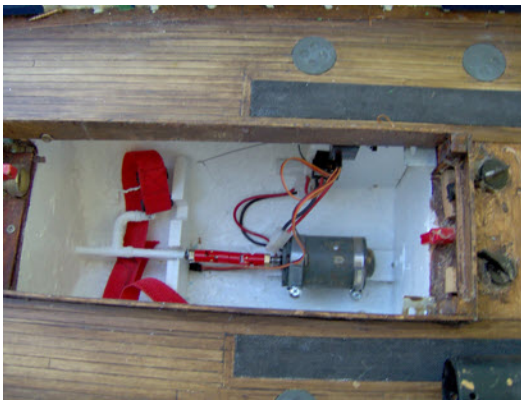


The rudder is built up from brass sheet with a brass tube stock and tube, with the hull reshaped with ply and car filler. [07 to 11] The working tiller arms and chains were disconnected due to the high loading on the rudder servo.



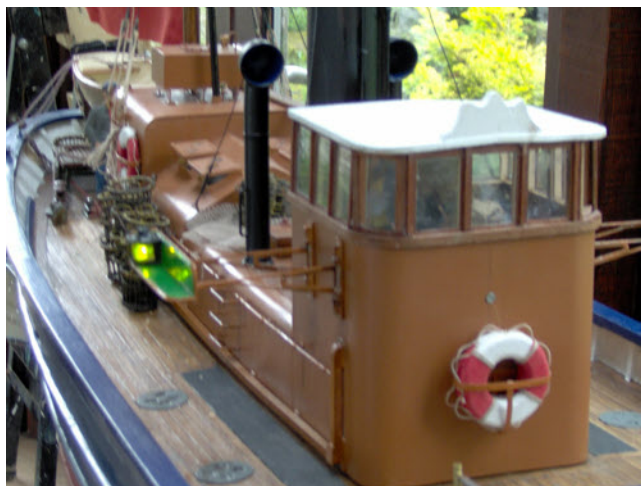
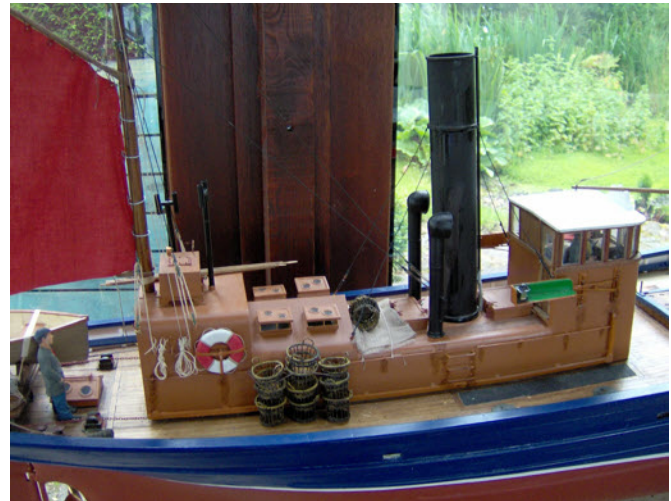
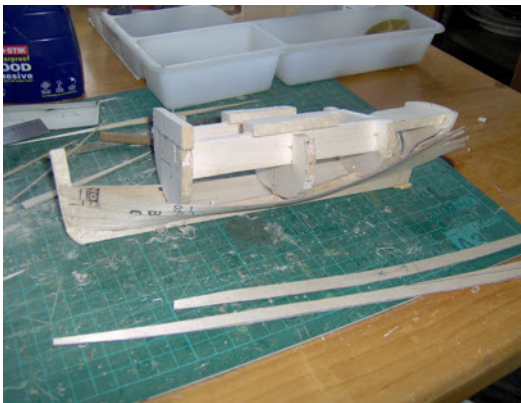
The bulwarks line was corrected [12] and the hull above the W.L. “planked” to cover the glass fibre [13] and painted [14] Ply was applied to the inside of the bulwarks before adding the timber frames and rail. The deck was planked with HW strips.





Equipment is a Robbe 1000 motor, a 2.4GHz Rx. a Viper 15 with a 12V 8amp 3.7 Kilo battery sitting strapped in place over the shaft and coupling [15] and can easily be removed to lighten the load.

The ship's boat was ply clinker strips formed over a former and fitted out with seats, ribs etc. [19 to 21]
The finished boat at speed [22] looks authentic and handles well, as I can vouch when I have crewed on it. [23 & 24]





Sea Trials A great success !!!!

Not only that but RD.5 LOOKS great on the water!!