



# Cygnets Model Boat Club Maidstone

## Boats on the Mote 2008

This years "Boats on the Mote" took place on 20<sup>th</sup> July and was well attended. The committee arrived at 08h30 led by Alan Smith, this years co-ordinator, and the marking out of the boundary area took place with associated equipment being transferred from the storage container. Meanwhile, on the other side of the pump house, Paul Dengate was helping Alastair and Ashley set up the "Have A Go Boats" for the public. The prototype surround for the "Have A Go Boats" was designed and finished earlier in the week, but true to form, performed faultlessly throughout the day, some minor modifications being needed before it is next used. By close of play they had seen thirty two children, keen to try out their skills.

The weather was as forecast and we enjoyed nice warm and bright sun for most of the day. This really added to the atmosphere of like-minded people enjoying their hobby in the beautiful surroundings of Mote Park. The lake is in a natural shelter, and the calm water suited all. Rita manned the frequency boards as usual, and looked quite cosy under the awning of my small camper, instead of the gazebo for a change. I was caught up most of the day, and can only apologise for not providing tea!

The Model Boat Association from Dover saw two members attend as the rest of the club had already committed elsewhere. The Tug Boat fraternity were there in great force with some really detailed models complete with their fifteen foot model to tow, and I think I also saw a couple of members from the Ramsgate Vikings.

The day was divided into different sections, with allotted timings. This ensured that a costly scale model was not sideswiped by a fast electric, and helped maintain a steady interest and flow to the day. There were times allotted to general sailing, and this allowed people to fine tune and try out new craft. Our Chairman, Peter, had constructed the "Harbour" and this was used to great effect. It adds a nice manoeuvre and interest to those sailing and watching.

Members of the public flowed past throughout the day, and many stopped to watch and ask questions. All models were left on display and people really seemed to enjoy this aspect to their walk in the park. I know of at least one person who became a member at this event. The rescue boat was never really called into action, so an easy day was had by our volunteer crewmembers, As can be seen in the photograph below, where Phil looks very relaxed.

Having arrived before 10h00, most people were ready to leave by 16h00 as this was the official end to the day's proceedings, except for the committee of course. There was another forty-five minutes to go as compounds etc had to be dismantled and stored, as well as helping Jack to load the trailer.

There were no major mishaps to report except from yours truly. Having brought my Perkasa alongside, one of the speed controllers decided to catch fire. Thanks to all who have suggested new ideas, as well as pointing out that I should have installed 30amp fuses! This is what club membership is all about. Finally I must apologise to John Larke who only sailed his IC boat on the day, and was side swiped by me. Hands up to that one. Let me know your "baccy" preference mate.

Boats on the Mote 2008. Nice one Alan!!

Thanks to Matt Mock for the write up, photographs from Paul Dengate.



An impressive array of tugs



Some of the Cygnets members boats



A great crowd of people, with Matt's camper in the background



The Have A Go Boats



A line of tugs



Ashley and Alastair, with Alastair's sister Hannah in the middle, minding the Have A Go Boats



A very laid back Phil



A view from further down the lake