

Official news letter of the Glasgow South Ship Modeller's Society

Welcome to the first edition of Up Anchor, Glasgow South Ship Modeller's Society's, official news letter. The purpose of Up Anchor is to keep **you**, the membership of Glasgow South Modeller's, informed of the activities of the club and individuals within the club.

So if you have anything you want to share with other members of the club then let us include it in the next issue of Up Anchor.

There are numerous ways to contribute to Up Anchor. One is to tell us your life story (unless your name is Conn, Neil, David or Andy). Another is to let us know what models you have or are building. Have you any tips to share in your experience as a modeller that others maybe interested in? Have you any questions you wish answered with regard to the hobby? Have you any issues/concerns you wish to be addressed by the committee. If so then this is your forum, so use it!

If you wish to contribute then simply email your contribution (including photos if necessary) to gssms@uko2.co.uk or post it to:

(Temporary) Editors Address
The Club Secretary



Election of Office Bearers

November 28th 2004 saw the election of the clubs new Office Bearers and the retirement of Ron Thomson as an active committee member after some ten years of service.

Over this time Ron has held the position of Club Secretary and Chairman. His latter contribution as Chairman lasted for three years and saw him actively pursue the interests of the club in many an arena. Glasgow South Ship Modeller's Society would just like to thank Ron for his contribution in taking the club forward and wish him all the best in his new position as a free man. Cheers Ron!!!

The election of new Office Bearers resulted in a committee with the following make up:

- Chairman** – vacant
- Vice Chairman** – Conn McGee
- Treasurer** – Niel Riddle
- Secretary** – Gordon Morlan
- Competition Org** – Jim Smith
- Acting Chair** – Andy Short



Yachting makes a comeback at Queens Park

Have you seen some yachts on the pond recently? No! Chances are you will. A small "band of brothers" are working towards the revival of this fascinating area of the hobby on Queens Park Pond.

Andy Short the man at the forefront of this revival believes "there is nothing more graceful than seeing a yacht navigate up and down the pond". Andy also believes that as the "sails can be



seen from a distance yachts tend to attract more onlookers than propellered models. This in turn has an impact upon the prestige of the club and that is good for all members regardless of what they sail" – that even includes the silly blighter with the RC alligator. I for one believe the man and have agreed to join him on the days am not sailing my alligator. Anyone else interested can talk to Andy at the clubhouse most sailing days.



Weed Problem in Queens Park Pond

As a member of Glasgow South Ship Modeller's you will be aware that there is only one thing certain these days. That come April the pond will be full of weed.

The weed problem not only makes sailing difficult but also



discourages members from turning up on regular sailing days. It holds rubbish and other filth in situ, making the pond look unsightly. It even has an impact upon the wildlife and as evidence suggests may have an impact upon the wider environment.



With each year that passes the situation becomes more chronic. The weed is proving to be more resilient than ever and growing back faster than our attempts to remove it.

The City Council Parks Department appear reluctant to help. Much of what they have done is superficial and amounts to little more than supplying the bin bags to uplift the fruits of our own labour.

If this situation persists then it is down to the ill conceived idea that the Council is protecting the ponds fragile ecosystem and fulfilling its wider environmental objective.

How wrong could they be. The latest evidence suggests that the opposite is true. Indeed, far from protecting the ponds fragile ecosystem the weed (or Nuttall's Pond Weed as it is better known) may actually be destroying it.

Researchers from Glasgow University studying the impact of Nuttall's Pond Weed in Loch Lomond say that it grows in "waters between two and three metres deep, eventually forming a canopy"...that blocks..."out the light for other plants and prevents them from getting any energy from the sun".

This is potentially devastating because what's true for Loch

Lomond must also be true for the pond at Queens Park. But to say that Nuttall Weed will kill off all other plant life in the pond may be wide of the mark. Arguably there may have been no other plant variety to kill off in the first place. But that doesn't mean its all good. What it means is that there will be no opportunity for other varieties of plant life to flourish. So the results are essentially the same as those felt at present in Loch Lomond Thus far from protecting the ponds fragile ecosystem the Council are potentially causing more harm than good.

Moreover, leaving the pond in its current state may also have an impact upon the wider environment. Loch Lomond is a prime example. How did the weed end up in the loch - after all it isn't indigenous to that water at all. This means it had to be transported there in someway. The current theory suggests that birds introduced it as they migrated from one water to another. If this is the case then the possibilities of this weed spreading to other waters is real. Take for example Queens Park. How was the weed introduced in its pond. Was it through the migratory bird route or through a Parks Department that had no idea of the consequences of such an action. Either way it doesn't really matter as the consequences of this "invasive weed" can clearly be seen. What really matters is how we deal with it and what the Parks Department does to help!

News from our Federation AGM

Ian Greig used this years AGM to announce his retirement as President of the Federation. Ian made the decision to allow room for some new blood onto the

Committee. Nigel Cotes of Edinburgh Model Boat Club was duly elected to take over the position of President. The composition of the Federation Committee now stands as:

- President** - Nigel Coates
- Chairman** - George Gourlay
- Secretary** - Liz Gourlay
- Treasurer** - Jim Houghton

Launch of GSSMS website

As some of you are aware the club re-launched its website last year with a whole new look. However some members have had difficulty accessing it. The reason for this is that the site is situated on a UNIX server and as such is case sensitive. So if you type a lower case letter where an UPPER case one should be you will receive an error message. For this reason the web address has been included here: <http://www.gssms.uko2.co.uk/Home.html> Just type it as you see it and happy surfing. Oh! and don't forget to bookmark the site to.

Would You Like to Receive Club Correspondence by Email?

Some interest has been expressed by members on the subject of receiving correspondence via email. If you prefer to receive your correspondence via email rather than through the post then please contact me at:

gssms@uko2.co.uk

Please include a short statement declaring your interest in this method as well as your name and email address. This allows us to verify your interest and also update the club records making your postal address your secondary contact details.

Feel free to comment on any item you read in this news letter.