

Not ship shape!



by Laura Coventry

MEMBERS OF a ship modelling club have just 10 days before their annual gala day — but they say the Queen's Park pond is in no fit state to host the event.

It's the latest disappointment for members of Glasgow South Ship Modellers' Society who are trying to persuade Glasgow City Council to clean up the pond in time for the event on August 18.

After the pond was refurbished earlier this year, the city council banned cars from the pondside.

Neil Riddle, treasurer of the society, said: "The pond is in a disgraceful condition. We will be very lucky to put our show on at all. I just can't see it happening."

He added: "We are unable to rehearse for the show and get the boats out on the pond. What's more the clubhouse has been covered in graffiti. It's an absolute shambles.

Members of the Glasgow Ship Modellers' Society clean up the pond while (inset) graffiti on the clubhouse is also a problem at the park.

"On Tuesday we attempted to clean the pond ourselves and got an awful lot of rubbish out. But we have had to make the effort under our own steam."

Janet Sproul of Torrisdale Street has seen the dramatic decline since the refurbishment and said: "The pond is in such a state. There are bottles and cans floating. And it is worse up at the clubhouse.

"People are being selfish and they're not using the bins — it's disgusting."

A Glasgow City Council spokesman promised: "We will be striking a fair balance and clearing away a large area of the pond and removing some of the pond weed — which oxygenates the water and spreads naturally during the summer months — for the model boaters to enjoy their hobby.

"We will make sure the boats will have enough room for manoeuvre and we hope the ship modellers enjoy their regatta next Sunday."

More cash for Eastwood House

EAST RENFREWSHIRE council has allocated another sum of money to improve facilities at Eastwood House.

Already, the house has received £50,000 to improve disabled facilities — and this week the council has announced an extra £138,000 to start phase 2 of the development.

The money will be put towards installing an internal lift, accessible toilets and additional handrails to fire escapes and doors.

Councillor Alan Lafferty, convener for community services, said: "The work is part of a wider programme of improvements to council properties in the whole of East Renfrewshire.

"Eastwood House is one of our most popular facilities and it's good news that the work is well underway."

The first phase is planned to be completed by October 2002 and the council is aiming for phase two work to begin January 2003.