



A film of scum now lies across the water (above) and how the pond used to look (inset).

# Regatta is cancelled

## Pond in such a poor state by Martin Ferguson

**MODEL boat enthusiasts on the southside say they are being forced to give up a century-old pastime.**

They blame the appalling state of the boating pond at Queen's Park for the demise of their annual regatta.

It has just been cancelled by the Model Boat Association, amid members' fears that waterborne debris would scupper their much-prized scale models.

On the association's committee is Andy Short who describes the situation as "ridiculous" and blames Glasgow City Council for the parlous state of the pond.

He told The **Extra**: "Years of tradition are being destroyed because of negligence."

"Neither electric boats nor yachts can sail because their propellers and keels become entangled in the weed."

"The city council recently sent a couple of men from land services to clean up, but their efforts were comical."

"One man was rowing the boat back to front and the other was only managing to scrape tiny amounts of weed from the surface."

Furthermore, environmentalists have told Mr Short that the Canadian Pondweed which flourishes should be protected "as it is necessary for local wildlife" — an assertion which he disputes.

"People have been sailing their boats in harmony with nature in the pond since 1910, so to say that we would be damaging the environment is complete hogwash."

A university biologist who wishes to remain anonymous told The **Extra**: "Elodea canadensis, known locally as Canadian Pondweed, is an important part of the eco-system."

"However, to say that it cannot be controlled in a boating pond would not be true."

Strathbungo resident Morna Gourlay, who uses the park to walk her dog, thinks that the pond is ruining what is otherwise a "glorious green-space".

She said: "The idyllic setting of the park has been completely spoiled for some time by the dreadful state of the pond."

"The weed is choking the life out of it and causing major problems for the model boat enthusiasts."

"I would urge the council to take measures to stop the rot."

In response to her written complaint Mrs Gourlay has had a reply from a council spokesman advising that measures are in place "to ensure the boating pond is delittered three times a week" and promising the situation will be "closely monitored".

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