



Range finder

DAVE WOOLEY with a World Wide Review of Warships and Warship Modelling

Photo 1. USS Wolverine had side paddles but no hangar.

Photo 2. Douglas Kinloch preparing his as yet not completed model of the US Navy paddle aircraft carrier USS Wolverine for sailing.



Welcome once again to our regular sortie into the world of fighting ships. In this issue of MB we have a report on the second National Model Warship Weekend for model warships in July 2009, plus Part 28 of the building of the Soviet aviation cruiser Kiev looking at the Plyco. In addition we have our regular mystery picture slot and we also commence a new regular feature looking at ships that perhaps would make a particularly interesting subject for us model boat builders.

National Model Warship Weekend - 11/12th July

This is the second such event to be held at Queens Park, Glasgow. It is very well organised by the Scottish Model Warship Association in conjunction with the Glasgow South Shipmodellers Society and supported in particular by the Ayr, Aberdeen, Glasgow Richmond and Edinburgh Model Boat Clubs.

My personal thanks to them all for making me welcome and my visit very enjoyable.

Queens Park, Glasgow is very easy to find and about 20 minutes from the M8 motor way. Unfortunately I was only able to attend on the Sunday and as such the photos of the event reflect this. As is now standard practice, all the models were displayed on tables around the edge of the lake. There was plenty of shelter and this proved its worth during a brief but heavy rain shower around mid-afternoon, yet this in no way dampened the activities and there was no rush to remove the boats from the water or the tables.

The models

This event has certainly increased in popularity from the successful 2008 event with modellers from around Scotland and a fair number of modellers coming up from other parts of the UK. This was reflected not just in the number of models, but the types of

model warship subject displayed and operated. For example the model of the paddle powered aircraft carrier training ship USS Wolverine is being scratch built to a scale of 1:144 by Edinburgh MBC member Douglas Kinloch, Photo 1. Douglas is preparing the model for the water in Photo 2 and it really does sail well and the basic construction can be seen in this picture. For those with more than a passing interest in this unusual carrier (ex-side-wheeler *Seeandbee*) an article was published in the January 2007 issue of MB detailing the construction of a 1:72 scale version by the highly accomplished US model builder, Bill Waldorf. The original operated on Lake Michigan during WW2 and therefore had no need of hangar facilities.

Proving that travelling distance is no obstacle, Rex Imlira made the trek from Norfolk bringing along Chris Bullock's superbly detailed and scratch built 1:72 scale stretched Type 42 destroyer HMS Edinburgh

Photo 3. An all scratch built 1:72 scale stretched Type 42 destroyer HMS Edinburgh.



seen here on the water, **Photo 3**. Chris is active on UK website forums including www.modelwarshipsuk.co.uk. Although Chris was unable to attend, his boat was operated and displayed to its full potential by Rex. The model has numerous working features including: revolving radar; working rotors on the Lynx helicopter; operating hangar doors; training 4.5 inch gun and Sea Dart launcher. Add to that no less than 100 LEDs for illumination so this model is quite a show stopper. It is also a superbly built model as **Photo 4** confirms and it achieved an overall second place in the static competition.

Over from Edinburgh were the models of David Jacks, who is well known for concentrating on coastal and patrol warships. Mentioned in one of the recent show reports was a small S-boat carried by the German surface raider *Michael*. At that time the model was unfinished, but here is the completed model, **Photo 5**. Also part of David's growing collection is an excellent LCA (Landing Craft Assault). This type of landing craft could accommodate up to 35 troops and had a displacement of between 9 and 13 tons. Like all David's models this is a working model, **Photo 6**.

As at last year's event, a large dock complex was in place and was used throughout the day with plenty of naval traffic. For example there was an HMCS Halifax modelled in the now familiar and increasingly popular 1:72 scale, **Photo 7**. The model was built and operated by Steve Huston of the Scottish Model Warship Association. I believe the hull and many of the fittings were sourced from Jonathan Evans in Canada who like Alan Pew in Australia specialises in 1:72 scale model warships, website: www.hmcshipmodels.com.

As mentioned earlier, the dock was a focal point for the on the water sailing, although not every warship could find a berth such was the scale of the event (pun there!). Brian Cowell's 1:72 scale Type 22 frigate HMS Chatham is an excellent example of what can be achieved at this scale. The hull and a number of the fittings were supplied by Fleetscale.

I have heard it said that building to a larger scale (1:72) is less demanding on the eye rather than smaller scales (1:96 or 1:128). Well, yes and no!

Building at a larger scale can also involve exposing more detail that would have remained obscured or even hidden at smaller scales. Transporting a large model can be another problem, but this depends on the class and type of warship. However one aspect that is also very relevant is that a 1:72 scale frigate will usually perform more



Photo 4. HMS Edinburgh boasts an extensive range of working features including the hangar door plus over 100 LEDs for lighting.

realistically than the same model to 1:96 scale. It is noticeable that the 1:72 scale is becoming more popular, particularly for those wanting to build modern warships such as FFGs and DDGs, **Photo 8**. Here, the model of HMS Chatham could almost be mistaken for the full size version.



Photo 5. Almost completed is the small S-boat as carried by the surface raider *Michael*.

Photo 6. David Jacks is a prolific builder of smaller vessels such as this LCA (Landing Craft Assault).

Photo 7. The National Model Warship Weekend for model warships attracted many different types of vessel including this 1:72 scale Canadian frigate HMCS Halifax, FFH 330.

Photo 8. Trying to obtain a vacant berth for the Type 22 frigate HMS Chatham was not easy.





Photo 9. There were many warship models on display and an appreciative general public.



Photo 10. A magnificent 1:96 scale RN Type 12 frigate HMS Brighton.

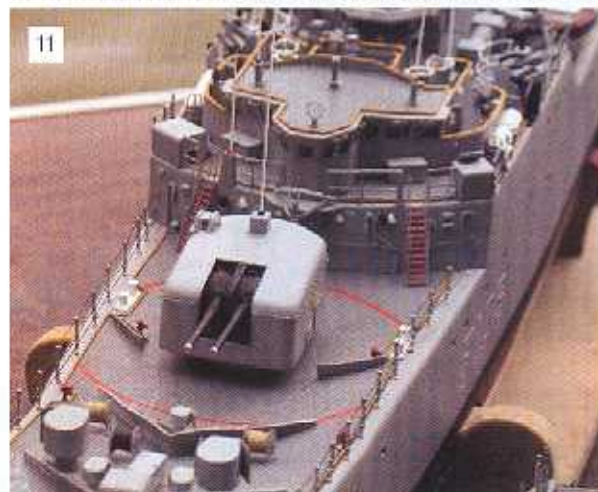


Photo 11. HMS Brighton built by Gary Mills was superbly detailed and was awarded best in show.

Photo 12. There was also a good representation from the silent service.

Photo 13. Popular both with visiting modellers and the general public was a large display of models in various stages of construction.

Photo 14. HMS Hermes under construction.



The event is not just about the models as the 'atmosphere' and 'buzz' around the venue when I attended was simply amazing. There was always plenty of activity for the casual visitor to see and I think Photo 9 highlights just one part of the expanding number of models on display and perhaps captures the essence of the event. By midday on the Sunday, the surrounding area was packed with the general public and modellers.

With so many excellent models on display it was easy to miss something special, but I have done my best to photograph everything interesting. Having said a little about models being built to larger scales, Gary Mills' winning Type 12 frigate HMS Brighton is based on a 1:96 scale Cammett GRP hull including their photo etched parts and all the upper works are scratch built with some

fittings from Sirmar. This well built model was badly damaged a week prior to the event. Gary mentioned that when he saw the damage his first thought was of total despair (many a modeller could empathise with this) and then just to pack the bits away, but not Gary. He set to and pulled off the remarkable feat of rebuilding the damaged model and presenting it at the event to also take first place and Best in Show. HMS Brighton was indeed a worthy winner in more ways than one, Photo 10. His attention to fine detail is clearly evident and being familiar with HMS Plymouth, I can see that he had done his research very well, Photo 11.

Whilst the main focus of the event was surface warships, submarines were also there in force and they don't come much bigger than this Typhoon class SSNB by Ray Stevenson, Photo 12.

I mentioned in last year's report how the Scottish Model Warship Association hold great store on what is under construction and where possible unfinished models should also be on display. Both the modelling and general public gain much from this approach and it is one that is seldom exploited at other events in quite the same way as that done here. Seeing models in the 'raw' so to speak conveys volumes as to the construction of the model, Photo 13.

As a further example of this approach, Rex Emira from Norwich brought along his 1:96 HMS Hermes aircraft carrier in the mid-stages of construction. The only fully completed part of HMS Hermes was the island seen here in Photo 14 which is absolutely superb. It has been fitted out with lighting both external and internal and the model is being built as per her appearance in the Falkland's campaign of 1982.

I have always felt sure that there is always going to be a 50:50 chance of rain at any





outside model event (*That's pessimism for you!* – Editor) and sure enough nature provided her bounty by the bucket full, but thankfully only for a very short time. Instead of breaking off the formation sailing event to bring the models into a wet free environment, the hardy slippers braved the elements and carried on sailing! Seen here in **Photo 15** is a 1:48 scale Captain class frigate K 678 built by Hugh Stevenson and ready to take up position for the formation sailing regardless of the rain.

Another active competitor was Ian McGhie with his attractive 1:72 scale OPV HMS Leeds Castle, **Photo 16**. Plans for the Castle class are available from Jacobin, website: www.jacobinplans.com and are available in 1:96, 1:72 and 1:48 scales with a 1:48 model (1/4 inch to the foot) being around 68 inches long. For those with more than a passing interest, a 1:72 scale GRP hull is available from Models by Design, website: www.modelsbydesign.co.uk and I believe it retails at around £55.

The on the water exercises were popular amongst the modellers and here HMS Chatam

and a 1:72 scale Ticonderoga class CG, USS Port Royal, cruise in close company, **Photo 17**.

There were so many good interesting warship models to see and in fact more than you may see at any other similar event, but one particular model caught my eye and for two good reasons. The model is of the small monitor HMS M33 which I went aboard when covering the early stages of restoration for Range Finder. Interestingly this model was built by none other than George Peat MBE. He was in many ways a larger than life character who championed warship modelling and was editor of the *Surface Warship Association Journal* for a number of years. Subsequently he was a leading light in the formation of Task Force 72 UK. This lovely model is now in the keeping of Patrick Moriarty and was brought along to the event as a fitting reminder of George Peat, **Photo 18**.

In a similar vein but in slightly older period, this on the water picture shows an elegant scale model of early Yarrow built Torpedo Boat No.75 made by Steve Pickering. These



small torpedo boats were capable of making around 20 knots, which for 1885 was fast enough to outpace most battleships of that period, **Photo 19**.

Moving even further into the past, Steve Pickering brought along a superb armed topsail schooner, which also handled remarkably well, **Photo 20**. To add to this little parade of older warship types there was a good representation of an early Thornycroft spar torpedo boat after it was converted to carry the more usual and conventional torpedoes. Unfortunately there were no details with the model and my apologies for not having the name of the builder either, **Photo 21**.

There is indeed a huge spectrum to

Photo 15. Rain, what rain? A Captain class and Ticonderoga class warship carry on sailing regardless.

Photo 16. An attractive model at any scale is HMS Leeds Castle OPV to 1:72 scale.

Photo 17. The naval exercise was a popular event.

Photo 18. A lovely 1:96 scale model of HMS M33 by the late George Peat and brought along to this event by Patrick Moriarty.

Photo 19. An early Yarrow built TB by Steve Pickering.

Photo 20. All types of warship were represented.

Photo 21. Thornycroft torpedo boat.



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