

MARCH 1993

MODEL BOATS

£1.65

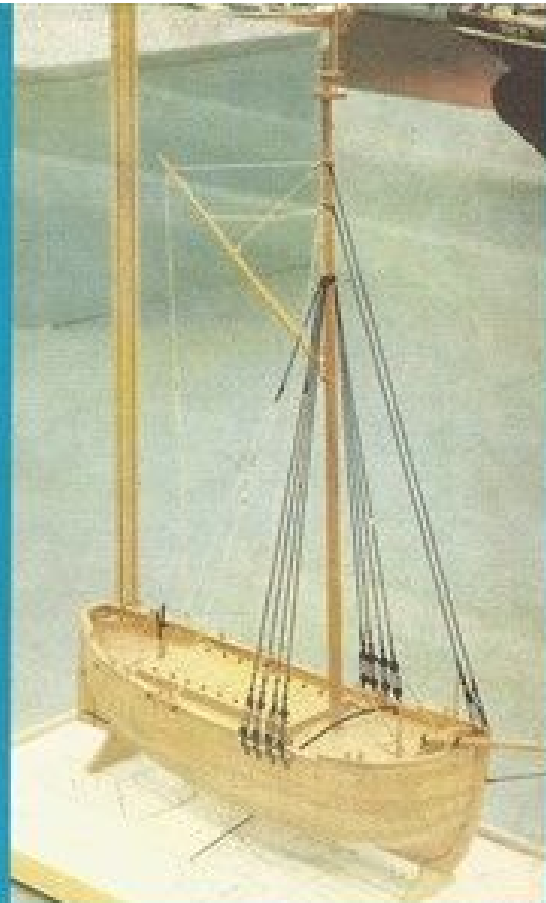
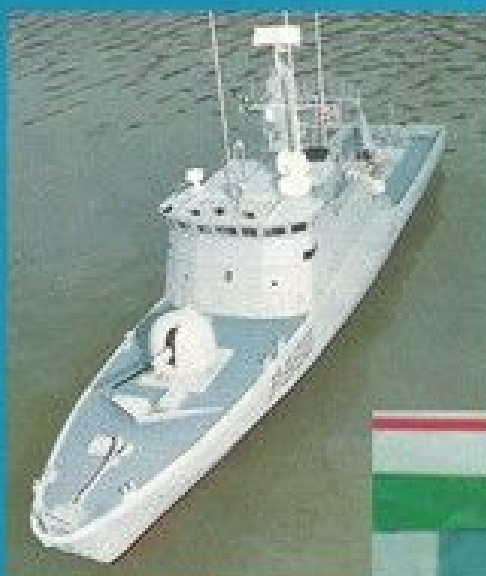
UK's TOP SELLER

BUILDING · NEWS · REVIEWS · PLANS

**Billing's
FLYING
FISH**

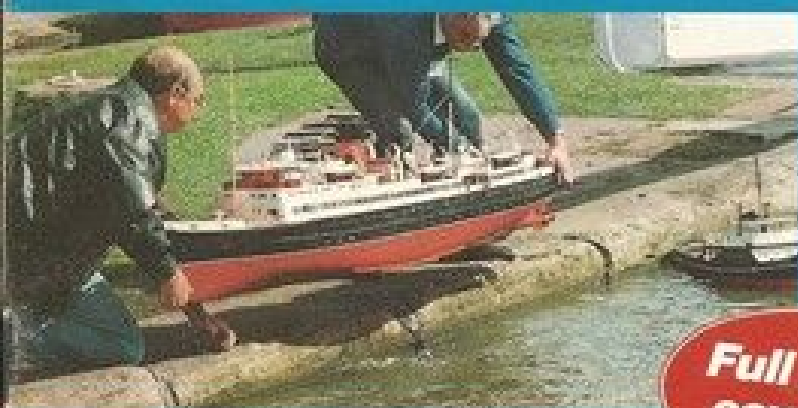
Full review

**Ellesmere
Convention
round-up**

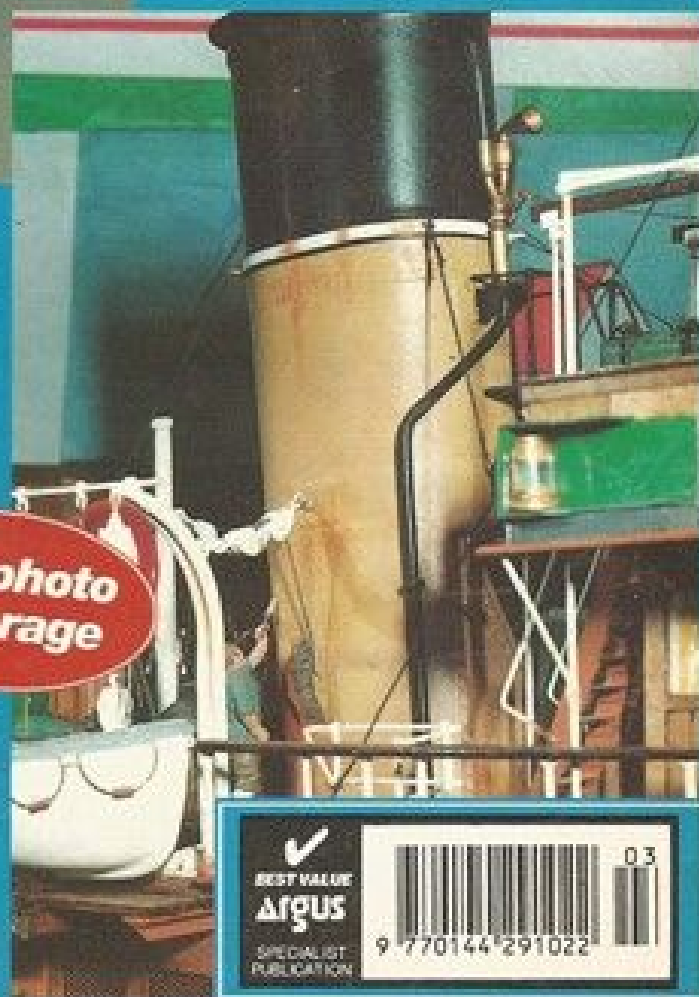
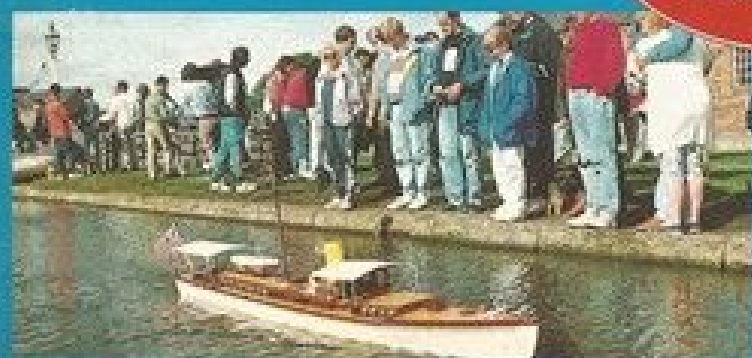


**Chapman's
Water Hoy**

**FULL SIZE DRAWINGS
IN THIS ISSUE!**



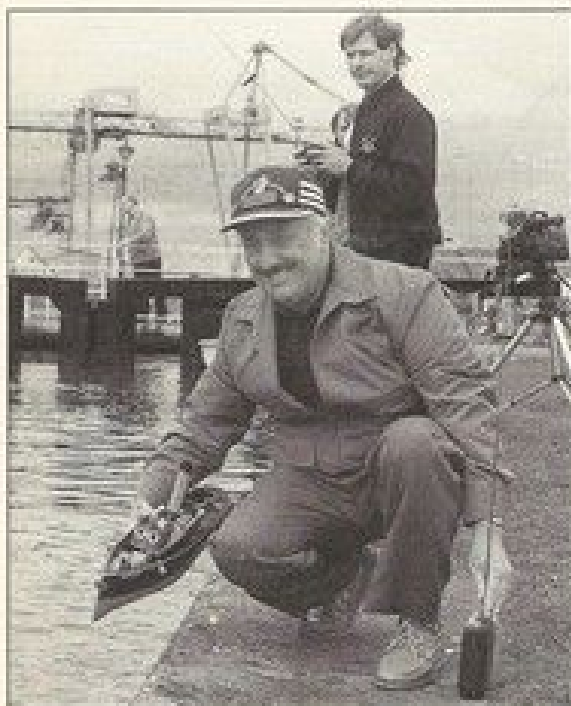
**Full photo
coverage**



BEST VALUE

Argus
 SPECIALIST PUBLICATION

9 770144 291022 03



ELLESMERE EXCELLENCE



Top right is Jimmy Wood's NY Greeting which was 1st in Noregic C2

Top left, John Parvizi came all the way from Canada with his big Searcher - just the right size for hand luggage on the plane!

Alexandre Touring's Broadway Moon stands ready for the water in a proud pose.

Didn't we have fun!

DAVID MILLER

with a round-up of an exceptional weekend at Ellesmere '92

They said that it would never last, yet here we are again with more new landmarks set at the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum with the third in the series of the Model Boat Conventions. The format once more followed the tried and tested pattern, which as before used the August Bank Holiday period.

So what makes this event a bit on the special side? Well to start with, where

else can you see over 700 scale models, including an increasing number of yachts, on display, either statically or sailing - everywhere just models!

Arriving on the Saturday prior to the start of the proceedings gave me an opportunity to witness the build up of the preparations, and the chance to watch the modellers from the various parts of the country coming to book in with a look on their faces of both glee and anticipation of the weekend's fun. The weather tried it's best to disrupt the proceedings by varying from brilliant and warm sunshine to high winds and torrential rain - threatening to destroy anything before it, and back again smashing!

After three years of patient work behind the scene, the organisation really is very good. When the clubs start to arrive, models soon find their way to their various points and places, and

together with the organisations, judges, etc., it is really amazing just to watch the activity involved in assembling vast numbers of people with models. Just those who turn up on the day is a large enough exercise, let alone those who had pre-registered and were expected.

The Site

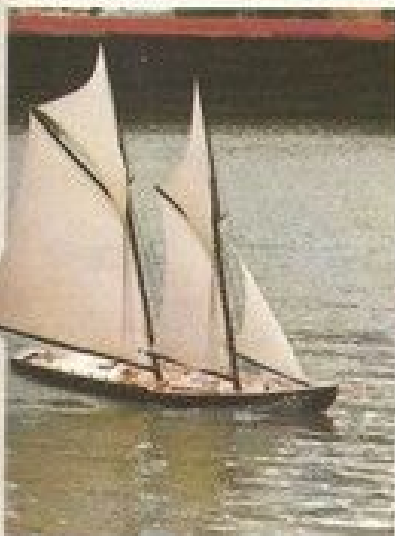
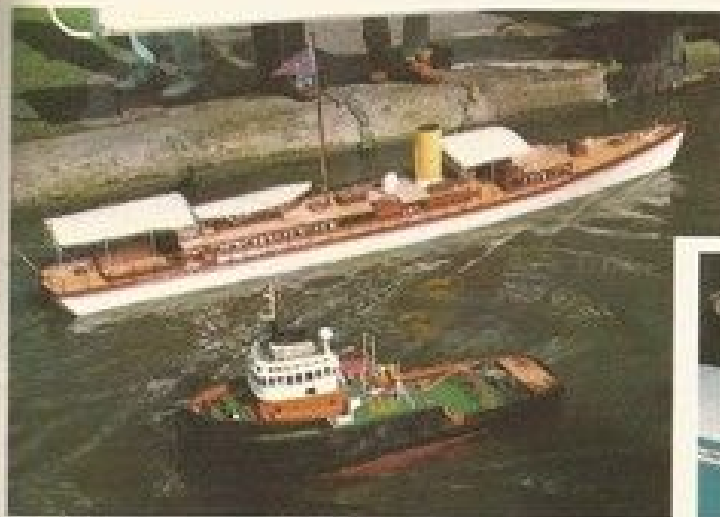
I think a brief description of the venue is in order for those contemplating a visit next year. The site of the Museum is just off the roundabout of the exit to Junction 8 off the M53. So it is quite easy to find; even I didn't get lost!

The main entrance for this event was at the lower end of the Museum, just opposite the Manchester Ship Canal, in the Tom Holt Centre. Once inside the complex, the entrance is by the Holt Centre where the main competition entries were housed. Once through the building and into the courtyard beyond is a choice of paths; the lower one takes you down to the lower basin, and the entrance to the lower exhibition hall where the Runcorn MBC made its home, and further down the path are the Lime sheds.

The path to the right leads up to the upper basin, where some of the free sailing and the Venetian Night event was to take place, and during the day, canal trips for those looking to escape for an hour or so.

The other path past the old stables eventually leads across the locks and towards the Central Warehouse complex where most of the club and trade stands were deposited, along with one of the most important items, the restaurant/cafe; passing on the way, various barges anchored in the top area. Following this path past the show houses, brings you on the top of the lower basin, where even more vessels of varying types are on show. The Bottom

Pictures by
John Godsell



Top left, Steam Night Navette by Bill Wilkinson is shadowed by Mark Butler's Indomitable.

Top right, Laurie Ruess's Calder Craft Inara was 3rd in class.

Far left, a fine Starline cuts through the ripples.

Left, Don Brown's well-known HMS Ashanti.

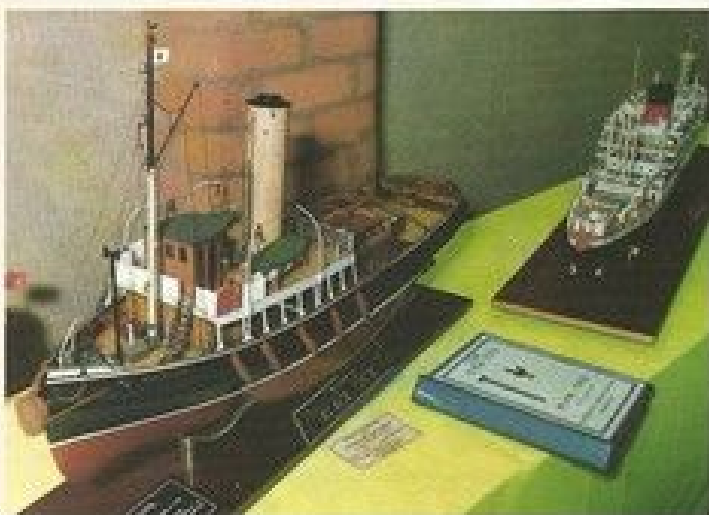
Bottom left, the High Hall MHC's stand against an impressive backdrop.



Left, Bill Wilkinson's huge paddle tug Sevier under way.

Bottom right, the Atomic Mac displays team in action.





Top-left, the Etherton Club's stand. Top-right, Lea Knows Mary Belle was 3rd in the Steam Boats category.

Next row down, left, a fine corvette from the Harobins, and right, the Suez Towing Tug Display them in action.

Next row down, left, Black Clark by Alan Brookes was the winner of Class A, Commercial Steams. Right, Mr and Mrs Alan Brookes on duty on the New Brighton club stand.

Right the RFB Argus on a club stand.





Basin is practically divided in two, with the boats in one half; the other being used for the Demonstration Classes of F6/F7.

I can remember most of the clubs that were on show mainly in the Island Warehouse; there was Bury MIMS, Etherow MPBC, Hūgh Hall MBC, New Brighton MBC, Potteries MBC, Rugeley Power Station MBC, Runcorn & District Scale Model Boats, Southport MBC and The Boat Club, which is based at the Museum itself. The Wirral Smit Appreciation Society were showing their display of Smit tugs in one of the outer 'cabins' on the other side of the locks.

In amongst all these club stands were various suppliers of bits, pieces and kits from all the well known sources, and with displays from H.M. Customs, British Waterways, the Chester Branch of the R.N.L.I., and not forgetting the Museum's very own little corner with a host of 'goodies'. Also on show was our very own MPBA stand, and very well it looked, with Ann Finnis and Jeanette Fosbury with help from Eric Dyke, all of whom looked after the wares and persuaded the innocents to part with their booty for the latest in designer fashions!

The Event

The Convention is really an exhibition

and a competition combined. On the competitive side, this again is split into three areas. There is the 'in house' competition of the David E. Owen Challenge, which has classes including commercial and naval vessels, lifeboats, steam boats, kits, submarines, semi-kits, static and even a novelty class, something for everyone. And there were the MPBA events, more governed towards the Naviga style of contest with the introduction of the National C Class Championship. The last challenge came in the form of another new competition, not only to the Convention, but I believe in this country, the F6/F7 Demonstration; if it takes off who knows were it will finish!

With plentiful members of the clubs on hand to answer visitors' questions and to have a good old fashioned chat over models and associated things, this left the other visitors, whether you love 'em or 'ate 'em - the judges - to get on with their tasks. On hand, believe it or not, were nine inquisitors to do the deed and these were split into two lots, the first, with five members, to cover the C Class, both the National and the David E. Owen Open Challenge, and then three to start their assessment of both the F6 and F7 demonstration classes. Mathematicians amongst you will realise this left one judge over who was the

'Grand Inquisitor' himself, Dave Sambrook, and he acted as Senior Judge, just in case of any problems or disputes.

The members of the team one set to their task first thing on Sunday morning, with the David E. Owen Open Challenge being judged. The National C Class was left over until the following day. So who were these mysterious band of adjudicators. The team leader was Dave Abbott who had with him Steve Fosbury, Mike Finnis, Mike Reading and Stuart Chester - quite a formidable array of experienced judges. A little later the remaining judges made their way to the lower basin where the first round of the F6/F7 was to be run, Dave Miller, Steve Kirby and Roger Thayne were given the task of sorting things out in this department.

Unfortunately, several of the competitors who had made arrangements to attend the demonstration classes never made the journey and missed out on a very different kind of event. As it happened this gave the teams left a quieter weekend than was planned, but they still managed to give a taste of the event for the public and modellers alike with an interesting duel. The preparations before the runs were completed in the Lime Sheds just next to the Lower Basin.

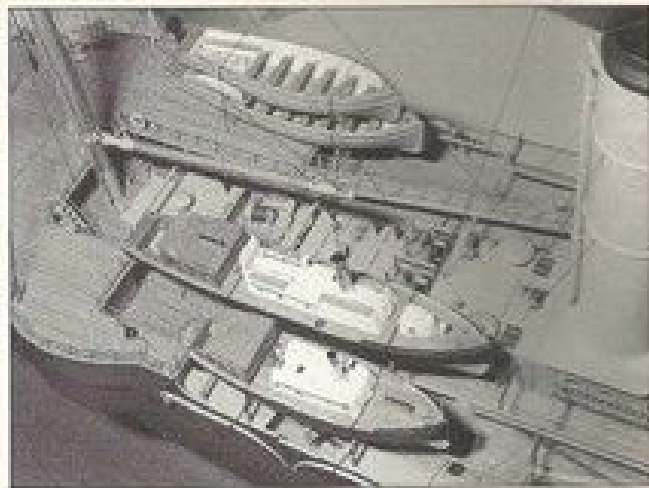
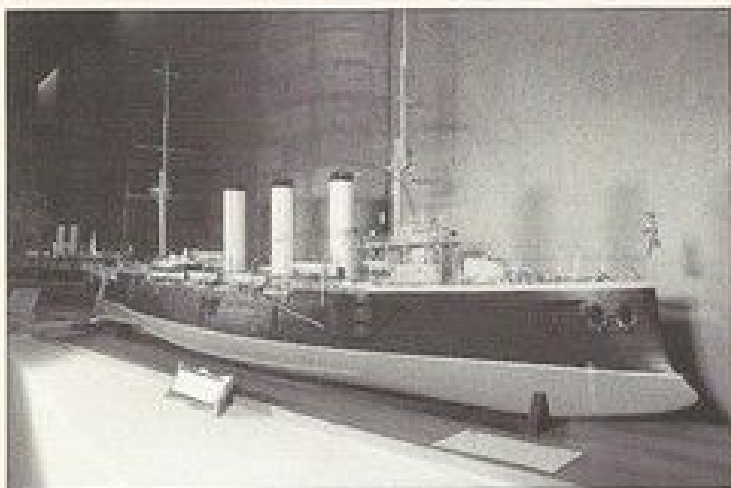
Although, as I said, a few of the planned teams never made it to the

Top left, the lecturers and talks were well attended. Here, Brian King is in control.

Top right, and it's Brian King again, this time receiving the Best in Show award from Mrs Owen with Anthony Horvath at left, and Judge David Sambrook in the background.

Bottom left, the happy winners and judges pose at the end of a successful weekend.

Bottom right, Paul Gregory's *Breadwiner*, built from information and details supplied by father and sea skippers of the full-size ship.



Top row, HMS Crosswell by John Nugent was put in Static Models.

Bottom, Spide Lord's SA Taperhead featured an impressive engine room.

venue, the entries in each class tried to put as much effort in as if there had been a dozen. At first sight, the event may sound a flop, well forget it! The teams involved soon overcame their nervousness and gave a really good performance.

In F6 class, the 'Jimmie Mac' duo with their barge, complete with operating crane and two tags were against the two Smit teams. Again the Demo jinx struck, this time with one of the Smit entries which began to suffer from a slight problem, it broke it's back! Undaunted they retired gracefully and proceeded with their other demonstration in F6. In the end the 'Jimmie Mac' duo just edged into first place.

In the F7 category, two well known faces tried their luck against each other. Stan Robinson and his HMS Lagos with the sub hunt demo just edged out Tony Baines and his Landing Craft Assault vessel, both containing as many fireworks and bangs as on Bonfire Night! After the event and chatting to all of them, they promised more for next year as they enjoyed it so much, so if you missed out this time and are coming next year, look out, these lads mean business.

If you are still wondering what is involved, despite the many details that have been published, here is just an outline. The F6 is a pre-arranged team display lasting up to 12 minutes,

including a 5 minute preparation time, and the F7 is again, a pre-arranged demonstration for individuals that can last upto 8 minutes including preparation time. Six copies of the written and/or drawn plan, (in cartoon form), detailing the events to take place, has to be given to the organisers either before or on arrival. The display will be judged on the execution of the display, the difficulty involved, the idea behind the display and on the overall impression. It is more fun than it sounds.

Running between the two sailing sections was the indomitable Max Hundleby who, to say the least, had an engaging manner of delivery on the P.A. system relating the happenings in both the sailing areas. In the top Basin, free running was the order of the day, with many varied models taking the plunge including many differing sizes, especially for those who witnessed the sailing of Bill Wilkinson's Puddle Tug 'Suze' and his American Steam Yacht 'Navette', both in the region of between 7 to 9ft in length. In between these seeming authoritative duo, sailed a model of the scaled down version of Vic Smeed's drawing of 'Miss Deeds' the Thames river launch, in fact down to 1:30 with a finished length of just 9 1/2in long and fully radio-controlled, well done Mr Graham Rankin!

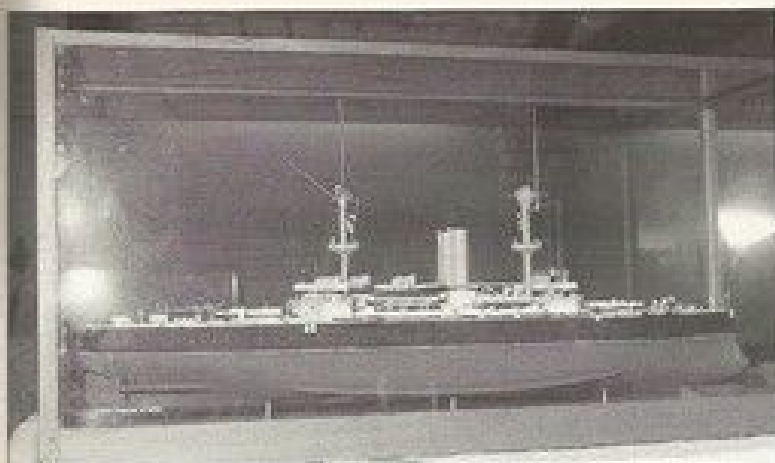
A word of thanks to Dave Collier who

acted as the Sailing Co-ordinator and did a great job sorting out the frequencies between the two sites, thanks Dave.

The same site was used for a Venetian evening on the Sunday night. It was highly entertaining to see so many varied models sailing and as it is up in their different modes, this time all under the command of Dave 'Kapitan' Wooley, who kept calling out the models at regular intervals to commence their voyage into darkness.

While all this was going on during the day, quietly, but thoroughly working their way along the line of models in the Roll Centre was of course the team of judges marking the C Class entries, and quite a task they had. The models were far too numerous to mention each one, so for those omitted, sorry!

The reputation of the event is starting to travel to far reaching places; one of entries was a gentleman who travelled from Canada just to attend the meeting. Some of the main models to strike you came from well known sources, such as Brian King, who seemed to have a plethora of entries, and obviously walked away from the event with plenty of awards, in fact nearly a complete dinner set, as the prizes for excellence were indeed plates, but these were individually made and specially 'fired' for the event. His outstanding models ranged from the 'Empress of India', 'HMS Bellona', 'RNLI B.P. Forties', 'HMS



Brian King's HMS Magnificent was 1st in Naviga Class C2



Beautiful weather and just the right conditions as models are prepared and readied for sailing

Magnificent', 'HMS Victoria' and not forgetting his 'Life Gig'. The last three were entries into the National C Class. Derek George was there with his 'RNLB Lincolnshire Poacher', and of course, that man was there with his 'Geestbay', our Jimmie, Mr Wood, to show how it's done. Considering he has only started to make these models since he retired, it shows that a little patience can bring very good results, nice ones too!

Another modeller of repute was a recent Gold standard winner from our not too distant trip to the European Championships, Eric Dyke, with his diorama of 'USS William C Lawrence', and the miniature of 'HMS Vidette'. As in any competition of this standard, you are almost certain to come up against some of the best, but even these can be beaten or given a close run. This was evident in the time the judges took in making their decisions in each of the classes on both days.

By now you are thinking, but what else could possibly be there to keep my attention? Well just for you, there was a terrific raffle, the Museum itself with its many displays and narrow boats and various other vessels to climb over, and maybe of more interest, in the Rolt Centre, over the two days, there were guest speakers giving either a

demonstration or a friendly lecture on various topics - and all included in the price, can't be all bad can it! So what more could any modeller wish for, competitions, free sailing, displays, talks and if that's not enough, there is always Squeeze Box, Harry and Cowboy Joe.

Well come over and see for yourself, it's all happening right here, the same time, the same place next year, with even more clubs asking for stand space, more entries into either the David E Owen Challenge and the National C Class, and not forgetting the interest gaining in both the Demonstration classes. It's well worth the journey.

Also in the pipeline is the Naviga World C Class Championships, possibly in 1996. After seeing some of the models in the European C Class in Hengelo, I can't wait for them to arrive here. Now that will be a diary date for any modeller!

See you there next time and thanks to all at the Ellesmere Museum, to Annette Cavell for all the help she gave us, to the Convention team headed by Steve Dean and Dave Wooley, with John Fulton, John and Richard Taylor, Dave Collier, Len Evans, Anthony and Ron Horabin and everyone concerned with the event, not only from me but from all who attended, and can we have some more please?

The 3rd Model Boat Convention and National C Class Championships

Best In Show Sponsor: Runcorn & District SMB
Brian King Empress of India

David E Owen Championship

Class A - Commercial Vessels Sponsor: R Horabin

- | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | Alan Brookes | Black Cock |
| 2 | G W Rankin | PS, Britannia |
| 3 | A J McMahan | Manxman |

Class B - Naval Vessels Sponsor: Sirnar Models

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Brian King | HMS Belfast |
| 2 | D C Brown | HMS Ashanti |
| 3 | Alan Whitham | HMS Matabele |

Class C - Modified/Semi Kits Sponsor: Scale Brass Props

- | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | Mike Bond | HMS Calendula |
| 2 | Mike Bond | Charlock |
| 3 | Mike Bond | HMS Ashodel |

Class D - Lifeboats

- | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Brian King | RNLB B.P.Forties |
| 2 | Derek George | RNLB Lincolnshire Poacher |
| 3 | Terry Edwards | RNLB Blenworth |

Class E - Static Models

- | | | |
|---|------------|------------------|
| 1 | Brian King | Empress of India |
| 2 | J D Nugent | HMS Cornwall |
| 3 | Mr Knowles | HMS Victory |

Class F - Steam Boats Sponsor: Cheddar Models

- | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|
| 1 | D C Brown | Greta |
| 2 | D T Brown | S.L. Bat |
| 3 | Len Evans | Mary Belle |

Class G - Kits Sponsor: Steve Webb Models

- | | | |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | Alan Miller | HMS Skirmisher |
| 2 | L Ruscoe | Northlight |
| 3 | L Ruscoe | Imara |

Class H - Work Boats Sponsor: Ryder Hall & Hughes

- | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| 1 | R A Smith | Knight of St Patrick |
| 2 | P Riches | Doris |
| 3 | R H Southgate | Our Boy's |

Class I - Novelty

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | G W Rankin | Mis Deeds II |
| 2 | R A Smith | The Duck |
| 3 | M J Richards | The Hare |

Class J - Submarines

- | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | S Croxan | German U Boat |
| 2 | S Robinson | USS Ray |
| 3 | M J Richards | German U Boat |

1st National C Class Championship, with F6 and F7

C Class

C1 - Models of all types of rowing boats and sailing ships

- | | | |
|---|------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Brian King | Life Gig |
| 2 | M J Tidd | Revenue Cutter, circa 1810 |
| 3 | M J Tidd | Ketch 'Nonsuch' |

C2 - Models of ships and boats which are entirely power driven

- | | | |
|---|------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Jimmy Wood | MV Geestbay |
| 2 | Brian King | HMS Victoria |
| 3 | Brian King | HMS Magnificent |

C3 - Models of ships, parts, harbours or docks and dioramas

- | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Eric R Dyke | USS William C Lawrence |
| 2 | G Barrett | Maggie |

C4 - Miniature models of C1 to C3 on a scale of 1:250 or smaller

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | P Baggaley | USS Alabama |
| 2 | Eric R Dyke | HMS Vidette |
| 3 | P Murry | Tirpitz |

F6 - Team Displays

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | Jimmie Mac' |
| 2 | 'Sunt Towing' |

F7 - Individual Displays

- | | | |
|---|---------------|------------|
| 1 | Stan Robinson | HMS Lagos |
| 2 | Tony Baines | LCM Mk III |

Venetian Fete

- | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Len Evans | Mary Belle |
| 2 | D A Mellor | Cumbria No.1 |
| 3 | P Riches | Harbour Tug |

Best Club Stand

Runcorn and District Scale Model Boats