

March 2005
£3.20

model Boats



ZIG ZAG RACER

Ready-To-Run
Fast Electric



U-BOAT

'Plastic Magic'
on Revell's
Wolf Pack kit

H.M.S. NEPTUNE

Corel's 4th Rate
58-Gun Vessel reviewed

SHOW REPORT

Ellesmere, Dortmund, Southport & Weymouth



MARCH 2005 £3.20



HIGHBURY

www.modelboats.co.uk

Reported by JON GODSELL



Above: Overview of one busy corner - the Southport Model Boat Club's stand.

Below: Dave Wooley (in blazer) and Jimmy Woods inspecting models on the Runcorn Model Boat Club's stand.

Right: Another view of the Runcorn stand.

Bottom right: A simple way of building a tug or cargo ship.



Ellesmere 2004

The Ellesmere Port Convention - what is there new to say about it? Well, quite a lot really. Now in its fourteenth consecutive year, the convention has maintained an enviable reputation and popularity.

The principle reason for this I would have thought was due to the people who organise the event, using initiative ideas to prevent boredom setting in. In the recent past many of the aspects of maritime life in the UK have been covered; these have included the fishing and towing industries, local shipping companies, warships and the many various types of merchant vessels to be found on the world's oceans. As a result each convention has included a varied and interesting itinerary.

The theme for the 2004 convention was Scottish connection, with the emphasis on vessels to be seen in the waters around the more northern parts of Great Britain. Andy McCue of Scoonie Hobbies, who has done so much of late to help the convention, was on hand at the opening, during which, as a token for all that he has done he was presented with a fine painting by Edgar Hodges.

When I arrived on the first day virtually every parking spot had been taken in the area, this included every available space at the roadside as well. Once in the museum proper, whilst it was crowded, it was not uncomfortable. Unfortunately, and despite the best efforts of the organisers, few models could be seen on the water, which was disappointing as this is one of the main attractions.

The lack of working models was made up though by the many other exhibits to be seen throughout the remainder of the buildings. As has been the case in the past the commercial side of the show was in the island warehouse. Most of the major traders were present to show off their latest kits, pieces of equipment and tools - many people were apparently eager to purchase these items so as to ensure that the traders had





At least some of the youngsters got a sail in the model boat pool.



Left: One model which enjoyed the conditions was John Dowd's Bluenose. Above: Also fine in its natural element was Les Jones' Duke of Northumberland lifeboat.



light loads to take home at the end of the show. A few societies and clubs were here as well including the Ship Model Society, many of whom exhibited their outstanding models.

Of the new kits on display much attention was given to Mount Fleet Models' example of the steam tug Bangarth, a vessel which was such a familiar sight on the Mersey during the 1950s and 60s. Marten, Howes and Baylis have, at last, completed their

model of HM Customs Cruiser Vigilant, which has been long in gestation. However, it has been a worthwhile wait as it is an outstanding model with perhaps the best, marine model fittings available anywhere. Other recent products could be seen on the JoTiKa Caldercraft stand, including the bomb ketch HMS Granado.

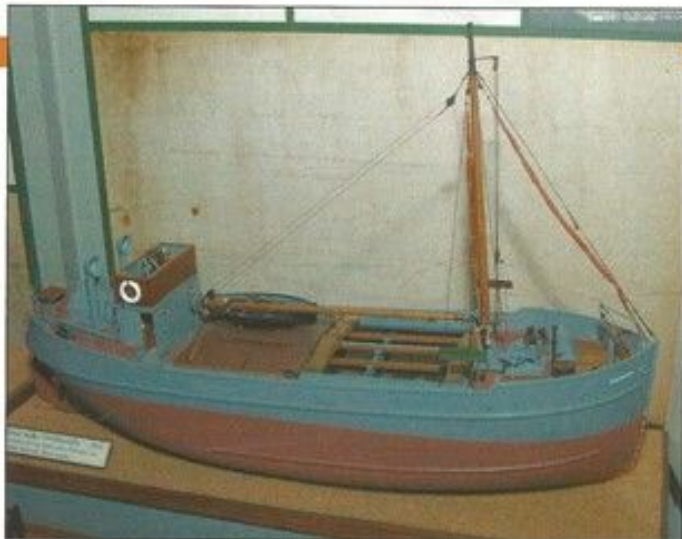
In the other buildings on the site, clubs from around the region had set up their displays, one



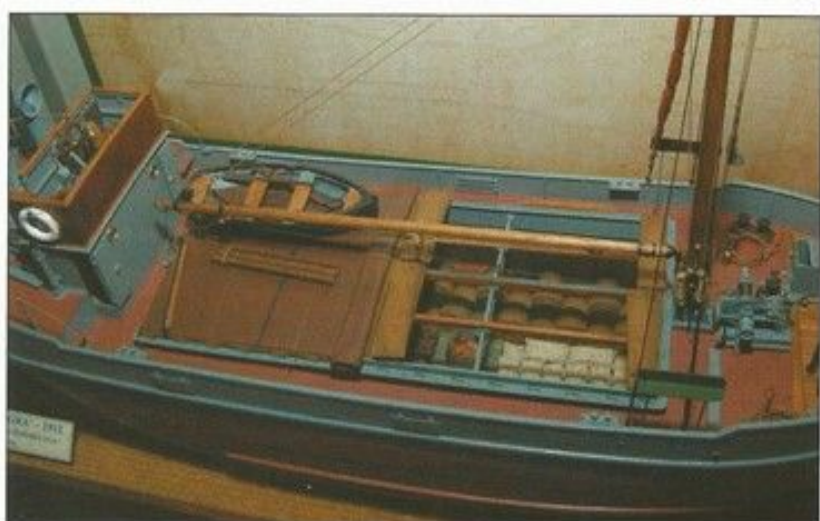
of the largest being from Tynemouth. They had brought with them so many models it was impossible to see any of them closely. It was a bit of overkill I'm afraid, which was a pity really, as there were some interesting models to be seen through the forest of masts and funnels. However, of those that could be seen rather more closely, an example of HMS Nelson or was it Rodney was quite impressive. Built to a scale of 1:96, I was not sure whether the hull

Above left: A fine model of the ELCO PT boat on Coastal Forces stand.

Above right: Phil Scales model of HMS Ledbury also did well in the conditions.



Above left: Graham Castle's display of Clyde Puffers gets better and better - here is Innisagra of 1912. Above right: Model engineering or model boating? All metal model of the RCTV Arezzo landing craft by Harry Barrow on the Ship Modelling Society's stand.



Above left: Part of Edgar Hodges' model entitled 'A Scottish Scene' on the Ship Modelling Society stand.

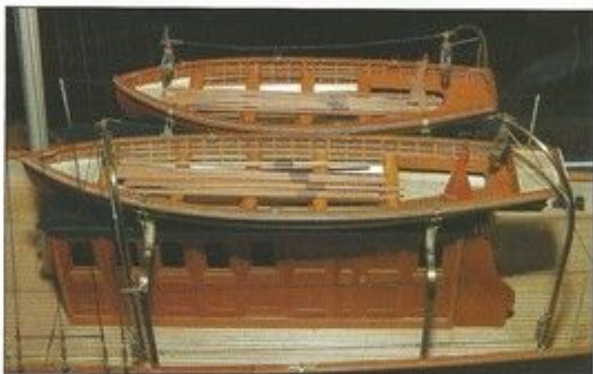
Above right: Close-up of Innisagra.

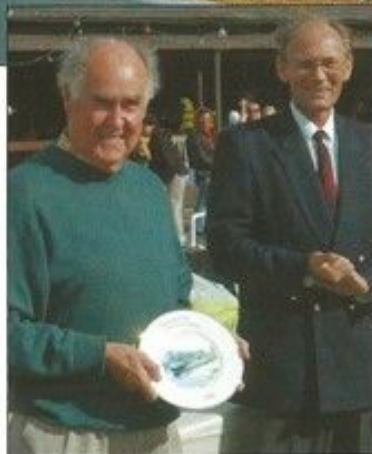
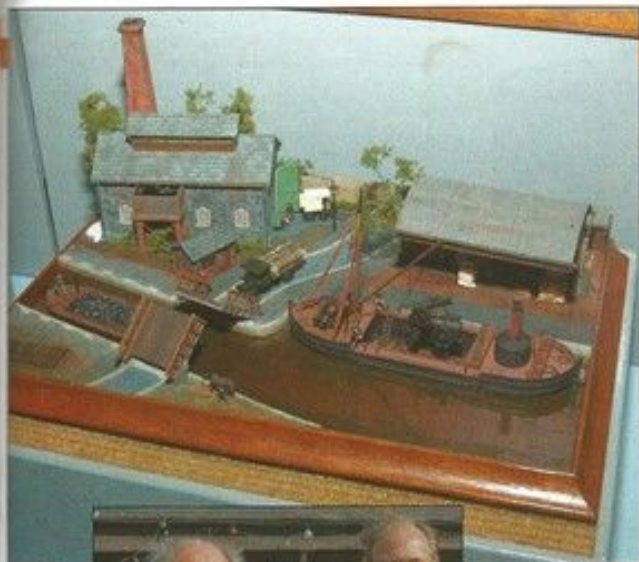
Marten Howes and Baylis showed their new model, H.M. Customs Cruiser Vigilant at 1:24 scale.



had been scratch built or if it was a commercial GRP one, nevertheless the work that had gone into completing the model was most impressive - though I'm not sure the copper pipe work on the funnel really looked the part.

As we should know it is important that the younger generations are encouraged to make things for themselves, be it ships, aircraft, trains and so on. In the world of electronic 'gismos' it is, I know, difficult to prize them away. Though, it has been my contention, that perhaps what is really needed is a simple project for them to begin with. To a degree perhaps, this has been surmounted, because during my workaround I came across a gentleman who has designed a simple system of building a tug or a small cargo ship. Similar to a Glynn Guest design the various sections are available on pieces of card which





Andy McCue of Scoonie Hobbies seen here presenting a plate to Edward Hodges. At the opening ceremony, Andy had been presented with a painting by Edgar as a token for his help in setting up this year's Scottish connection



Top left: Also on Graham Castle's stand is this diorama depicting a scene at Carnelton Bridge, Falkirk c1900.

Top right: Tynemouth Model Boat Club's stand was, to say the least, packed with models covering a wide variety of interests.

Above: Some of the New Brighton club members.

Left: Some of the happy winners.

Below: The strength of the wind is well demonstrated as Jean Barlow attempts to cover the model tables with assistance from the juniors.

are then transferred to pieces of balsa and assembled using the simplest of tools and glues. The finished model has ample space for a small motor and simple radio control together with the necessary batteries.

At the other end of the scale the Graham Castle display of Clyde puffers and their forebears was a sight to behold and something we should aspire to. They are simply exquisite in their execution and display - mere words are not nearly enough to describe; the fine detail work that has gone into producing the models, detail which I might add, is fully backed up with extensive research, is an example to all modelmakers. This was Graham's first visit to the Convention, and from what I could gather, it will not be his last. He was accompanied as always by his wife Tilly, a former resident of the Wirral, so in some respects it was something of a return home.

Throughout the weekend as much sailing as possible was encouraged, but too little avail I suspect. Of course a small number did place their models in their natural environment. In many respects though, the elements did little to help, for it was rather cold and blustery, especially by the time the prize-giving had arrived. As in the last few years the President of the Convention, Captain Woodall, formally Commodore of the Cunard Line and Master of the Queen Elizabeth 2, presided over the proceedings.

So the Convention closed for another year. By the time the 2006 event takes place, visitors will see quite a few changes to the area; hopefully, they will have improved some areas making the Convention an even more interesting place to visit. However, before closing please let us see some of the kits which are sold here during these two days at the end of August. I see so many of them leaving the show but few ever seem to see the light of day again.

