



Pirate Footy Festival Report Clevedon & District Model Boat Club by Andy Trewin



Venue

We were blessed with beautiful weather, a gentle wind and a gorgeous view across Clevedon's Marine Lake to the Severn estuary and the pier beyond, which provided a stunning backdrop to our event.

Preparation

Club members eagerly prepared the small lake with a variety of buoys two killer whales, an Island and a Galleon that caused great amusement when it sank on two occasions during the day, once after having been accidentally rammed by one of our foot long remote control boats so it was replaced with a Wreck buoy.

Participants

Our guests came from far and wide including Birmingham, Gloucester, Leicester Surrey and Swindon and we totalled 12 entrants for the event.

Welcome & Briefing

Andy Trewin welcomed everyone in true pirate speaking style and explained the course and rules (or lack of them) and races were started with his "bosun's call" a ceremonial naval whistle that Andy has as a memento of his time served in Royal Navy Submarines.

Fancy Dress

Although not compulsory some members and visitors dressed up for the occasion Best Senior was John Meredith with a wonderful turquoise costume complete with plastic dagger cutlass and hook hand. Best Junior went to Alistair Trewin

Fancy Dress Boats

Best Senior was Charles Smith whose wife Sheila had painted Charles's sail with an alternative to scull and crossbones – Skeleton Foot and Bones. Best Junior, Alistair Trewin sailed "Blow-me-Down" a 1:72 scale pirate galleon made from a 1.5 litre drinks bottle complete with 32 cannon and 42 scale crew all hand painted by his Dad Andy.

Events

Footy Internet Course

With the winds being so light we were not going to be setting any record times however the top three places were 1st Mike Cotton, 2nd David Wilkinson 3rd Andrew Halstead.

Round the Island Relay Race

This was a very noisy event with competitors all cheering each other on. Entrant's names were put in a hat and set in teams to do a relay race each skipper racing his own boat, then to have his team mate take up the race in a relay fashion twice round the course.

Team	Name	Position
A	John Birnie Mike Cotton	2nd
B	Andrew Halstead Charles Smith	3rd
C	John Meredith David Wilkinson	1st
D	Lawrence Hartley Mark Collier	4th
E	Chris Netherway Ben Netherway	Did not Finish (boat failure)

Knot competition.

Competitors were then given a plastic carrier bag with a length of cord inside. With their hands inside the carrier bag (so they could not see) Juniors were asked to tie a "figure of eight" knot and seniors a "Sheep Shank" Junior winner was Ben Netherway and senior with a very fast time was Mike Cotton.



Passers by and onlookers

Leaflets had been positioned at strategic points for the public to take and a number of people came to competitors and said how nice it was to see the lake being used so well and how happy every one was ~ The same leaflets were given to anyone asking for instructions on how to get more information and some children and adults took the opportunity to have a go them selves during the free sailing times with members and competitors freely giving advice.

Bottle Footy Submarine & Slavonius Rotor

During the lunch break and free sailing time Lawrence Hartley demonstrated his Footy Submarine made from a jam jar and plastic bottles ~ We were all amazed by its simplicity and agility as it glided around the course spooking and sneaking up on other Footy sailing boats. Andrew Halstead also demonstrated his Slavonius Rotor a sailing Footy with its rotary wind powered propeller.

“Leading the Blind” Race

Competitors teamed up as before and between them decided which boat they were going to race. One member then had to control the boat using his transmitter with his back to the lake, whilst his other team member guided him with speech to do one lap of the course. At this point team members swapped positions and did another lap to finish.

This is actually harder than it sounds and the concentration required by both team members both to command and listen was intense but so hilarious to watch for the public and non competitors as Footy boats were going in all directions. At one stage Mark forgot he was meant to stay standing by Lawrence (who concentrating so hard had his eyes closed) and walked off to get a closer look at the boat and Andy had to shepherd him back as Lawrence could not hear him!

Team	Name	Position
A	John Birnie Mike Cotton	3rd
B	Andrew Halstead Charles Smith	4th
C	John Meredith David Wilkinson	1st
D	Lawrence Hartley Mark Collier	2nd

“Pop the Pirate” Race

Whilst everyone stopped to catch their breath and recover from the exhaustion of the previous race with a well earned cuppa, Andy set up the next course with Black Balloons with a Scull & Crossbones motif. Competitors attached pins to the bows of their Footy's with sticky tape The juniors were given a shorter course and the seniors a single lap of the course, where at the end, each boat had to pop a balloon.

This was great fun as the balloons kept moving and the boats had to tack away and make another run at it, so the fastest boat was not necessarily the winner. In the end some subtle Footy Pirate tactics had to be employed to get some boats balloons to pop. Junior winner, Alistair Trewin. Senior winner, John Meredith.

Shore Leave

Andy blew his "bosun's call" for the last time and thanked the assembled crews for coming. Every one had a beaming smile on their faces and all agreed that it had been a tremendously fun event and would willingly do it all over again. Prizes, booty and bags of doubloons (chocolate money) were distributed to everyone and he wished everyone a safe journey home. ~ Crews gave a rousing three cheers to Andy for hosting such a fine event.

Next time?

Of course there's a next time “**Footy Fiesta 2010**” Why don't you come and have some **FUN** next year? In the mean time you could always build a Footy from Free Plans at <http://footy.rcsailing.net/plans.php> or you can find out more about these **FUN** boats by going to <http://footy.rcsailing.net/> or by visiting Clevedon & District Model Boat web site to look at the photos of the event <http://www.clevedonmodelboatclub.co.uk/footyp3.asp>



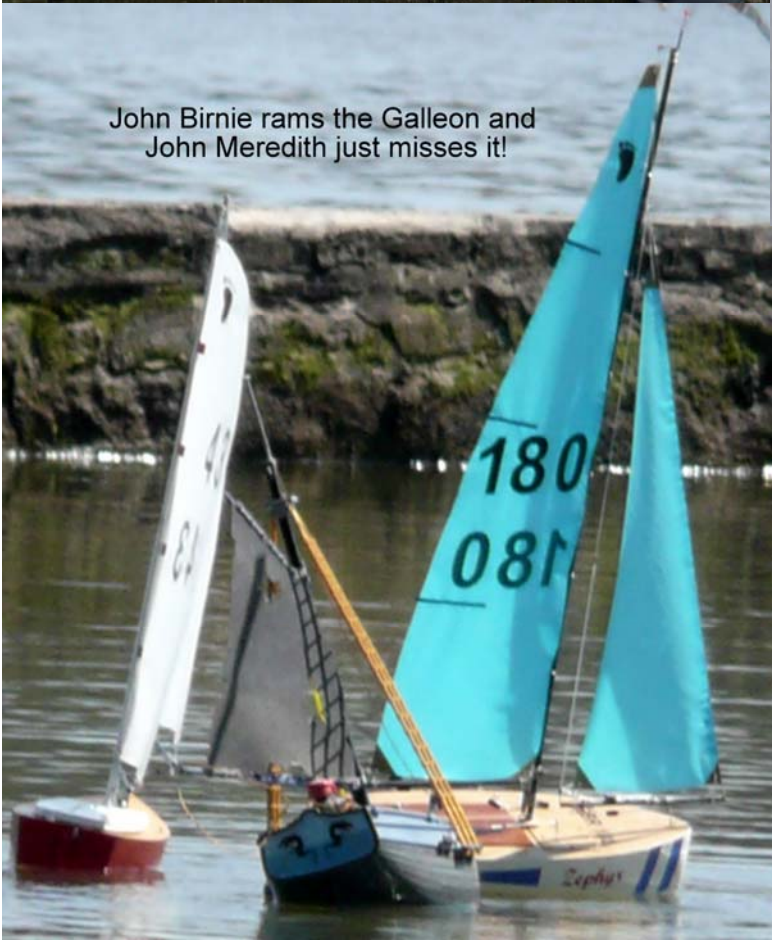
Charles cutting it fine



E're mate I could take a great underwater shot for you



Playmobile Galleon gets that sinking feeling



John Birnie rams the Galleon and John Meredith just misses it!



AndyT's recovery services

Oh what FOOTY FUN we had
Will you be at
Clevedon Footy Fiesta 2010 ?

