

INTERNATIONAL MODEL BOAT SHOW 2018

It's that time of year again and self respecting model mariners are expected to gravitate to the annual International Model Boat Show at the Midlands Exhibition Centre near Warwick. EMPBC members were no exception and a minibus was hired to take us there. Fifteen members and two guests waited in wet, blustery conditions and to our surprise an enormous coach turned up! We were not complaining though because it proved to be all the more comfortable. After a trying 2 ½ hr journey to the A23 the coach was able to pick up speed and we duly arrived with plenty of time to see the show.



One could not miss the first exhibit past the turnstile which was a 1/72 model of HMS Ark Royal complete with a characteristically busy flight deck arrayed with a full air group. It was magnificent and HUGE!

We were impressed with the high standard of models exhibited although the show seemed to be significantly smaller than in previous years and trader participation was disappointing with a number of regulars failing to attend. Notable omissions were Deans Marine and Sarik. However we all had the opportunity to spend our ill gotten gains with the Component Shop, Howes, Mobile Marine Models, Protean etc and as usual good food and drink was readily available at reasonable cost for those of us needing it.

One could not fail to be impressed by the quality of the lifeboats on the pool and they were demonstrated with enthusiasm. So much so that Richard P got too close to the pool and got a good soaking from the water jets of the latest Shannon. Elsewhere in the show static lifeboats displayed represented the entire history of the RNLI from rowed boats to modern RIBs and Hovercraft. Anyway, enough of my rabbiting, I'll let the photos do the talking.....



Paul G could not hide his enthusiasm for Clyde Puffers neither could Richard B for the various George Turner Hulls Warships of all shapes and size are always a big source of interest and the exhibits on the Model Warship Association's stand (seen just below) were just a fraction of the examples seen throughout the show.



'Arun' Class Minesweeper

British Powerboat Seaplane Tender



Vosper Motor Torpedo Boat

And now just a few pictures from other parts of the show.....



Just look at those fully detailed wheelhouses!!



A very neat Pilot boat from the Coventry Club

***A beautiful finished example of the PLM Edwardian Paddle Steamer.
A long defunct kit that is now regrettably unavailable.***



Linkspan models had three of their ferry products on show on the pool and realistically demonstrated these impressive ships coming up to a model linkspan at the edge of the pool.

Deep pockets are required for these models



***An old favourite was the huge collection of 1/1200 scale ships made from matchboxes, card and hand painted!
No decals used at all and some models were barely 1" long.....Awesome!***



Oh! And look at these!

They gladdened David H's heart, he believes in Faireys!

A Dragon Force V6



A real jet powered "Bluebird"

A beautifully finished live steam pinnace



Before coming home, most of us gravitated towards Component Shop, Mobile Marine Models, SLEC and Howes Models to spend our hard earned cash and clearly they were all doing brisk trade.

All in all it was agreed that a good time was had by all notwithstanding the absence of some of the regular traders. It is to be hoped that this year was a blip and things will improve on that front next year.

I would like to extend a big vote of thanks to Dave Hedges for organising our trip.

What Next?

On the 18th,19th and 20th January 2019 is the Model Engineering Show at Alexandra Palace.....always a good show for us model boaters and if we have sufficient demand to pay for a minibus, we will be going.