

SubDay 2009 Report

Well – it happened again. They say things happen in threes and sure enough we had yet another dreich day with thick fog earlier on deterring some of our hoped for visitors. Fortunately the main part of the day wasn't too bad and the rain stayed off most of the time.

Our team of volunteers was down bright and early with the caravan and Nigel was toggled up in his waders and clearing the course of weed long before 9.00am. It's remarkable how much of the stuff had appeared since a visit with the Council earlier in the week. The tents and tables – all 10 of them – were duly delivered by David Jack and everything was up and running by 11.00am as promised. The new access arrangements through the Sunday Market worked well (thanks Cameron) and our parking stewards met everyone at the gates allowing entry to off load the subs before allotting them parking spaces on the park roadway. Parking permits and luncheon voucher tickets were issued to visitors and 'locals' could also buy a lunch ticket for only £3.00. This seemed to be a bargain when it was costing £5.30 for a burger in the market. Dannie had done a brilliant job of sourcing plates of sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes and biscuits etc and several people have asked me to pass on their thanks for his efforts and those of his helpers – Sandra and Robert.

Spud did a sterling job too after setting up the tents and tables he then laid out the competition course which was a modification from last year and turned out to be amongst the best that the visiting AMS members had seen.

Visitors that we know of came from Barrow, Preston, Milnthorpe, Preston and Glasgow. We had expected a few more but there were a couple of last minute call-offs caused by family events. Nevertheless 29 submarines were on display eventually – a great turn out. The various models are listed below.

Free sailing caused threw up some glitches on some of the models. It's the old story – things worked perfectly on the bench on Saturday – but as soon as the boat sees the water it takes umbrage! Amongst the early casualties were Dave Jacques' Astute, Andrew Gray's normally reliable Turbulent and Stevie Barr's U-47. The latter managed to solve his problems later and at least managed to display the model's prowess but the former were abandoned and delved into later. Strangely both were OK by the next morning. It seems to be that way with subs – they have minds of their own.

There were 6 entrants for the competition and each sub had to complete a full lap on the surface before executing a dive and surface manoeuvre and then crossing the finish line on the surface. The trial run time was notified to each commander and the idea was to replicate this in the competitive run. This is not as easy as it sounds as inevitably other boats strayed on course, batteries were a bit lower for the second runs and the dreaded weed fouled up a few dives. My wee Kilo dived twice of its own volition – caused by weed jamming the planes and Davie Jacques' Alfa looked like a refugee from Sherwood Forest when it surfaced in green camouflage.

The event was eventually won by Davie Jacques with Spud Hamilton second with his Seehund and Terry Elliott third with the Revell Type VIIc U-boat utilising his own very successful dive system.

Free sailing continued thereafter until about 4.00pm when the prizes were presented by our Secretary (and President of the SFMBC) Nigel Coates. The winner received a Revell Atlantic Type VIIc (that he is hoping to convert to r/c); second prize consisted of kits of an Italian Maiale human torpedo and a German Type XXIII and third was a diminutive display model of a Los Angeles.

The event appears to have been a great success and the Club should be proud of the interest it has engendered far and wide. Articles, photos and videos have already appeared on the web in Facebook and reports will appear soon on the SubCommittee site in America and in various magazines including 'In Depth'. Well done everyone – especially all the volunteers without whom these events cannot be held - and here's to next year.

Finally a word of thanks – not just from Club members but also from members of the public – to Brian Alexander and Nigel Coates who rescued a swan that was being mauled by a dog. The fact that it was members of the Club who went to the swan's aid when the Alsatian's owners ran off can only help maintain our standing with the Council, ornithologists and park visitors.

Amongst the boats present were:

Typhoon TK 208 (Engel kit)
Astute (scratch built)
Piranha P1 (scratch built)
T Class (Darnell)
TypeXXIII (Metcalf)
K-4 (scratch built)
Upholder (OTW/Sheerline)
U-16 (Graupner)
Bibber (2) (Darnell?)

Trafalgar (Sheerline)
UB 16 (Norbert Bruggen)
Resolution (R&R Engineering)
Charlie Class (scratch built)
Type XXI (R&R Engineering)
Kilo (SWM semi-kit)
Oyashio (SWM semi-kit)
S class (Darnell)
U-25 (Krick)

Akula (Sheerline)
Alfa (scratch-built)
Type VII U-boats (3 Revell)
Neptune (Thunder Tiger)
Seehund (Cornelius)
U-47 (Robbe)
Holland (scratch built)
Resurgam (scratch built)

Selected Pictures:

