

# Memories from the past

Good evening everyone

My name is Brian Anderson and I am a member of the Killingworth model yacht club

First off I should like to thank Simon for asking me to contribute to the Northern District Website and put onto paper some of my memories from the past

When I first got into model yachting it was by pure chance as at the time I was more interested in Model Cars and knew next to nothing about Model Yachts. However, one day in the early 1960's a friend of mine at work asked me if I would take him and his model Yacht to sail it on Tynemouth Lake and honestly I had never seen anything quite like it. The hull was about 5foot long and a bit rough, the mast I think was part of a broom shank and the sails made from an old sheet. Being me I started saying that if I couldn't make something better I would not sail Anyway I had to put up or shut up so I started reading everything I could in the Model Maker about building yachts I bought a Mahogany Wardrobe for Five Shillings (25p in today's money) and cut it up into planks and eventually produced a Marblehead a Witty Hornet. With a clear varnished hull and a gold waterline I was very proud of this yacht with a wood mast and cord shrouds plus Nylet Sails I also made a moving carriage vane gear I sailed this yacht at Tynemouth and had great fun sailing it which has given me a lifelong love of Model Yachting It was at this time that I met Derek Greener who helped me enormously so when I joined the Newcastle club and I met another great set of sailors

I gradually got better yachts and vane gears all homemade (Marblehead and Ten rater ) I built a Stollery Popcorn A very good boat and a Bloodaxe a yacht that I found very difficult to sail with any success so when the chance of a Sula hull became available I jumped at the chance to take it. At Newcastle and in club competition I worked my way up from being a complete novice to become fairly successful after I bought a Bill Sykes Sula and later a Dave Creed Swag both Marble heads

I continued to sail 36r, Marblehead ,10r and A class

The 36r was an own design and became a very good club boat

Until 1998 all of my boats were vane steered

I regularly sailed at the Leeds and Bradford club water at Larkfield Tarn looking down onto the Leeds and Bradford Airport. All of you who sailed at Larkfield will remember the pallets that we used to run around to keep up with our yachts many is the time that I stepped on the wrong part of the pallet and ended up with skinned and bloodied legs The winds could be a bit testing when it blew from the factories it fanned out and we started on a beat went onto a broad reach and ended on a full run from the airfield side we got a beat and run but all in all great fun sailing and great hospitality

I regularly sailed on Fleetwood Lake to my way of thinking the best Model Yachting Lake in the country for vane sailing with my Marblehead and 10r yachts it could be a hard lake to sail on when the wins really started to blow and we were glad to have catchers at the end of a board

We used to travel from Newcastle to Fleetwood for a day's Sailing a Three (3)hour journey and sail all day from 10am until 5-30 or so and by the time we packed our gear away it was the start of a long journey home but we must have enjoyed it the number of times we made the journey across to Fleetwood In1977 I built an A class yacht to the Challenge design that I called Silver Jubilee and entered the A class nationals at Fleetwood unfortunately for me I had built a 59lb yacht when the much lighter A's were becoming the norm and I couldn't compete with the lightweights ah well onwards and upwards and I got a Stollery Lollipop when we sailed in fleets of 30 to40 yachts great days I was never very high up in the results I also sailed at Gosport when the old clubhouse was in existence and I discovered the penalties of going into the Knuckle half way up the lake but it was during these years that I sailed against the world's best sailors and when I managed to take points off any of them it made my day I had great enjoyment meeting and racing against the cream of the A class skippers which was and still is like a big club but more importantly I made some great friendships which last to this day

For various reasons I stopped sailing away from home until one day out of the blue I had a phone call from Hugh Shields asking me if I would like to act as his mate at the A nationals which I did for a number of years and I ended up acting as scorer at Fleetwood

About 2009 I had to give up my beloved vane sailing due to age and for Health reasons

Sailing Vane at Newcastle became very difficult so we changed over to radio I had to start at the bottom again in radio sailing which didn't come easily sailing

in a large fleet

I bought a second hand IOM and built a Rocco 6m I had more success with the 6m than the IOM

In 2006 after 125 years the Newcastle club closed down and we moved to a new water at Killingworth where I met another great bunch of sailors who I am proud to call friends and club mates we had in influx of sailors from the Derwent sailing club fondly known as the Derwent Mafia!!

The Mafia are all excellent sailors and at Killy take a lot of beating in the Fluky wind's we get on our lake only one skipper regularly achieves this we are not a large club but we regularly get 10 or 12 entries and on occasions 15 which shows how keen the members are

During my time in sailing all the help so freely given to me by so many skippers has been greatly appreciated

I have sailed for over Fifty years now and still enjoy it as much today as I did when I first started so thanks Matty for introducing me to this wonderful sport of Model Yachting

Thanks to everyone who has helped me in the past and who continue to do so

SEE YOU AT THE LAKE

BRIAN