

ELECTRIC BOAT *News*

The Journal of the Electric Boat Association

Volume 11 Number 4 Winter 1998/99

ISSN 0969-031X



**Waterways Minister
goes Electric**

**London Boat Show
preview**

Silent Sensations

New products



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Chloride Motive Power batteries and chargers. The ultimate in clean, quiet power for dependable performance in electric boats. The combination of traditional skills, advanced technology and unrivalled support services that have made Chloride Motive Power No 1 in Europe. The perfect choice for every boat afloat.

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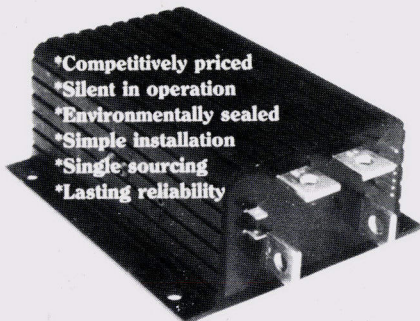


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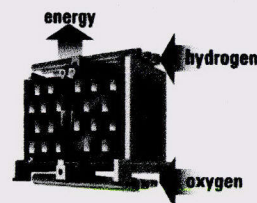
Curtis Instruments (UK) Ltd, 51 Grafton Street, Northampton NN1 2NT
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The Fuel Cell

The technology is coming soon to provide the optimum solution for our environmental concerns.

Several projects are under way, including Canal Boats, Ferries, Workboats, and Sea-going Craft.

Watch out for more information in the Electric Boat News, the general press, and on TV.

For more immediate information contact:

Zero Marine on

Tel: +44(0)1621 869818, Fax: +44(0)7070 636 455

Email: ZeroMarine@aol.com.

More details can be found on Web Site: www.zevco.co.uk

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ELECTRIC CHARGING PILLARS

SUPPLIERS AND INSTALLERS TO
THE BRITISH WATERWAYS & ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



Hawkins Electrical Ltd has spent considerable time working with the British Waterways Technical Services Department in developing the charging pillar which is being used for the provision of power on inland waterways for the charging of boat batteries and providing power for general use.

The charging pillar is currently available in four designs:

- Type 1: 1 x 16A Socket Outlet
- Type 2: 1 x 63A Socket Outlet
- Type 3: 1x16A and 1 x 63A Socket Outlets
- Type 4: 2x16A Socket outlets

For more information about this project and other services we provide, please contact our sales department.



HAWKINS ELECTRICAL LTD.

Complete Electrical Services to the Marina Industry
Heath Road, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 3SU.
Tel :01754 610440 Fax: 01754 764208

EBA CALENDAR 1999

Some events which may be of interest to EBA members.
The EBA may be present at some of these events.

1999

JANUARY 8th-17th

The Big Blue London
International Boat Show

FEBRUARY 20th-28th

National Boat, Caravan &
Leisure Show, NEC,
Birmingham
HISWA, Amsterdam

27th

(to March 7th)

MARCH 10th

Talk: *Electric Boating* to
Reading Transport Group

MAY 20th-23rd

Boats '99 Child Beale nr.
Pangbourne

JUNE 12th

**EBA Biennial Meeting and
Annual Boat Rally**

19th-20th

Windermere Electric Boat Event

20th-27th

Reading Water Fest

26th-27th

National Go-Boating Weekend

26th-27th

Reading Water Festival

JULY 3rd-4th

National Trail Boating
Weekend, Ulverston

10th

Phillips Rivercraft and
Ephemera Auction

11th

Wargrave Rally, Lower Shiplake

16th-17th

Traditional Boat Rally, Henley

AUGUST 27th-30th

IWA National Waterways
Festival, Worcester

SEPTEMBER 10th-19th

Southampton Boat Show

TBA

Silent Sensations, Norfolk
Broads

Please let the Editor know of any other events for inclusion
in this diary which may be of interest to Members

The Electric Boat Association is on the Internet.
The World Wide Web address is:

<http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/6173/>

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Electric Boat Association.

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Whilst we take every care to ensure the accuracy of the contents, the EBA cannot be held responsible for any errors which may occur, or for any actions that might be taken as a result of this material. Also, views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the EBA.

Electric Boat News welcomes contributions from readers and members. If you have anything you think might be of interest, please send it in. Bear in mind however that due to circumstances sometimes beyond our control, we cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss which may occur to this material.

Items of interest include letters, reports on rallies or events, reports of particular cruises or trips, articles or advice on building or running electric boats, and reports on items of equipment. We also welcome manufacturers' reports on new items of equipment or boats.

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Cover pictures:

Main picture - The *Oyster 14* from
Bossoms Boatyard will be exhibited at
the London International Boat Show

Smaller picture:

The Waterways Minister, Alan Meale MP at
the wheel of *Wagtail V*
Photo. By Barbara Penniall

On the current

As forecast in the Autumn edition, the volume of material continues to grow and I am pleased to introduce the largest edition of Electric Boat News ever. This increase in size reflects a growing interest in electric boating in general and the level of activity being generated by the Association in particular.

This year I have included a London International Boat Show preview. The show always offers much of interest to all boaters and I hope that our guide is useful in identifying the EBA Trade members who will be flying the flag at Earls Court. We hope to see many of you at the Show.

For several years, the page opposite has included reference to sponsorship from the Eastern Group. This welcome support has now come to an end and on behalf of the EBA I take this opportunity to thank Eastern for their help and commitment to electric boating during this period.

I finish this last edition for 1998 by wishing our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Tony Ellis

Tony Ellis, Editor

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Copy deadlines:

Material to be considered for inclusion in Electric Boat News should be sent to the Editor by the following dates:

<i>Spring</i>	1st March	<i>Summer</i>	1st May
<i>Autumn</i>	1st August	<i>Winter</i>	10th November

Chairman's Report

Another year has almost disappeared. Time has really flown this year, especially as the Electric Boat Association has been extraordinarily busy.

Attendance at four exhibitions, innumerable rallies, a Ministerial visit, responses to Government consultation documents and much, much more have gone a long way to highlight and enhance the profile of electric boating during 1998.

Because of the increase in activity and the associated workload we are now planning a number of constitutional changes in the coming year which will be put to the 1999 Biennial meeting on the 12th June 1999 for ratification and adoption.

The new constitution will create new positions within the committee structure, all of which will need to be filled by keen and committed volunteers. If you are interested in helping further the cause of electric boating please get in touch with us. Further details can be found in the magazine insert from the Secretary.

1998 has been an excellent year for the Electric Boat Association with promise of further progress in 1999. I take this chance to thank each and every member who has helped our work during the year and to our excellent Committee for their continuing hard work and support.

On behalf of your Committee I take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Happy Electric Boating.



Phil Horsley, Chairman

Electric Boat Association Management Committee

Meeting 18th November 1998

.....EXTRACTS.....

The Management Committee of the Association met on Wednesday 18th November 1998 at triangle Management Services in Beaconsfield, courtesy of User's Group Chairman, Paul Jackson. Below is a selection of extracts from the many matters discussed as well as news of new services and facilities available only to the EBA Membership.

European advice

Phil Horsley, Chairman of the EBA reported on contacts with the Dutch Electric Boat Association and advice given by him on methods of ensuring adequate battery charge duration and overall life.

Exhibition trailer

In the last edition of EB News we mentioned the possibility

of buying a trailer. A second-hand box trailer has now been purchased and put to good use in transporting the exhibition panels and associated materials to the IWA Festival in Manchester and Silent Sensations on the Norfolk Broads. Phil has painted the trailer white and Peter Cook has decorated the sides with the EBA name and logo.

It is now planned to approach trade members to see if they would like to add their name and logo to the trailer for a small fee, thus advertising electric boating whether static or on the move up the Motorway. The fee will go some way towards recovering the cost of purchasing the trailer.

Membership

The attendance at a wide range of public events throughout the year has brought a flood of new Members



— individual and trade (with three trade members joining between the IWA Festival at the end of August and the Silent Sensations event in late September).

EB News

Tony Ellis reported that what was a first-ever bumper edition of 13 editorial pages in the Spring of 1998 had now become a new standard. With the wide range of activities undertaken by the EBA and the growing level of information coming forward from trade members and associated organisations it would be difficult to revert to a smaller format.

Advertising makes a healthy contribution to the costs of the magazine and Barbara Penniall, in her role as Advertising Officer is investigating the introduction of an annual Product Guide in a forthcoming issue.

Treasurer's report

Peter Cook reported a healthy out-turn to the half year at 30th September 1998.

Promote Electric Boating with your own pennant or car sticker

Barbara has been able to track down an economical source for the supply of EBA pennants and has also developed a method of producing Electric Boating 'stickers':-

Pennants

The attractive pennants can be purchased at £9-50, inclusive of postage and packing.



CRUISE ELECTRIC



**NO NOISE - NO POLLUTION
- NO FUSS**

The Electric Boat Association
Tel: 01491 681449

SILENT CRUISING



**ELECTRIC BOATERS
DO IT QUIETLY**

The Electric Boat Association
Tel: 01491 681449

Electric Boating Stickers

These stickers are produced by colour copying and plastic lamination / encapsulation. The samples illustrated can be purchased at £1-50 for A5 and £2-50 for A4 sizes, postage and packing included.

NOTE: The sticker slogan can be altered to suit your needs — perhaps including the name of your boat

Orders for pennants and stickers (remember to confirm wording for the latter) should be sent to Barbara Penniall — address on Editorial page — plus a cheque payable to the Electric Boat Association.

Discounted Electric Boat Insurance for EBA Members

Barbara is also currently negotiating with reputable insurance companies to develop an electric boat insurance policy at a valuable discount for EBA Members.

By the time you read this, the new policy should be in place. Before renewing your boat insurance for 1999 do please contact Barbara for further information.

Discounted Boat Safety Examinations for EBA Members

Trade member Peter Morgan of Adventure Cruisers on the Lancaster Canal is offering a special discounted rate Boat Safety Examination for members of the Electric Boat Association.

For further information contact Peter at The Boathouse, Canal Wharf, Catforth Road, Catforth, Preston, PR4 0HE Tel/Fax 01772 690232.



An electric re Waterway



Phil Horsley (left) and the Waterways Minister, Alan Meale MP in discussion at the Thames Riviera Hotel

The Minister responded positively to the presentation and expressed his interest in seeing electric water taxis in service on the Thames, particularly to the Millennium Dome. He asked for the assistance of the Association in



The Minister cruising aboard Wagtail V

Waterways Minister, Alan Meale MP was introduced to electric boating when he accepted an invitation from the EBA to go afloat on the Thames at Maidenhead on the 10th September. The visit started at the Thames Riviera Hotel with a presentation by our Chairman, Phil Horsley on the history and development of electric boating and the role of the Association in promoting the quiet enjoyment of the inland waterways.

The environmentally-friendly benefits of electric boating were emphasised to the Minister with the advantages of pollution reduction, no noise, low power utilisation and hulls that generally produced low wash. Phil emphasised the potential for conversion of many of the current inland waterway fleet, many of which the Association consider to be overpowered. An essential element in the furtherance of electric boating was the provision of adequate recharging points.



... while our Chairman emphasises the potential for growth of electric boating

progressing this possibility. He also expressed an interest in new technology, including the development of hybrid and solar power for boats. He also offered the assistance of his Department (Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions) with the development of the Association's schools competition which is currently under consideration.

On leaving the hotel, the Minister was taken for a cruise on Paul and Pat Wagstaffe's 29ft electric launch *Wagtail V* and was



ception for the s Minister

Photography: Barbara Penniall



The flotilla following Wagtail V

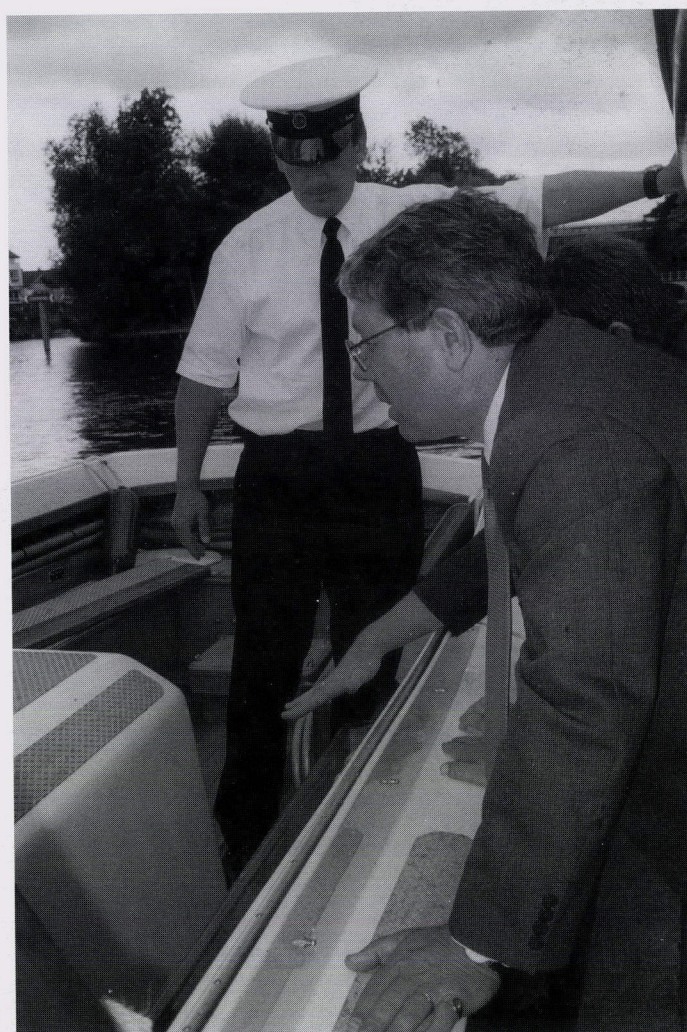
impressed with the silent power of the craft when he took the wheel. A flotilla of electric craft followed *Wagtail*, including the Environment Agency's hybrid inspection launch *Colne* operating under electric power, the solar powered *Collinda*, the river cruiser *Wispa* and the sports



EBA Vice-President Edward Hawthorne presents the Minister with a parting gift of his book *Electric Boats on the Thames 1889 - 1914*

launch, *Sunny*. Later, the Minister took the helm of *Collinda*.

At the end of the Minister's visit, Edward Hawthorne, Vice President of the EBA presented him with a copy of the book *Electric Boats on the Thames 1889-1914* (written by Edward). The Minister concluded his visit by thanking the Association for an interesting and informative afternoon and offered his compliments on our efforts to promote this environmentally friendly form of powered boating.



The Minister gets a close look at the Environment Agency's hybrid launch *Colne*.

An Event-F

A pictorial review of late Summer and Autumn events

Our 1998 season of events started with the Windermere visit at the end of June, while in July we were involved in the Annual (formerly Wargrave) Electric Boat Rally, the East Anglian Regional Rally and the Thames Traditional Boat Rally — all reported on in the Autumn edition of EB News. Here we visit Salford on the Manchester Ship Canal, South Walsham Broad and Cookham.

Inland Waterways Association National Waterways Festival

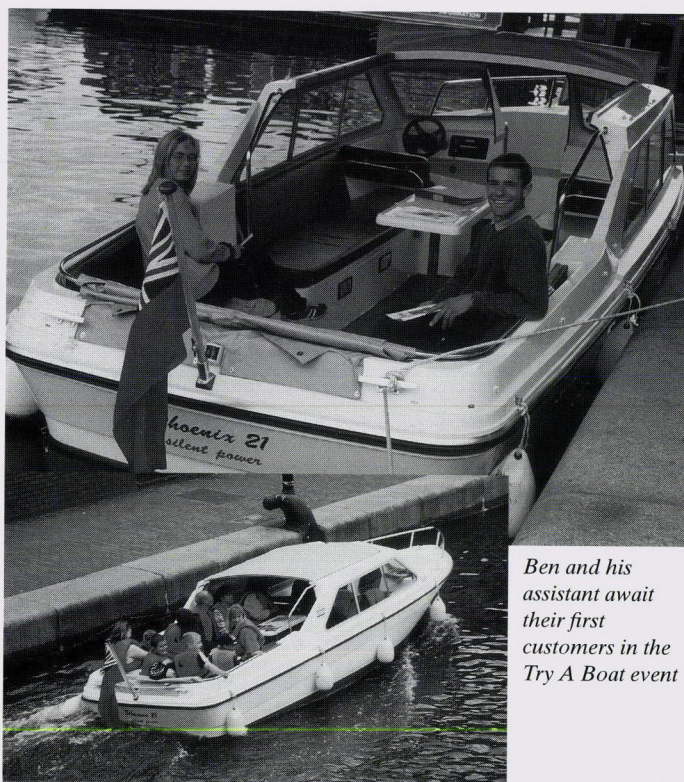
This event was held at Salford Quays at the head of the Manchester Ship Canal over the August Bank Holiday. The Festival attracted over 300 boats from all parts of

the inland waterways and was visited by over 32,000 people.

The EBA stand was manned over the whole weekend by Barbara and Phil (see photographs in Autumn edition), with minor assistance from the Editor on the Saturday. It is reported that they spoke personally to every visitor - at least it felt like that!



Gavin and Colin Seward from Brimbelow enjoying the sunshine



Ben and his assistant await their first customers in the Try A Boat event

..... and don't have to wait long



The Elecsol stand

A number of EBA trade members were exhibiting, including STELCO Electroyacht, Elecsol, Brimbelow and Fischer Panda. STELCO provided a Phoenix 21 launch for the Try-A-Boat feature organised by the British Marine Industries Federation (BMIF). It is understood that at least a 1000 people participated and the crew led by Ben was kept very busy. BMIF Marketing Executive Karen Ritchie has expressed her sincere thanks for the assistance provided by the Association and its members.



ull Summer

Photography: Barbara Penniall & Tony Ellis

Silent Sensations

This was the Environmentally Friendly Boating event held at South Walsham Broad on Sunday 20th September. The



Phil Horsley in Summer rig, explaining the advantages of electric boating

day was organised by the Broads Society with strong support from the EBA. The Association had its own stand, manned by Phil and Barbara while trade members CMP Batteries and Designeta exhibited in the main marquee. The sun shone for one of the hottest days of the



A busy scene on the staithe at South Walsham - typical of the whole day

year and this enabled the Solar Energy Alliance to demonstrate the efficiency of their solar powered products.

Several trade members were represented afloat, including John Williams Boats, Creative Marine and Phoenix Fleet. Several electric boats were moored alongside, including the Broads Authority launch *Charles Collier*, a Phoenix 21, a Mystic, a Haynes 29', a Mayfly, *Innisfree*, *Liana*, *Willow* and an inflatable powered by a Minn Kota electric outboard.

The EBA stand was visited by the majority of the 800 visitors and we recruited several new private and trade members.



A delightfully varied collection of electrically powered boats against the river bank at Cookham. Dinnie Hawthorne (with the Hawthorne pet dog as figurehead) sitting aboard Amble, left foreground

Cookham Regatta

A parade of eight electric boats caught the attention of visitors to the Cookham regatta on the 5th September. The parade was led by *Wagtail V* and included the solar powered *Collinda*, the cruiser *Stima*, launches *Mystere*, *Amble*, *Polly*, an electric canoe *Nikomis* and dayboat *Boulters Belle*.



A general view, showing the amazing variety of electric boats that are now available on the market

NEW PRODUCTS AND PROJECTS

News from Phoenix fleet

Robin Richardson reports on developments at Phoenix Fleet on the Broads. The first production model Phoenix 21 had its initial outing at Windermere in June and has since proved very popular with hirers. Although it is designed as a 12 seater, smaller parties often take the boat, making good use of the extra room and the access to the forward well from the main 'cabin'. EBA members, Adventure Cruisers on the Lancaster canal have ordered a *Phoenix 21* although they will be installing the motor.

Other electrical work at the Potter Heigham base of Phoenix Fleet includes the installation of an SEM motor, controller and CMP batteries in the 1900 Thames canoe *Toppings*. Consideration is also being given to the installation of an electric outdrive to the 1908 Broads yacht *Fantome*.

Details: Phoenix Fleet Ltd.

Tel: 01692 630922



The roomy Phoenix 21 under way on Lake Windermere

New battery chargers from Brimbelow

Brimbelow Engineering have launched a new range of 24, 48 and 72v switch mode battery chargers. These compact 3.5kgs chargers are fully automatic and will maintain a fully charged pack in float mode as long as it is plugged in. All models can be used with any supply voltage from 180v to 270v AC.

Details: Brimbelow Engineering

Tel: 01692 582707

Fax: 01692 580036



Changes at Brass Knocker Bottom

Tim Wheeldon brings us news of developments from the Bath & Dundas Canal Co. Base at Brass Knocker Bottom on the Kennet & Avon Canal. The quiet hum of electric boats is a familiar tune here with a considerable fleet of self drive electric boats available for hire, from two 13ft motor boats with electric outboards, three STELCO Mystics, a steel mini narrowboat and (for the present) the skippered boat *Patricia II*. The latter vessel is now up for sale (see advertisement pages) and Tim is looking for another Mystic. The current Mystics in the fleet have proved extremely tough and reliable and have stood up to the heavy demands of day hiring for 11 years.

Details: The Bath & Dundas Canal Co.

Tel: 01225 722292



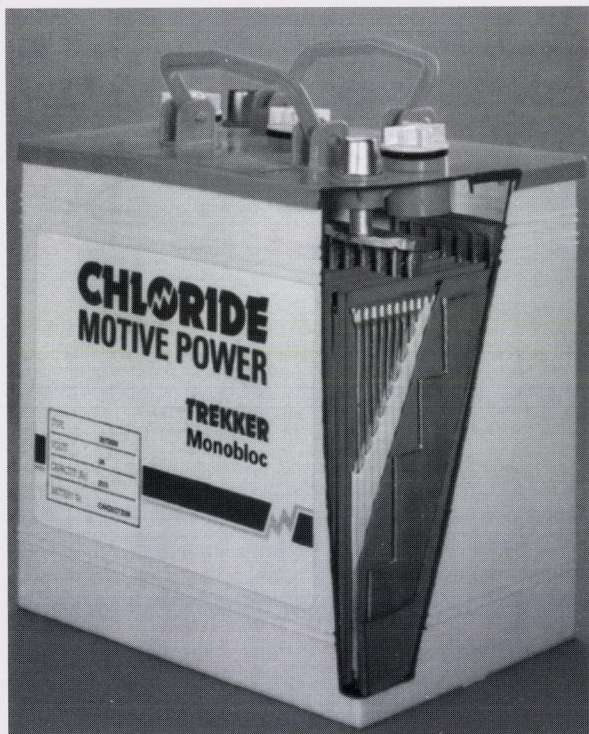
The Bath & Dundas electric fleet gathered together at their base where the Somersetshire Coal Canal joins the Kennet & Avon



An increase in capacity and extra running time from Chloride

Chloride Motive Power have launched a new battery, the 3ET200 Trekker Monobloc which offers a 14% increase in capacity and 20% extra running time. The new battery is the same size as its predecessor, the 3 ET175 (269mm x 181mm x 261mm).

*Details: Chloride Motive Power, Central Sales Office.
Tel: 01204 64111 Fax: 01204 62981*



An all-electric Treasure Hunt

A new idea developed by Rivertime is the water based treasure hunt, using Frolic electric boats. During 1998 Rivertime were called upon to provide 10 Frolics for one such event.

*Details: Rivertime
Tel: 01628 530600
Fax: 01628 810550*



Ten electric Frolics brought together by Rivertime for a water borne treasure hunt

Curtis charge ahead

Following the launch of the Curtis STC range of battery chargers earlier in 1998, Curtis Instruments has now launched two further ranges of battery chargers, the Primo and the Tempo. The chargers are being manufactured to a Curtis specification by a leading European manufacturer, PBM. The Primo is a top of the range unit while the Tempo is designed as a compact and economical unit, with prices starting as low as £200.

*Details: Curtis Instruments (UK) Ltd
Tel: 01604 629755*

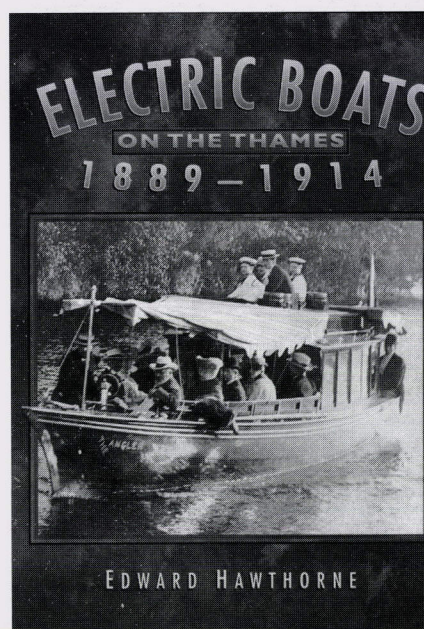
New and improved Derby Boat for 1999

Bright Ideas International report improvements to the Derby Boat for 1999, including a more rigid engine mounting panel and a propeller guard to protect against accidental damage.

*Details: Bright Ideas International
Tel: 01722 330336
Fax: 01722 328333*



The Derby Boat



A last minute stocking filler from our Vice-President (details: see page 17 in advertising.

The Electric presence at the Big Blue London Boat Show

If you are planning a visit to the 45th London International Boat Show here is a guide to the electric presence at this popular annual event. This year, in an effort to improve the public image and profile of boating, National Boat Shows Ltd have rebranded their shows with the name 'Big Blue'. The Warwick Hall will house 'The Big Blue' experience, with entry level boats, holidays watersports simulators, a stage area with chat shows, talks, music, film shows and clothing demonstrations, a cafe bar and helpful jargon-free boating advice.



The Oyster 14



LONDON BOAT SHOW

8-17 JANUARY 99

London International Boat Show

Earls Court

*Preview day 7th January ***

8th-17th January 1999

10 am-7.00 pm

(except for late opening 14th January until 9.30pm and 17th January when doors close at 6pm)

Adults: £10.50

Advance adult tickets £9 (from 0121 767 4600 until 4th January 1999)

Accompanied children Free (two per paying adult)

Unaccompanied children: £7.50

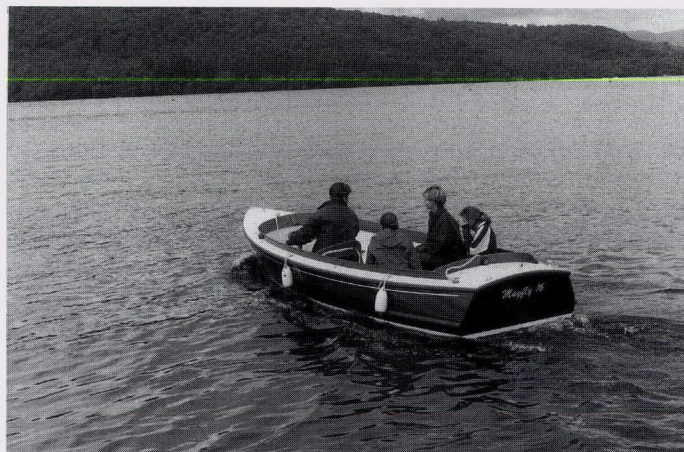
Senior Citizens: £7.50

*** Preview day: £14 - in advance only*

Bossoms Boatyard

Stand 85bn

Bossoms will be showing for the first time their *Oyster 14*, based on the tried and tested *Oyster 16*. Special attention has been given to the hull shape, deck profile and internal layout of this attractive little launch. The options include diesel or electric power with electric being the option on show at Earls Court. The floor of the boat is completely flat with the power unit neatly installed underneath.



The Mayfly 16 afloat on Windermere in June 1998



Details: Bossoms Boatyard

Tel: 01865 247780

Fax: 01865 244163

Creative Marine

Stand 82C

Creative Marine will be showing two electric boats: the *Mayfly 16* (illustrated) and the 21ft *Moth* (formerly the *Frolic 21*)

Tel: 01692 407843

Fischer Panda UK Ltd

Stand 232c

Fischer Panda will be promoting their extensive range of generators.

Details: Fischer Panda UK Ltd

Tel: 01202 820840

Fax: 01202 828688

Nauticalia

Stand 274c

Although the main emphasis at the show will be Nauticalia's extensive range of nautical novelties and equipment, details can also be obtained about their associated range of boats and electric outboards on offer from Nauticalia Boats.

Details: Nauticalia Boats

Tel: 01932 254844

Fax: 01932 254775

STELCO (UK) Ltd

Hall 2, Stand 36G

in association with Walton Marine

STELCO (UK) Ltd will be showing a Renaissance 31, Capriole 850 and an electric Capriole 700 Elegance (the first to be exhibited in the UK with shunt propulsion supplied by Rupert Latham).

Details: STELCO (UK) Ltd

Tel: 01603 435516

Fax: 01603 700214

Val Wyatt Marine Sales

Stand 59d

Val Wyatt will not be showing any electrically powered boats. However, they will continue to market the Haines 29 and 31 Sedan, the Sheerline 740, as well as boats from the Creative Marine and the Falcon/STELCO stable.

Details: Val Wyatt Marine Sales

Tel: 0118 940 3211/3836

Fax: 0118 940 2140

Watershed Yachts & Launches

Stand 82f

Watershed build a wide range of launches, including a number with potential for electric propulsion.

Details: Watershed Yachts & launches

Tel: 01621 858407

Fax: 01621 851178

The Stelco UK Capriole 700 Elegance



HOME NEWS

Bourne End Day Centre goes solar

Edward Hawthorne, Vice-President of the EBA and his wife Dinnie hosted a garden party in August for senior citizens from the Bourne End Day Centre. The highlight of the event, held in August at their riverside home in Bourne End was the arrival of the solar-powered boat *Collinda*, brought up-river by Malcolm Moss. The boat was then used to take the senior citizens for trips on the Thames.



EASY DOES IT: Senior citizens from the Bourne End Day Centre enjoy a trip on the solar powered boat Collinda

Evolution on the Broads — 200 miles cruising without plugging in

In September Brimbelow Engineering set out to prove the viability of running a comfortable 4-berth electric cruiser on the Norfolk Broads. They used *Evolution*, their Haines 29ft luxury cruiser on the Broads for over 200 miles without plugging in to the national grid. *Evolution* is used by Brimbelow as a test bed vessel and on this occasion, a Fischer Panda 6kw DC generator was installed to provide an economical on-board method of recharging the batteries:

17th September: 33 miles Leaving Wayford bridge, *Evolution* headed for St Olaves on the Waveney. Passing through Yarmouth and on to Breydon Water the ebb tide was still flowing at 2-3 knots and the log showed a speed through the water of 4.5 knots.

18th September: 55.5 miles Cruised under St Olaves bridge and back to Upton Dyke.

19th September: 11 miles Journey from Upton to South Walsham for the *Silent Sensations* event. Gave trips to 70 visitors on South Walsham Broad.

21st September: 30 miles South Walsham to Wroxham, Potter Heigham and Stokesby

22nd September: 29 miles Stokesby to Brundall.

At this point the generator was run for 16 hours, using 33 litres of diesel. For the remainder of the week, *Evolution* was used in Norwich for a presentation to the Broads Authority and for various demonstrations on the river between Brundall and Norwich, bringing the total mileage covered to a total of 200 miles with only one recharge, via the generator.

The generator developed sufficient power to propel the boat at cruising speeds and at the same time recharging the batteries.

If EBA members would like to try the *Evolution* experience, the boat is available for limited hire from Brimbelow during 1999.



Evolution had to punch the ebb tide sluicing out of Breydon Water, under the new bridge at Great Yarmouth

INSET Evolution under way on Breydon Water

Climate change is the greatest challenge of human history

Rt Hon Michael Meacher, Environment Minister at the Earth Summit, November 1998

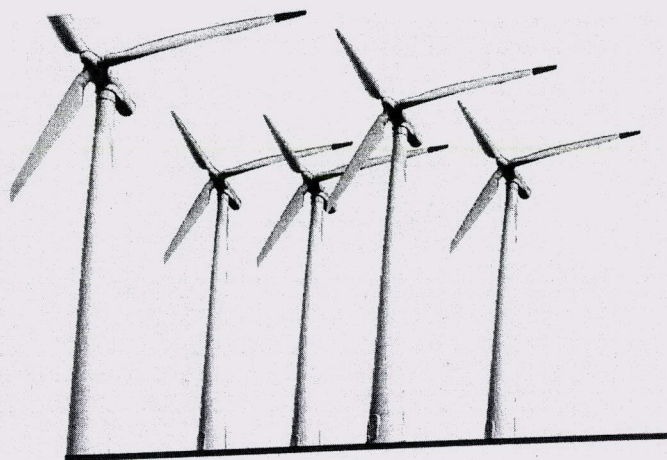
Former EBA Chairman, Gillian Nahum was invited to the opening of the Oxford Millennium Debate Energy Week at Oxford Brookes University on the 12th November. The debate concentrated on the issues raised by the quotation from Michael Meacher, issues which electric boating seeks to address by offering a more environmentally friendly alternative.



If EBA members wish to participate in the Millennium Energy Debate, comments are welcome by email at debate.2000@virgin.net

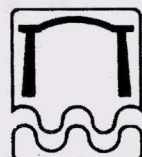
There is also a regularly updated website at www.millennium-debate.org

THE OXFORD ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT FESTIVAL



STELCO developments at Benson

STELCO UK are to re-commence their operation at Benson Cruiser Station in early January. Ben will be moving from Swancraft at Wargrave to Benson and will be operating up to 8 electric launches, including the new ECO picnic boat (details to follow in subsequent issues). All EBA members are welcome to moor overnight or for longer periods at Benson and use the new recharging facilities. There is a shop, restaurant, campsite, launderette and slipway. Benson has several pubs and overnight accommodation is also available locally.



The River Stour Trust

An electric Christmas on the River Stour

On the 28th November Father Christmas visited the River Stour aboard the electric launch *Rosette*. In his sack was a gift of £1443 from the Civic Trust which will pay for the landscaping at the recently rebuilt Great Cornard Lock.

Further information on the variety of electric launches and other attractions run by the River Stour Trust can be obtained from Lesley Ford on 01206 825002.

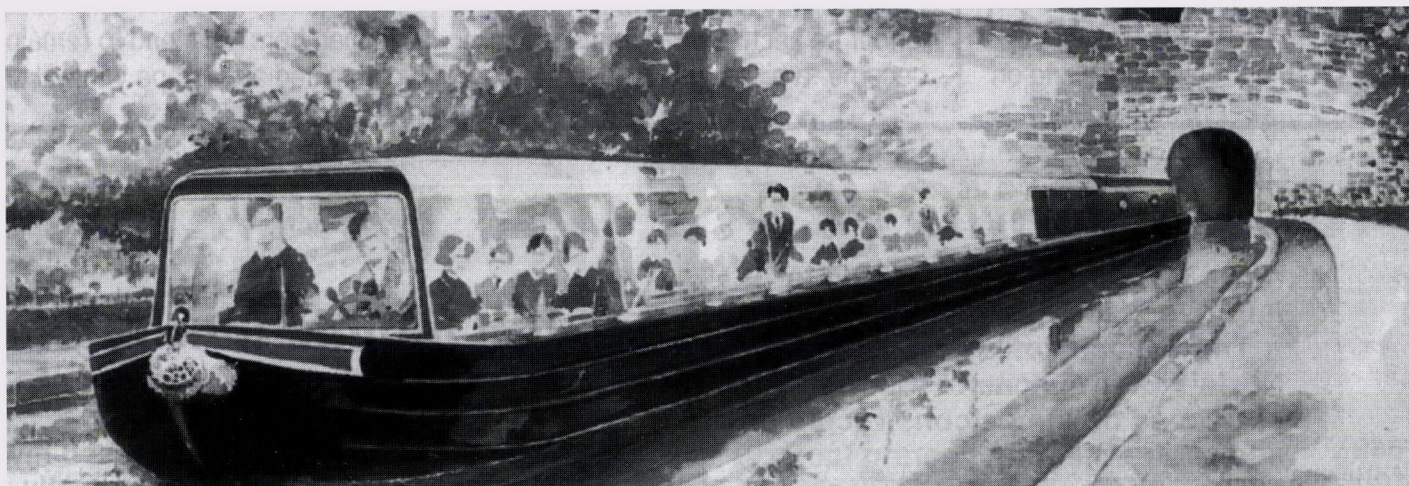
Adventure on the Lancaster



After the Windermere event in June, Peter Morgan of Adventure Cruisers on the Lancaster Canal was stimulated to run a Minn Kota outboard powered 15ft Virgo launch for hourly hire. This was a great success for the remainder of the season. (Peter has a Phoenix 21 on order for the 1999 season — see New Products and Projects).

Standedge Tunnel to have electric trip boats

The major £31million restoration of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal will involve the reopening of the famous Standedge Tunnel which is both the highest and longest narrow canal tunnel in the UK. British Waterways have invited tenders for the tunnel project which is estimated at £5million. Because of the limited space in the tunnel it is intended that passenger carrying glass-topped electric boats will be used as part of the *Standedge Experience*. These boats will also be used to tow visiting narrowboats through the tunnel.



An artists impression of the glass-topped electric narrowboats to be used at Standedge.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Much of this news is abstracted from International Electric Boat, Issue No. 4, Winter 1998 indicated by the initials IEB. Further information on this publication can be obtained from Kevin Desmond, founding editor of Electric Boat News, based in Bordeaux, France: Tel ++33 556 68 34 12 and e-mail: desmond.writer@wanadoo.fr

Association des Vehicules Electriques Routieres Europeens (AVERE)

Following international meetings hosted by the AVERE in Geneva, Bordeaux and Venice, the Association has launched a *Casebook of Electric Waterbuses*. It gives detailed specifications of 58 vessels of between 8 and 200 passenger capacity, operating in Germany, England, Holland, France, Switzerland, Italy and Australia. One of the important messages is an encouraging 40% reduction in fuel and maintenance costs for an electrically propelled vessel.

The Casebook can be obtained at 60BEF from Frederic Vergels, AVERE, c/o VUB-TW-ETEC, Avenue de la Plaine 2, B-1050 Bruxelles IEB

France

First Electric Boat Show and Offshore cruise

The first French Electric Boat Show took place during the Grand Pavois at La Rochelle in September. The boat show gathered eight participants with six from France, one joint entry from France-Austria and a sailing boat with a 2kw SOL-Z electric motor. A demonstration of electric boats took place on Saturday 12th September but had to be cancelled on the 13th because of a huge storm. All of the participants received a commemorative medal. Unfortunately, Peter Scholl from Switzerland and Eric Matteri from Italy were unable to attend and where were our English friends?

The Electric Sea Boat Challenge eventually took place during a window of good weather on the 17th. The 10.5m electric launch *Egretta* left Port des Minimes at 10.03 with a crew of three - Christian Bouvet, Michel Rabaland and Roland Sudre. The historic voyage involved an offshore voyage of 24.5 nautical miles via Fort Boyard. The journey was completed in 3hrs 16mins - an average of 7.3 knots. *Egretta* is owned by the AFBE (the French Electric Boat Association) and she can carry up to 16 passengers.

The organising team is now proposing a second event next September, also during the Grand Pavois in La

Rochelle. Competitors from Australia are expected and the offshore races will include the 24 mile course and a shorter 10 mile route for smaller boats.

Michel Rabaland, EBA member writing from La Rochelle (Editors comment: It is unfortunate that with our extremely busy 1998 programme, the British EBA was unable to take up this challenge or be represented at this event - hopefully we can participate in 1999 — and Michel — how about some photos of the 1998 event?)

Netherlands

The Dutch Electric Boat Association De Stichting Electrisc Varen is flourishing with over 400 supporters and an estimated 1500 electric boats in the Netherlands. Five per cent of this total use solar power and almost half of the total (700) are available for hire. IEB

Russia

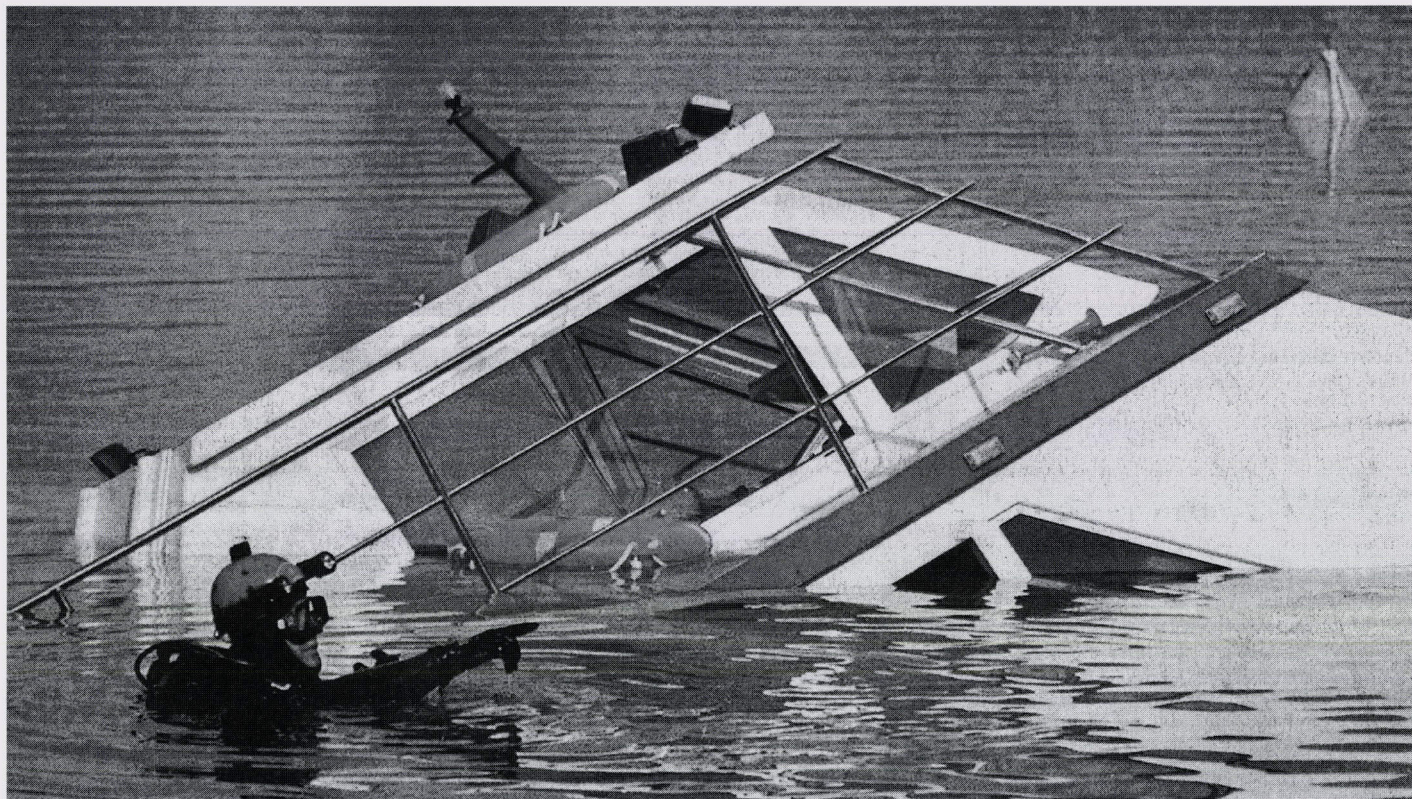
News has arrived from Russia with details of a factory building electric outboards. A joint-stock company, Pskovsky Electromashinostroitelny Zavod (Pskov Electric Machine Building Plant). Pskov is to the South West of St Petersburg and East of Estonia, beside the freshwater lake of Peipus. The factory produces DC electric motors from 0.1kW to 30kW and AC electric motors from 0.37kW to 5.5kW for a wide range of applications.

A small electric outboard was first produced because of the interest from lake fishermen and they now produce 100 Snetock outboards per month with capacity to raise production to 500 a month. The Snetock is in regular use on many Russian lakes and rivers as well as Finland, Sweden, Italy, Holland, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria and France.

The Genmar company, based near Nice in southern France has recently imported 30 Snetock outboards and sold them to private customers at a price of 1000ff. IEB

Spain

A tragedy reported world-wide was the sinking of a tourist boat on Lake Bayoles in North Eastern Spain in October with the sad loss of 20 elderly passengers. The pleasure boat *Oca* was licensed to carry 80 people but at the time of the sinking she was heavily overloaded with 141 French holidaymakers on board. Within minutes of departure, the boat started to list and take on water. She sank in 27ft of water just 90ft from the shore. The significance for EB



The pleasure boat Oca sunk on Lake Bayoles

News is that the new vessel was electrically powered and this was not a factor in the sinking.

national Press

U.S.A.

The Morton Ray Electrocat Pontoon Boat

Hilary and Derek Chamberlain report from a recent visit to Florida when they took up an invitation from Morton Ray to see his new Electrocat pontoon boat, powered by Morton Ray electric outboard motors. The visit started with an inspection of the factory at Cape Coral where new hulls were being built, with the batteries installed in the individual hulls, eight per side. From the factory, a visit was then made to Morton's waterside home where a finished version of the four berth pontoon boat was moored. *Derek Chamberlain*

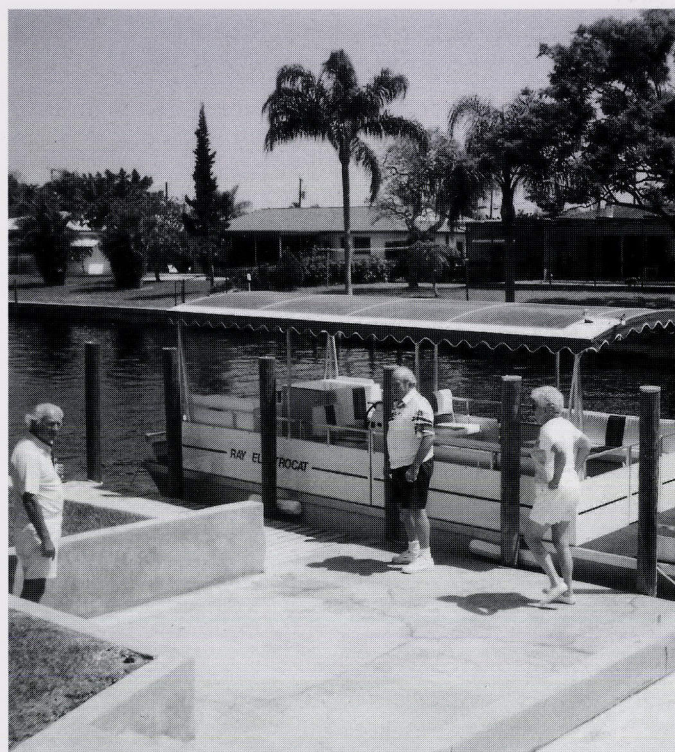
EBAA Annual Meeting and Electric Boat Regatta

The Electric Boat Association of the Americas held their Annual Meeting and electric boat regatta on the 3rd and 4th October. The regatta event was held at Lake Carnegie, Princeton New Jersey over a 2km measured course. *EBAA*

Electric Boat Buyer's Guide

The *EBAA Electric Boat Journal* (Issue 3, Vol 7) included an annual buyer's guide with lists of 13 boat builders, 2 sources of plans for electric boats, 3 companies offering

retro-fits, 13 suppliers of electric motors and components, 2 entries for solar and wind power devices, 8 battery and 4 speed controller suppliers and 12 power system retailers. The balance of the guide is a list of materials suppliers etc — of wider general interest *EBAA*



Derek Chamberlain (left) visiting Morton Ray's home to inspect the Electrocat pontoon boat.

Preview for next issue



Kenmure, a 28ft gaff rigged yacht: the story of this first electric powered yacht on the Norfolk Broads will appear in the Spring edition of *Electric Boat News*

International Calendar 1999

(further details of these events will be included in the Spring Edition of Electric Boat News)

February 27th (to March 7th)	HISWA, Amsterdam
May 1st	BAYER Solar Boat Race Canberra, Australia
May 8th	Berlin Electric Boat Event
June 25th - 27th	Ulm Electric Boat Event
July 1st - 4th	Wilhelmshaven Electric Boat Event
July 12th - 17th	Defi Solaire de Haute Normandie
August 14th-15th	Bateaux Solaires, Neuchatel
September	Electric Boat event La Rochelle
September 10th-12th	Dillingen



Skipped trip boat Patricia II on the Kennet & Avon Canal

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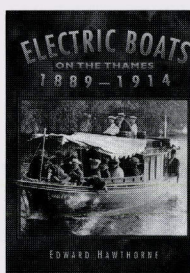
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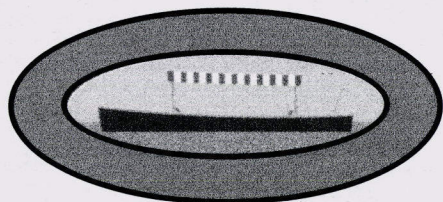
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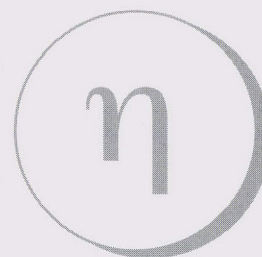
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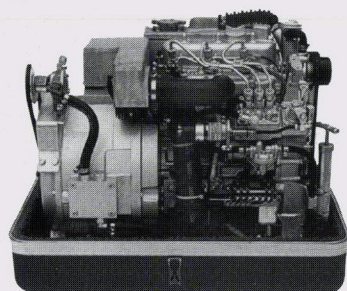
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Camelot yacht on the Norfolk Broads.



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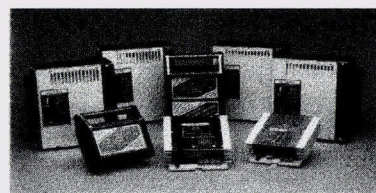
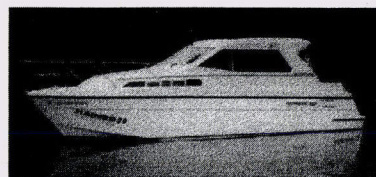
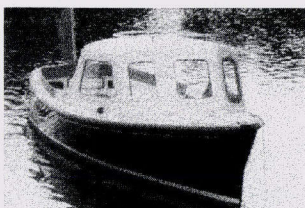
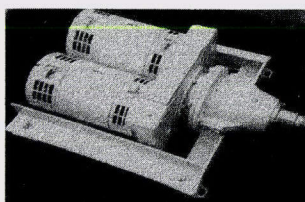
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