

Stop Press!!!! - Where will the CMSS be in the next 10 years?

The tragic answer to that question is – probably non-existent! The Committee is becoming increasingly concerned at dwindling Membership, new Members not continuing and lack of involvement in the Societies activities.

Members will have received an email from the incoming Committee seeking some answers and putting forward some suggestions. I quote:

“The Committee has noted with some concern the falling numbers at meetings as well as participation in the Societies events during the year. In an attempt to improve this situation the Committee requests your input as to what would make member’s involvement more attractive to them.”

The request is then made for Members to step forward and make some suggestions based on some ideas put forward.

Although the email is addressed to Members, the Newsletter is available for all to see and so, as the outgoing President, I welcome the opportunity to put some thoughts on paper and again urge all readers to have some input into our future.

The opinion of many who see our work seems to be “I could never do that, I don’t have the skill or patience” as they gaze upon miles of rigging and other fancy stuff. Let’s try and demystify that a bit. Take a look at this clause in the CMSS Constitution:

“The objectives of the Society shall be to foster and maintain interest in building and constructing scale model ships, boats and associated fittings, gear, equipment, armaments and relevant items and structures and the pursuit of excellence in this field.”

There are some points here worth noting:

- Nowhere is it said what type of ships should be built or whether they are kits or scratch built or part of both. Therefore, a “Victory” or an “Endeavour” need not be your first model, indeed you may not be at all interested in period ships or sailing ships. My penchant is for merchant ships for which regrettably there are seemingly no kits available. This of course leaves you free to choose and research your own choice of subject. Construction materials can be as varied as your imagination will allow, from wood to plastic sheets etc.

I should note here that there are in fact a number of good plastic kits on the market, and, no, you will not be burnt at the stake if you build in plastic!

- Take a good look at the part of the Constitution which says **“and the pursuit of excellence in this field.”** There is nothing in that statement that suggest you must be a master model builder- it only requires you to be in “pursuit of excellence”. Some of us run faster than others this is true, however one of the distinct advantages of Membership is the vast range of skills available to unlock some of the mysteries you perceive exist but which are not really mysterious. The solution can be simpler than you think.

The only prerequisite for model making of any description is the desire to want to do it.

So, please provide your feedback and suggestions, Members and non-Members alike. The Society has provided much pleasure and enjoyment to its Members since 1988, it would be an immense shame to lose all that for the sake of some interest.

Time to get heads out of I pads and do something constructive!!!!

**Bob Evans
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