

“Canterbury-J Chin-Wag”

Canterbury J-Class Owners Association (CJCOA)

7 April 2020 Day 13 of lockdown

Hi Members,

Roy Bickerstaffe writes: “If anyone is worried, I check the Victoria Lake Boat Shed every day on my daily walks. All is well. Always a few overseas visitors and ducks round the Lake.” Roy



Do you recognise this place?

Answer: It is the Timaru Engineer’s Pond where some southern members sail.



Leon Blewett suggests that you have a look see at this website:

<http://www.allradiosailboats.com/all>. He says: “It is run by a chap called Thomas Armstrong who wanted us to send 4 hulls to Santiago de Chile. Unfortunately, the price to get them there was a bit too much and it fell through, but we made a contact. He runs a website that keeps records various RC model yachts and if you look here you will see what he has.”

With the help of Thomas we have just updated his info. If you go to the above website, (slow loading but you can see the scale of what the site is about), click on **classes**

click on the J insignia and it will open a page and show J1,

click on the picture of J1 and it opens with other photos and some of the Canterbury J detail.

Best of all if you scroll down to REFERENCE / Vendors, anyone who clicks on the [Canterbury J Class Owners Association](#) will be directed to our website.

Leon goes on to write: “Also while I’m here, Rodney deserves a huge pat on the back and thank you from all of us and our members for getting his "Chin Wag newsletter" together, the first one was brilliant and I know there are more to come.” Thanks Leon – no pressure!

Leon finishes, “Rodney's aim was to keep communicating with (and communication from) all our members while we are all physically cut off and can’t carry on with our hobby. Well done Rodney and thank you. And thank you to Vern for getting the newsletter out.” Thanks.

Leon Blewett (President CJCOA)

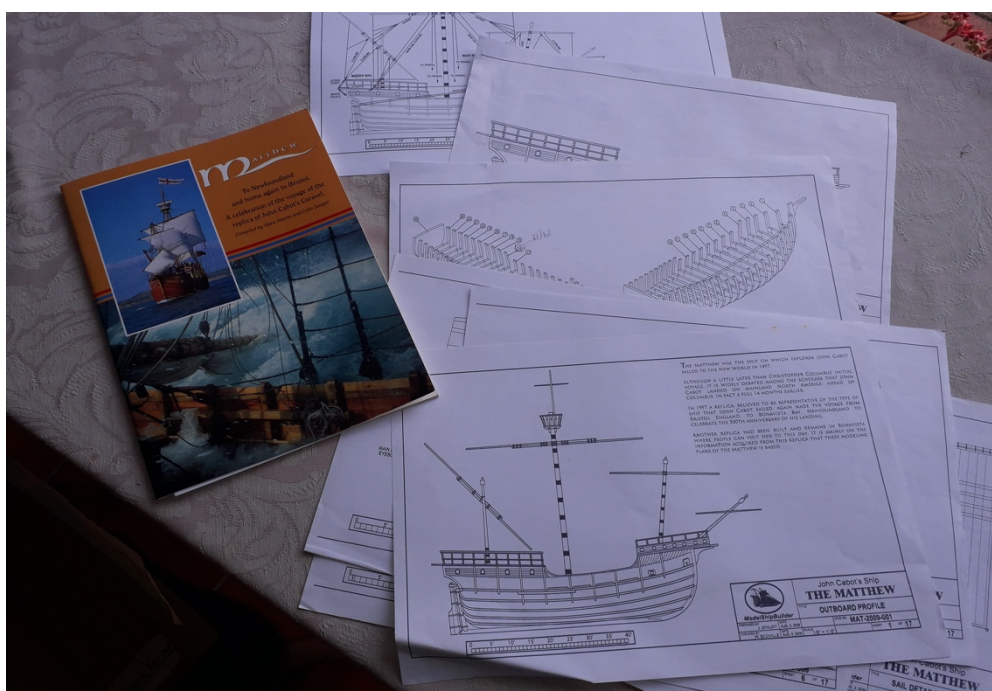
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Hugh Hobden has an epic story for us:

THE CURSE OF THE CARAVEL

Some years ago, when my daughter, Barbara, was doing post graduate work at Bristol University, she sent me a booklet on the Matthew Project. This involved the building of a replica of John Cabot's ship The Matthew, a three masted square sail ship which sailed from Bristol in 1496, across the Atlantic, and discovered Newfoundland.

There were no plans of the ship but it is based on the Caravel, common in those times.



Colin Mudie, a well-known British naval designer was commissioned to draw up plans and the project was begun in Bristol to build the replica. On completion the ship made a commemorative across a stormy Atlantic to Newfoundland in May 1997.

The booklet details the building of the replica, and it's voyages which got me interested in building a sailing model. Research on the internet found a wonderful, very detailed set of plans put out by The Model Ship Builder magazine. So, these in hand, I set to. I built upside down on formers or shadows. It seemed a pleasant enough project, that is until it came to planking the hull! Using cedar strips proved too difficult on such a small scale, so the project so it was abandoned for a while.

Some months later ... Picking up the Matthew story some months later I was inspired to have another go, this time a bigger scale version. The biggest problem again was bending the planks which I now steamed and placed in a former to retain their shape. Alas! No success with broken planks, especially around the round transom. So, another long lay-off.

Many more months later ... A year later, in a fit of boredom (or madness) I made and even larger version. This one would accommodate radio gear to sail on our



lake. It more or less worked, the planks fitted where they touched, I made the stern out of shaped blocks of balsa this time and the hull was skinned with fibre glass cloth. Just lately I've discovered a technique for bending planks using an electric soldering iron and then gently bending around the iron until the required shape is reached. It works a treat, if only a knew this earlier!

Work in progress, to be continued... Hugh Hobden.



Wow! What a ship building story. Thanks again Hugh.

I know there are lots of us who have crafted many wonderful boats – this is your chance to let us all know. Please take some photos, write a few words, find a joke, and send them to me or Vern.

We so far have contributions from: Paul Campbell, Dave Panting, Leon Blewett.
We will send these out over the next few weeks.

Happy sailing, Rodney Ford, (Canterbury-J Chin-Wag editor)
On behalf of your Canterbury J Class Owners Association. CJCOA

Joke: A very nervous first time crew member says to the skipper, “Do boats like this sink very often?” “Not too often,” replied the skipper. “Usually it’s only the once.”