

Mark Dennis – Radio Sailing

I have always enjoyed sailing and met my wife Anne at Hoo Ness Yacht Club on the Medway back in the 60's.

I gave up full size sailing around 1990 and about the same time discovered radio sailing which is using a radio controller to sail a model boat remotely. The boat has an electric winch to control the sails and a servo to control the rudder (two channels).

I started sailing a Marblehead design but the most popular class now is the 1 metre, as displayed here. It is 1 metre long and has three rigs – a top rig for light to moderate breezes, and then a smaller second and a third rig for stronger winds.



The photo shows some hairy racing at the Marblehead World Championships at Fleetwood.

Radio sailing is governed by the Model Yachting Association (MYA), which in turn is associated to the RYA

The 1 metre class is an International class recognised by ISAF, and there are ranking events throughout the year, a National Championship and international European and World championships.



The photo shows competitors gathered for the World Championships at Fleetwood.

Boys with their toys! I still enjoy this type of racing sailing. My club is Chelmsford RYC and we sail on a large lake at Blackwater Sailing Club at Heybridge.

On display is my current boat fully rigged. This boat is a Britpop and was designed by Brad Gibson who has been world champion several times. It has been a very successful design.

There are some MYA Year Books for anyone interested to take away.