

ABBA



2019

What about 'for the many'? they asked the editor.

Unlike the rules and classes of the CCC which we seem to have changed annually over its six years, those of ABBA – the Amateur Boat Building Awards, our other longer-running competition at June's Beale Park Boat Show – have been immutable for more than a decade.

Essentially, ABBA is a not-very-competitive competition for amateur boatbuilders who have built their own boats in wood. There are no limits to the type or size of boat – over the years we've had everything from a coracle to a cruising yacht – beyond the rule that you have to get her to the Show at your own expense and collect her afterwards. In return, *all* our invited ABBA entrants become honorary exhibitors for the duration, able to come and go from the grounds as they wish and they also – all of them – receive product vouchers from our generous ABBA sponsors Robbins Timber, best known for their Elite marine plywood and West System International, manufacturers of the WEST SYSTEM range of epoxies. There are three special prizes to be won but not First, Second and Third; instead we ask our judges to pick winners in three categories: The Home-Built Boat Which Offers Most Encouragement To Beginners; The Most Innovative Home-Built Boat; and The Most Professional-Looking Home-Built Boat. It's all been as cosy and congenial as that.

Except there's one other rule I've not yet mentioned here. Every time I have invited your entries in the past I have made a point of emphasizing: *ABBA is open only to genuine amateurs, not professional, semi-pro or retired boatbuilders, nor students training to enter the profession.* The reason for this stipulation is that it just doesn't seem fair for individuals or couples building in limited space with limited tools and most of all

with limited access to experienced guidance to have their efforts judged against those who had all the space they needed, proper workshop equipment, plenty of helping hands and a tame professional to prevent the inevitable mistakes.

However, when I've offered this justification it has often been countered with the response that it also doesn't seem fair that student boatbuilders do not have the opportunity to show off their skills to Beale Park visitors. It has also been said that it would be great if amateur groups building kits like the St Ayles Skiff could have their chance to shine.

So, though ABBA will go ahead in 2019 exactly as it has done in previous years, next year we will be adding another class for entries from schools, colleges – boatbuilding and further education – clubs and ad-hoc groups. This new category – currently lumbered with the acronym GRABBA! – is for amateurs and not-yet-professionals building a wooden boat together as a group, perhaps with the help of professional guidance or a pre-cut kit. As with ABBA, the boats will need to be at the Show by Thursday 30 May and collected after 5pm on Sunday 2 June. Our professional boatbuilder judges will then select just one outstanding boat to win the accolade of 'Best In Class' and a very special prize from our sponsors awarded to the winning group's institution or organisation.

Many more details next time but to compete in ABBA or GRABBA, you'll need to send us a picture or two of your boat with details of it and its builders no later than 1 May. Entries can be emailed to: abba@watercraft-magazine.com or posted to: Amateur Boat Building Awards, Water Craft, Bridge Shop, Gweek, Cornwall TR12 6UD. If you have any queries, please email or call us on: +44 (0)1326 221424.



YOU'LL BELIEVE A BOAT CAN FLY!

When we began the Cordless Canoe Challenge our aim was to entertain visitors to the Beale Park Boat Show with exciting action on the water and to demonstrate – with races between small boats driven solely by cordless workshop tools – the potential for electric propulsion afloat. Six years on, the entertainment factor is still there and the participants have taken the concept further than any of us expected: no one predicted craft under 16'5" (5m) propelled by just two 18 volt cordless drills would achieve speeds over 10mph; some well over – see W131.

There are sound reasons for these successes: the vast improvements in today's cordless power tools with their brushless motors and Li-Ion batteries; Makita's great prizes as incentives; and the considerable ingenuity of those competitors who have designed and built 'cordless boats' just for the CCC. That said, it's also clear that the bar has now been raised so high that it has become too daunting a challenge to some newcomers. What to do about it?

The Open Cordless Challenge

Well, not entirely open but we'll get to that. On the afternoon of Saturday 1st June, we return to first principles with races around a 300m triangular course for boats of any type within our usual 16'5" (5m) length limit propelled by any combination of unmodified cordless tools with no limits on battery power – see the videos on our website for earlier

in the WaterCraft Makita Cordless Canoe Challenges 2019



CCCs. And of course the overall victor wins a great Makita prize.

But here's the rub: in 2019 previous CCC prizewinners will be unable to compete in the... er... 'Open' unless they are piloting a boat completely new to the CCC. And prize-winning boats can only enter if the pilot is completely new!

The Cordless Foiling Challenge

But we could not allow the design and engineering skills of our CCC entrants to go unchallenged in 2019!

You may recall this year's straight line speed tests at Beale Park for the Cordless Blue Riband to establish our – ahem! – current World Record. You'll certainly have caught on tv the enormous sailing yachts of the America's Cup skimming over the waves on foils at somewhat faster speeds. You may even have seen videos of Human-Powered Hydrofoils lifting above the surface using pedal power alone. If the cyclists can do it...

So, on the morning of Sunday 2 June we'll be inviting allcomers to compete in the Ultimate Cordless Canoe Challenge by fitting foils to a sub-16' craft and devising a power system using only unadulterated cordless workshop tools to lift it above the surface – and fly!

We'll use the same course as the Blue Riband but we'll not be measuring your speed, we'll be calculating total time skimming above the water on the foils. Bellyflops won't count and the entry which achieves the longest aggregate time 'airborne' will win a magnificent Makita prize – and our respect.

To enter either of our CCC events at the 2019 Beale Park Boat Show, 31 May to 2 June, you'll need to send us details of your entry no later than 1 May 2019 and sooner if possible. If you have any questions in the meantime, please call us on +44 (0)1326 221424 or email:

ccc@watercraft-magazine.com