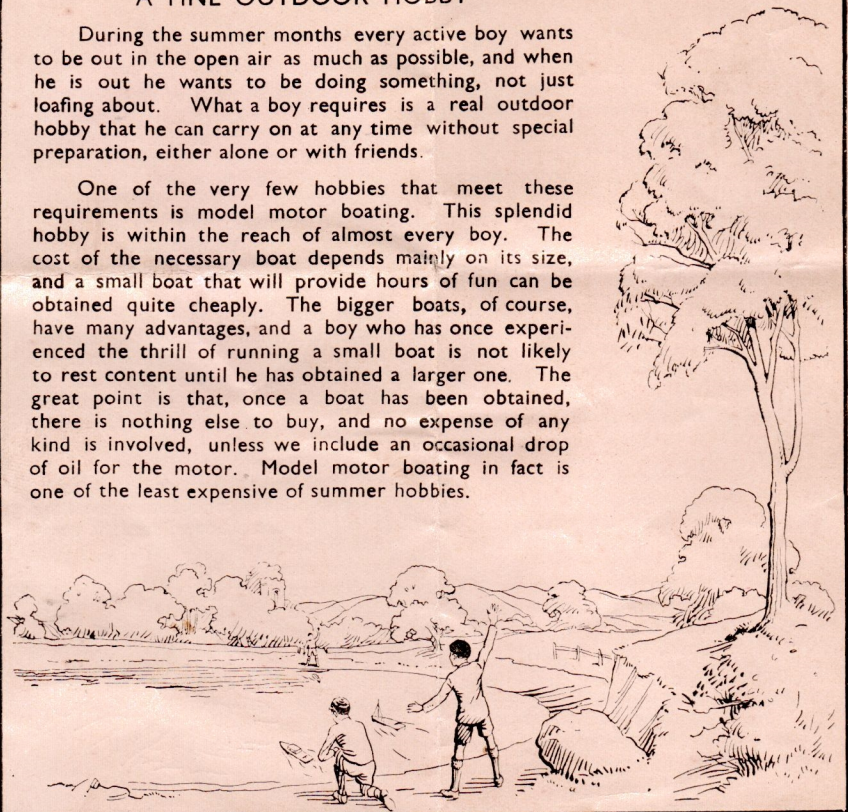


HORNBY SPEED BOATS

A FINE OUTDOOR HOBBY

During the summer months every active boy wants to be out in the open air as much as possible, and when he is out he wants to be doing something, not just loafing about. What a boy requires is a real outdoor hobby that he can carry on at any time without special preparation, either alone or with friends.

One of the very few hobbies that meet these requirements is model motor boating. This splendid hobby is within the reach of almost every boy. The cost of the necessary boat depends mainly on its size, and a small boat that will provide hours of fun can be obtained quite cheaply. The bigger boats, of course, have many advantages, and a boy who has once experienced the thrill of running a small boat is not likely to rest content until he has obtained a larger one. The great point is that, once a boat has been obtained, there is nothing else to buy, and no expense of any kind is involved, unless we include an occasional drop of oil for the motor. Model motor boating in fact is one of the least expensive of summer hobbies.





WHERE TO RUN YOUR HORNBY BOAT

Suitable stretches of water are to be found everywhere. The majority of the public parks in towns and cities have a lake of some kind, and on most of these lakes model boating is permitted. The ideal lake is a shallow one of such a size that boats can cross it comfortably with a little power in reserve. A most important point is that the water should be free from weed. Some lakes and ponds are very bad in this respect, and if possible they should be avoided, as the trouble of constantly clearing weed from the propeller robs the proceedings of much of their enjoyment.

PLENTY OF FUN

One of the best features of model motor boating is its great variety. Good fun is to be had by merely cruising the boat up and down the lake, starting it from different points, trying different settings of the rudder, and noting the effect on the boat's performance of any breeze that may be blowing. It is particularly interesting to try to find the exact rudder position that will take the boat across the lake to some specified point. On a really still day this is not difficult, but if there is a fair amount of breeze, and wavelets are careering over the surface of the water, it requires skill to make the boat reach its destination. Steering competitions arranged among friends who possess boats are particularly good fun, and they result in gaining a great deal of useful knowledge in regard to the special characteristics of one's boat.

An interesting way of playing with a model boat when no friends happen to be about consists of adjusting the rudder so that when the boat is started off it makes a long curve out into the lake and returns to the shore again some distance ahead. In the meantime its owner walks along the shore to meet his boat at the end of its trip, sets it off again with a stick on a similar curved trip, and so on round the lake.

THE THRILLS OF RACING

Racing forms an interesting and exciting alternative to steering contests. The arrangement of the races must naturally depend on the conditions prevailing, and on the number and nature of the boats taking part. Sometimes the competing boats may be fairly equal in speed, but as a rule they differ sufficiently in this respect to make some system of handicapping necessary. If the handicaps are arranged as the result of a series of short tests of the boats concerned, some really close and exciting finishes may be obtained.

All the Hornby Boats are capable of putting up a good speed performance, and for boys who wish to specialise in racing there are the Hornby Racing Boats. These fine Boats give a slightly shorter run than the standard Speed Boats, but are considerably faster.



RETRIEVING LOST BOATS

With even the best of boats and the greatest care, the situation occasionally arises of a boat stopping in the middle of a sheet of water, or at any rate too far from land to be reached by hand or with a walking stick, and the problem is how to retrieve it. A long pole can sometimes be used to reach the offending boat if this is not too far away, but a different method must be adopted for boats that are well out in the lake. The best method of rescuing a boat in such circumstances is to make use of a good length of strong cord with a lead or stone weight tied to one end. The idea is to throw the weight so that it falls just beyond the boat. The cord thus lies over the boat, which can then be hauled ashore without difficulty. A little practice is required before a cord can be used in this manner with complete success. Some boat owners take the weight with a good length of cord in the hand, and throw it as one would throw a cricket ball; others prefer to swing it round rapidly in circles, releasing it in the required direction when sufficient momentum has been obtained.



PERFECT DESIGNS OF HORNBY BOATS

In order to obtain the speed and length of run that are such characteristic features of the Hornby Boats, it has been necessary to construct them of a specially light metal of thin gauge. Care must be taken, therefore, to avoid subjecting the boats to hard knocks of any kind, otherwise they are liable to become damaged. With ordinary careful handling, however, the boats will give many years of excellent service.

The original Hornby Speed Boat, now known as the No. 3, was modelled upon a famous 45 ft. high-speed motor boat, with such success that it not only proved fast and seaworthy, but also reproduced to a remarkable degree the characteristic style of its prototype. The more recent boats of the Hornby Series have been largely modelled on the lines that proved so efficient in the No. 3 Boat. In each boat the power is derived from a clockwork motor of exceptional strength, carried by rigid bearings in the hull amidships. These motors have been specially designed to secure the greatest possible compactness, and are made easily accessible from the deck.

The No. 1 Hornby Speed Boat is the least expensive in the range. It is 9½ in. long and has a robust clockwork motor that gives it a good turn of speed either outdoors or at home in the bath. It will nose round the large end of the bath on its own account, and requires only the slightest touch to assist it round the square end.

The No. 2 Hornby Speed Boat is 12½ in. in length and 3 in. in beam. It has ample power, and is capable of a good performance on any sheet of water.

The No. 3 Hornby Speed Boat, of which mention has already been made, is 16½ in. in length and 3½ in. in beam. This splendid boat is a great favourite, and fully maintains its early popularity.

The Limousine Speed Boat No. 4 is of similar dimensions to the No. 3, but is more elaborate in construction. The main difference is that it carries a large limousine cabin, provided with seats and a steering wheel, and with celluloid windows at the front and sides and an imitation sliding companion-way door at the back. The boat has been so designed that when two screws, one forward and one aft, are removed, the entire cabin can be lifted off, so that the motor is then accessible.

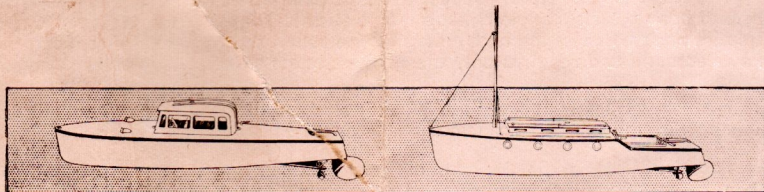
The Cabin Cruiser No. 5 is of similar size to Nos. 3 and 4, but has a much higher freeboard, and is provided with a well at the stern. The fore-deck carries the cabin top, the roof of which slides off towards the stern to give access to the motor compartment. Handrails along the cabin top, and four portholes embossed on each side of the hull, add greatly to the realistic appearance of the boat. The well is 1 in. in depth, and has coamings round its edge to prevent any small quantities of water that may lap over the cut-away portion of the hull from flowing into the well. Forward of the cabin is fitted a mast socket supporting a short mast held by three stays. Many cabin motor cruisers are fitted with a mast of this type to carry a small sail for use in case of engine trouble, to ease the engine by taking advantage of a favourable wind, or to steady the boat in bad weather. The mast serves also to carry a navigation light.

THE HORNBY RACING BOATS

Finally we come to the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 Hornby Racing Boats. These are considerably faster than the corresponding standard Speed Boats, and are therefore specially suitable for racing. They are "quick off the mark," and they maintain a high rate of speed throughout the whole length of their run. In spite of their speed they steer well—a very important feature in any racing boat—and they are very steady in the water. A special feature of the No. 3 Racing Boat is a second cockpit fitted with a dummy steering wheel.

All Hornby Boats are beautifully finished, and are obtainable in pleasing colour combinations that give them an exceedingly attractive appearance.

**Hornby Speed Boats and Racing Boats are manufactured by
MECCANO LTD. - BINNS ROAD - LIVERPOOL 13**



The Hornby Limousine Boat and Cabin Cruiser