

# “Cachalot” Fast Electric Speedboat

Built by Mike Roberts



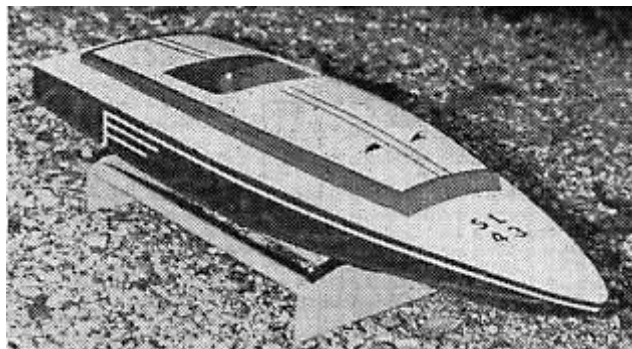
I first built Cachalot (I still can't understand why there wasn't a "t" in the name) in 1965 when the plans and construction details were published in the Model Boats Magazine.

Well, in those days when money was a very rare possession, if you wanted anything, you had to swap something for it and that was Cachalot gone. This was my first big mistake in life and from that day I've regretted having parted with it. It didn't have the "all-singing all-dancing" accessories that are available nowadays but servos made from "Meccano" and "Mighty Midget" motors and rudders made from old tin cans. It was originally designed to take a 3.5cc IC water-cooled engine but, of course, I thought this would be too under-powered, so I used a 6cc engine which bordered on the ridiculous. It was controlled by a reed-operated radio control system by a company called ED, had two switches which controlled speed and direction (sometimes) and was housed in a case slightly smaller than a suitcase. Having said all that, it was still a head-turner at various regattas which made me a very proud young man at the time.

Over 35 years later in 2001, I had the idea of making Cachalot again, so I put pen to paper and wrote to the Model Boats Magazine asking if they remembered the article and could they help. To my amazement, a couple of weeks later, I received in the post, photo copies of not only the article but the plans as well. The next day, work began and it wasn't too long before Cachalot 2 emerged in her brand new livery. The one thing about Cachalot is that it can be of any scale you choose. The original was a two seater sports boat of about 1:20 scale but the new version is more of a Cowes to Torbay offshore power boat with a scale of 1: 40. This is purely down to the design of the deck.

Gone are the days of IC engines, as very few club waters will accept them nowadays, but enter the new brushless motors, LiPo batteries, digital servos and 2.4 GHz radio control sets and you have a new breed of power boats altogether.

Having said that, I still miss my old Cachalot with its tin rudder and Mighty Midget home brew servos.



R.I.P.