

# A Pneumatic Sail System

It was through Gordon's enthusiasm and interest in aeromodelling that a Club was formed in the School. His advice and experience has been of great value to the Club members.

When the GEC Schools Design Prize was brought to Gordon's attention, he had already been discussing his idea with me at our Monday Night Aeromodel Club, where he brought along drawings and sketches of his project. By this time he had built and tested his Pneumatic Sail System on a model catamaran and this, he assured me with my limited knowledge of sailing, worked very well.

So we decided to enter and set about fulfilling the conditions of the prize. This consisted of making drawings and sketches of the various features of the sail, its uses and application. A mock up model yacht was built and photographed from start to finish showing the materials and tools used, but much to our disappointment, the film had got light in during development.

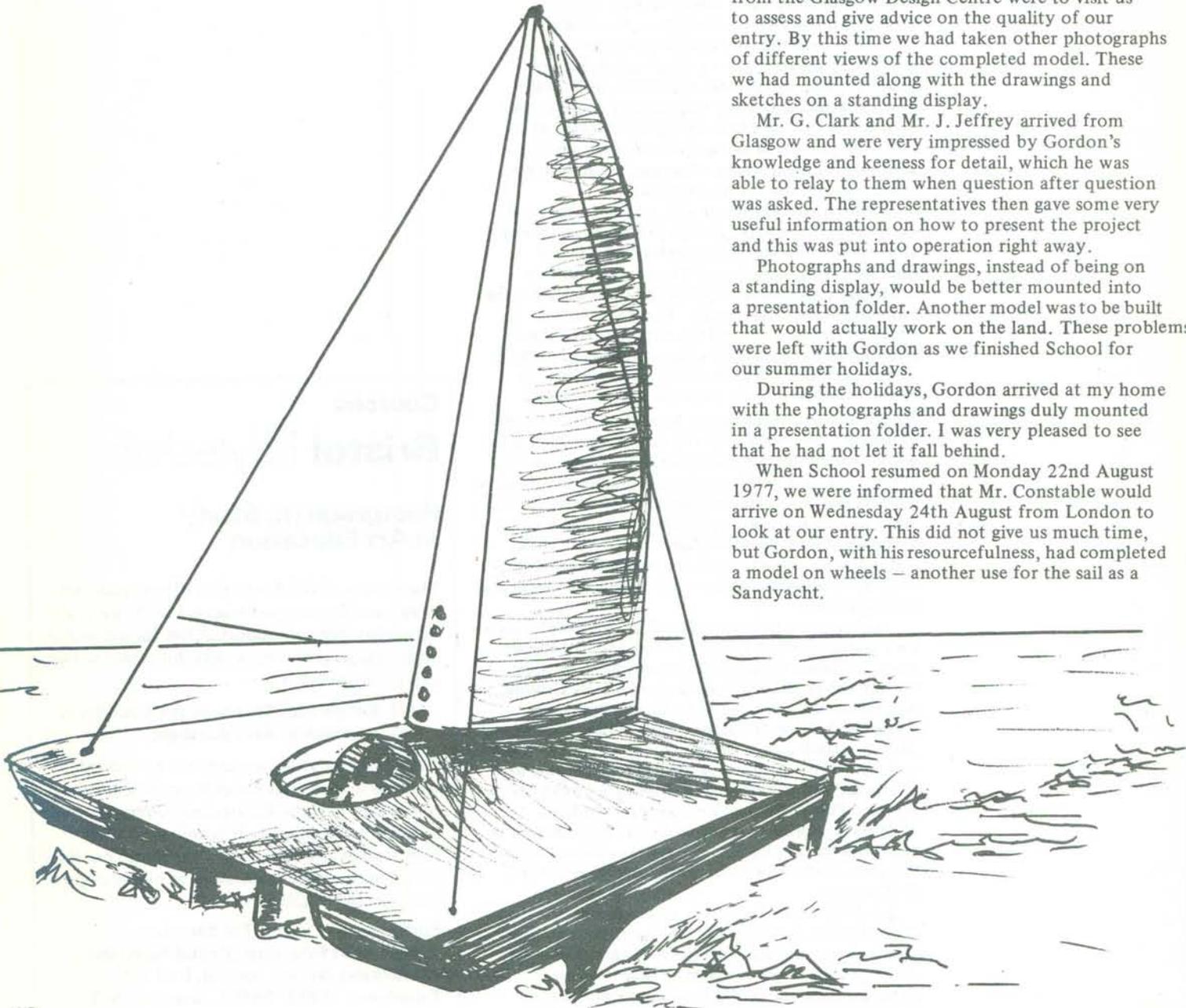
We were informed that two representatives from the Glasgow Design Centre were to visit us to assess and give advice on the quality of our entry. By this time we had taken other photographs of different views of the completed model. These we had mounted along with the drawings and sketches on a standing display.

Mr. G. Clark and Mr. J. Jeffrey arrived from Glasgow and were very impressed by Gordon's knowledge and keenness for detail, which he was able to relay to them when question after question was asked. The representatives then gave some very useful information on how to present the project and this was put into operation right away.

Photographs and drawings, instead of being on a standing display, would be better mounted into a presentation folder. Another model was to be built that would actually work on the land. These problems were left with Gordon as we finished School for our summer holidays.

During the holidays, Gordon arrived at my home with the photographs and drawings duly mounted in a presentation folder. I was very pleased to see that he had not let it fall behind.

When School resumed on Monday 22nd August 1977, we were informed that Mr. Constable would arrive on Wednesday 24th August from London to look at our entry. This did not give us much time, but Gordon, with his resourcefulness, had completed a model on wheels – another use for the sail as a Sandyacht.



The weather on Wednesday was not as windy as we would have liked, nor was the playground surface to the yacht's advantage, being full of small holes. Nevertheless we managed to have a few successful runs and various action photographs were taken by Mr. Constable.

After Mr. Constable left to go back to London, all we could do was wait till the results were received. Eventually the results came through and we were very pleased to hear that the project was a prize-winner.

Had the project not been an Award Winner, the exercise enabled Gordon to express his imaginative idea together with his sailing experience and *this effort* made the project worthwhile.

