

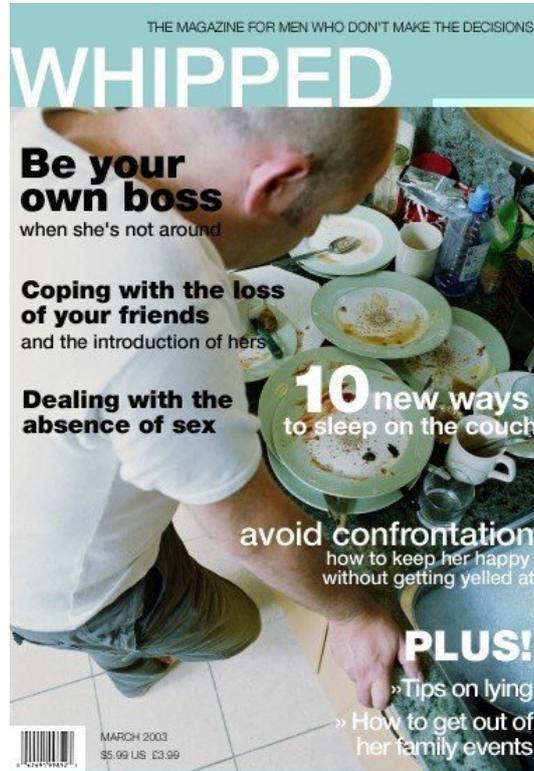


"STICKY FINGERS"

Magazine

www.sticky-fingers.org.uk

Issue 53, November 2008



and if my wife sees this - only joking!

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Peters Prattling

Next month – Christmas Quiz & Nibbles

For the newer members, the idea is that we all bring in something, either drinks (soft ones only no alcohol please) or some Christmas related nibbles, sausage rolls or mince pies etc and I'll be trying to run a quiz too.



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Alan Hall – RIP

Alan Hall passed away on 6th November at Mater Dei Hospital, Malta, at 0430hrs.

Without doubt one of the major figures in aviation publishing for as long as any of us can remember. First editor of Airfix Magazine, creator of Aviation News, Scale Aircraft Modelling (SAM), Warpaint Books.

Last Months Favourite Model

I thought last months get together with our favourite models was a really successful evening, my thanks to all those who brought something in to show.

IPMS(UK) Scale Modelworld

(or the Nationals for those over a certain age)

New Competition Category

We discussed this at the last club night and no one was interested in entering on behalf of the club.

I'll try and put together some news and reports from the show in the December issue of Sticky Fingers as this one will be printed before the show happens.

Updated Contact List

I've finally "got my finger out" and will be passing round a piece of paper for you to update your contact details so we can all keep in contact. I'll publish a new contact list as soon as possible.

Forthcoming Shows in 2009

Shows with **highlight** have been booked for us to attend. If you wish to attend any of the shows with the club stand please let me know so I can attempt to book space for the club.

One of the shows I've been asked whether we would like to attend is the London Model Engineering Exhibition at Alexandra Palace. This is a 3 day show (Friday to Sunday), I have emailed out an initial "who's interested?" and had a few positive replies. I need to confirm with the organisers by Tuesday 18th (i.e. just after the club night). Apart from ensuring we have at least 2 people per day the only other fly in the ointment will be that the display has to be setup on Thursday (up until 7pm I've been told) and after that it must stay as it is until the breakdown on Sunday afternoon. So the question is are enough people interested and can we get our display up on Thursday?

| 2009 | |
|--|---|
| 11 th January (Sunday) | Bolton IPMS Model Bonanza 2009 at St Josephs RC High School, Chorley New Road, Horwich BL6 6HW |
| 16th to 18th January (Friday to Sunday) | London Model Engineering Exhibition. Alexandra Palace. We've been asked whether we are interested |
| 1st February (Sunday) | Milton Keynes. Stantonbury Leisure Centre, MK14 6BN – assuming we get an invite I'll be saying yes to this one, hopefully we'll stay in the same location! |
| 15 th February (Sunday) | IPMS Wakefield - Huddersfield Sports Centre, Southgate, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD1 1TW |
| 28 th February & 1 st March (Saturday & Sunday) | Trucks 'n' Tracks. Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Kent |
| 14 th March (Saturday) | Peterborough Model Show |
| 14th & 15th March (Saturday & Sunday) | Southern Expo Model show – Hornchurch Sports Centre |
| 5 th April (Sunday) | Shropshire Model Show – RAF Museum Cosford |
| 19 th April (Sunday) | Hinkley Model Show |
| 18 th & 19 th April (Saturday & Sunday) | Shepton Mallet |
| 25 th & 26 th April (Saturday & Sunday) | Scottish Nationals, Perth |
| 10 th May (Sunday) | IPMS Gloucester |
| 30 th May (Saturday) | IPMS Salisbury. Wyvern College Sports Hall, Church Road, |



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| | Leverstock, Salisbury SP1 1RE |
| 31st May (Sunday) | IPMS Barnet Show at the RAF Museum Hendon – I've requested space for this one. |
| 28 th June (Sunday) | IPMS Coventry and Warwickshire |
| 2 nd or 9 th August | Automodellismo 2009 , Donnington Museum |
| 23 rd August (Sunday) | IPMS Avon |
| 5 th September (Saturday) | IPMS West Cornwall |
| 20 th September (Sunday) | IPMS Fenland. Spalding Grammar School, Priory Road, Spalding PE11 2XH Sutton Coldfield show |
| 27 th September (Sunday) | IPMS Brampton – to be confirmed |
| 7th & 8th November (Saturday & Sunday) | Scale Modelworld ("The Nationals"), International Centre, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4JH |

Peter

Robins Ruminations

It seems very strange to start writing an article a week and a half before the Nationals at Telford and remembering to write about the show in the past tense. At the moment Peter is compiling and checking lists of traders and clubs and I am still busy getting all the Southern Expo paperwork in order ready to be dished out at the Nationals. Still, such is the strange world of writing articles for Sticky Fingers.

Well the Nationals have by now, been and gone in what seems a blink of an eye. Those members that attended the show are no doubt still a little foot sore. I'm sure that Peter and I have wandered around the halls several times spending far too much money and handing out the Southern Expo booking forms to the traders and invitations to the clubs that attended the show earlier this year. I would like to thank any club members that sat on the stand and enabled us to have a wander around, whoever you were.

Where do you do your modelling? Simple enough question, but I know from chatting on club evenings that the members model in all sort of places. On modelling trays, kitchen or dining room tables, a basement and a lucky few in dedicated modelling rooms. I am now one of the lucky ones, with a work desk, all my references and modelling paraphernalia are now littered around myself, however it was a long time in coming and not without its problems.

When my Son "needed" a lager bedroom, the smaller back bedroom became "redundant" and so ten years ago my master plan for having a dedicated modelling room swung into action. However a computer desk and very large monitor was required for my Son's schoolwork and my plans were sunk yet again. I could just about model on one side of the table, but of course my Son needed to use the computer, always it seemed when I wanted to do the modelling and of course my Wife wished to use it as well, normally at the same time, more grief! When I did get to start some modelling my Wife would normally sit on the floor behind me reading or doing her cross-stitch as she said that she was bored sitting downstairs on her own. I find it hard to concentrate under those circumstances so I was no better off. So it was back to the portable modelling board on my lap downstairs, curses! Over the intervening years our family commitments changed somewhat, the spare bed and other items in my way in the back room were gradually disposed of to make way for my planned room.

However the project was suddenly brought to the fore with the total breakdown of our central heating system that required us to renew all the old style piping and radiators and boiler, which of course entailed all of the floorboards being lifted upstairs. This also necessitated new carpets, decorating and bedroom furniture and strangely enough the big old computer desk in the back bedroom "unfortunately" didn't survive the dismantling process, a tiny bit of a silver lining in a very large, very dark and very expensive cloud!

With the heating system renewed, back room painted, papered, carpeted and most importantly, empty. I helpfully suggested that I purchase a few new bookcases to clear all my books up from around the house and make it all look clean, neat and tidy. A visit to Ikea was arranged and five bookcases later, things were starting to look good,



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well at least for me anyway. The main problem was putting the computer back into my modelling room, oops, sorry, back bedroom with its associated desk, huge monitor, printer etc. Christmas came in January for me this particular year, with Tesco's selling a range of computers off relatively cheaply; the solution was two computers, one in my Sons room and one for the Wife and myself in the back bedroom saving all the arguments about who uses what when. At the same time PC World was selling desks and chairs off in the sales. By a little moving of a book case and minor surgery to one of the desks I found that two small desks could just fit in along under the window and not look untidy or be cramped, well my position is a little cramped but for me it's well worth it. The only fly in the ointment was the huge old monitor; it just would not fit on the table correctly and was very heavy on the desk, so biting the bullet, I bought a flat-screened monitor in the sales. I'll tell you, all these "cheap" things in the sales were costing me a fortune! Still the room was finally finished and over the next few months the modelling gear, books and decals all gradually migrated into their rightful places.

A bonus of having the computer on the desk next to mine is I can use it to listen to music while I'm working. Equally important I can turn the lightweight monitor and look at references from the web or on disc, which I found excellent when researching and painting the ejection seat for the Mig-17. The Wife was happy as all of my "bits" disappeared from the rest of the house and now while I'm modelling she can play FreeCell on the computer to her hearts content. It only took me about ten years, but I got there in the end!



An "Expo Moment" in the kitchen.

This will especially raise a smile for those members that will remember my Son attempting to catch a tennis ball while running with his foot stuck in a bucket of water at the end of an Expo show some years ago. Unfortunately only those present could really appreciate such a vision. Still just to prove that my Son is still the same person at heart although a foot taller and a few years older when he had another "Expo moment".

I was doing a little bit of touching up on my latest modelling project when I noticed that I had dripped a spot of paint on the front of the washing machine. My son saw this and picked up a piece of rag and the bottle of white spirit to clean the paint off. He got the lid off the bottle of white spirit and tipped it towards the rag. "Not too much Son, it's only a drip," I said. Quick as a flash he came back "I do know how to clean up a paint spill Dad, I have done it before". So using just a touch of spirit on the rag he duly wiped the spot of paint off. Unfortunately, he had forgotten that he still had the open bottle in his other hand and in leaning over to remove the paint spot the bottle was also being tipped up. You've guessed it, the floor and his feet had about a cup full of white spirit poured over them. I just couldn't stop laughing, talk about famous last words! His Mother however was less impressed with the smell in the kitchen. However in my mind, just like the Barclay Card adverts, moments like that are truly priceless.



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My Official hat is now on.

Well tonight is the final "real" competition night of the modelling year due to the change around of the clubs monthly schedule. They have been thick and fast lately but most enjoyable. Only the "modeller of the year" competition remains to be judged in January, hopefully again by our friends from the Southend model club. It only remains for me to wish all those that have entered their models tonight the best of luck.

Have you started or even given any strong consideration to the clubs themed project for display at next years Southern Expo? Just in case any of you have forgotten, it's anything Airfix.

Robin

Wrighty's Talking Point No 5

The French 5th Generation Jet Fighter

Yet again within days of setting a problem the answer or in this case a possible answer has been forthcoming in a magazine article. I refer to the possible alternative to a carrier based aircraft for the UKs projected super aircraft carriers due for delivery in 2018. In Octobers Sticky Fingers I made the point that there was no backup plan!

While I suggested maybe we should get our Indian friends to buy some Su-33 Sea Flankers off Russia for us, it seems there is a solution closer to home.

It seems the French have a 5th generation jet fighter the Rafale, (for those not aware – it is very similar in looks to our own Eurofighter Typhoon) probably that is why it is not one of our euro partners for the Typhoon. (I believe at one point they were but disagreements over the size of the fighter led to them leaving – Ed) Well a carrier version of the Rafale was developed and supplied to the French Navy, however their only carrier the "Charles de Gaulle" in mid 2007 entered a 2 year refit period, leaving the naval Rafales without a sea-going home. The French didn't waste time, they arranged for 6 of the F2.Rafales (Naval) to join the US Navy in June 2008. Crossing the Atlantic the aircraft joined the USN at NAS Oceana in Virginia. Using just a centre line tank and wing tip ordinance, the Rafale were found to just exceed the endurance of the F-18 Super Hornet equipped similarly but with US weapons etc, numerous training missions were flown in co-operation with the Hornets of VFA 31 and VFA 106 for 2 weeks.



For the final week the F2 Rafales embarked aboard the USN Theodore Roosevelt on exercises to demonstrate that French fighters could routinely and safely operate from a US carrier, each of 5 pilots had to perform 10 landings (6



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day/4 night), landing officers qualified by waving the fighters aboard, all was very successful over the 5 days spent aboard and both Navies achieved a high level of co-operation and respect for each other.

So, should we take note and step up the "entente cordiale" with France for some future involvement?

Or, maybe we can study the Rafale and due to its similarity could we produce a sea going Typhoon?

American Interest – The USAF also have an interest in the Rafale:- In July 08 4 of the 2 seat F2 Rafale of Esquadron de Chase from St. Dizier air base were deployed to Luke AFB Arizona to take part in joint training operations for 10 days. Various mixed combats, ground attack, intercepts etc were all practiced with the 56th FW. A very satisfactory outcome was achieved and served as a warm up for French participation in the August 08 Red Flag exercises.

New Generation Jets

JSF 35B



The first (F-35B Lightning III) STVOL (Short Take Off/Vertical Landing) fighter was introduced at Fort Worth in December 08. It is the first fighter to combine stealth and STVOL capabilities with supersonic speed. It is intended to replace the AV-8B Harriers and F/A-18 Hornets operated by the US Marines, and also the AV-8Bs of the Italian Navy and Harrier GR7 & 9s in service with the RAF. The STVOL F-35B differs from the conventional F-35A by provision for the STOL capacity installation, subsequently causing empty weight to increase and its fuel load to be reduced by 4500lb, this of course means that a reduction in its range, a plus point though is it will still maintain more than double the range of the Harrier. The aircraft has internal weapons bays which are smaller, but like the F-35A it has 6 hard points for external weapons stations.

Numerous test programmes for engines, instrumentation systems, flight control and mission systems are planned from 2008 to 2013 using 6 prototypes. For the UK the hope is to purchase 2 aircraft in 2009 but eventually plans are for 138, by who knows when?

It is interesting to note that the X-35 (which became the JSF F-35A) began in 2000/2001 when it proved superior to the X-32 in the JS Fighter competition has taken 7 years of development to get to the above situation where the B model now has arrived as yet no aircraft have gone into service.

Note at the time of writing the global banking crisis is at its peak who knows what there will be left in government financing to push onward with these planes?

Alan