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Peters Prattling

The Hunt For The Next Club Secretary

Don't forget that time is slipping by and at the next AGM in February 2020 we will need a new set of committee members. The treasurer role has already been taken over by Wally as Ralph had to stand down rather more urgently than he'd perhaps hoped. John Huston has thrown his hat in the ring as a potential Competition Secretary but obviously that will be up to the membership at the AGM to confirm. Any one else could put their name forward too.

Which then leaves my post of Club Secretary. Don't be afraid to ask what this entails or even between a couple of you divvy up the chores. The idea of having someone to perform the communication tasks of newsletter and website updates is not a bad one, leaving someone else as the "figurehead" to contact for club business such as new members, show bookings and the IPMS Branch return which is a requirement for the club to remain within IPMS(UK) and have space at the Scale Modelworld show.

No need to be shy, please have a chat with me about what's involved and what you could do or might be interested in.

There is 1 main requirement, namely that you are an IPMS member, however if someone comes forwards who is not and the club is willing I'm sure the finances to purchase their membership could be arranged, so don't let that be a barrier or excuse.

Also, from a Club Secretary point of view don't worry about Southern Expo this is not part of the role, Robin & I will keep the duties for this at the moment.

Essex Modellers Show

I for one thoroughly enjoyed the show this year, not that I don't normally, but this years seemed slightly busier somehow.

We had a really strong showing from the club members and a great display of some different models and subjects on the table. Indeed, Graham Hill's display of small-scale themed figures had some attention from Dave Berriman the IPMS Magazine editor who requested an article from him, he even joined IPMS. Sadly, for him that now makes him an eligible candidate for Club Secretary (a). Having said that Ian Brown was also demonstrating outstanding organisation skills too, just saying (a)

On the purchasing side I managed to find a Legend resin stowage set for the Tamiya Pink Panther Land Rover, something that seems to be almost as rare as hens teeth in the UK without having to order from the Internet, and also a non-specific Sherman stowage set which has enough stuff in it to cover at least 3 or maybe 4 kits I think. I also bought an A-9 Cruiser tank made by a new company called Gecko from Vince at "Models For Sale". It's an early war British tank and is the same series as the slightly more successful Crusader tank.



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My thanks to all those club members who helped man the stand and put something on the display and also a big thanks to Robin, Adele, Sue, Hannah and Rebecca who helped in the kitchen to serve up loads of bacon butties and cake to the masses.

Robin got his just desserts by winning what could be called the "Star Prize" in the raffle, the newly released Airfix 1/24th scale Grumman Hellcat.

I've had a provisional update from John Drummond to say we were well in profit this year and had over 140 visitors through the door. A splendid result.

September Meeting

The meeting next month is the 3rd round of our competition, we have a potential candidate for the Competition Secretary when Robin stands down so please give John Huston something to practice with.

Time to Talk Telford

It's getting close to the time for the annual trip up to Telford for Scale Modelworld, the IPMS(UK) Nationals as was.

As per usual, we will be able to claim 4 early entry wristbands for the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning for setting up the club display.

Who is going to Telford and when?

We'll also need a volunteer or maybe 2, not sure yet what duties but if it's like last year we might just be in reserve. I believe Steve Crust has put his hand up again after enjoying the experience a couple of years ago.



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Also announced for the competition by the Asian Air Arm SIG, in case you were thinking of building something that might be eligible for this entry too.

Show Coming Up

Medway Model Show - 8th September



Robin has requested tables for the Sunday and we have had confirmation that we can attend then. Did anyone want to go with him or even go on the Saturday too?

The RE Museum Prince Arthur Rd, Gillingham ME7 1UR

Saturday 7th September / Sunday 8th September

Set up on both days will be between 8:30am-9:30am

The entry door for set up shall be closed at 9:15am, after 9:30am any members of your club who arrive later will need to go to the main reception and advise they are with a club. The museum will then verify this member with either Neale, Kevin or myself before they are allowed free entry into the museum.

Set down both days is after 4:30pm

No club/display is to be dismantled prior to this time.

The public have access between 10am - 5pm both days, therefore we cannot be seen to be leaving during opening times.

The layout of the venue is slightly different this year so please see either Neale or Kim-Mary Lavender when you arrive.

Car parking is more limited this year due to the hotel being knocked down, therefore 2x passes are provided per club, please do try to car share wherever possible. These passes need to be displayed in your Windows with the details filled in



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Cars can offload by the club entry door at the side, but then please move your vehicle over to the road/parking area next to the bridge study building. Please utilise all space here, the main car park has to be available for the public and is a term specified by the museum in our terms of use.

Please note once your vehicle is in it will be very difficult for it to leave before set down time. If there is an emergency then we shall endeavour to get you access, hence why we need the passes to be displayed with details.

Tea and coffee refreshments shall be provided by Medway Model Club for a donation in a clearly signposted room. This is also the same room where all food and drink is to be consumed. No food and drinks are allowed in the museum display areas.

The museum has also stipulated only polystyrene glue (standard safety approved product's Humbrol Revell etc) is to used if demo making models as part of the club display. No spraying, airbrushing or other chemicals are permitted. This will be enforced by us & the museum due to an issue last year.

There will be a competition on the Sunday, all models represented on this day throughout the show shall be entered with the allocation of a raffle ticket number to be placed next to your model. This process is because we have a public vote entry and the public need to clearly see the numbers for the model they like. These shall be passed out in the morning, should you wish to not enter please let us know as we come round.

Forthcoming Shows in 2019/2020

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.

| 2019 | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 31st (Saturday) | Aberdeen , DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Aberdeen Treetops, 161 Springfield Rd, Aberdeen, AB15 7AQ |
| September 1st (Sunday) | East Riding, Driffield Showground Kelleythorpe, Driffield, Yorkshire YO25 9DN |
| September 7 th & 8 th (Saturday & Sunday) | IPMS Medway, RE Museum, Gillingham, Kent – booked for Saturday 7th only at present |
| September 8 th (Sunday) | Chiltern Model Show, The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 8JH IPMS Wombourne, Wombourne Library, Church Road, Wolverhampton, WV5 9EZ |
| September 14 th (Saturday) | IPMS Farnborough, Kings International College, Watchetts Drive, Camberley, GU15 2PQ |
| September 21st (Saturday) | West Cornwall, St John's Hall, Elverton Road, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 |
| September 22 nd (Sunday) | Wings & Things, University Academy Holbeach, Park Road Holbeach, PE12 7PU Keighley Plastic Model Show, University Academy Keighley, Greenhead Road, Keighley, BD20 6EB |
| September 28th (Saturday) | South West Model Show, The Tank Museum, Bovington Wool, Dorset, BH20 6JG Scale Scotland, BT Murrayfield Stadium, Roseburn Street, Edinburgh, EH12 5PJ |
| September 29th (Sunday) | Brampton, Burgess Civic Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6WU |
| October 5 th (Saturday) | Abingdon Model Show, Larkmead School, Abingdon, OX14 1BB |
| November 9 th & 10 th (Saturday & Sunday) | Scale Modelworld 2019, Telford International Centre Telford, Shropshire TF3 4JH |
| 2020 | |
| January 17 th – 19 th (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) | London Engineering Model Show, Alexandra Palace |
| March 28 th & 29 th (Saturday & Sunday) | Southern Expo 2020 |

Peter



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Robins Ruminations

Well here we are again, another article, another Sticky Fingers, where is the time going? More the point, where the hell has the summer gone? Other than one week of sunshine and heat the weather has been, "indifferent" to put it mildly. I have three bushes of tomatoes heavily laden with fruit but so far I've only had a handful of them ripen off enough to pick. This has particularly irked me as tomatoes is the only plant I can seem to be able to grow with anything approaching success, except weeds of course, I'm really good at growing those!

In typical English fashion I'm on a moan about the weather and most of all, everybody's favourite villain, the T.V. weather forecaster. Given last weekend's weather forecast, I was expecting the four horsemen of the apocalypse to turn up along with the addition of the predicted howling gales and monsoon like conditions that had been forecast. However in true British spirit, Kevin, Graham and I still decided to go to the Echoes of History show on the Saturday anyway, regardless of the doomsayers prophesies. The drive to the show was trouble free, in fact we had more problems with the lack of signs to the show than anything else, as it was we had to turn around after missing the exhibitor's entrance, just one small sign on the grass verge. However, after booking in we were guided to our tent that was well secured with steel pegs hammered, Lord knows how far into the earth.

We set up our tables in a well sheltered corner of the tent out of any draughts, or as it turned out flying debris and hay bales. In one corner of the tent was a large stack of straw bales, ready to soak up the expected deluge I expect. Whoever had stacked the bales unfortunately had just piled them on top of one another and not bound them together properly by putting the different layers one way, then another. A disaster waiting to happen. After unloading the car, I parked it in an adjacent field and we all met up at a vendors van for a cuppa and a bacon roll, well on a cook's level I just had to check out the "oppositions" fare, but I have no idea why Kevin and Graham indulged! We got back to the tent just in time to miss a passing rain shower and we then set up the club stand, and along with the other two clubs in the tent we hunkered down and waited for the show to open. Shall we just say that we weren't packed out as soon as the gates opened. Gusty conditions and a few rain flurries were the order of the day with the hay bales shedding little bits of hay and dust all over the club display on the other side of the tent. During one particular heavy gust of wind one of the stacks of hay toppled over just clipping one of tables and knocking over the stuff on the table, thankfully the table that the members were modelling on rather than the finished models themselves, and so no real harm done.

However there was a distinct lack of members of the public, given the weather forecasts issued, I can't say I was surprised but there was a fair bit of interest in the models. Whether this was simply to escape the wind or the odd rain shower or genuine interest, who knows? However we had a few good chats with the people that entered the tent and we all had a few wanders around the show, which was good but lacking "something", again due to the weather forecasts I guess as there seemed to be a fair number of spaces between the trader's stalls and holes between vehicles. However it was the first show at this venue and with a more favourable slice of weather next year, or a better forecast, I think it has the potential to be a very good show and well worth a visit.

The Billericay show at the end of last month seemed to go really well, I saw a bit more of it than usual due to managing to cook myself standing in front of the hot cooker for too long without enough drinks. Silly but there it is, note to self, drink more water next year! After doing the shopping for the show on the Friday and Saturday, we set off for the show, loaded to the gunwales and a few minutes late. As ever when you're running behind time, fate steps in. we met a cycle race in the twisty bit of the road so we couldn't overtake them safety and when we got past them and got moving we then met a set of roadworks. Now you can drive for miles past roadworks on motorways and never see anybody doing anything but on a quite country road in the back and beyond of Essex on a Sunday morning, the road we wanted to go down was closed and diggers and people working industriously, what are the odds? So we were pushed off course down even smaller roads, but Satnav was still giving me seamless directions so things were all good, until we turned a corner and met a sign warning me of a ford ahead! I have only been through a ford once before in 30 odd years of driving, so I approached the water with some trepidation. Adele then asked me "how deep was the water?" I was so very tempted to tell her to take her shoes off and go for a paddle and tell me when she got back, but decided this might not be the best course of action. (Now you know why I've stayed married all this time). However I noticed a rather dirty depth pole to one side and it said it was under a foot deep so I went through with no problems. I have driven all over this area before and had never came across this or any other possible ford, strange, and of course it had to be on this particular day. I drove on expecting to meet a herd of cows or perhaps the bike racers again but thankfully I had a clear run from then on.

Peter, Wally and Sue were on hand to help with the unloading and Jenny and Hannah joined us shortly afterwards. After a good clean of the work surfaces and putting the food in the fridges and freezer, I got the bacon on, making sure that I cut







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off the fat and slightly over cooked it, creating the distinct smell of frying bacon to waft around the hall. Sue and Jenny had made cakes to sell and I must say they looked really nice but I had to concentrate on the bacon before the natives got too restless. After cooking a tin full of bacon and two frying pans on the go we opened the shutter to the hoards, well the bacon lasted about two minutes and I don't think I properly kept up until about 12 o'clock, with Hannah's help making up the bacon rolls, Sue, Jenny and Adele doing the teas, coffees and the rest of the fare, the time just flew by. It was at about 12:30 I felt a bit dizzy and asked Adele to take over the cooking and stood outside with a bottle of water for a while. When I went back in I felt dizzy again and I was given a cup of tea and told to stand outside and cool off and drink. It was my own fault and I just didn't notice the time slipping by and I wasn't drinking enough. However the show must go on and the Ladies did sterling work in the kitchen and in my opinion are always the real heroines of the show canteen. So I would like to say a big thank you to Hannah, Sue, Jenny and Adele for doing such a good job and special thanks for the wonderful cakes they donated.

In case you were wondering, after the expenses were taken out, the canteen made a record breaking "profit" of £390.00 that has been forwarded as a cheque to St. Francis Hospice and I will bring the receipt in on the next club night when I receive it.

I'm sure you all know by now that I won the "star prize" in the raffle this year, the Airfix 1/24th Hellcat. Strangely enough Adele and I had only been looking closely at a built up one at the Hailsham show a little while ago and she asked me if I would fancy having the kit, I remember telling her "where would I put it?" Well I've managed to find a little hole, no, actually I had to find a big hole, but I managed it.

My "official hat" is now on.....

Well not a lot to report really, The Medway Show is on the horizon at the Royal Engineers Museum and although more distant, The Brampton Show at the end of September will soon be here, so give them a thought. I'm sure that we will have a good night with the films and Grahams talk which I believe is on the first London blitz, should be interesting.

Robin