



# "STICKY FINGERS"

## IPMS HORNCHURCH - NEWSLETTER

### **Greetings model makers**

I would like to apologise to the club members who had to wait outside the club hall on the evening of the July meeting. This was as a result of the school holidays and the fact that Ricky our key holder was on his sick bed and did not come to the meeting. I should like to thank Robin for the use of his mobile phone and Mick & Bob who drove round to Ricky's house and collected the hall key to get us in. We are going to keep the key with the tea & coffee facilities so that who ever has these will be able to let everyone else in.

Further thanks to Ted Taylor for his knowledgeable instruction and advice on how to handle and get the best out of your airbrush. He certainly makes it look very easy. Thanks again Ted.

### ***September Meeting.***

We currently have not been able to confirm Terry Scott for our September meeting. I would like to propose that we make the evening a themed night with a suggestion of Germany as the theme. Subjects can be anything at all i.e. Luftwaffe aircraft, armour or cars (Mercedes etc). If Terry can make the meeting we should at least have a good spread of models too.

You may have seen me using my camera at the club over the past 2 meetings, this is to maintain some kind of photographic reference to club activities. Plus the fact that a set of the first 13 photos have been sent to our friends in New Zealand along with a copy of our most recent "Sticky Fingers". Their most recent "New From the Sprue" is attached to the rear of this month's newsletter.

I have been given a large list of kits available on mail order, plus a letter I received from S.R.S. Models, 3 Oakfield, Hewton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, DL5 7AS – Telephone 01325 308 478.

Did anyone watch the "Secret History" TV program at 9 o'clock on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July on Channel 4 about the fiasco that took place at Clapton Sands shortly before D-Day 1944, when so many American troops were killed in mock landings getting ready for the Normandy invasion. That was some c—k-up. German E-Boats went on the rampage and sank at least 2 if not 3 tank landing craft, probably because there was only 1 English Corvette doing escort duties which couldn't contact the US Naval Commander in charge of the mock landings because their radio frequencies were not the same.

Again on TV on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July I wonder how many of us watched the film "Tuskegee Airmen" on Channel 5. Some excellent flying scenes with silver Harvard trainers.

### ***Exhibitions***

Could who ever has the green table covering please let me know in preparation for the following events.

IPMS Brampton September 5<sup>th</sup> 1998. Map printed to the rear of the newsletter.

IPMS Mildenhall at the Bob Hope Centre October 4<sup>th</sup> 1998.



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On the subject of shelf stands for the tables at exhibitions I have fabricated a 6ft section and would like to know your thoughts on the design. Once we have a working design, individual members could make their own unit to the same pattern.

### Peters Bits

OK I admit it I know something about computers, as I work for one of the big 5 Auditors as a technical computer support person. With this in mind I thought I might start putting together some bits & pieces on using computers to help with modelling. As Ricky talked about in last months "Sticky Fingers" one use of the PC is to create catalogues of models and/or references from magazines etc. This is one thing I have been steadily putting together for the magazines I have and with over 4,000 references this is now starting to turn out to be really useful. I have logged what the magazine is, the volume and issue number and the date of publication. On top of that I listed the subject type e.g. Supermarine Spitfire or Chieftain tank with the mark or model number e.g. Mk 1. Following that I added an additional field for comments or to put in the subject of the article if it wasn't about one particular type e.g. RAF in the 1990's. To complete the reference I added fields to indicate whether there were cutaways or profiles associated with the article. If anyone has an interest in getting some references or a copy of my data please let me know.

Internet – this is a field where if you start talking about the Internet people's eyes can start glazing over or they start reaching for their anorak. One of the best put downs I have heard about the Internet is "*The Internet disproves the adage that if you had an infinite number of monkeys with typewriters, one of them would write the complete works of Shakespeare*". Seriously though the Internet can be a great source for references or help from fellow modellers.

For the uninitiated the Internet is a basically a large collection sites where the owner of each site has published information they think may be useful or interesting to others. A site could be thought of as the equivalent of a book, hence the phrase publish. Some sites are collections of links to other sites; one example of this is a site by Tony Mattelliono, whose site lists over 1,000 links to modelling related Internet sites, including our very own Steve Hubbard's.

Another area of use for modellers is the Newsgroup for scale modelling, Rec.Models.Scale or R.M.S. for short. A newsgroup is basically a listing of messages sent in by subscribers to the group. What tends to happen is that someone will start off a topic (or thread) about a subject e.g. "What's the best 1/48<sup>th</sup> P-51 Mustang kit?" and to this anyone can send in a reply giving their opinion. The problem with this sort of thing is that you never know what sort of response you are going to get, if any, as the group is open to almost anyone. The replies can vary from very helpful to virtually hate mail.

This sort of leads on to some terms people new to the Internet may be puzzling about, one is "**flaming**", this is where someone sends in a message which may tell one person they are talking complete rubbish or even be downright rude about their parentage etc. (hopefully you get my drift). Another hazard of Internet use is the increasing occurrence of "**Spamming**". Spamming is the electronic equivalent to unsolicited junk mail, where you could receive electronic mail from (usually) anonymous mail addresses offering you such delights as home working (i.e. stuffing



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envelopes) to access to pornography sites. Many users never give their correct return e:mail address to discourage this practice.

When sending messages to people or the Newsgroup sites it is advised to use "proper case" text just as you would if you were handwriting the note. In most Internet circles use of "UPPERCASE" text only is treated as though the author of the note is shouting i.e. very rude. If you are a new person to the group (newbie) you may get a polite reminder about this form of electronic etiquette, or you may just get flamed.

If you are interested I'll write more on this topic next month.