



# "STICKY FINGERS"

Magazine

[www.sticky-fingers.org.uk](http://www.sticky-fingers.org.uk)

Issue 49, July 2008



Peters Prattling .....	1
Next month –Phil Worths' "Airbrushing and Painting with Acrylics Master class" .....	1
Last months Meeting .....	1
Special Offer from SAM Publications .....	2
RIP – Chaz Bowyer .....	3
Forthcoming Shows in 2008 .....	3
Robins Ruminations .....	3
Wrighty's Talking Point No 1 – Aircraft Magazines .....	4

## Peters Prattling

### Next month –Phil Worths' "Airbrushing and Painting with Acrylics Master class"

This month Alan Wright sent in his first "Talking Point" article. It posses a lot of questions about the buying habits and state of some of the aircraft related modelling magazines more widely available on the shelves. What do you think about the issues raised? Please write in to reply, I'm sure we can get some debate going on this.

### Last months Meeting

For those that missed the meeting last month you missed the Southern Expo video from John Bennett, but I'm sure if you ask him nicely and you have a computer John may be able to supply you with a DVD copy to watch.

We also had an encouraging number of work in progress kits brought along. John Huston took some photos for you to use to compare the work in progress to the finished article. Who knows we may actually see a few tonight in the competition!





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## Special Offer from SAM Publications

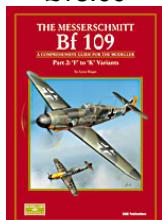
I have received the following offer from SAM Publications

25% discount off all Modellers Data File books when ordering 5 or more books. All orders of 10 books or more will get free postage too. If you are interested in putting an order together I would be more than happy to collate the individual orders. Their current list and retail prices are as follows:-

MDF 14 F-4 Phantom II -  
P3: Export - £15.00



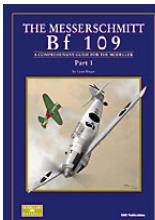
MDF 10 Bf 109 - P2  
£18.00



MDF 13 F-4 Phantom II -  
P2: USN & MC - £15.00



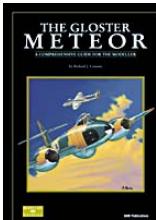
MDF 9 Bf 109 - P1  
£18.00



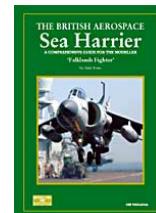
MDF 12 F-4 Phantom II  
- P1: USAF - £15.00



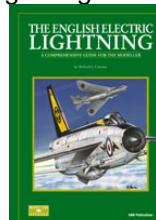
MDF 8 Gloster Meteor  
£15.00



MDF 11 BAe Sea Harrier  
£18.00



MDF 7 English Electric  
Lightning - £15.00





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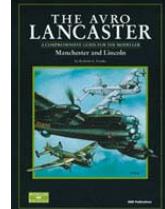
MDF 6 Bristol Beaufighter  
£15.00



MDF 5 Supermarine Spitfire - P2  
£15.00



MDF 4 Avro Lancaster  
£15.00



## RIP – Chaz Bowyer

His Daughter's Message

With regret I would like to report the death of my father, aviation historian Chaz Bowyer. He passed away peacefully yesterday (18th June) at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital aged 81, after a brief illness. His immediate family were all with him.

I am Chaz's daughter and would like to thank all the well-wishers for their e-mails of condolence which are a great comfort to the family at this time. Dad lived and breathed aircraft and the brave airmen that flew them from a very young age and his interest and passion for the subject never diminished. I know he would have been touched at some of the tributes we have been sent.

If anybody would like to contact me please use my e-mail address at - lisajhoare@hotmail.com

## Forthcoming Shows in 2008

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.

2008

10 <sup>th</sup> August(Sunday)	<b>Eastern Expo</b> , West Norfolk Show at the college of West Anglia in <b>King's Lynn</b> <b>This show has been cancelled</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> August (Saturday)	<b>Essex MAFVA</b> , "Present Arms" at the Marshalls Park School, Petts Lane, <b>Romford</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> September (Saturday)	<b>IPMS West Cornwall</b> annual model show at St John's Hall, Alverton Street, <b>Penzance</b> , Cornwall TR18 2QR
	<b>IPMS Glasgow</b> present the <b>Glasgow Open Model Show &amp; Competition</b> to be held at the Kelvin Hall, Argyle Street, <b>Glasgow G3 8AW</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> September (Sunday)	<b>IPMS Fenland</b> and <b>Spalding Model Club</b> present ' <b>Wings and Things</b> ' to be held at the Grammar School, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 2XH
21 <sup>st</sup> September (Sunday)	<b>IPMS Farnborough</b> present 'Modelfest', to be held at Kings International College, Watchetts Drive, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2PQ
28 <sup>th</sup> September (Sunday)	<b>Brampton</b> The Burgess Hall, <b>St.Ives</b> , Cambridgeshire. I've requested space for this one.
12 <sup>th</sup> October (Sunday)	<b>IPMS Lincoln / IPMS Newark and the Spitfire SIG</b> Expo 2008. The Grandstand, Southwell Racecourse, <b>Southwell</b> , Nottinghamshire NG25 0TS
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> November (Saturday & Sunday)	IPMS Scale Modelworld (aka The Nationals), <b>Telford International Centre</b> .

**Peter**

**Robins Ruminations**

**Robin**



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## Wrighty's Talking Point No 1 - Aircraft Magazines

First point of call when you're out shopping alone or with the missus, yes WH Smiths to look at the latest offerings of aircraft modelling or associated magazines on the shelves. (Apologies to other versions of modelling enthusiasts but I feel that aircraft is the mainstay of plastic modelling). Although some of these points will apply to your branch of scale modelling also.

First of all there are so many to choose from, that is once you have pushed the 6ft tall 3ft wide builder or biker blocking access by reading a 5 page article in the store to one side to gain access to said magazines.

At least 4 on plastic modelling, 3 on current world air forces, 1 on airports, 1 largely covering warbirds restoration and operation, 2 on passenger aircraft and civil operations and several on mixed themes such as Air Pictorial, Air Illustrated, RAF Yearbook, Air International and others in part of mixed modelling magazines like Tamiya magazine.

At nearly £4 each, my first thought is how do they all survive in the market place? Well we know that they all don't, as the list of defunct issues seen on the tables of the club often attract interest. I don't know but I suspect that many of these are absorbed into other publications, also this is borne out by the repetition of the same names occurring as editors or article writers and the fact they usually have an address in sleepy Buckinghamshire, which of course was the home of the original, yes Scale Aircraft Modelling.

However I want to concentrate today on the 4 main aircraft modelling magazines namely:-

Scale Aircraft Modelling	Now in its 30 <sup>th</sup> year	Price £3.95	(SAM)
Scale Aviation Modeller International	Now 14 years old	Price £3.95	(SAMI)
Model Aircraft Monthly	Now 7 years old	Price £3.80	(MAM)
Model Airplane Monthly	Now in its 4 <sup>th</sup> year	Price £3.75	(MAI)

Historically SAM took over from the old Airfix Magazine in 1978 for 16 years it had the field to itself, its balance of articles about aviation history, its profiles of aircraft and good articles on conversions and improving builds was a winning combination, it certainly directed the hobby into today's master class offerings from "toys for old boys" as the 60's and 70's would now be viewed.

In 1994 an almost direct copy of SAM appeared, even in name, SAMI had arrived, purporting to show more modelling items and detailed builds of kits to go with the "cottage industry" and "aftermarket" decals and parts. This was done at the expense of the historical articles and profiles, which suited some modellers. It was helped to survive this by the innovation of colour printing and by its 3<sup>rd</sup> year colour was well underway, where as SAM was still largely black and white. SAM had been taken over in the mid 90s when its format started to wane due to the fact they were running out of aircraft to feature the new organisation introduced much more colour and revisited some W.W.II aircraft in this medium, also more use of the jets of the 90s, where colour photos were now the norm. The historical articles were now less, with more kit builds and reviews featured to counteract SAMI, who by now led the field in this area.

By 2000 SAMI seemed popular enough to branch out into a new magazine MAM. Basically this was an extension of SAMI, introduced in the early days as a free option, largely to use up kit reviews that could not fit in SAMI. It was well backed by advantages mainly those used by SAMI, these got it off the ground but really it was still a poor copy of SAMI. In 2008 maybe its time is numbered, you can't keep telling modellers to make stuff they all know inside out. Its one saving grace maybe it that it's rather popular in the USA, judging by the advertiser's web addresses.

Finally the 4<sup>th</sup> year of MAI, which caters for mainly 1/48<sup>th</sup> scale builds in considerable detail, full colour ad detached lists of all items required, it makes a great 21<sup>st</sup> century instruction sheet, especially for kits where all the instructions are in Japanese or Russian. It's tried to modernise the layouts, using profiles to back up projects of the month, a wide variety of which have been offered before, but still tends to fall into the old trap (another 190, 109, 262, P-47



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etc), for format hasn't changed much in 4 years, its circulation figures would make interesting reading in predicting its future.

My next question, which one do you buy and why? Most people seem to take the view, look through and see how much is of interest to you in what you are doing or likely to do. After all £4 for one article may be a bit too much. I have huge sources of references and so do many club members, do we really need all 4 mags telling us how to build the new Wellington, most don't want to anyway because it's too big. I don't need the new 1/48<sup>th</sup> Fiesler Storch as I have the Italeri one in a box in the garage, been there for about 7 years. Yes I accept that they need to so some of these for younger modellers, but in the recent TV documentary about Airfix they reckon that over 60% of the kits are bought by men over 50 and their attempt to get kids and younger generations to take up the hobby loses out to PC and games consoles.

Well do you have a favourite mag, do you agree there are too many or do you prefer a different type of mag like Air Forces Monthly or Air Pictorial and if so why? Do you prefer the Osprey series of books? One other thing do you think there is too much competition for our cash, belt tightening time has arrived, who do you think may not survive the economical down turn?

You are in charge: - Can you do it?

In response to letters as to why Hungarian and Polish biplanes feature while no kit exists of the RAFs' premier trainer, Tamiya have just introduced their all new 1/48<sup>th</sup> super kit of the Shorts Tucano trainer. The problem you have, to make it up for one of the 4 mags in the above article.

No existing 1/48<sup>th</sup> kit exists of the aircraft, so you get your kit in the post from Tamiya at the beginning of July. Now how do you go about references, colour schemes and fine details and the plans are only in Japanese and sketches, you have a decal sheet offering 3 options.

By September all 4 mags will have featured it, companies will have the brass and decals ready, but you have to have yours on the table by August 23<sup>rd</sup> for exhibition, looking every bit the super kit: that the other mags experts will have on exhibition with all the bits at the October 16<sup>th</sup> show. Can you write up yours for the mag you represent so they can post the article in the August edition?

## Alan

(Ed - Alan certainly raises some interesting opinions and questions. If you have anything to add to the debate please forward to me (Peter Bagshaw) for inclusion in next months newsletter. Personally I only subscribe to Military In Scale magazine as it has, for me, a useful mix of armour and aircraft. All the other magazines I buy are dependant on the articles, as the Internet has become more popular for people to talk about modelling I find there is less of interest with regard to kit reviews within the magazines as by the time the magazine is published there have probably been at least 2 or 3 reviews already online (unless it's a 1/72<sup>nd</sup> or smaller kit, which get less interest both on the Internet and in magazines I find). The Model Aircraft Monthly (MAM) magazine has been improved vastly over its original contents with recent issues appearing to be a Fleet Air Arm specialist publication, containing information which possibly isn't as well documented as the more popular subjects like FW 190s for example.)