

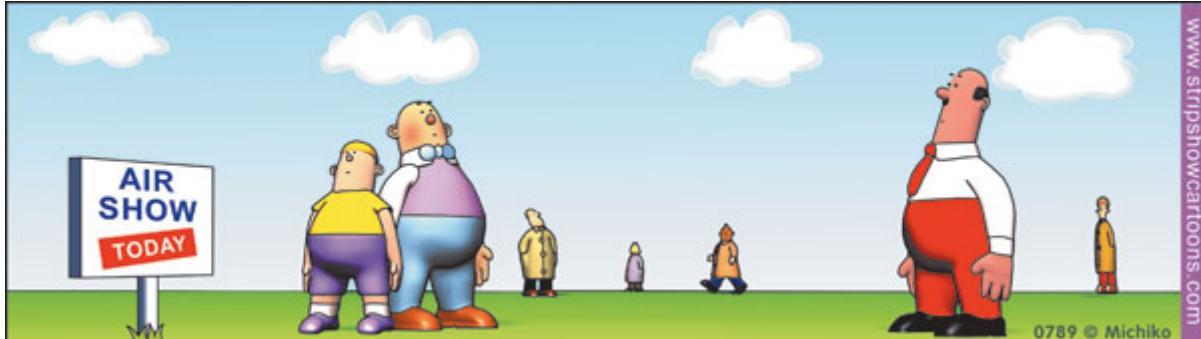


"STICKY FINGERS"

Magazine

www.sticky-fingers.org.uk

Issue 60 June 2009



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Peters Prattling

Next month – Talk by Kathy Dowler of the Sci-Fi SIG

Barnet Show @ Hendon

As Robin also says later on, the show organised by Barnet at the RAF Museum was well attended by many members of the club, we put on a really good display of models which had all the display shelves full of diverse attractions to tempt the public to stop and look. I must admit when I first arrived, at about 8:00 in the morning, and saw where our pitch was in the Bomber Hall I thought we were going to be in for a lonely day as we were in the gloomy hall underneath the Wellington. Needless to say I was in for a surprise when the main doors opened to the public at 10 we were suddenly deluged with visitors as I'd forgotten that the main entrance is now through the Milestone of Flight display which then leads directly into the hall where we were placed. So we were in prime position to get all the attention, if only the light had been slightly better, but obviously beyond the organisers control.

Southern Expo 2010

For those that missed the announcement last month, yes, you've read it correctly. Southern Expo has been booked for 2010. The dates are 20th & 21st March 2010.

Robin and I will not be actively doing much of the work required at the moment it's far too early, but we've already had some traders express interest in attending the show and more often than not wanting more space than last year. We are going to need a bigger hall!



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Forthcoming Shows in 2009/2010

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.

2009	
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
4 th October (Sunday)	East Anglian Model Show, Ipswich Town FC. – we have 2 tables allocated
7 th & 8 th November (Saturday & Sunday)	Scale Modelworld ("The Nationals"), International Centre, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4JH
2010	
20 th & 21 st March (Saturday & Sunday)	Southern Expo

Model Show in Italy

Here is a little announcement for MiliSaona 2009- Model Expo and Competition, managed by model Club La Centuria, Italy, just in case some of your modellers are on holidays in far away Italy in September during our show.

"5th and 6th September in Savona (Liguria, Italy) "MiliSaona2009" inside the medieval Fortress of Priamar (downtown). Mode Competition and Expo for Figures, Mecha, Dioramas, Aircrafts, ships, etc. Various Best of Show as explained in the attachment in .doc format: A Crusader's Helmet replica, A Belgian Soldier's WWII Helmet, A French Soldier's WWII Helmet, a Sauron's Bust replica, a mask from South Africa, a traditional mask from West Coast Natives, etc. By l'Association Culturale LA CENTVRIA, La Medievale and Club Modellistico Savonese, Internet sites: www.lacenturia.it, www.milisaona-giocasavona.eu; www.fogsoldiers.it. E-mail: associazione@lacenturia.it ; fogsoldiers@libero.it

Best Regards,

Sergio PALUMBO, on behalf of Model Club La Centuria (www.lacenturia.it)

Peter

Robins Ruminations

Another month rolls around yet again and this one seems to have gone by especially quickly. I know that last month's meeting was about as late as you could get one and this month's is as early as possible, but it only seems last week that I was chatting in the hall. I guess I must just be getting old or it's that I have been very busy this past month, or of course both of the above.

A couple of months ago my Badger air-bush started playing up, the trigger was getting very sticky and the paint just wasn't spraying correctly. No matter what I tried, I couldn't get it working as it should. I enquired how much it would be to have it serviced and was told around £40 plus spares. I checked out the Badger internet site and found that they service their air-brushes free of charge, but again charge for replacement parts. Of course this would mean sending it to America with possible problems with customs on both sides of the Atlantic and the notoriously slow US Mail. While chatting with the wife, she reminded me that I still had my original Badger 200 stashed away on top of the bookcase. (I sometimes wonder how my wife seems to know more about what I have than I do, very



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worrying that!). After weighing up the pros and cons, I decided to send both air-brushes to America for servicing, even with the postage costs and spare parts I figured that it would still work out cheaper. So I posted them by air mail, carefully keeping the receipt in case customs problems on their return trip.

Five weeks later a box duly arrived from America with my air-brushes well packed inside. Both had been fully serviced and cleaned inside and out. The Teflon washers had all been replaced, as had the head assemblies and needles in both air-brushes. They had even returned the old parts that had been replaced. Total cost, nothing. I rummaged through the paperwork contained in the box to make sure that I hadn't missed anything, but no, the invoice simply had NIL in the charges box. What a result! That night I sent their customer service department a glowing email thanking them for a job well done. So not only is my double action air-brush working flawlessly now, I have my single action one as a fully working spare back on top of my bookcase.

After finally getting my boiler sorted out, (gas, not the wife), I have been sorting through, throwing out and generally re-arranging my modelling room's bookcases to my satisfaction. Well as far as I can without causing too much domestic "disharmony". You know what happens, you start pulling some books off of the shelf to tidy them up and rearrange them and "oh, I forgot I had this". An hour and a half later the wife shouts up the stairs asking if I've finished yet. Opps! Once or twice is forgiven, two weeks of "err, not quite darling" begins to wear a little thin with the good lady. I had everything tidied away and cleaned up when a chance purchase at Hendon totally threw a spanner in the works.

My purchase was a Tamiya Spitfire Mk.I, purchased under the table with an etched detail set, extra decals and a set of camouflage masks. I have always had a fancy to do some sort of display involving two aircraft from a documented incident in history. Also watching a re-run of "dogfights" on the Discovery channel further piqued my interest. Last month I told you of the Messerschmitt 109 I had half built and so the old grey matter started twitching and off I have gone on one of my modelling tangents again. Find a recorded combat involving a Spitfire and a Me 109 that I liked the look of during the Battle of Britain and build them. What could be simpler? Famous last thoughts!

First of all find an incident, simple, I had read in a book of a combat in which both aircraft were known. The Spitfire crash landed and was burnt-out while the Messerschmitt returned to base damaged. Both aircraft are well documented and so the job is more or less done, until I looked at the "well recorded incident" again.

The Spitfire was easy, I knew the markings of the aircraft and its serial number and so from that I could work out the colour scheme, A or B and could start straight away. Except for the very small problem that this particular pilot used 5 aircraft during the Battle of Britain period. So should I show it with full black, white and silver underside, only black and white, duck egg blue or perhaps green or even go for sky. Under wing roundels or not and of course which type or size? The serial number in one book states that this aircraft was shot down in the channel with its pilot, in another book the wreck recovered from the crash site by the maintenance unit gives a different serial number. Just to make it clearer, I have several illustrations in books showing the aircraft with yet another number which the pilot, according to his log book never flew and is also recorded as being shot down elsewhere on yet another date! Pass the aspirin please!

Never mind, I'll ask somebody who knows Battle of Britain Spitfires inside out and see what he can make of it all. Meanwhile the Messerschmitt 109 is a piece of cake as I already have the markings on a decal sheet, well two decal sheets in fact. Unfortunately when the two sheets are laid side by side they are different, well they would be wouldn't they? I can't have anything that simple could I? Trawling through my books looking for this aircraft some authors can't even agree on what unit it flew with. The colour of the unit badge could be white or yellow, or perhaps even mid blue or even no background colour at all simply using the fuselage colour of the plane itself. Oh yes, one notable book states that the badge was definitely white but had been dulled down with an over-spray of camouflage green. The crosses on the underside could have been of the oversized type used in the Polish campaign, or perhaps not. The aircraft's number was definitely white, but could have a thin red border or not according to some sources, AGH! Just to hang the dog's bits and pieces under the whole problem, the only photos of this aircraft were taken at a much later date and the aircraft had been altered to reflect the progress of the air battle.

So I'm now sitting in my back room after pulling a fair number of books from my once neat bookcases, no nearer solving the puzzle. The only two things that I am totally sure of is, one: my wife is not exactly happy with me or the



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debris yet again littering my room and two: the part-built King Tiger model on my workbench looks an even more attractive kit to build suddenly!

The Hendon show was well attended by the club with lots of members turning up either to display or as visitors. Although we were in the Bomber Command Hall, which was a little on the dim side, there was a good response from the public and modellers alike. The traders in the back hall appeared to be doing brisk trade at various points in the day and Hannant's, just up the road were mobbed out and "too busy" at times I was told. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and went home a few quid lighter and a few models heavier. Being nosey I asked on the door how many people had come through and was told that they were pleased with the response. I was told that 1,600 people had come in up to three o'clock and that it was very good for a warm, sunny day. Judging from the number of people using the cafe in the main hall, the takings must have been quite high. I would say that the museum would be happy to have the show back from a profit point of view as well as a public relations one. Fingers crossed for next year.

My Official hat is now on.....

With all of the above going on, it's little wonder that I haven't managed to complete a model for tonight's competition. Have no fear though, I will be ready and waiting to book in your models and have the awards ready for the skilled or lucky few. I don't have anything of note to report other than a fair bit of interest from traders at Hendon about their space requirements for Southern Expo. Without fail they all wanted more room and a wall space, so Peter and myself are now looking for a larger hall with portable walls that we can simply roll into place as desired, something like a giant maze would be excellent. Anybody know of such a place?

Robin

Norfolk Nerd's Brighter Side of Life

Will I live to be 80?

I recently picked a new primary care doctor. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age.

A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?"

He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer or wine?"

"Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing drugs, either!"

Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?"

I said, "No, my former doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy!"

"Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?"

"No, I don't," I said.

He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lot of sex?"

"No," I said. "I don't do any of those things."

He looked at me and said, "Then why do you care if you live to 80?

Ricky