



"STICKY FINGERS"

Magazine

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Peters Prattling	1
Next month – February – Annual General Meeting	1
Home Front	1
Milton Keynes Show – Sunday 6th Feb	1
Southern Expo News & Decals	1
US Navy Centenary	1
Forthcoming Shows in 2011	3
Robins Ruminations	3
My "Official" hat is now on	5

Peters Prattling

Next month – February – Annual General Meeting

Next month is your turn to stand for the high offices of the club, put forward suggestions for club meeting subjects or propose that the club does something different next year, any thoughts really would be appreciated. I will be happy to continue in the lead role but that is not meant to discourage anyone else from thinking they could have a go if they felt that they could bring some new ideas forward.

If you do have anything you wish adding to the agenda for next month please let myself, Robin or Bob know as soon as possible please, ideally before Thursday 17th Feb as this is about the latest we normally put the newsletter for printing.

Home Front

Well the major work on our bathroom refurbishment has now finished but as you can probably imagine after a full rip out and refit there were a lot of "little" jobs to do, from painting ceilings (done!) to fitting new light pulley cords. Still shouldn't complain it's stopped me being bored at home.

Modelling has taken a bit of a back seat at the moment, I need to start concentrating on making sure my IT skills are as up to date as possible to make myself as eligible for a new job as possible, it's quite surprising how having a full time job and hobbies can eat into your time and thus stopping you keeping up to date.

Milton Keynes Show – Sunday 6th Feb

I have requested space for us at this show. So far I haven't received any confirmation that we have been allocated any tables, except for us showing up on the list of exhibitors on their website. No information yet on whether they are to continue with the idea of limited passes yet.

Southern Expo News & Decals

The preparation of decals for this years Expo has progressed a lot more slowly than last, I suspect part of the reason for that is the lack of decent references for the period we are aiming to cover. It seems that after the major struggles of the Battle of Britain everyone took a collective breath and didn't bother documenting much for a time. Still all being well we just might have some new subjects for the show. Stock up on more Spitfires (Mk IIa mostly) and Me 109Es and an Me-110 for good measure.

US Navy Centenary

Alan Carr has passed on information about this weblink - <http://www.amv83.fr/Navycag/centennial.htm>

It details the various special paint schemes some US Navy jets are being done in to celebrate their Centenary. The schemes echo those applied to some of the classic planes flown throughout its history, including some very colourful yellow winged T-45 Goshawks (if you see any 1/72nd Italeri ones about please let me know).

Below is a selection of the types painted up and the first 2 also have the inspiration behind them.



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Forthcoming Shows in 2011

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.

2011	
6th February (Sunday)	ModelKraft , Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes, MK146BN - I have received the invite and replied to this requesting 2 tables and to be in the ground floor main hall, in case Danny feels like attending.
19th & 20th March (Saturday & Sunday)	Southern Expo
16th April (Sunday)	Poole Vikings Model Show, Poole, Dorset
23rd & 24th April (Saturday & Sunday)	Scottish Nationals , Dewars Centre, Perth PH2 0TH
15th May (Sunday)	IPMS Birmingham – Midlands Expo , Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre, Alcester Road South, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 6ER
22nd May (Sunday)	Hendon Model Show, RAF Museum Hendon . I've requested space at this show.

Peter

Robins Ruminations

The Christmas and the New Year festivities are now just a fading memory and a pile of credit card bills is all we have to look forward to at the end of the month. However it's not all gloom and doom, Southern Expo is only just around the corner so to speak. The weather will/should be improving and the evenings getting lighter, not that these things will be very noticeable at the moment, but I've got to make things sound a little upbeat. Oh no! I'm beginning to sound like a politician, get the straight jacket ready!

It's not often that you get caught up as part of a news story on the television, but unfortunately that is just what happened to the Bellamy household just before Christmas.

The sad saga started one Saturday, Adele and I dropped the Mother in Law off at Heathrow for her 11:35 flight. Checked her in, had coffee and waved goodbye her at the security barrier and headed out of the terminal, straight into heavy snow. The snow fell so fast that the roads around the airport were soon white and even when we got to the M25 there was only two lanes passable, all in all, not good. Still we checked the flight status as soon as we got home and it was showing "final call" and then "gate closed", job done, or so we thought.

At 18:30 we get a call from the Mother in Law, not from Malta, but still at Heathrow. Could we pick her up as there were no flights until the morning and understandably at 78 she didn't fancy a night at the airport. So off into the snow we went and a fun filled trip it was, passing quite a few abandoned cars and the aftermath of several accidents. Of course the roads around Heathrow were by this time even worse, but most people were sensible enough not to be out on them, unlike yours truly. After parking up, we entered Terminal 4, which by this time resembled a third world refugee camp, but with the aid of mobile phones found the Mother in Law, much to her



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relief. Between Adele and I, we managed to find out that the flight would leave tomorrow at the same time and the Mother in Law had been allocated a seat on it, but check the TV and phone the airline or Heathrow before you set off.

So off home we went secure in the knowledge that all would be sorted out in the morning, a minor hic-cup. The trip home was thankfully "uneventful" but not for the faint hearted. On arriving back home the Mother in Law said she didn't like the journey home in the snow. I had to bite my tongue and not say she should have done it from my seat, for the fourth time that day!

So the early the next morning we were up and ready for the next instalment, checked the BBC and Sky news, some flights were going to depart Terminal 4 but check with your airline or Heathrow before you leave home. Have you ever tried to phone an airline or Heathrow's information line at 06:30 in the morning, take my word for it, no chance! However, working on the information that some flights were leaving, off we went. We arrived at Terminal 4 to be met by a police van blocking the access road and a very nice policeman informed me that all flights from Terminal 4 had been cancelled for the day. So off I went home again with an unhappy Wife and stressed Mother in Law, fun, fun, fun. The first thing I did when I arrived home was turn on the TV, just in time to hear a spokesperson for BAA say that the previous night a decision had been made to cancel all flights from Terminal 4 to allow more resources to be allocated to other areas. If I could have put my hands through the screen I would have cheerfully choked the life out of the guy! If the decision had been made the night before, perhaps it might have been a good idea to tell the public, media and airlines do you think? ARGHHH!

Still we managed to contact the airline that afternoon and get the Mother in Law booked on the 20:30 flight the next day, Monday. So it was arranged that I would come home, have a cup of tea, pick up Mother in Law and head for the airport, no problem. Unfortunately this did mean that I would miss the club night, but such was life and my life wouldn't be worth living if I said that I was going to the club rather than taking the Mother in Law to the airport! Adele had checked several times during the day, including phoning the airline in Malta and everything was good and the flight leaving on time. However events were to conspire otherwise.

I was delayed by a couple of accidents on the way home, but no great worries, fuelled the car, again, and was almost home when the mobile started chirping. It was the Wife. The flight had been brought forward by three and a half hours, it was now leaving at 17:00, however, my Wife was assured that if we could get the passenger to the airport for normal check-in procedures there was no problem. Quite how this person thought that I could get from Romford to Heathrow around the M25 at 15:30 and then get the Mother in Law processed, and on the plane in an hour and a half still totally escapes me! It's just as well Adele had kept an constant eye on the internet as I would have been really happy to arrive at Heathrow just in time to see the plane's tail lights disappearing into the night.

So after more telephone calls to Malta we finally got the Mother in Law booked onto a flight for Wednesday morning, we were told that if that flight didn't go, we had the Mother in Law for Christmas lunch as there were no more available seats before Christmas. I personally would have preferred a turkey for Christmas dinner, but there it was!

As Adele had by now come down with a nasty virus, it was up to me to take a day off of work to go to the airport. As you can imagine, I was most popular at my works asking for a day off a few days before Christmas, but it had to be done! My Son also took a day off work and so we set off for Heathrow for the fourth time. Thankfully this time everything went well and the Mother in Law was checked in, processed and went through security quickly and effortlessly. However Peter and I called into the Hendon aircraft museum on the way home on the thought that if we had to pick the Mother in Law back up, it was easier to get back to the airport from Hendon than home. Well that was my excuse anyway. While walking around looking at the exhibits Adele called me and told me that the flight was now showing as airborne. HOORAY!!

So far to get the Mother in Law away for Christmas, it had only cost four trips to Heathrow & back, two days without pay, three lots of airport parking, umpteen cups of coffee and cake and heaps of stress. We also have an "interesting" telephone bill to look forward too. I still make that a bargain in anybody's book!

So we had a whole two days in which to get our Christmas preparations back on track, no problem. The only modelling themed item that Santa brought for Christmas was a book on night fighters over East Anglia and I spent an enjoyable few hours over the Holiday period with my feet up reading it very civilised.



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Just to throw another curve ball into the mix, my Son's girlfriend is coming over from America with her family for a visit, which I am very happy about. It will be nice to meet her for the first time. So my Wife is busy planning early spring cleaning to make sure that everything is ship shape ready for the visit. Nothing unusual about that, except that the visit is scheduled to fall right across the weekend of Expo, don't you just love it?

My "Official" hat is now on.

Well tonight is the Modeller of the Year competition, I'm hoping that I am now looking at loads of models on the tables, after all there are 98 eligible for tonight. We should give the judges from Southend a bit of a hard time to ponder and choose the eventual winner from tonight's display of our work. Good luck to all those entering.

Next month is the annual bunfight, a.k.a. the A.G.M. I trust that this one will be as painless as the last few. However that said, please have a word with Peter, Bob or myself if there are any matters or concerns that you would like to raise, or of course contact us by phone or email if you would prefer. After all, as I have said year after year, it's your club and this is the time to make any major changes, minor tweaks or just to let us know what you would like to see happen in the next year.

Of course this is also the evening that you can change the committee members, so if anybody would like to stand for any of the posts, please don't feel shy and put yourself forward.

As ever we will need some ideas for the upcoming year's club meetings, give it some thought and have an idea or two ready.

How are the models coming along for the fifties theme for the Expo display? I must admit to changing my mind half a dozen times, F-86, Mig15, F-86D, F-84 and DC-3 to name but a few. However by the time you are reading this I would have made a start on my chosen kit, fingers crossed

Robin