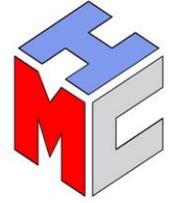




# "STICKY FINGERS"

Magazine



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

Issue 128 January 2015

## Very Important!

# February Club Meeting is moving to the 23rd

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## Peters Prattling

### February Meeting Moving

As per usual we’ve been requested to move our normal meeting date in February to avoid the church taking over the whole of the hall. We will move to **23<sup>rd</sup> February**, i.e. 1 week later.

### AGM February 2015

A reminder that next month is the AGM where we decide on things such as who is in charge of running the club, what the monthly meetings will consist of, the format and possible themes for competitions and anything else you can think of. Thinking caps on please for ideas for meeting subjects or people you know who may be able to give us a talk about something of interest or is there something modelling related you could demonstrate? Modelling evenings appear to be popular so they are good for filling in meetings where we can’t think of anything else.

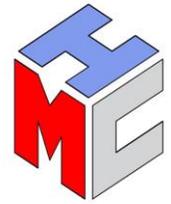
I was talking to one of the traders who attends Southern Expo at the IPMS Nationals last year as he has published a book on the Polish 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Division in W.W.II, which his father served in. the book is a photo-essay of the Division from its training in the UK on Valentines through to the invasion in Normandy and beyond based on Shermans. He mentioned that he was doing a talk on this, would this be potentially of interest to the club if he would come along and present to us? Due to the subject nature we could invite over the Essex MAFVA club and also the guys from Southend too.

It will also be the last competition round of the year for the Theme Build of “Best of British” subjects, for which points will count towards the final positions of the club competitions.



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## Airfix New Stuff for 2015

New tooled kits announced by Airfix for 2015 release.

### 1/72nd Aircraft

Westland Sea King HC.4	Junkers Ju87 B-1 Stuka
Boulton Paul Defiant Mk.1	Avro Shackleton MR2
Heinkel He.III P2	Hawker Siddeley Harrier AV-8A
Bristol Beaufighter Mk.X	Grumman F4F-4 Wildcat
Armstrong Whitworth, Whitley Mk.V	Nakajima B5N2 'Kate'

### 1/48th Aircraft & Airfield Vehicles

Supermarine Spitfire Mk.I	Hawker Hurricane Mk1
Bedford MWD Light Truck	Albion AM463 3-Point Refueller

## Forthcoming Shows in 2015

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.

2015	
14 <sup>th</sup> February (Saturday)	On Track 2015, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Kent, United Kingdom, CT20 2DZ
15 <sup>th</sup> February (Sunday)	Huddersfield Show, Huddersfield Sports Centre, Southgate, Huddersfield, HD1 1TW North Devon Model Show, Fremington Village Hall, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3BG
1 <sup>st</sup> March (Sunday)	Peterborough Show, The Voyager Academy, Mountsteven Avenue, Walton, Peterborough, PE4 6HX
21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Southern Expo
22 <sup>nd</sup> March (Sunday)	East Midlands Model Show, The Leisure Centre, Coventry Road, Hinckley, LE10 0JR
12 <sup>th</sup> April (Sunday)	Shropshire Scale Model Show, RAF Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
18 <sup>th</sup> April (Saturday)	IPMS Dorset, Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane, Poole, BH17 7EP
26 <sup>th</sup> April (Sunday)	ModelKraft 2015, Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes, MK14 6BN
12 <sup>th</sup> July (Sunday)	Moorlands Model Show, The TA Centre, Martin Leake House, Waterloo Road, Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 3HJ
18 <sup>th</sup> July (Saturday)	North Somerset Model Show 2015, The Helicopter Museum, Weston Heliport, Locking Moor Road, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS24 8PP
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> November (Saturday & Sunday)	Scale ModelWorld 2015, Telford International Centre, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 4JH

Peter

## Robin's "Ruminations"

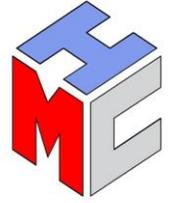
Well gentleman, I know it's pretty late but I will wish you all a Happy New Year anyway. In my book it's never too late to wish anybody happiness at any time of the year. Well, where to start? My Wife has never been exactly prolific in the bakery line but at Christmas time she gets stuck in and almost disappeared in a cloud of flour and sugar. Adele had bought a large jar of Fortnum & Mason mincemeat while visiting the Christmas lights a few weeks earlier and made some very nice mince pies with it, with a touch of extra thick brandy cream on top, heaven. Next out of the kitchen was a seemingly never ending stream of pigs in blankets and sausage rolls equalled only by a seemingly ever hungry Son making them all disappear. Our Christmas was pretty quiet generally, plenty of food drink and a four day rest from the office, just the way we like it. Let's just say that the bathroom scales have been hidden by my Wife since Christmas, I'm sure they'll make reappearance after a couple of weeks more dieting.

Nothing of the plastic variety for me was under our tree this year but my Son did say that he would buy me a kit at Expo. I can't wait to see his face when I point to the 1/32nd Flying Fortress kit from Hong Kong Models, a snip at a paltry £242! I wonder if it would be going too far to ask about the detailing sets? Cruel aren't I? I hope that Santa brought you what you wanted, whatever that was and that you and your families had a good Christmas. I look forward to seeing you at the



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upcoming club meeting and don't forget that it's the Modeller of the Year competition, so don't forget to bring your eligible models with you, or at least as many as you can carry. (See last month's Sticky Fingers for the list). Our friends from Southend will be doing the judging as normal I believe, so please make sure that you give them the hardest job possible by putting as many models on the tables as we can as a club. Good luck to all the members participating and may the best model win.

I am writing this article as the Model Engineers Show at Alexander Palace is fast approaching. I have already boxed the models that are going, got the stands ready, modelling gear and bases in the bag and the "new", smaller IPMS Hornchurch sign bagged and by the front door ready for its first outing. I'm sure that I will pick up a few tools and odds and ends that seem like a good idea at the time and I just must have. As they say, "There's one born every minute" but how do the traders at all the shows always manage to find me?! I enjoy the M.E.E. show, (but then again I enjoy most of the shows), as it shows a totally different genera of modelling. I always feel a little humble and inadequate when I look at the marvellous creations on display wrought out of bar & sheet metal or created from blocks and strips of wood. The skills of the model engineers are truly amazing, however I am heartened by our particular skills when it comes to the detailing, painting, weathering and "authentic looking" finishes we get on our models. As John Adams said to Peter and I at the Nationals, "there are painters and decorators and there are modellers, rarely are they the same person", nothing proves John's point more convincingly than our attendance at the M.E.E. wouldn't it be nice to be one of these very rare persons? I know I would.

At the moment Southern Expo is beginning to gather its unstoppable pace, trophies to be checked and replacements ordered. Traders and clubs pursued for either funds or returns, advertising to be purchased, replacement traders offered space, insurance, tables, raffle prizes and raffle books sourced to name but a few of the jobs that is the juggling act that makes the show appear to run as smooth as it normally does. On a brighter note my Expo build has finally made it to the table and work has started, life doesn't get much better than that. Thankfully the golf "season" has started and so I should get a few undisturbed evenings a week to get cracking on the model, hopefully during the advertisement breaks in the golf Adele will have time to bring me up a cup of tea every now and then. Or more likely I'll have to go downstairs and make the Adele a cup of tea and put a couple of Rich Tea biscuits on the saucer. In the Bellamy household, the year might change but some things don't!



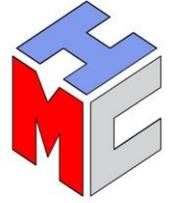
Look, a clean, well clean-ish, desk, a rare sight indeed!

Robin



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## Wrighty's "References"

Well let's begin by wishing everybody at the club a Happy New Year in 2015. Well we are kicking off on the right foot with Model of the Year competition probably will be the best year, with what I have seen of the models qualified for entry, good luck to you all.

I'd like to bring to your attention a railway based model, not my usual thing I know, but my father was a railway man and I was eager to portray something of his memory in my display of models at home.

### The Mallard

For the uninitiated the "Mallard" 4962 was the finest steam railway engine ever built and I believe it still holds the world speed record achieved in 1937 of 126 mph (*that is correct – Peter*). It was a Blue LNER Pacific 4.6.2 of streamlined design by Sir Nigel Gresley.

Well almost 4 months ago a company brought out a gauge OO model as a temptation to buy a series of magazines in steam railway engines relating to that pre-war era. It was advertised on TV during August 2014, I rushed down to W.H. Smith only to be told it was sold out., oh hell all my plans for a permanent memorial to dad was going out the window, but a swift visit to W.H. Smiths at Lakeside provided the model for a paltry £2.99, what value; of course the price increases if you subscribe as these offers usually do. But my plan to get a perspex dust cover fell foul, all £1 shop dishes were a maximum of 12" long, I needed 14½" to get it to cover the loco and base. Now what! Make it myself out of perspex sheeting, "no go", Homebase don't stock it anymore, B&Q have got it a mate told me, a 5' x 2½' sheet was the princely sum of £52.00, another no-goer. However the last chance, I had some remnants of the perspex I used for making a Singapore flying boat dust cover. Yes it worked by cutting at various angles the necessary pieces could be obtained to make the size I wanted. I took them to "Essex Glass" in Hornchurch where a very kind gentleman said he could cut them out for me, which being a West Ham supporter and my scarf opened up a conversation on the Hammers which terminated only when he refused to take any money for cutting the perspex. It may sound rather odd to you, but this model may well bring a reminder of dad's memory each time I see it, to me that's better than an unattended gravestone in a faraway place or a plaque on the cemetery wall or even a lone rose bush in the garden. A permanent reminder and I hope to show it on the table at next months meeting.

Note: the real Mallard still exists and is displayed in the York Railway museum along with many other locomotives, so if you are in that area on holiday don't miss it.

### Diecast Bargains

Talking of bargains, have you seen or are you aware of the 1/144<sup>th</sup> scale die-cast Lancaster (Dambuster) in the colours of Guy Gibson for just £1.99 from "Atlas Editions", Tel 0800 321 3337.

(<http://www.atlaseditions.co.uk/collection/BRW/DiecastAircraft-Avro-Lancaster-Dambuster-bomber.html>)

This is not a catch, I have bought various items from this company and they are OK, but they also have a companion model of the UK's other main bomber the Halifax, also diecast to the same scale to make a fine matching pair (on your bedroom dressing table for instance) this costs around £6.00 (2 coffees in Costa), they come post free in a 12" square box. What a deal, the UK's 2 finest bombers in diecast on stands; you can go without the wife's coffee just one Saturday morning, see enclosed copy of the offer.

That's my Christmas present to each of you!

### WrySpy Calling

As reported previously limited numbers of agents and a heavy workload has kept WrySpy rather quiet apart from (Cdr CD!.RF) reports are published in December 2014 issue of Sticky Fingers. Once more we have some snippets of news for you on current aviation matters, where in some cases limited coverage is not available due to security reasons.

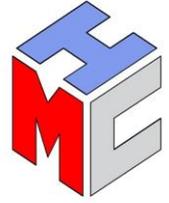
### RAF Tornados (Afghanistan)

No. 31 Squadron RAF (Goldstone) Tornado have finally left their Afghan base Kandahar to return to the UK after serving for 5 years since June 2009 with 4 tours of duty in that time period, their well-earned return to the UK may not last too long



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as the situation in Syria could well call on their expertise, don't forget we reported earlier in the year 2014 that Tornados have been replaced by Typhoons.

## US Harrier Retirement Delayed

As you know in the last 2 years all UK Harriers have been retired from service and put into storage in some cases. The baton was still carried by the US Marines with the AV-8B Harrier, planned to stay in service to 2020, but it now appears they must soldier on until 2025. This is due to absorbing the F-35B into the plan, for Pacific Command and Marine Expeditionary Units known as PACOM and MEU respectively.

The F-35B began integration in 2015 beginning with VMF-211. Currently the AV-8B fleet operates 84 in 6 squadrons with 24 standby in 2<sup>nd</sup> line units.

## Texan or Tucano?

The Beechcraft T6C Texan II is an aircraft I have barely heard of until I spotted a photo of an all-black finish so similar to the Shorts Tucano with markings and stencils all over the fuselage and its profile and shape is all the world over a "ringer" for the black Tucano used as exhibition and courtesy aircraft for 2014.

This particular aircraft (the Texan) was officially accepted for the RNZAF at its base Ohakea from the makers Beechcraft on the 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2014. With 4 Texans at the base since August 2014 were part of an order for a total of 11 aircraft, with a further 7 to still be delivered, if they don't turn up, offer Short Tucano, no one will notice the difference.



## Airshow China 2014

Held at the Zhuhai air complex Airshow China as it is better known took place from November 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. A largely selected audience invited personnel from Chinese aircraft manufacturers, military and possible buyers from Far East companies. However our Chinese agent (Kee Sin Pak) found a way in by getting a Vietnamese Major drunk and then with his papers impersonating him as a possible buyer, this report was obtained by him.

The J.31 Stealth Fighter No.31001 which has similar looks to the JSF-35 gave a display, now powered by Russian RD93 engines, gave demonstration and aerobatics but the engines were somewhat smoky, maybe not quite settled in yet.



Another display was performed by J.10AYs from the (Ba-Yi) team; these were piloted by female pilots in some positions, 6 aircraft were present including 2 two seaters, so Kim says "watch out Red Arrows, the girls are gunning for you".



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A debut first flight by Y.20 prototype, the Xi'an Aircraft Company Y.20, a four engine jet airlifter was the star of the show.



A real surprise, the "Mistel" like creation of an KJ-200 early warning aircraft with circular radar disc, mounted on a balance beam above a modified Y.9 transport; these are reported to operate with PLAAF and PLANAF (Army & Navy)



## Austria's Eurofighter

The 1<sup>st</sup> of 15 Eurofighters were delivered to Austrian Airforce Base Zeltweg in July 2007, Austria being the 1<sup>st</sup> customer for the type under export agreements and replaced their Saab Drakens, the deal comprised 9 second hand Luftwaffe machines and 6 fresh from Tranch 1 production lines.

Because they were only required to serve in the air policing role they were basic models lacking in various weaponry and technology such as weapon detectors, sensors and missile warning systems etc. The entire fleet is based at Zeltweg and carries out border protection and other internal affairs. The unit is made in Luftwaffe style (Stabs & Staffel) and the 2 Staffel each being designated an area. The 4 letter ID codes either side of the triangular national markings, the unit code is **7L ▲ W?** with individual letters in the no. 4 position. Although limited in "extras" compared to other countries Eurofighters they still do a great job for us says Capt Gandhi who conducted our visit to Zeltweg and showed us the base, thank you Capt.

## IT'S A DOGFIGHT UP THERE AS RED BARON RETURNS

If you want a plane for your own dogfight, then only the best will do. Paul Ford has built an exact replica of the Red Baron-style Fokker triplane. He spent £180,000 on the aircraft – and it's now available for passengers to take part in mock aerial battles. 'It is



replica: Paul Ford and his triplane

the ultimate plane from World War I,' said Mr Ford, 45.

The original Fokker Dr1 Dreidecker was made famous by German fighter ace Manfred Von Richtofen, aka the Red Baron, who downed at least 70 allied pilots before his death in 1918.

Mr Ford, co-owner of Derby Aero Club, said: 'I made a flying model version of the plane when I was 30 and decided that one day I would build a full-sized one.' It also comes equipped with the same machine guns on the nose – unarmed, of course.

Visitors can climb inside another famous warplane – the Tiger Moth – and be taken on an exhilarating flight as the two planes re-enact a fight.

'There are a lot of sharp turns as the planes chase each other around the sky. It's a lot of fun,' Mr Ford added.



Follow that Fokker: It's used in mock battle. PICTURE: CASCADE

## HERITAGE

# Injuries and heartache endured by arctic convoy survivor

Seven decades after putting his life on the line during the Second World War Arctic Convoy missions, George Samuel Barker has been recognised for his bravery. He talks to reporter *Anna Silverman* about life at sea and his pride at collecting the medal.



20 | November 7, 2014

After braving freezing temperatures, battling years of love-sickness and suffering an injury which saw "blood pour out of his eyes and ears", a Romford Navy veteran has been recognised for his part in the Second World War.

George Samuel Barker, 92, was decorated with the Ushakov medal on September 30 in recognition of his bravery delivering supplies to the Eastern Front in the Arctic Convoy Missions.

He was deployed to the HMS Dido in 1943 where he enjoyed two years of laughter with his "mess mates" and endured heartache as he sent love letters to his wife-to-be back at home.

### HMS DIDO

It was built at Cammell Laird shipyard, near Liverpool, with the keel laid down on October 26, 1937.

The ship was launched on July 18, 1939 and commissioned on September 30, 1940.

In 1941, HMS Dido was badly damaged after being bombed by the Germans after embarking troops from Sphakia and Heraklion in Crete.

The ship was scrapped in July 1957 at Barrow-in-Furness.

"I had a fun birthday celebration one year on board the Dido," George recalled. "We were off the coast of Murmansk in Russia and, when it was your birthday on the ship, all your mates gave you something called 'sippers' out of their rum."

"There was about 10 of them so I was quite drunk and then we went on shore and played a football match against a Russian hospital team."

"I was running the line and must have collapsed I was so drunk. They had to carry me back to the ship. We all laughed about it the next day."

George, who had always lived in Dagenham until moving to Romford six years ago, was on a ship entrusted to take six and half tonnes of gold bullion to Russia.

In 1945, he was in a



HMS Dido with its onboard anti-aircraft guns. Picture below: Imperial War Museum

"devastating" accident after peace was declared, but the Dido was late to hear the news.

German aircraft flew overhead near the coast of Copenhagen and George was badly injured by a gun blast when the Dido – still thinking the war was on – opened fire.

"I was off-watch so was lying on the top deck.

"Our ship didn't know war was over so they opened fire and I caught the full blast.

"Everyone suddenly went to action stations and I should have made my way there too and put my protective gear on, but I didn't make it in time.

"I was pouring with blood. It was coming out of my eyes and my ears. They patched me up in the sick bay and I remember having my head done up with bandages.

"I was injured so badly I didn't know where I was. I don't know how I got back to England but next thing I knew I was in Gillingham Naval hospital. I was in there for two or three months being treated for gun blast."

George was eventually given a compassionate posting to Blackpool before being permanently discharged as unfit for further duties in 1946. "I married in 1946 but the

first six months of my married life I was still reporting to hospital," said George.

"We started writing letters to each other in 1942 but didn't meet until much later."

They began writing after George's uncle showed his picture to wife-to-be Joan Warren. But the pair didn't meet until right before the disastrous convoy.

"Before we set sail, I made my way to Oldham finally. When I got there, she'd just come off a night shift at the ammunition factory I went straight to her house and she was asleep. I just about woke her up."

George stayed for three days before returning to his ship to set sail on the Dido convoy.

After collecting his medal, traditionally handed out to Soviet sailors and named after the redoubtable Russian Admiral Fyodor Ushakov, he said: "It was great to receive the medal. They were rewarding people because it was dangerous work."

"I suffered from the injury most of my life but it made me feel proud to be there collecting the Ushakov."

"It's something to remember those days we were out at sea by."



George and Joan Barker on their wedding day in 1946. Joan died in December 2008