

Club Magazine

SPRING EDITION 2016

Luton & District MBC
.... a club NOT just for boats

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EDITORIAL

By Sinker Dalton

By the time you have got around to reading this editorial I hope you will have realised that we are now in 2016, doesn't time fly. At the requests of some of our newer members I have listed a few of the local model shops and how to contact them. I do hope this assists you in locating any parts that you may require.

The weather is now improving, if you have taken the trouble to open the curtains and look out? so for those members that don't do wet and windy or snowy, now is the time to find that boat that has been hibernating in the back of the garage, charge the batteries (Both transmitter and Receiver) and get it working ready for a day's outing down at the lake, look forward to seeing you all there

I have repeated the publication of the article by Pete Carmen in this issue which lists the venues we visit and gives details about their location and facilities available.

The venue in which we hold our monthly meetings is threatened with closure by Luton Borough Council due to lack of funding and support from London Luton Airport Limited. Pete and Terry attended a meeting at the Bushmead hall on Thursday evening 10th March. Our committee are currently looking for alternative meeting places.

FROM THE SECRETARY

By Peter 'Klunk' Carmen

Ok I have been asked by Mr Dalton to do an introduction about myself, so here goes. Born in Luton, or found in 1967....my Mum blames the world cup in '66. Bought up in Tin Town, Luton, attending local infants, junior and senior schools. My first model was an Airfix LCM with Sherman tank which my older brother Richard had bought me then botched building!!!! So from then on I decided to build all my own models and thus began my modelling life. I have covered many subjects from Aircraft from both World Wars, tanks, trucks figures and buildings.

While in the last year of junior school, we were doing a project on York Minster and built a card model of this imposing Cathedral, also I helped out making a 4ft relief clay model of a knight in armour that to this day still hangs in Ramridge junior school! Progressing through senior school I built a new model most weekends, honourably bought from Young's model shop which then became Taylor and McKenna's then Beatties before closing, much to my regret, but by that time I was mobile and driving. At school, in the first 3 years I studied wood work and metal work, but was not allowed to carry them on in the final 2 years as they were oversubscribed, so instead I studied technical drawing instead. Outside of school I had started making free flying gliders and Jetex models, and started tinkering in radio control, which back then I could not afford, so borrowed some of my sisters boyfriends equipment!

To my regret, in woodwork they had a new teacher who was also the technical design teacher. His passion was model gliders so everyone taking these 2 subjects spent 2 years making different types of gliders or wing sections and boat hulls looking at flow design.....grrrrrrrrrr.

Upon leaving school and starting work I could now afford RC gear, so in 1984 paid £135 for a futaba 4 channel system from Maple Models. I also attended the London Model Engineering Show at Alexander Palace in the Marquee round the back end as the main hall had burnt down; here I bought my first full RC kit, a Precedent Hi-Boy 4 channel aircraft and a second hand Enya 29, all for the princely sum of £145!!!! Ouch.

I joined the Luton Model Flying club at Offley, and spent every Sunday up there for 2 years, progressing through an Irvine Tutor, Galaxy Gazelle, Flair Black Magic, Galaxy Wizard, Metcalfe F4 phantom and Tornado and then I started Helicopters. My first being a MFA 500 with full collective then a Kyosho Concept 30. None of this came cheap!!! At this point in time Luton flying club decided to limit helicopter flying at the site so I left them and started to fly at Lothair Road with several other ex-members. After several run-ins with the council, where they actually lost the argument due to the fact that Lothair is Common Land!!! And not park land so has different rules. At this point I became more interested in Gliders and Joined Ivinghoe Flyers. I flew a Windstar 2m, a Topaz 3m and several PSS gliders, before being banned for flying too fast over the ridge with a F4 Phantom PSS glider with reinforced carbon tow leading edges that made the plane whistle, is scared the c**p out of the then chairman, so I got canned.

Throughout all this I carried on plastic modelling at various scales and subjects, mainly a strong interest in 1/72 aircraft or tanks. I then also got interested in N gauge railways, and bought all the track and locos for a 1938 to 1946 GWR railway, but never got round to actually building the layout!. It was at this point I came across the most difficult kit that I ever made. While at the N gauge Show held in Milton Keynes in 1998 I bought 6 kits of a GWR Lowmac and chassis from the society shop. Well the mouldings were excellent, but there were absolutely no guide lines to where any parts fitted a simplistic 3d sketch of where the parts went together was not informative. I ended up ruining 3 kits before I figured out where the chassis parts actually went! I then met the wife and modelling was curtailed for 8 years, everything went into storage.

I got into model boating purely by fluke, my daughter Mollie was critically ill aged 7 and spent the Christmas in hospital with an undiagnosed virus. She then spent the next 12 months learning to walk again, it was while pushing her round Wardown one Sunday morning with the dog that we saw the boats being sailed, we had a quick chat with a couple of members then went home. Mollie said she wanted to get a boat to sail, so I started to look around to see what was about. My first boat I got from the Luton Tip, I happened to be up there with some garden waste and a gentleman was about to bin a boat, Scratch built flower class corvette. I put it in the car then the following Sunday went to see the club at Wardown. No one was there! Then Graham turned up to collect some tables and told me they were doing a display at Luton Hoo Sea Cadets. I duly went home collected Mollie and went and joined that day, and have never looked back. I still do plastic modelling and have recently completed my first civil aircraft, for a project at work. I help out at Model Boat Mayhem weekend in May each year, and have recently become interested in RC trucks.

As club secretary, behind the scenes I have been trying to forge links with local flying clubs, as I feel that all modellers, irrespective of preference need to stick together. We are all in the same boat with the modelling trade in all areas in decline; in fact it seems the only area in modelling going through the roof at the moment is RC trucks!

CHAIRMANS CHALLENGE 2016 BOTTLE BOATS/CRAFT

THE RULES

CLASS 1

UP TO 2 X 2LTR PLASTIC BOTTLES NO POWER OR RC.

No power means no electric motors or RC.

To go from point to point in a straight line.

CLASS 2

**UP TO 5 X PLASTIC BOTTLES ANY SIZE UP TO 2LTR EACH POWERED
OR SAIL WITHOUT RC**

**To go for as long as possible (Endurance) without any outside
influence from the banks.**

CLASS 3

**AS MANY BOTTLES AS YOU LIKE AND ANY SIZE WITH OR WITHOUT
POWER AND WITH RC.**

To navigate a three point course of three laps.

**ALL CLASSES TO BE HELD AND JUDGED AT WARDOWN PARK ON
THE CLUB OPEN DAY 19th JUNE 2016.**

HAVE FUN

Michael Dowsett - Chairman

DAVE HITCHCOCK - RIP



Dave Hitchcock died just before Christmas 2015, and his funeral was in early January. He was a long time member of the club. Dave also built all his boats from scratch from whatever material he found. He had a full life as Royal Military policeman, then went to Canada and joined the Canadian railway police before coming back the UK and joining the Metropolitan Police. Dave enjoyed sailing boats but also had steam and electric. I am still unsure how he managed to fall in the lake over his sailing boat and be in and out of the water before anyone knew about it!

SHOPPING FOR MODELLERS

Having difficulty finding bits or tools for your modelling needs, well help is at hand in the form of where to go and find what you are looking for.

Chronos Tools. 2 Southfields Road, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 3EJ
www.chronos.ltd.uk

This Company stocks a large range of machine tools for lathes, milling machines and drills. They also stock, Badger air brushes, Soldering Irons, Solder, Various fluxes and a range of small BA nuts and bolts.

Dunstable Model Centre: 23-25 West Street, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 1SL

Tel: 01582 662566 (Closed all day Thursday)

This shop was also known as Dunstable Sports Boats with a history for repairing outboard motors but this was some time ago. It is now a model shop mainly specialising in Small gauge electric trains and RC Cars but also sells plastic kits, a variety of different paints, balsa, brass tube/rod and plasticard etc. The owner is currently having a clear out, he has been doing this for the last six months and it still doesn't look any different? **(Regarding opening times always check by phone before you visit)**

- Sundon Model Shop:** 30, Sundon Park Parade, Luton Bedfordshire. LU3 3BJ
Sundonmodelshop.com
One of the specialties of this shop is Air Guns of all types; they also stock Cross Bows and Knives. On the modelling front they have a range of Helicopters, Cars, Boats and Aeroplanes all ready to run together with Paint, Radios and Batteries. Last time I visited they had some modelling materials but not a lot.
- The Model Box** Unit 111 Hitchin Market (Open Tues, Fri., Sat & Sun)
Contact Steve 07460 361684
Although a small unit Steve stocks a large range of plastic model kits from leading brands including Airfix, Academy, Revell, Trumpeter, A Call To Arms, Emhar and Hobbyboss including suitable paints and fillers. He is willing to order some things if he can get hold of them in small quantities. He also sells Thomas Gunn Miniatures & King and Country figures see www.redcoatsoldier.co.uk.
- Mainly Models** Unit 3, Fen End Industrial Est. Astwick Road. Stotfold. Nr Hitchin SG5 4BA. [Tel:07931 731333](tel:07931731333). www.mainlymodels.co.uk
This shop was originally to be found in Hitchin Town Centre. They stock a range of items including Paints and Brushes, Plastic Shapes and Sheet, R/C Equipment, R/C Cars, Aircraft & Accessories, Helicopters & Accessories, Metals, Wood, Balsa and Nitro Engines.
- HobbyStores** St. Albans – **NOW CLOSED**
Company Statement: Sadly, and entirely due to the adverse conditions that have affected the model trade over the last few years, the reluctant decision has been taken to close with immediate effect the following store branches: Chelmsford, Enfield, St. Albans, Reading and Watton. However they are still operating an ON-Line store.
- Howes Models** Unit 2C/D Station Field Industrial Estate, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 1LA
www.howesmodels.co.uk. [Tel:01865 848000](tel:01865848000)
Howes is a well known model supplier and although it's a bit of a journey to Kidlington there is a lot to look at, so if you have not got deep pockets leave your wallet at home. They stock Tanks, Trucks, Boats, Yachts, Quad Copters, Radios, Tools, Paint Brushes but no Paint?
- The Club Shop** Wardown Park on Sundays
The CLUB SHOP is currently run by Mike Skuce. He has an enormous range of parts and products in stock to help with your modelling needs, if you have a requirement for something, ask Mike or Pete Carmen on a Sunday morning down at the lake.

A list below will give an indication as to the range of materials that is held in stock

Balsa Wood, Coloured Foam Board in Red, Green or Grey. 2 x 3ft LEDs, Motors 180, 280 and 540 types, Connectors and Switches
Digital Multimeters, Small Speakers (4 and 8 ohm)
A Range of Power Supplies, Humbrol Paint (Tinlets)
Tweezers and Clamps, Gears, Cogs, Pulleys and Worm drives
Nuts/Bolts/Washers, Plastic Box's, Brick-a- Brack and always a range of ready built model boats some in need of some TLC – see Pete Carman

Visit the Club Website and look under 'LINKS' there you will find a whole lot of further information on suppliers

RC TRUCK MEET MILTON KEYNES

A former member of our club, Greg Weedon invited me to the February meeting of the 3 Counties Truck meet in MK. A couple of years ago Mollie bought me a 1/16 VW RC Camper van, so I decided to take that along for a giggle. I started out at 8am aiming to be there to help Greg set up and have a chat and a cuppa, but someone, not Greg, put the wrong postcode on the event details and I ended up 8 miles from where I needed to be. I got there but not in time to help out.



I had a good long chat with both Greg and his Dad John, about the layout, how it was built and future extensions. I met several of the truckers, some were old faces I knew from the St Albans show some new ones, there was a lot of tinkering going on with the trucks but several were running, including a very nice Stollie, several MAN trucks, a few land rovers, an organ tow truck and a Leopard tank with its transporter. There were several knick-knack items for sale on a table to one side. It's amazing to see some of these trucks as they are heavily modified with extra lighting, custom paint jobs or extra-long trailers! At one point they closed all the curtains in the hall and were running with only the lights on the trucks, very spooky!

The roadway was built by Greg and Emma on the whole and is made of 3mm MDF, cut to set lengths, so it can be tailored to any halls they use. People who come also bring their own buildings to enhance the layout. Having talked to Greg at length about the layout, it seems he spends a lot of time in charity shops buying toy farm animals!! The cost of a basic truck starts at about £250 then RC gear on top of that. A trailer is another £150!! Then you can buy tail lights, automatic gear drops, tail ramp drops side lights and the list goes on up to engine vibration and sound systems! It all depends on how deep your pockets are or how ingenious you are at DIY!



Above is a line up of about a quarter of the trucks that were there. There was even a fire engine! At some shows I have seen excavators and dumper trucks but these were not allowed at this show due to the restrictions in the hall. If you feel you have an interest or would like to go to the next event, see Pete Carman who will give you details as they come up.

IPMS TELFORD Nov 7/8 2015

By Tony Martin

Lyn and I decided to give the Model Boat Show a miss this year and decided to go to the IPMS Model Show in Telford instead. We went up for the weekend but could not travel on the Friday due to work commitments. This meant a very early start on the Saturday morning.

In just over two hours we were in Telford but had to queue for parking, we had to park outside the Exhibition Centre which cost us £3 per day. Arriving early we decided to take a quick walk through the main shopping centre which was right next to the show. We then found an ASDA close by so I had to have a full English breakfast and a cup of tea and Lyn had some toast.

With a full stomach it was time for the show to open for non-members. With a bit of queuing and buying our tickets for two days we were in.

This show is massive! There are three large halls all filled with clubs from all over the world, lots of traders and models of every description, you name it ships, aircraft, vehicles (both military and non military), figures. Sci-fi and fantasy (the photo's say it all). It was there that we met up with some old friends, so Lyn decided to check out the shopping centre properly.

I had brought a box of finished models with me and there was space on my local club stand so after spending some time setting them up I thought it was time for a nose around and to have a chat with lots of mates that I have met over my 30 years plus of model making.

As Saturday drew to a close and with Lyn impressed with the shops it was off to the Travel Lodge which was about a fifteen minutes drive away. We then headed off to a local pub for some food which was not far away. The food was ok but they soon ran out of ale so no big drinking session.

Sunday started out grey and damp but full English soon brightened things up.

We parked in the multi-story car park this time just across from the centre at a pricey sum of £1 for the day.

Tony Dalton, Dave Abbott and Maria paid a visit so Lyn and Maria went shopping and I went off to man the Chiltern Scale Model Club stand as Dave and Tony took a look around.

With a bit of retail therapy and lots of photos taken we all met up at the Chiltern Club stand where we had a chat with Dave Wooley who writes the Range Finder column in Model Boats.

The show began to wind up about 4pm so it was time to pack up and head home. I would strongly recommend this show to anyone interested in model making and a number of photographs follow this article to show you the range of models displayed. We intend to make a return visit in 2016.









TYPE 45 PROPULSION PROBLEMS

Interesting information found on the internet regarding the Daring Class Destroyers

This information about the Royal Navy's most modern warships needing to have holes cut in their sides to fit them with new engines because they keep breaking down was first published some six weeks ago. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has confirmed that the six Type 45 destroyers are to undergo major refits amid concerns over their reliability. The work will be staggered over a period of years so some ships remain available for operational commitments at all times. The move follows reports of persistent problems with the engines and power systems on the ships which cost £1 billion each.

In 2014, HMS Dauntless had to abandon a training exercise and in 2009 HMS Daring lost power in the Atlantic on her first voyage to the US. Each of the ships, which are described as "part of the backbone of the Royal Navy", are fitted with two engines - a gas turbine and a diesel generator. A Royal Navy source said the most likely action will be to add as many as two generators to "bolster the power that's already there" he accepted that carrying out such maintenance just a few years into the ships' service was not "normal" he said: "It is an issue, we're managing it at the moment but we need to do something about it."

The MoD has not disclosed the cost of the work but it is thought that it could run to tens of millions of pounds Cutting into the side of the ship is a normal way to access the engine rooms in the bottom of the ship.

The MoD stated: "The Type 45 destroyers are hugely capable ships and have consistently made a difference to our safety and security" In our defence review last year we committed to improving the Type 45's power and propulsion system through a series of machinery upgrades during planned maintenance which will ensure increased availability and resilience over the life of the ships." The destroyers are used in "hunting pirates, drug runners or submarines, defending the fleet from air attack and providing humanitarian aid after natural disasters".

In November, Defence Secretary Michael Fallon announced Portsmouth-based HMS Defender would provide air defence cover for the carrier Charles de Gaulle in the fight against Islamic State A spokeswoman for BAE Systems, which builds the ships, said: "The Type 45 Destroyers are among the world's most capable air defence Destroyers, able to carry out a wide range of operations for the Royal Navy "We are working collaboratively with the MoD and industry partners to deliver improvements to the power generation capability of the Type 45 Destroyers." A spokesman for Rolls-Royce, which makes the WR-21 gas turbines, said: "We are committed to supporting the WR-21 in service and have recently opened a new overhaul and test facility in Bristol "We continue to work with the MoD on upgrading the performance of the propulsion system."

The moral of this story is that even the big boys get it wrong sometimes, so when you decide to re-engine your vessel because its performance is not up to scratch, just think of the 'DARING' saga.

Ed.

SHORT BUT SWEET

(Converting an Airfix Long Wheel Base Land Rover)

By Tony Martin

Having built the Airfix F2a Lightning and put it on a diorama base, I decided that a piece of ground equipment would set the scene a little better.

Looking round my stash of kits (too numerous to mention) I found an old MB models (Now Airfix) 1/76 scale soft top Land Rover. Yes there would be a slight difference in scale compared to the Lightning but not a really noticeable one.

My first stumbling block was that I had built the same kits hard top version and put it in a Royal Navy colour scheme. After looking through lot of reference material (books, on line etc) at RAF stations though the years I noticed that they used a lot of the short wheel

base “landies”. So with this in mind I decided to convert the kit to a SWB version. More research revealed a basic set of line drawings so I was all set to start.

The front of the Land is pretty standard so I had no real problems there but the rear bed and chassis would have to be shortened. My first cut with the old razor saw was made just behind the cab doors. With this done, 6 MM was cut from the wheel arch and 3 MM cut from the rear, to get the correct length of the cargo area. I found that the rear quarter panels needed slightly reshaping and with this done I carefully glued the cut up sides back together. The rear bed floor and chassis were then also cut to the same dimensions and glued back together. The kit was now ready for assembly with the only cutting left to be done was the canvas tilt as I had decided to represent the model with the top up as there was not much interior detail inside.

Now it was time for paint. My first attempt at RAF – NATO green did not go well, but a good friend of mine put me on the right track with a Revell aqua colour (360) that I found quite easy to brush paint. The canvass tilt was then given a coat of darker green and the tyres and steering wheel were painted in black. The kit had a set of decals for the RAF but lacked the yellow stripe that all “RAF” vehicles carry on their sides. As luck would have it I happened to have some spare decal in my spares box (no I don’t throw anything away !) and this was cut down to an approximate size strips . For applying the decals I used my usual combination of Klear floor polish and decal softener (Revell) to stop the decals from showing up silver. This is caused by trapped air between the decal the kit surface. All in all not a bad little build and it goes nicely with the old Lightning.

I have included a number of photographs with this article depicting the various stage of construction. I do hope you find them interesting.

As a foot note while I was rummaging through my boxes of kits I did find a “RAF” fire extinguisher trolley. This was an old PP Aeroparts kit that consisted of an etched brass frame (some 8 pieces) a white metal tank and brass wire for the hose. This took some real fiddly assembly under a magnifier using super glue as the parts are ludicrously small! This also was painted using the same colours as the rover and finally added to the Diorama







FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- March** – 14th Club Night Tony Martin presentation on resin casting
 20th Bacon roll Sunday
- April** – 5th Hitchin Market (Tuesday) to be confirmed at March Club Meeting
 9th Luton Model Railway Club Exhibition, Stopsley High School 10.30 to 17.00
 11th Club Night Sail Wardown Park
 12th Hitchin Market (Tuesday) to be confirmed at March Club meeting
 17th Bacon roll Sunday
 24th IPMS Milton Keynes 10.00 to 16.30 Stantonbury Leisure Centre
- May** – 9th Talk on Model Steam Plants
 15th Bacon roll Sunday
 21st Hitchin Market
 28th-29th Mayhem – Wicksteed Park
 28th-29th Beal Park Show
- June** – 4th-5th Alford Show
 13th Trucks and Tracks – display of trucks and trains
 18th Hitchin Market – Fathers Day
 19th Club Open Day 10am till 3pm BBQ all day
- July** – 9th Hitchin Market – Duck Race Day and Gala Day
 11th Night sail Wardown Park 18.30 to 21.30
 17th Bacon roll Sunday

FOR SALE

If you wish to advertise items for sale in the CLUB MAGAZINE (related to modelling) please supply a photograph of the item together with a short description and send to the editor.



Destroyer Smasher This model has been modified to 2.4 GHz with motor & rudder control. AA style batteries found to be corroded inside the battery compartment of Transmitter all cleaned up. Asking price **£10**



Sky Hussar RTF aeroplane complete with transmitter etc. Asking price **£10**



Firebird XL RTF airplane complete with transmitter & charger etc. Asking price **£10**



Seawind Sea Plane. Complete with 2.4GHz radio, Brushless motor and LiPo battery. AA style batteries found to be corroded inside the battery compartment of Transmitter all cleaned up. Asking price **£50**

All above items contact Tony Dalton 01582-598661

The following boats Numbered 1 to 4 are being offered for sale by Pete Carmen at £15 to £25 each, price being dependent on what is inside the hulls eg Motors, Servo's Etc. no other electronics. Contact Peter for details.



Boat 1 Balsa Wood Construction



Boat 2 Balsa Wood Construction



Boat 3 Balsa Wood Construction



Boat 4 Balsa Wood Construction