



# Waltham Chase Aeromodellers

Newsletter 15-12-2016

## 1. Message from the Chairman

As 2016 rapidly comes to an end and we look forward to 2017. It is always a good idea to use the dark months to start a new project, from scratch built to almost ready to fly. Alternatively current models can be given a full service and safety check, ready for the spring season. This saves rushing things when the flying begins in earnest, risking an obvious accident.

Building a kit, for those who have never tried, is a very satisfying enterprise, teaching the hobbyist lots of new and interesting skills and with care, a very successful model will result from the effort, which too many is as much fun as flying. We have a core of builders in the club, who are only too happy to advise and help the novice builder get to the finishing line. If you take a look at the Sussex Model Centre website, there are stacks of kits to suit all flying abilities and interests.

Waltham Chase Aeromodellers also offer plenty of indoor events, throughout the winter months, allowing members to keep their hand in while the weather is horrible outside. The venues and dates are posted on club website and again, there are many models available for indoor radio control flying, for all abilities at modest cost. We can also offer FPV racing at Wickham, from time to time.

Finally, may I offer my best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas, as well as best wishes for the New Year.

Pete Sanders 15-12-2016

## 2. Balsa Brain

Balsa Brain 2016. The S.Area BMFA annual Balsa Brain Quiz night was held a week ago at

Hamble **AND WCA WON AGAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

That is three times in 32 years.



*Part of the winning WCA Team for The S.Area Balsa Brain Quiz 2016. The missing team members are Pete Sanders (ill) and Alan Wallington (can't get out of bed on a Sunday Morning). The trophy will have to be enlarged for 2017. The original idea was inaugurated by The PADMAC Group 32 years ago and the S.Area Clubs haven't missed a year.*

Pete Sanders managed to scrape a team of four together including himself. Alan Wallington, Richard Bristow and Gramham Essery. As far as I can make out Our Team lead each round and finally won by 88 points versus 80. The SAM 1066 Team were second and Petersfield last. I compiled approximately half the questions and if Ken Gale who added and formatted the rest in the same manner there would have been a total of approximately 120 points to go for. One question that no body got right was "What are the bypass fan blades on the 70% model

RB211 at the RR Museum made of?" There was a large close up photograph to help. Everyone opted for exotic materials such as carbon fibre and various stainless steels. The actual answer was Leggo blocks. The whole huge model is built out of Leggo. Very clever!



*Leggo RB211 model at the RR Museum Derby.*

Approximately 70 S.Area members attended which is about average. Ken Gale took over from SW as Quiz Master and Tony Butterworth took over from Maggie Warren as scorer. Free food was laid on as per normal for a midway break. This is an excellent evening out and I can heartily recommend it to all.

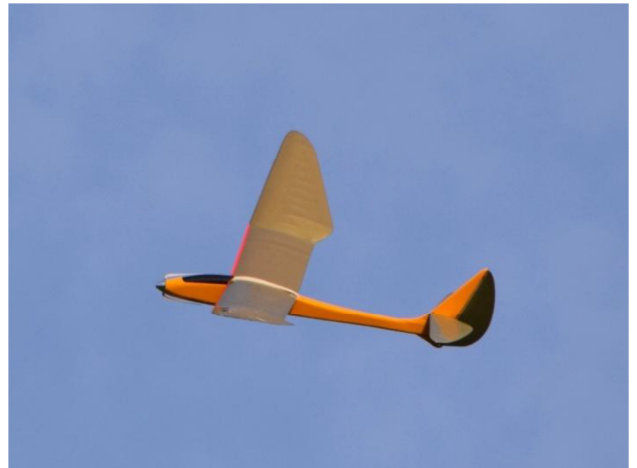


*Balsa Brain 2016 at Hamble Social Club. Tony Butterworth doing his opening spiel. Ken Gale made a superb job of the questions on Power Point which takes time out of all proportion. Having compiled all the questions for about 5 years in succession I can speak with definite feeling.*

Steve Warren

### 3. The Bird of Time Saga continues

From the previous newsletter you will remember the sad demise of Jim Hall's (Ex SW's) B of T due to carbon fibre wing joiner tube failure. I rebuilt the fuselage and Jim repaired the wings and empennage and it has now had another maiden flight. This was totally successful except that it scares Jim to death. It just does not want to land. It will fly on forever in "ground effect" and has to be forced to touch terra firma. Jim is now thinking of building a complete new one, this time with air brakes. See below for photos courtesy of Kevin McGhee.



*A 3.0 metre Bird of Time: With steel wing joiner this time. Rumour has it that Jim still wants to use carbon fibre tube to join the wings of the 25lb all up weight of the 10th scale Dakota we are currently building.*

Steve Warren

### 4. Dakota

Dakota: the 1/10 scale DC3 is continuing to make steady progress in the Hall workshop. The wings are 90% complete and the fuselage about 80%. See SW photo below. All



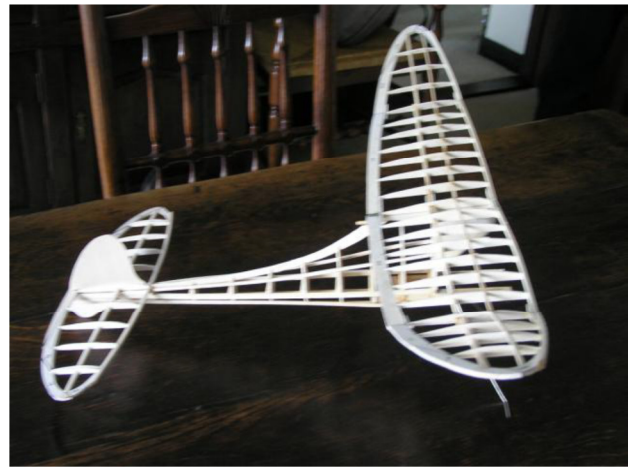
being well it should be ready for its maiden flight in the spring of 2017.



*The Tuesday / Wet / Windy Sunday Morning Building Group's 1/10 scale DC3. 3.0metre wingspan and about 25lbs AUW*  
Steve Warren

## 5. Vintage Models

The SW photos below show Pete Sander's Keil Kraft "Slicker Mite" free flight model under construction. The design is 1950s and I bought the kit at a model shop sale at least 40 years ago. Pete bought the kit from me earlier this year and is now well into the build. I was a little worried about the state of the kit wood after such a long time but Pete says that he cannot fault it beyond it being a little heavy, but that was typical of such kits in those far off days. Pete also bought a 1940s / 1950s AMCO 0.87cc diesel from me to power it. This is as close to an authentic Vintage Model as you will ever get.



*A Keil Kraft "Slicker Mite."*



*An AMCO 0.87 Vintage Diesel*  
Steve Warren

## 6. London Model Engineering Exhibition

The London Model Engineering Exhibition 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> inclusive at the Alexandra Palace London.

For those of you who are model engineers as well as Aeromodellers this is a good trade and club show to attend after Christmas. It is advertised on line with tickets available on line. The parking is free as well. The Ally Pally is not far off the North Circular A406 and not far past North Finchley.

I have assisted with the BMFA stand over the years and from experience I would suggest that Friday is the best day to attend. No Children!!!!

There is an aeromodelling presence from the BMFA HQ ably assisted by the S.Area BMFA Committee and one of the London BMFA Committee but the main aspect is model engineering of all sorts and including trains, boats, trucks, military vehicles plus others.

There is a good selection of trade stands selling everything from simple hand tools



right the way through to sophisticated CNC machining centres (at many thousands of £££££s)

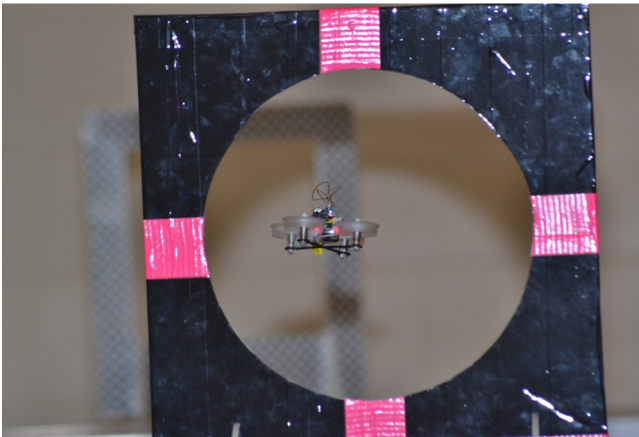


*Ally Pally show hall*

Dress warmly, last year the heating broke down and after 8 hours on the BMFA stand we were frozen. We didn't warm up until we were in the car on the M3 at Sunbury.  
Steve Warren

## 7. Indoor FPV at Wickham

Dave Reynolds and Alan Wallington have organised and run two very successful indoor FPV event at Wickham community centre. Thanks must also go to Stewart Storrow for all his help and support.

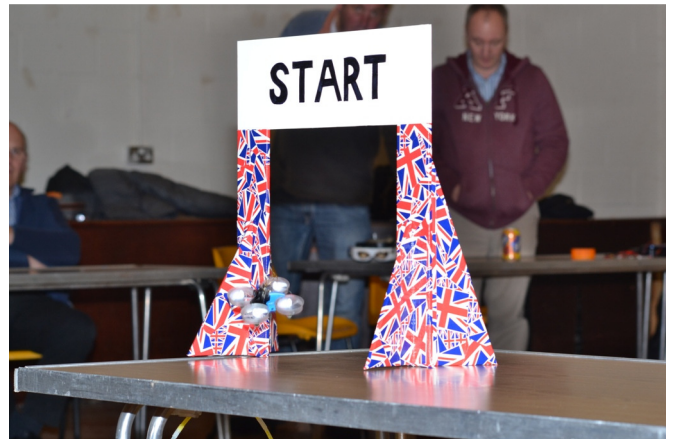


*Yes! Through the hoop*

The events have proved popular being very relaxed in nature with the emphasis on having a go. Obstacles (or targets) are provided while I stuck to just trying to avoid the walls and ceiling (trying, but failing). If you fancy your own indoor FPV'er Stewart has kindly written a few words to get you started. See the next article.



*First Person View*



*No! Bouncing off the start line. Probably distracted by glare from the background.*



*Excited on lookers. Mark charms a snake.*

## 8. Starting in Indoor FPV

Following the success of our inaugural Indoor FPV event, Richard has asked me to do a quick write up this new and exciting part of the hobby! For those of you new to the term FPV, it involves using a camera on a RC model (usually a quadcopter) to transmit a live video feed back to the pilot, who can then fly the model as if they were on board. With the weather closing in, and the technology getting ever cheaper and user-friendly now is one of the best times to get started with indoor FPV.

If you think this is something you could be interested in then first I would suggest coming along to one of the Indoor FPV meets, and having a go. There are plenty of members who would be happy to either give you a ride-along (let you watch through the goggles while they pilot), or to have a go yourself.

The main ingredients needed to get started are: an FPV equipped model, a controller and an FPV monitor or Video goggles. These can often be bought as a kit, such as the Inductrix FPV BNF kit from Horizon Hobby. For £160 you get a capable, safe indoor FPV quad, a controller and the monitor.

There are also numerous models available from our Far East friends at Banggood.com or more locally HobbyKing.com. An example would be the QX90 or QX95 which are slightly larger than the Inductrix, but can also be flown outdoors if the wind is light enough. There is now also the QX70 which is a clone of the Inductrix. These are all available with multiple different receivers (Spektrum, FrSky etc...) so just make sure you get the one which is compatible with your transmitter.

Fortunately, the video part of the FPV equation has evolved over recent years from bulky adapted security equipment wireless transmitters / Heath-Robinson monitor / receiver arrangements and expensive off the shelf Star Trek goggles to include a number of in-expensive and simple to operate headset options thanks in part to the pioneering experiments of a few enterprising individuals resulting in the original DIY goggles basically

comprising a 5" car reversing camera monitor, 2 piece foam headset moulding and book reading Fresnel lens.

Options such as the Hobbyking V2 Pro's (DIY), Quantum Cyclops and other from vendors such as Banggood are relatively cheap and readily available (In the £50 - £70 region), and some even prefer them to likes of the sleeker fat-sharks as they can easily accommodate glasses wearers and provide a larger field of view although as with anything it's a matter of taste.

Before running out to get yourself a model, a couple of issues that you should be aware of. The main of these are flight duration, these indoor models carry very small batteries and therefore have small flight times, you should not be expecting much more than 3 minutes per flight. This can be mitigated by having a larger supply of batteries to swap in when one becomes low. The other main issue is durability, these models mostly use brushed electric motors, which only have a limited lifespan (~15-20hrs) and will therefore eventually need replacing. Luckily there are plenty of replacements available online, and they're often quite cheap ~£10-15 for a full set of motors. You should also be prepared with these models to repair and replace some parts such as propellers and frames, as these can often break due to spirited flying and premature "landings".

Any questions feel free to give myself or Dave Reynolds a shout, and we'll be happy to guide and advise you on which parts to purchase to get involved in this new exciting aspect of the hobby.

Stewart Storrow & Dave Reynolds

## 9. Award of Trophies 2016

With the AGM came the annual award of Trophies. The worthy winners (or lucky winners, you decide) were;





*Most Assistance to the Club: Ernie Hampton*



*Power Competition (Sportsman): David Field*



*Most Improved Senior: Richard for getting to grips with Helis*



*Power Competition (Masters): Les Exall*



*Sonata Glider Competition Winner: Kevin McGhee*



*The Nose Wheel: Dave Reynolds*



*Sonata Glider second place: John Urwin*



*Best home build: Kevin McGhee*



Coup d'Hiver: *Kevin McGhee*

All Trophies awarded by Steve Warren.  
Sadly, once again the trophy for junior flyer was not awarded. Maybe next year this will go to a FPV hot shot.

#### **10. CAA Drone Aware**

Speaking of which the CAA have updated their drone aware poster. A copy of this is attached with this newsletter.

#### **11. Membership Renewal**

Membership forms for 2017 have been sent out. Please note that:

- You must have retuned your signed form and payment before you can fly at TVF in 2017.
- Membership renewal must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> January to remain in the club.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin McGhee or me. I can provide a hard copy of the form if required, see me at TVF.

Merry Christmas and happy flying for 2017  
Richard Bristow 15-12-2016

