

# Stansted Model Flying Club Newsletter

## – July, 2017

**Our next Meeting will be at Hadstock, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017 from 4PM. Come when you can, stay till ?  
We had good weather last time (so here's hoping!)**

### **Mike's Chat:**

Had a chat with Martin who couldn't decide which plane to fly, then he decided none! He did have a fine choice (Mustang, Chipmunk, and a fun fly). Any of them looked fine to me. But then, most of my good models didn't last that long, apart from always needing a good clean. Ho Hum.

Roy turned up with a special glider, which literally flew itself, and could not get lost because it was GPS guided! What a clever bit of kit, and a tribute to Roy's ingenuity. The model could be made to circle overhead automatically.

James came with what is a little unusual these days, A Wot 4 electric powered wooden model, which flew very well I might add.

Paul Munford came to say hallo and to let us know he was coming back to fly in the near future, Most welcome.

Bill encouraged me to have a go with the club trainer, which fortunately I didn't get too wrong, and, thanks to Bill's patience, I might even get better!

Our Scale Day on the 16<sup>th</sup> wasn't too windy, and Steve's Tiggy didn't seem to mind, perhaps it's the weight, but anyway it put on a great display, as usual.

Roy's 1/4 scale Cub flew very well pulled around by a 160 twin four stroke that had spark ignition. Roy certainly loves the unusual.

Jason likes to make his petrol engines work for their living, his Extra 300 was thrown about like a little foamie, and put on a stunt display which was impressive to say the least! Bills Ultimate was almost as fast. As it groaned about the sky (petrol engines do groan I think)

Will said his Mew Gull was a little fast - all I can say is I'm glad I wasn't flying it!

As usual Mark and Linda put on a very welcome food display with the Bar-B-Q creating many a satisfied expression!

*Cheers Dears,*

*Mike*

### **Family Day:**

The club's Annual Families Day will be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August. You are encouraged to bring your families to the BBQ, which should be up and running about noon. Normal flying can probably commence from about 4PM.

### **Regulating Drones:**

The EU has been considering what action to take as regards the use of Drones in European Airspace. The BMFA's Chief Executive, Dave Phipps, has been closely involved

in discussions regarding this issue with the CAA and with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

The Department for Transport (DfT) has now published the outcome of their consultation on the safe use of drones in the UK and their thoughts on the future regulation of unmanned aircraft in the UK. The document can be viewed

at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/631638/unlocking-the-uks-high-tech-economy-consultation-on-the-safe-use-of-drones-in-the-uk-government-response.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/631638/unlocking-the-uks-high-tech-economy-consultation-on-the-safe-use-of-drones-in-the-uk-government-response.pdf) (don't try to type in all that from scratch! LP)

The general principle is that for those operating outside the framework of an established model flying association the regulations for unmanned aircraft will be more restrictive than those currently in place with additional requirements for training, registration and a 400ft/120m height limit. Established model flying associations would operate within the 'Specific Category' under an authorisation granted by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) which would essentially allow us to operate as we do today. Essentially, the CAA would issue us with an authorisation (or exemption) defining our agreed operating parameters which would reflect how we operate today (including operations above 400ft/120m). They state:

*"The Government will work with model aircraft flying clubs to examine ways in which it may be possible to exempt members of model aircraft flying clubs with adequate safety cultures and practices from certain elements of registration and other educational requirements, or where their club will be permitted to undertake regulatory requirements on their behalf. Flyers of model aircraft who are not members of a club, or are members of a club not deemed to have adequate standards will, however, not be excluded from registration or other requirements."*

## **BMFA East Anglia Area "Clubman" Aerobatic Training Events:**

The Area aimed to put on 4 aerobatic training events for club pilots in 2017. To date, they've had to cancel 1 due to weather but the other 2 have been raging successes. Their final event for 2017 will take place at the Tendring MFC in Essex on Sunday 20th August. There is plenty of space for any pilots who would like to come along to learn what is involved in flying precision aerobatics even with standard Club aircraft. There is no need to bring a specialist aerobatic aircraft but if you do have one then please do bring it.



These events are for pilots who hold an A certificate. Those pilots considering advancing to a B test will find the event particularly helpful. It will cost £5 per pilot. Let me (LP) know if you require further information.

### **And Finally:**

This newsletter is being produced (beer in hand) next to my motorhome which is presently parked near the top of a small mountain in Northern Portugal as I continue my summer tour of Iberia. I haven't seen a model aircraft since I set out (except for a commercial drone filming a wedding being held inside the outer walls of the castle shown below a few days ago.) Just as well that I did not bring anything with me, as the winds have usually been too strong for my sort of model flying.



See you all again at the September Monthly Meeting if I'm not too tied up with moving into my new home in Stansted Abbots!

*Laurie*