

# Stansted Model Flying Club Newsletter

September, 2016

***Our next Meeting will be at Ugley Village Hall on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 8PM (or at the flying site from 4PM if the weather is good.***

*(An e-Mail will be circulated to members if we go for flying site option)*

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

Our last meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> September had some strange weather conditions: a dazzling grey sky masking occasional bouts of sunshine, but once again Roy came to the rescue with his Arising Star which kept me out of trouble. He also helped a new member (Ed), who did very well for a first time with a fixed wing model, and gently pulled him away from his drone flying. Alan brought along his vintage model (now electrified) and let me have a go, which could have led to disaster as its rudder was most violent and took me by surprise. Anyway, Alan took over and cruised up to a safer height in the sunshine. Laurie bravely flew his small WWI Albatross DV, which handled the conditions surprisingly well. Jason had several goes with his diesel powered Junior 60 and treated us to some intensive low-level flying (not very vintage but thrilling just the same).

Well, you might ask – it will soon be the AGM so NOW is the time to start thinking about which committee post would could take on to help run the club (which doesn't run itself). So please remember that Bill is only a caretaker Chairman for this year and after 8 years or so at the helm does deserve rest. Also, Laurie has taken on the Secretary's post in addition to the Membership Secretary's duties for this year. Think about what else we need in the club and put yourself forward to achieve it.

By the way, Bill's son Robert did well in the Reno Air Races recently, coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in his group.

*Cheers Dears*

*Mike*

## ***SMFC Events:***

### **First Winter Meeting/Last Summer Meeting of the Year.**

The next monthly club meeting is scheduled to be held in Ugly Village Hall. Tea, coffee, and biscuits, together with the usual convivial atmosphere will be on hand from 8PM. Members are encouraged to bring in models for a "show and tell" session. However, if the weather is fine, then we will try and get in one more evening flying meeting up at the flying site. Sunset is at 18:45 on Monday (and there's no moon) so flying would curtailed a bit early. I'll circulate an e-mail at the weekend if this option looks viable, otherwise please assume that the meeting will be at the village hall. The present forecast is for warm but rather too windy weather but we'll see how it develops.

### **Visit to the South Norfolk Club.**

The visit to the South Norfolk Model Flying Club is unlikely to take place as planned in early October. Time & weather looks like they will preclude a visit this year, but we hope to re-schedule the visit for another time – probably during next summer's flying season.

### **Winter Meetings.**

The Club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December so please put a note in your diary! Main topics will be reports from this year's Club Committee, the election of Club

Committee Members for 2017, and the Annual Club Awards (see below). There will be a small raffle with free entry for those attending and hot mince pies to finish off to get you into the Christmas spirit. This meeting will also be an ideal opportunity for members to renew their SMFC and BMFA Memberships for 2017.

Provisional plans for our winter meetings include our regular indoor chuck glider competition and an evening of simulator flying - both great fun!

### **Club Trophy Awards for 2016:**

The club awards two trophies annually to deserving members. These are the:

Alan Banks Trophy: For achievement during the year. This can be for activities both with the club and in the wider model aviation field.



Nigel Smith Trophy: For outstanding model design/building, which could include modifications or enhancements to an ARTF model. The trophy takes the form of a fine (non-flying!) model of a Spitfire.

Nominations are sought for these two awards this year. Please contact me or any other committee member with your nomination, together with brief reasons why you are nominating this club member for a particular award, by the end of October so that the Club Committee can adjudicate between conflicting claims!

### **And Finally,**

Mike mentioned my attempt to total the "new" club WAT4 Foamie electric trainer in last month's newsletter. Well, not quite a total but major front end damage after the undercarriage and motor were wiped off in one of my usual heavy landings. Determined not to let it happen again, I've re-built the front end, right back to the undercarriage mounting, with lite-ply and dense balsa strip inside the original foam surface. Early tests landing tests seem to show it is robust enough now to survive the tender attention of trainees (and myself), even if it is now a little nose heavy! I'm trimming the model out to provide smooth flying characteristics and, as a WOT4 is not really the most suitable model for ab-initio trainees, I'm thinking of adding some gyro stabilisation.

I'm now looking for a couple more 2100mA 3-cell batteries - if anyone has some that have become a little too tired for their usual model aircraft please let me know. The next step will be to acquire a couple of suitable transmitters – perhaps a couple of redundant 35Mhz boxes would be a way forward.

*Laurie*