

# Stansted Model Flying Club Newsletter – Sept, 2018

***Our next Monthly Meeting will be on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October.***

## ***Scale Day:***

Our club scale day finally went ahead on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September on a fine, if slightly breezy day but with periods of lighter winds. We had quite a good attendance, including visitors from the Newmarket club and Peter ran a good BBQ for us all.

There was a fine range of models present, but only a couple of foamie “war birds”, which was a surprise (and neither were flown!) A good crop of bi-planes, though. Steve took the chance to “maiden” Tony’s helicopter (it was not all “scale” during the day) and after a few adjustments it was performing well. I managed to get a couple of my models (the WW1 Staaken 4-engined biplane bomber and the 1913 Etrict Taube) that I hadn’t flown for a couple of years airborne during the lighter wind spells.



*Scale Day - View along the Flight Line*

Eric brought up a very nice looking “foamie” crowsprayer, which I had not seen before, although Eric tells me that he’s had it about three years. It was nearly its last outing, though: It nosed over at the start of the take-off run and the subsequent smell of hot electronics drew everyone’s attention, especially when the model started to emit smoke! Removing the battery did not stop the rot but Steve was quickly on hand and after whipping the spinner, prop, and then the cowling off was able to extract the still very hot ECU using a pair of long nosed pliers:



## **September Club Meeting:**

The weather was very nearly perfect for the September Club Meeting: pleasantly warm, some high level cloud, and light winds. Not surprisingly the meeting was well attended with plenty of flying action. I frequently counted four models airborne at the same time and on one occasion, five. Things were still going strong at 7PM, even though dusk was expected from 7:30PM.

Not a “foamie” warbird in sight – where have they all gone? There was a fine selection of “old-timers” present, though. Jason and his son, Jack, brought up three of these powered by old-style diesel engines, two of which were “Tomboys” - a design that must go back to the 1950’s. They entertained us by tail-chasing these two models all over the sky!

Mark flew one of his pattern ships using a battery that had lain idle for some time. Not liking Mark’s demands upon it, this battery decided to puff up and split. Later in the evening he put it to its final rest in what seems to be becoming the preferred way for disposing of dead Lipo’s – short it out and stand back! Well, he is the club’s Safety Officer!)



*If the weather is anything like that of the September meeting, we will hold the October meeting up at the flying site. Might need a LIPO bonfire to keep us warm!*

## **Events:**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Monthly Evening Meeting. Up at the flying site or in Ugly Village Hall – depending on the weather.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Monthly Evening Meeting from 8PM at Ugly Village Hall.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – AGM and pre-Xmas get together at 8PM at Ugly Village Hall.

## **SMFC Update:**

You should have all read and noted the update issued by our Chairman, Jason, recently. Apart from telling us about the improvements that have been made to the site (weed killing and new marker board/cones), we have been reminded (yet again!) of the need to stay out of the “no-flying” zones and to stand in the correct place when flying models - well clear of the pits and car parking area. It is rather sad to find that club members are still continuing to ignore these safety-led requirements after all the reminders that have been made over

the last few years. It is perhaps not surprising that the Club Committee has felt it necessary to issue the warning in the SMFC Update:

“Any Club member reported or seen flying out side of these zones will be given a warning that should it re-occur then your club membership will be suspended.”

Well, we have been warned!

### **BMFA Stuff:**

#### *2019 Subscriptions:*

The BMFA Chairman and Hon Treasurer have placed a news item on the BMFA website to explain the reason behind the proposal that will be put before the next AGM to increase BMFA subscriptions from £34 to £38. Full details can be found on the BMFA website but, briefly, there are 2 reasons for this:

Firstly, a greatly increased number of insurance claims has reduced the rebate our Insurance Company paid us for 2017 and the fact that this rebate may not be paid at all in 2018.

Secondly, there was a drop in membership in 2017 and this has continued in 2018. Interesting to note their comment that one additional member per BMFA Club would fix the declining membership problem and some of the income issues.

#### *New On-line Membership System:*

The BMFA has been working on an improved membership system which is now ready to go live. The changeover will be taking place from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September and will take a few days. Once the data has been transferred and completed and tested the BMFA will be contacting Membership Secretaries with details.

The new system has many more features than the current portal, including the ability for Secretaries to be able to add BMFA members to the club listing who are either country members or join through another club. Later, individual members will be able to update their own details. And it is to be hoped that soon all members will renew their own annual memberships on-line, rather than via cheques presented the Club's Membership Secretary.

### **SMFC Club Trophy Awards for 2018:**

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 within the club or 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.



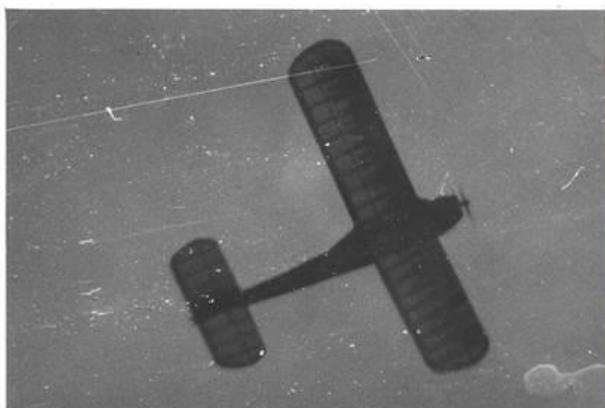
The trophies will be presented at the AGM so nominations please to any Committee Member – just let us know “who and why”.

### ***And Finally:***

I was a bit disappointed with the Scale Day weather – the winds precluded flying my slower scale models. The Monday Monthly meeting made up for it, though. The light winds meant that I was able to fly my asymmetric canard and my big HP O-400. Plenty of bombing practice with the latter but I did lose all three bombs - I was never much good at bomb aiming.

It was good to see Ron back at the flying site. He said that he had “totalled” his FW190 “Butcher Bird” the day before, so he’s back on form! Now we know where all the foamie warbirds go!

The lure of old-timer models, the bark of small diesel engines, and the evocative smell of burnt ether and castor oil that we experienced at the Monthly Meeting, is encouraging me to dig out my 54 year old AM-15 diesel-engined “Queen Bee” yet again!



Queen Bee - 1964



Queen Bee - 2016

*Laurie*