

**Next meeting Ugley Village Hall 8pm Monday 1st October 2012. Our first "Undercover" Meeting and rueful memories of bad weather ahead. However! Let's plan for a good year ahead.**

Contrary to expectations, the evening of September 3rd (our last outside club night) was blessed with very good weather (a little weak sunshine and light winds, and not too cold). I even flew my little electric "Thing" which didn't get away, and got back safely, so there! Bill had his sublime "Comet" which entertained us with low passes, with both 4 strokes burbling away, lovely! However, such is the hobby, the Comet needs to be landed fast, and on two wheels (three pointers cause unpredictable behaviour!) Unfortunately Bill hit a hard lump with one wheel, (which came off). Fortunately, the wheel and mounting came away together, and Bill was confident that it could be fixed with a little careful gluing!

This time distance as well as duration was important. Two chairs were arranged so as to form a "Gate" at the end of the hall near to the kitchen. If you managed to pass through the "Gate" you would be awarded 5 seconds extra to go on your score. So, there was a good chance for the energetic straight flyer as well as the "Floater" type. Which together with Bill's rather heavy H,,m Balsa completely scuppered me, as I could no longer make up a simple flying wing and rely on duration times of about 5 to 6 secs. Bill's wood just fell down with an audible thud, and made no attempt to float about in any direction! (for me anyway).

Bill' fix-it. So I'm sure we will see the "Comet" again in the summer! Laurie flew his big biplane, which trundled around at a majestic pace, (a very scale-like speed, with both electric motors humming away).

In complete contrast, Mark flew his HUGE Sebart Suchoi, complete with 100cc petrol engine Which (in the words of Pete Cleal) "Went straight up" Quite a performance, which subdued the rest of us, who (me anyway) watched in awe. Mark reckons it handles well, and sure enough, he put it through its paces without a qualm. Steve flew his Cougar 2000 , forsaking his helils for once, perhaps he flies it once a year (around "Fun – Fly" time).

Pinkie brought along his Revolver, a very cute looking model with little (dainty) wheels and spats. However I have seen it get hauled off the grass by the 91 4 str and landed again with no trouble. A very nice model which he flies with great confidence (mind you, it looks too good for me). Perhaps I will get another cheapish electric "Thing" Although I note that even they have a limited life if not flown with care! My spies tell me that a "Foamie Wot 4" had difficulty pulling out of a nose dive recently, and came to no end of grief when it flew into little bits after hitting the sun baked earth of the patch at Hadstock! So, there you go, take care at all times. Perhaps wood and electrics go together rather better than foam?

Chris Cutting must think so "COS his Extreme Flight Edge 540, goes rather well on electric power. (he reckons that a four stroke would shake his airframe to bits). In my case I think it could be heavy landings!

The poor old "Don" is now, to no doubt the grim satisfaction of some members, a Tail-Dragger. Although the first attempts by bending the existing main wheels forward met with mixed success .. To take off you had to hold the model back with your foot on the stabiliser, full throttle, and go for it with full/ "Up" Even so it tried to cut the grass. So I have had to make another set of wheels. Longer legs, and a bit more forward, with bigger wheels, so, with any luck take -offs will be less frightening. I'll try it out when the good weather comes!

Cheers Dears, Mike