

### **Bring, knife, glue, skill. All wood provided!**

Our last meeting was unusual in that we were given an in-site into what makes Bill tick and the answer is "Flying".

From an early age Bil1 began to read any book which contained pictures of aircraft, and couldn't wait until he was old enough to join the air force (in South Africa). When he first joined the Air force they tried to keep him away from the controls by trying to make him a navigator!

However, Bill managed to thwart the powers to be, and began pilot training. Perhaps he was aided by one of his pals who couldn't march (his legs and arms were uncoordinated), but Pat must have made a good impression somewhere, because he made it to Brigadier (good at politics perhaps?). Anyway, Bill quite happily took the Provost way, which was an initial trainer, but more advanced than the Tiger Moth. A bit like a Harvard, but a tail dragger without retracts.

After that Bill flew over 40 different types of aircraft including Vampires, and Heli's. However, with his eye to the future he ended up with multi's (The DC3 and Islander) So that when his Air Force days were over, he could use his flying skills in a civilian role. Once again, Bill tried nearly every thing, providing air transport for Sky Diving, Site Seeing, and Business trips. One job leading to another, until finally joining Ryanair in 1997.

What made Bill good at flying models? His access to air-fields, so he could fly models in between full size flights! Which has given him a great advantage over us lesser mortals. And good luck to him! We all enjoyed hearing of Bill's adventures, and we are pleased to note that he DID keep it interesting, and navigated his way carefully around the South African "Troubles" Thank you Bil1 for a very entertaining talk, and an enthralling in-site into one mans determination to achieve his quest!

I get the impression that not many members have availed themselves of the cold air recently (it's good at supporting overweight models, but very uncomfortable). I did see Kevin one week end, and I asked him if he had fitted skis to his model as the field was rather slushy. He gave me a funny look and said he had a helicopter! Which he then flew as if it was a Summers day.

Cheers Dears, Mike