



# Flight Desk

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The official newsletter of Chesham Model Flying Club Ltd

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## Editors Ramblings



Scary times. All activities are suspended for the indefinite future and after 1 week of lockdown I am going to have to slow down and spin the tasks out more. My electric fleet have now been homed in a newly decorated spare room, see the picture below, and have all been checked out on my new Jumper T16 radio. A Ripmax Phase 5e waits to be assembled but I got caught by the closure of the distributor after I ordered the motor. Something we may all need to get used to.



Not all is lost though. The community are coming together in a way that couldn't have been predicted. Very reassuring.

I put out a request for your ramblings to put into a newsletter and I have been pleased to receive a fair number. If you ALL chip in we can probably have a newsletter every month for a while.

As always, you can contact me, Colin Hooper. ([cmfc.colin@gmail.com](mailto:cmfc.colin@gmail.com))

## Club Matters

The "Winter Projects" evening had a good spread of models from club members. Some finished and some in progress. Thank you all those that hauled their models into the hall despite the poor weather we had on the day. A small number of members also came along for a look and a chat. The ground floor hall at the White Hill Centre is ideal for this evening and it was free because it was half term. We propose to repeat the booking if possible next year and will hopefully see even more of you taking part.

We had an instance of fly tipping in the Newground field entrance and I am pleased to report that Dacorum have been along and removed it after several members bagged it and stacked it out of the way.

Summary of Club Events in the next quarter

May 19th	Virtual committee meeting
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## Member's Ramblings

What did I do to upset the Chinese?

It's a long story. Back at the beginning of January 2020 when Brexit was the biggest news story around, I ordered a model from Banggood, a Chinese company. The model was a F3A 950mm EPO Skylark S, which had been recommended by many club members, looked good in the air, was convenient to transport and excellent value for money.



Weeks passed - no model.

I contacted a really polite person at Banggood who said it was on its way. Other club members were saying how quick they got their models from Banggood, a maximum of five days wait at most.

Weeks passed -no model.

An even nicer person at Banggood said it should be there in a couple of days. Club members were smirking, something about a banana boat going the wrong way around via Cape Horn!

Weeks passed -no model.

An ultimatum was given and a really, really nice person at Banggood said if I waited the full 60 days I could get a full refund (probably!)

A mere 8 days passed, the 60 days were up, no model.

I requested a full refund and received the total back into my account within 4 days.

I was now back where I started. After a stiff whiskey I order the same model from the same company as it was by far the cheapest option. The model came within 4 days!

I have now built it ready to fly, but now thanks to the China originated Corona virus, I cannot go to the field to fly the model.

I ask you - What did I do to upset the Chinese?

Dave Anderson

Hi All,

Greetings from the Eastern outskirts of the CMFC membership...Ruislip!

I am in the Events industry therefore I am now on the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of “nowt” but as they say every cloud has a silver lining.

First things first, put the “shed” in order. Many happy hours of re-organising/re-discovering and making shelves with quality FestoolPlunge Saw time included! This has left me now with space and a system for the moment at least, that has most of the bits and bobs individually stored and labelled.

Next job that has been waiting for completion, the restoration of the Weston Obsession. A full and meaningful encounter with the trees on the canal bank of Newground last year needed to be dealt with. Enough was left to replace wings...but fuselage and fin needed to be fettled. Fin completely scratch built. I had to measure an existing one at Paul Heckles place in Swindon last autumn with a quick fly of one of his Obsessions thrown

in to keep my appetite for that bird wetted. So I made drew a plan...bought some balsa wood, hinges and Oracover to suit and off I went...of course this would and could be done better and differently if I were to repeat the process but I am pleased with the result and it is not a bad match.

I took the time to use lighter batteries for the twin battery RX set up...replaced control linkages, new fuel tank and rebalance with new the new broader prop. I will run the OS 155 FS when this persistent cold easterly wind stops blowing and allows me on to my small suburban patch o' grass.

Next Project ....

The ARTF Acro Wot. ARTF... never has an acronym been so against the trade descriptions rules! But after the massive re-organisation of my workspace most of the parts required to complete this bird were ready to hand. A quick trip to West London Models before lockdown secured a few missing random bits and a replenish of the glue pot! I needed to add an RX battery hatch aft of the wing to balance her but more fiddling and innovation required, just the ticket for a man with time in abundance! An MPX multi-pin plug soldered to the wing servos with the mating partner in the fuselage for a simple 1 connection to the RX. More fiddly stuff to do! Great! Balanced perfectly with new battery hatch installed and 14 grams of lead to the left hand wing tip, all is good.

Over the past 5 weeks I have completed it and it now awaits the SC 70FS glow engine to be fired up and a fresh tank of fuel run through. I am concerned that some of the not altogether "true" parts will affect the trim somewhat ..... hopefully she is good to go to Newground and UP! I will be asking for help on the maiden from one of the more accomplished flyers of the club to lend a hand please....I hope this is before the next solstice...as the Government adviser seems to now put a timeline of 6 more months lockdown. Ho Hum we take it as it comes.

Next Project!



Sometime a few years ago....I crashed on landing approach at Newground (again into trees...I detect a pattern, now I have new glasses maybe I see better?) A Great Planes Lanc Air powered by an OS Surpass 90FS Glo, Richard Ginger was alongside I recall at the time. This plane was then hung up in the "shed" and largely forgotten. I had however

in the ensuing time, managed to get hold of another set of wings partially completed via the trusty eBay.

So down she comes.....a damage assessment told a grim story of neglect and crash damage. Rubber tank restraints had perished....the servos in old wing did not all survive, the control rods were all over the show and the tail feathers needed to have the dents steamed out. The single elevator servo changed for 2 separate servos driving a section each. Carbon 3mm rods with ball fixings made to suit all round. The RX changed from 6 Chanel without telemetry to an 8 channel unit with telemetry. Again a battery hatch needed to be whittled into the fiberglass of the rear fuselage as access was blocked by several fuselage formers. New lighter battery installed. A 4 channel multipin plug set into wing and RX again for ease at field set up. So she is now waiting to be balanced.

So my plan on this week 6 of work inactivity is to balance the LancAir, Fire up the 3 glo engines and then.....

A BIG NEW BOX awaits! I bought the Hanger 9 Vans RV4 ¼ scale unit when it first was released in early 2018 and had stored the box at my workshop... which I retrieved before lockdown...I have pretty much all the bits needed...servos, engine, hardware etc so hopefully I can spend as long as required to get her ready for a maiden.

So that's my lockdown story so far trying also to exercise a decent amount in the mornings so model day starts after lunch with flight simulations in the evenings. All in all as long as everyone stays well I am not too disheartened....I know we will get out of this at some time and I look forward to getting back to Newground with the rejuvenated fleet and look forward to seeing familiar faces there as soon as possible.

I am also looking for help...remotely of course, I am struggling to get the Futaba TX 18SZ all set up with these models ...if anybody can help with a chat or email I would greatly appreciate it.

Regards to all and stay well. Oz Marsh

### Arado 68F

I'm locked down confined to home having been called, since Last Monday, an "especially vulnerable person" by NHS Coronavirus Service. I have to stay in the house/garden for twelve weeks and so I decided to resurrect a scratch build project that I started many years ago. It has been hanging on my workshop roof for at least 15 years gathering dust. It will, no doubt, be a bit lighter than when I last worked on it, but all the joints appear to be in good order.





It is a model of an Arado 68F "sesquiplane"; the last biplane to see service in the Luftwaffe during the early stages of WW2. I intend to power it with a Vega 61, four stroke side valve engine, which is still in pristine and un run-in shape.

I'm really enjoying building again,

though whether I'll fly it is more problematical. It's more than likely that I do what I did in 2010 with my, Dennis Bryant plan built, Lysander; namely asked Al Spicer to fly it for me while I watched. The worked well and my model flew beautifully. Hope that some skilled club member will be happy to give the Ar68 a spin when Covid19 has gone away.



David Turner

P51D Dave Platt 81" span

It's almost ready for engine runs and taxi trials, needs CG sorting. It has a full cockpit and lots of skin detail. I will just have to wait. Would you believe it's taken 14 years to get this far due moving around and not touching it for several years. It is a lovely kit to build.



Lionel King

I am the one who flew the very noisy electric Falcon with the pusher prop .



As a 747 pilot you can imagine I now have plenty of time on my hands !

Six of the Queen of the skies are to be flown to a Spanish scrapyard this week, six are parked up in Bournemouth and five are off to some remote Welsh airfield .

I managed to escape down the A41 and stock up on supplies from Dave at Motors and Rotors and call in on

Jon at Laser before the lockdown last week .

I bought a Sundowner F1 at the Nationals bring and buy last August , a very tatty box but untouched as new kit inside . The new Laser 180 is currently being fitted and the build is almost complete over the last week .

I've also bought an ASP 80 four stroke off ebay and fitted it to my old Barnstormer 72 .

I flew it this week at my mates private airstrip. My first glow experience for over twenty years ! It's way overpowered but it sounds absolutely fab chugging around at half throttle



The Barnstormer dates back to my schooldays in the late seventies .



I joined the High Wycombe Club while still at school in the sixth form .

It was first prize in the monthly club raffle . It was my first and only kit made up traditionally from a box of balsa and covered in nylon and dope which I

guess has led to its longevity . It's been in the loft for 30 odd years covers in dust and cobwebs . Anyway it's out, had a bit of a wash down, had the ASP fitted and it flies again !

Cheers ,  
Pete Tilbury



### Difficult and unusual times

This time last year it would have seemed unimaginable that we would find ourselves in the position that we now face. The least of our problems is the ban on model flying, yet it consumes quite a large part of our everyday lives, whether it's flying or building.

So, now is the time to finish off those projects that got pushed to the back of the workbench, or carry out some annual maintenance. Personally, I've got 2 models awaiting maiden flights, one is my version of Mike Pateys "Scrappy" based on a Maule skyrocket, a STOL aircraft, and the second one which you may have seen on our facebook page is a delta wing, powered by an OS46 AX, yes good old fashioned glow.

### CAA Operators ID

All of you will by now be in receipt of you CAA Operators ID number. This ill-conceived idea that has been dreamed up by the authorities for the princely sum of £9.00 is supposed to keep us all in check so that the bad boys will be able to be identified ..... really?

I have been asked by a few members that as Safety Officer when I check failsafes, will I also be checking whether you have placed you ID number in your aircraft. The short answer is absolutely NOT. Firstly it's not a safety issue and more importantly why would you want me to see your number. Think about it, should I be an unscrupulous person (and there will be many that think I am) I could just copy your number and use it in my planes. Next time I have an incident, hitting a train or worse having a flyaway and injuring someone it's you that the authorities will be after not me!

This was a knee jerk reaction to the drone problem that the media obsessed with last year. According to the modelling trade the sale of these things has dropped off a cliff, yet we will still be burdened with regulations.

That's my rant over.

I'm sure that this will be covered by somebody else in this issue but thanks to the members who helped clear up the builders fly tipping that blocked our entrance at NG. I am pleased to say that Dacorum Council quickly took it all away.

That's all for the time being, I don't know when we'll be seeing each other again, but keep safe.

Steve

# Club Training - SUSPENDED

## Committee

Chairman	Dave Humphrey	07855 181230	davedesign@btinternet.com
Secretary	Kevin Lambi	07769 341229	secretary@chmfc.co.uk
Treasurer	Steve Langbridge	01494 863949	treasurer@chmfc.co.uk
Membership	Colin Hooper	07749 891465	membership@chmfc.co.uk
NG Groundsman	Pete Hodge	01494 785143	brendahodge@talktalk.net
Pednor Groundsman	Geoff Wyrill	07748 145779	g.wyrill@gmail.com
Safety	Steve Bull	07801 966612	flysteve12@gmail.com

## Instructors

Richard Ginger	01296 688030
Dave Anderson	01494 583127
Simon Adams	07970 409831
Austen Pearce	07842 149855

## Newsletter Editor

Colin Hooper	07749 891465	<a href="mailto:cmfc.colin@gmail.com">cmfc.colin@gmail.com</a>
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