

Clear Dope

October 2022



Chichester and District Model Aero Club: Committee 2022

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Please send more articles for CD
Happy Flying and be aware of others

An aircraft modeller's journey

At school I was much involved in model aircraft building and flying, and coming from Southampton was surrounded by Supermarine employees and their sons. So my first modelling endeavour was inevitably a model Spitfire, followed later by several Keil Kraft rubber models and a Nordic A2 glider. The Nordic was lost in a thermal on its first launch from RAF Andover airfield, name and address not yet applied. Our fledgling and informal model aircraft club was never recognised by the school - founded during the reign of Edward IV, so perhaps not surprising.

Eventually, with good 'O' levels, I applied for a 5 year Engineer apprenticeship at Supermarine. This involved training in the whole range of the companies engineering activities including airframe assembly, machine tools, jig and tool design, and later airframe design. Regular moves were required to the various factories and offices that were involved in the Swift and Scimitar jet fighter design and production, including Southampton, Winchester, Swindon and the PERA research lab in Leicestershire. Technical study was based on one day per week release plus two evenings, rather hard going in a peripatetic lifestyle. Little time for modelling but I experimented with a big red ED 1 transmitter and single valve receiver. However available to apprentices with continued and successful examination results was a flying scholarship funded by the company. This training was applied for and taken up with great enthusiasm. A private pilots licence was in my hands by the end of my 5 years apprentice training. National Service now loomed and for 2 years I became an RAF Instructor Education teaching aerodynamics, aircraft structures and materials. Some of my trainees were senior NCO's who were servicing chiefs on the V bombers. Very interesting to teach and keen to learn. My private studies towards IEE and I Mech E chartered membership continued outside the relatively relaxed Education department.

Fast forward 10 years and I found myself working on the design of IBM's semiconductor memory manufacturing process in the USA, and while there I managed to build a Carl Goldberg Falcon 56 with a kit built 6 channel HB radio - but no time to learn to fly it. Arriving home from the US assignment I designed and built a 55 inch slope soarer also with the HB 6 channel radio. Many trips to Old Winchester Hill proved the aircraft flew well but the pilot was hopeless. Fortunately 5 minute epoxy had just arrived on the market.

Fast forward another 20 years and at 53 I had just sold my electronics business to a US multinational. I started to build a 60 inch span PD Parasol from plans published by RC Modeller magazine, a very pretty 1930 type powered by nothing



more than an OS19. However when a friend took me to a homebuilt light aircraft rally run by the PFA (now the LAA) I was amazed at what could be achieved. I soon ordered a kit of materials and parts from Canada. That aircraft was Zenair Zodiac G-BVAC completed in 3 years near full time work in a sizeable brick and tile workshop I had built at home. I flew the Zodiac for 10 years, and then started Tecnam Sierra G-TSAC that took 2 years to build. In all I visited 9 European countries from Denmark to Switzerland, with 1600 hours in my multiple log books.

However at age 84, my wife's failing health brought the end of flying, and sale of the Sierra. What could I do now – what else – return to aero modelling I So far I have built my own design 40 inch pusher described in June CD., bought an Easystar 3, FMS ranger 1.2, FMS Ranger 1.8. Jeremy has done his best to train me and I am most thankful for his truly unstinting efforts, Graham and others also.. However the buddy box for a little while yet, reactions rather slow at 86 !

Alan Cozens.







Some photographs of models
taken during the month of
September 2022



Club Meetings – Winter 2022-23

As you are probably aware our first club meeting of the winter season will be held in the Fishbourne Centre on Thursday 13th October starting at 7pm. Thereafter, they will be held on the second Thursday of each month.

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since our last indoor club night (back in February 2020!), and we very much hope that, in spite of the challenges and changes in attitudes brought about by COVID, you will want to attend the club evenings and thereby contribute to the team spirit and inclusiveness that should go hand-in-hand with club membership. After all, what is a club without the participation of its members?

To give our meetings a degree of focus, and to make the outing interesting and worthwhile, the intention is to provide an hour's worth of entertainment comprising videos, news, discussion and even war stories. They will also provide an opportunity to display models and equipment, get the latest news from the committee and to meet new members. Hopefully, you'll take home a little extra knowledge, camaraderie and even a sense of entertainment!

Due to other commitments at the Centre our meetings over the Winter will take place in the "Blue Room", which is located at the far side of the Fishbourne Centre next to the main bar. There will be signposts on the night to guide you to the location. The good news is that the bar area is adjacent to the room itself which means that we can "spill out" into the social area if required, and this a very convenient location for those who want to whet their whistle, or even have a game of snooker!

The room itself is somewhat smaller than the Main Hall, but it is equipped with media outlets, and there is room for seating and tables on which to display your latest creations. I have checked it out, and attach some photos showing the layout.

There are some double doors to close the room off, and the intention is that the hour of discussion and entertainment will be from 7.30pm and 8.30 pm.

Looking ahead, our meeting dates for your diaries are as follows:

1. Thursday 13th October 2022.
2. Thursday 10th November 2022.
3. Thursday 8th December 2022 (AGM & Subs night).
4. Thursday 12th January 2023.
5. Thursday 9th February 2023.
6. Thursday 9th March 2023.

Once again, our meeting in October will be the first for nearly two and a half years, and we hope that you will feel able to support the club by your attendance.

It'll be a good opportunity to catch up with fellow members and to discuss all things modelling.

Club meetings can only be successful if members turn up, so please do come along!

Tim K.



Date:	Event:
Thursday 13 th October	Club evening meet – Fishbourne Centre.
Saturday 5 th November	EDF jet competition – Thorney Island.
Thursday 10 th November	Club evening meet – Fishbourne Centre.
Sunday 13 th November	Remembrance Day Gliding event – Thorney Island.
Thursday 8 th December	Club AGM & subs – Fishbourne Centre.
Thursday 12 th January (2023)	Club evening meet – Fishbourne Centre.
Thursday 9 th February	Club evening meet – Fishbourne Centre.
Thursday 9 th March	Club evening meet – Fishbourne Centre.

Please Try to leave Porthole as tidy as possible, making sure no fuel is left on site & lock the gate.

30 metres from “uninvolved” persons”

15 metres when taking off & landing, subject to mitigations

From 1 Jan 21 BMFA Article 16 is law: know the separation minima!

When flying at Thorney please keep an eye out for traffic(all kinds walkers, horses, bikes, runners, and low flying aircraft) coming from behind the flyers and inform them accordingly

The Commander at Baker Barracks Thorney and the MOD have decreed that there shall be NO drone flying whatsoever

Flying alone on Thorney is now not allowed on the grounds of safety

When driving around Thorne be aware of young children on bikes and 20mph speed limit

The club Facebook page is now in its fifth year. It has over one hundred members. It contains many contemporary site reports, and has a wealth of photos in its archives.

Administered by Nick Gates. David Hayward & Ken Knox

Here is the link:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Chichesteraeromodellers/>