

# Hemel Hempstead Model Flying Club



## Newsletter March 2021

Hello,

Another month of lockdown is passing, but the end is in sight. Boris Johnson has announced a plan to get everything back to normal during the summer. It has been a monumental effort by the NHS. Not only looking after patients, saving lives, but now on their way to vaccinating the whole country. As a club we would like to thank all of the NHS, including volunteers and everyone else who has contributed during this pandemic. We will hopefully be able to enjoy a summer of flying to some capacity. Everything is depending on the governments numbers of Covid cases, as we are so close to the end, lets not blow it now. Stay safe, respect the lockdown and get your models ready to fly.



If you have been following along with our monthly editions, you would have seen Lawrence North has built a wing for his Cub from scratch. He has done a fantastic job but wants me to ask the club for suggestions. He has said "Just waiting for some black vinyl to make the side flashes and registration number. The original was NC2000 but I would like something UK. Any ideas? G- \_ \_ \_ \_". The four spaces after the G should contain letters only. Let him know by Monday March 8th.

Please email Lawrence directly with any suggestions at [lawrencenorth@googlemail.com](mailto:lawrencenorth@googlemail.com)



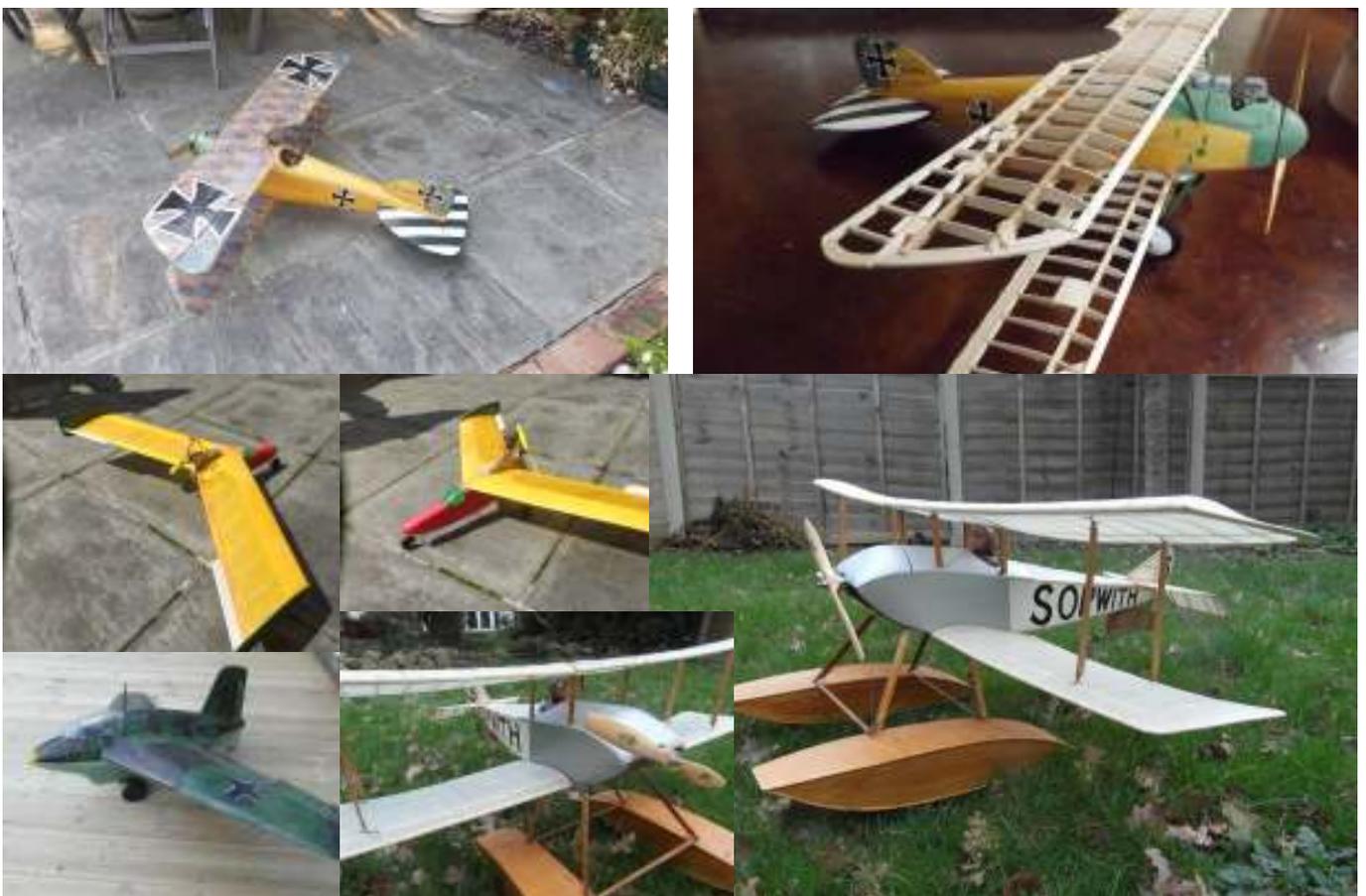
**STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES**

## Gino Franchi

Gino Franchi has said "I built this lazy bee from plans downloaded from outer-zone <https://outerzone.co.uk/> to be a slow flyer giving me time to avoid all the trees at the Shenley patch. But on its third flight the wing came off as it was held on with rubber bands only. It sustained only minor damage and I have repaired it to fly another day". Definitely an interesting model.



A bit about Gino Franchi "As a youngster I had the aero modelling plans book and sent off for many a plan but I never got round to building them. I liked to look of the pictures, but when the plans arrived they looked so complicated to make, so all the plans went into the loft. Later in life I gave them another look and started building them as a way to "unwind" I do not really know how long they take, I just do a bit as and when". Here's a look at some of Gino's models.





## LED COMPETITION !

The committee has offered a FULLY BUILT VORTEX WING as the prize! This is no amateur built wing, it will be built to the highest standards by our very own chairman Ed.

We will wait to see how the lockdown eases before we put any dates in the diary for this competition. This just means you have more time to work on your night flyers and other LED projects.

Here are the rules:

- 1) You must be able to take it to the patch
- 2) All entries must be submitted to James Lewis via Whats app or email at editor@hmfco.uk, Please send pictures of your entries. Deadline date to be confirmed.

We will then hold an evening session at both patches for competitors to show off their work with pictures and videos to be posted and a vote held for the winner.



## Buddying information

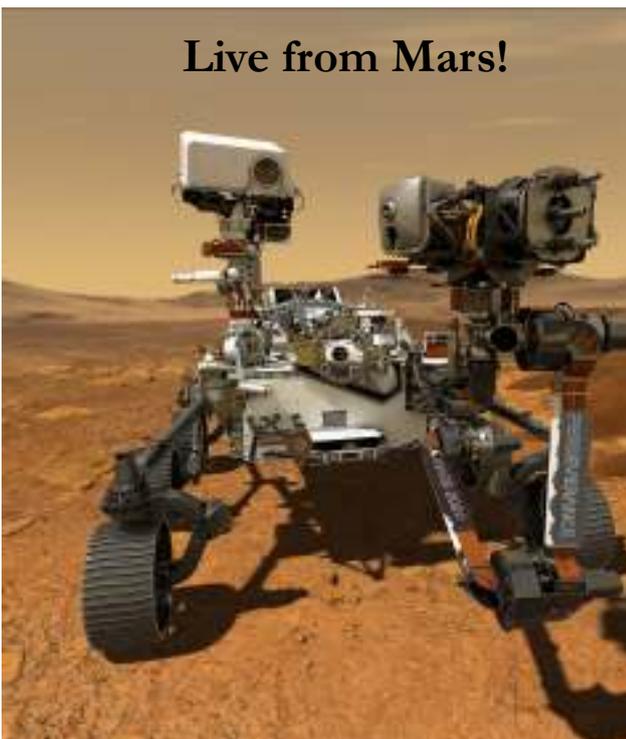
There are members at both Puttenham and Shenley that can assist with buddy box training/flying.



Buddy boxing isn't just for beginners. Maybe you're trying manoeuvres you haven't tried before. Maybe you have a new plane and you're not confident to fly it alone yet. Well don't leave it in the shed! Please feel comfortable enough to ask for a buddy. The following members will be happy to arrange a convenient time and site: **Ed the Chairman, Allan Huke, Lawrence North**

Buddy boxing has already been very successful in helping a number of new members, both junior and senior, with developing flying skills and confidence. If you know anyone, family or friends, who might be interested, why not bring them along and let them have a go!?

## **Live from Mars!**





## New Models, New Builds and Build Progression

To start us off Chris Laggate is showcasing his skills by hand painting this red and white checkered pattern on his De Havelland—Tiger Moth. Well done Chris!



Daniel Baker has sent in this masterpiece and said “Here’s a lock down project I am working on. This is a charge case powered by 3x server power supply's, which are controlled by unit that monitors input voltages and temperatures. It also can control cpu fans when temp gets to warm. It has 4 x chargers in it which will be hidden and can be all independently controlled by near field little bump tags which can be stuck to the battery, when battery is swipped over certain spot chargers know what all info about that pack and sets the charger up. Its still working progress”. We hope it’s coming along well Dan!



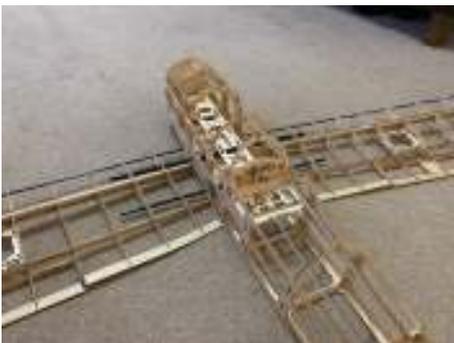
Marcus Goldsmith has chosen this vibrant colour scheme. Look out for this in the April edition for the finished model!





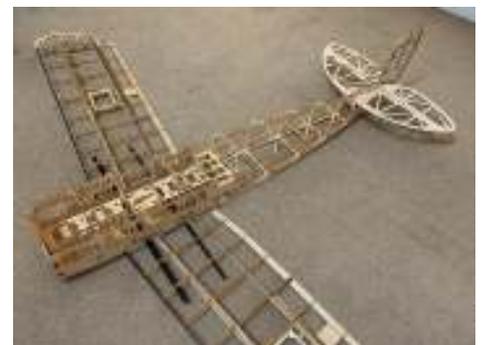
Allen Trendell

Allen has kindly written to us about his building experience. Here is what he has said "When James asked me to write something for the newsletter about building the Tiger Moth, my initial thought was omg, what on earth do I say! Should I talk about the hours spent tracking down parts on the usual web sites or the hours spent picking cyno off my fingers after glueing them either together, to the cyno tube or to the plane itself! Anyway, after some suggestions from James I thought you'd be far more interested in the build itself. It's actually been my second balsa build, the first being the Vintage Model Company Spitfire, so once I had finished that and

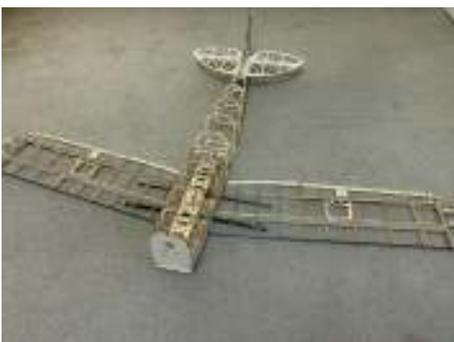


with lock down looming, I managed to order one of the last Hobbyking Tiger Moth balsa kits, and what a learning experience it has been. For some strange reason I decided not to go with the recommended electric setup and make it IC, so I got myself a nice little used Saito FA56 4 stroke from Ebay without any previous knowledge of model IC engines (the juries out atm on whether that was a good idea or not)

So the kit arrived, and what a lot of parts! Part of me was excited to be starting my first proper balsa kit while another part of me was thinking where do I start? The instructions of course, they will help. Well I hadn't seen "instructions" like these before (describing them as instructions is generous), just an exploded view of the plane with lots of numbers and arrows pointing everywhere! Need to sort out the parts then I thought, trying to find the relevant bits to make the fuselage. With these kits it's not a great idea to start randomly pressing out the various pieces ready for assembly before you're ready, thinking that you will save time later on as you won't (I soon found that out), as the part number is usually either printed on a pop out on the part itself or on the main piece of balsa the part came from, especially the



struts for the wings which all look the same. Anyway, after some time trying to identify the parts from a plan I managed to download from the Hobbyking website, I managed to start piecing the bits together and it started to take shape, the fuselage, then tail section and lastly the wings.





It sounds obvious, but it really is a good idea to dry fit the parts together before gluing, not just to check fits and alignments but also to check that you haven't missed anything (like the parts on the top of the fuselage to receive the upper wing which isn't really obvious from the "instructions" and won't go in once you've glued it together meaning you have to break the joints to insert them afterwards)!

Anyway, after around a dozen tubes of cyno the plane was ready to cover. Time to sand it all down in preparation for the two new rolls of silver and yellow Oratex I had bought.

This is the part where I should tell you about my choice to use cyno, well it's simple, it's quick, and as being a novice to plane building I didn't have any clamps or the like to hold it all together. Well as I found out, that's probably not the best choice, as cyno when glued makes the joint really hard and difficult to sand without removing too much of the surrounding un-glued balsa (note to self for next time).



I thought it best to fit the electrics and paint the cockpit before covering, nothing interesting here as it all went in without any issues.

At this point I thought it would be a good idea to get the engine running so I made a jig to hold the engine and the fuel tank which could be clamped onto my work bench. Never started a model IC engine before, how hard could it be I thought. Well, after reading, and re-reading the Saito instruction manual I found on the Internet I gave it a go, and filled up the tank with glow fuel. Now this is the part where I tell you how it's a good idea to make sure the fuel hose all fits together really well, mine clearly didn't as more ended up on the bench than went into the tank! So after some quick alterations, the hose fittings were all sorted and she was ready to start, so out came the electric starter. The engine turned over really well but nothing, a few more tries and still no life, damn it (or words to that effect), I thought, I shouldn't have got a used one off ebay!

It was then that I noticed my shiny new glow plug starter sat on top of my toolbox, no wonder it won't start I thought. So I tried turning the engine over with the starter connected and it sprang into life first time and I spent the next half hour or so playing around with the adjustments until it seemed to run properly. The manual suggests getting a tacho to set it up properly, so I'll save that for another day when I understand what the manual is talking about.

So it was time to cover the plane and fit the engine and after watching a few YouTube videos on applying Oratex I was ready



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This is where I realised how much of an impact using cyno has, the film went on well but it did leave a fair few lumps and bumps that you don't really see on the bare balsa caused by the hard cyno on the joints.

There were no instructions on fitting the hinges for the control surfaces or how to attach the tail wheel, so that was all guesswork but overall I'm pretty happy with the outcome.

Fitting the motor was pain free though with the Tiger Moth it needs to be fitted inverted which I wasn't sure about. The most nerve racking part was cutting the holes in the cowl



but happily after measuring, offering up, re-measuring I was ready to cut, and it all paid off, leaving the holes all in the right places.

I wanted to fit a mesh grill in the front to help with airflow but was unable to find anything that looked right, until a trip to "The Range" resulted in a bird feeder being repurposed which was perfect for what I wanted. The cowl comes in white from Hobbyking and I decided to spray it to match the fuselage which I think produced a far better finish than trying to cover it, and a £5.99 can of acrylic paint did the job.

And that's the story of the build, only thing to do now is adjust the cog which seems too far back at the moment so waiting for some weight to arrive which I can add to the nose. Overall, for an £80 kit, the Hobbyking Tiger Moth was pretty good value and not a bad introduction to building your own too plane, through it has cost well over three times the original cost to complete, just hope it flies and more importantly lands as intended."

Well Allen, very well done. We look forward to seeing her maiden and hope she flies well. We are looking forward to seeing your next build. Great job.





Kai is working hard with his dad Daniel Seabrooke build the clubs Vortex Wing. As some of you know, there are 25 test wings being built for the club. Ultimately the wing will be an earner for the club, giving us more money to help improve our already great club.



Daniel has mentioned that if Kai does a good ironing job with the wing covering, then he can start on his shirts...



### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Thank you to those of you who have offered phones so far. We are still looking for donations of old android phones to use as cameras at our patches. We have found that the following android phones work best, either a galaxy s3, s4 or s5 (or the mini versions).

If you have one that you are no longer using and are happy to donate to the club, then please contact Doug. His email is [secretary@hhmfc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hhmfc.co.uk)



The committee are working very hard to make 2021 a great year for Hemel Hempstead Model Flying Club, we are looking again to increase memberships as well as upgrading both Puttenham and Shenley sites. We will also be looking to hold some official club events if safe to do so.

We hope you have all enjoyed the newsletter!

Please keep sending us your pictures or videos and we will look to publish as much as we can.

### QR Code

Some of you may have spotted these displayed at both sites. Simply point the camera on the code from most mobile phones, or with the appropriate app. This will enable quick access to our website. We hope this may encourage interest from passers by who might want to consider getting involved in the hobby and becoming a new club member.

To unsubscribe from the newsletter please email UNSUBSCRIBE to [editor@hhmfc.co.uk](mailto:editor@hhmfc.co.uk)

