

Hemel Hempstead Model Flying Club



Newsletter May 2021

Hello,

We hope everyone has been able to get up to one of our sites to enjoy fling again. What a great month it has been! Members have made the most of being able to fly, our sites at Shenley and Puttenham have both been buzzing.

We have seen quite a few members join in 2020 and more still in 2021. We'd like to offer a warm welcome to some recent additions to our fleet of pilots, Nigel Tanton, Geoffrey Bernays, Mervyn Van Vuuren, Raz Nehushtan and Lionel Smith. This brings our current membership up to 87 for the current year, and still there's many hours when the fields are not in use !!

We are currently striving to reach 100 members which will be a monumental achievement, only 38 clubs in the UK have over 100 members. So if you know anyone that's interested, invite them down for a fly.

I would like to introduce and welcome a new member Gary Starkey, some of you might of met him, if you haven't then say hello. He's a nice guy, the first time I met Gary he brought a nice bulsa Red Bull model to the patch (Gary and the model can be seen on the right).



Like with any model there are up's and there are down's... not just while flying. Gary bought the model ready built and done everything possible to secure a successful flight. Gary took off on his maiden and after some trimming it was flying great. The plane had done several loops and rolls with ease. But as he slowly came from left to right, doing a fly by about 15 feet off the ground, one of the rear fins just broke off in mid air, the rest was history. Credit to Gary he took it on the chin well, and took straight back to the sky with his Vortex wing. What a great attitude to have, you'll fit in perfectly here.



STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

Slowly more club members are being vaccinated, still be mindful that some people haven't. So please lets not get complacent and undo all our hard work to beat covid, lets finish this thing off. But great job so far!

Members flying again!

Another new member Nigel, who's posing with his adaptation of the Lidle Glider. It was nicely done and flew perfect as well. Well done Nigel and Welcome.



Above is Robin Bussell made the most of the good weather and even with gusts of wind, impressed with a fine display at our Putterham site. Keep it up!

Andy looks happy to be flying again, Brian looks as if during lockdown he was recruited by the Men in Black, a great replacement for Will Smith!

And there's Gary with a cheeky smile before take-off... he didn't know what was coming.



Lawrence North has been working on a club trainer, we have several electric ones but this one is fuel with a 2 stroke engine. The first flight Lawrence and Ed put her through her paces, but the wings folded. Lawrence done a great job with the rebuild and reinforcing the wings... Well done and thank you.



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!?

Drones and FPV

Doug standing there for 5 minutes and not moving, some say he's admiring the fantastic view at our Shenley patch, others say he's meditating trying to become one with the wind. Could it just be he's soaking up the sun and working on his tan. I finally got to the bottom of this.

He's flying FPV! Doug has been flying his drone and wing, even kitting it out with infrared so he can fly at night. Some of us have had great fun following his flights on our own goggles. Doug has also been nice enough to spare quite a lot of time and help myself and another club member, set up our drones. He has also taken the time to teach me how to fly... to the best of my limited abilities. So thanks Doug!



I thought I'd sneak a picture of my drone in here while its still in one piece. Drones are becoming more popular within our club, Doug, Krishna, Andy and other are making posts and circuit obstacles so we can have more fun and improve our skills. Hopefully we can start racing at some point soon.





Storing/Faulty Battery - What to do?

In our HHMFC What's app group the question was raised, what to do with a faulty battery. The chat erupted with people offering their opinions, some safe, and some... let's just say we would not recommend it. But it has prompted our committee to offer a safe, easy and responsible solution. This is not only to discharge the battery, but to dispose of it as well. Before that, here are some pictures contributed from our members experiences.



So how do you limit accidents with batteries?

- 1) When charging, make sure the batteries that are being charged are placed on a non flammable surface, or example stone or granite.
- 2) When Charging batteries **DO NOT** leave them unattended. Most battery accidents happen while charging.
- 3) When storing batteries, place them in a Fireproof bag. These aren't expensive and could save you and your property from serious harm and damage.
- 4) Store batteries in a dry place at room temperature, extreme heat or cold could cause issues with the batteries, even causing them to puff, catch fire, or become defective.
- 5) Make sure you read all manufacturer recommendations for the batteries you are using. Use them as intended and as specified.



How should you dispose of a faulty battery?

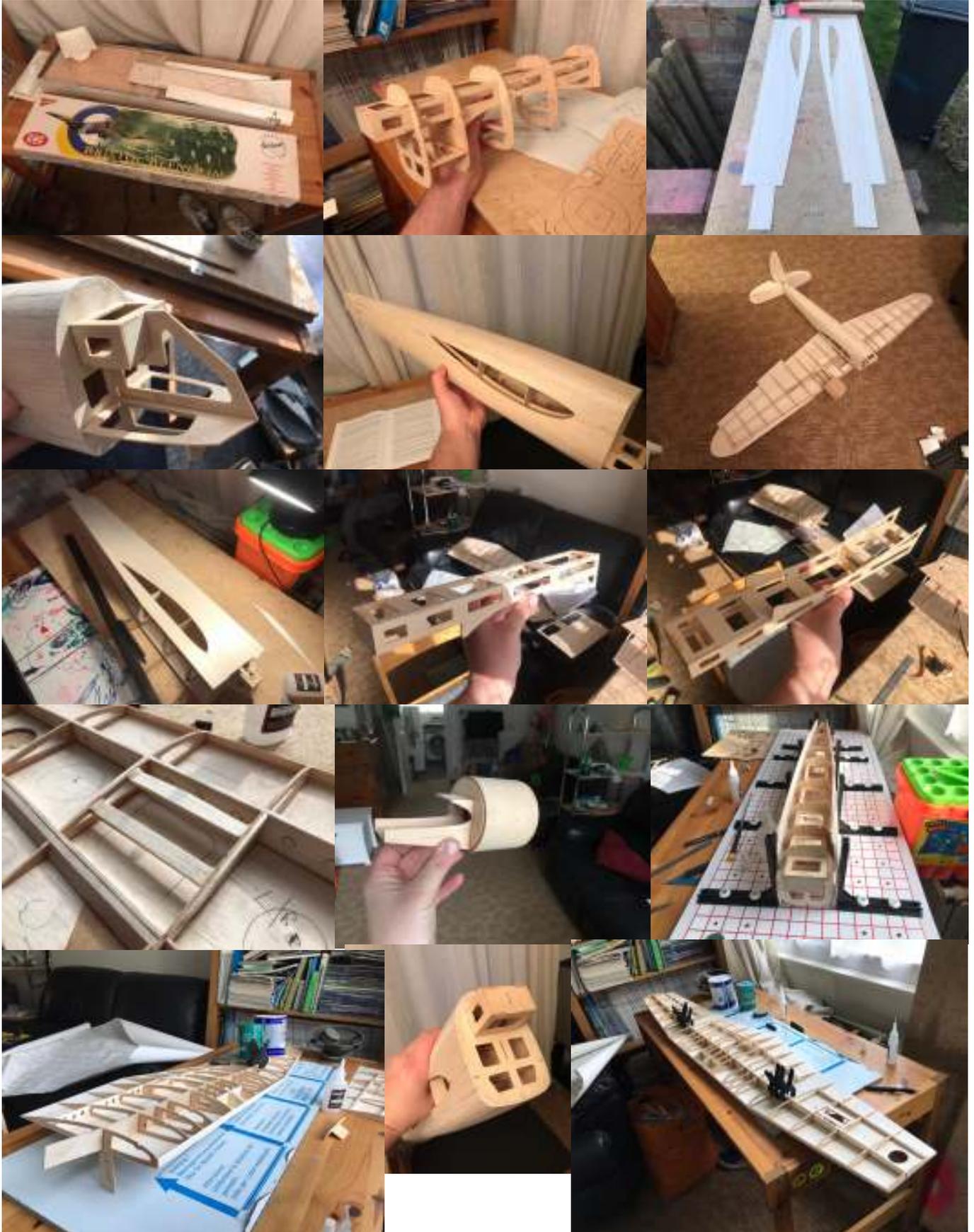
- 1) Ensure the pack is fully discharged, you can do this by connecting wires from your battery to an LED or car light bulb and leave it until the light goes out.
- 2) Once the battery has been discharged take it to your local refuse centre and put it in the appropriate hazardous waste bin/place. Places like Tesco also have hazardous waste bins for battery disposal.





Marcus Goldsmith

Mark hasn't stopped building! After his last model had a successful maiden post lockdown, Mark has plunged right back in and started building a WW2 Bristol Blenheim. Here are his pictures in no particular order, I'm just looking forward to seeing it finished and flying.



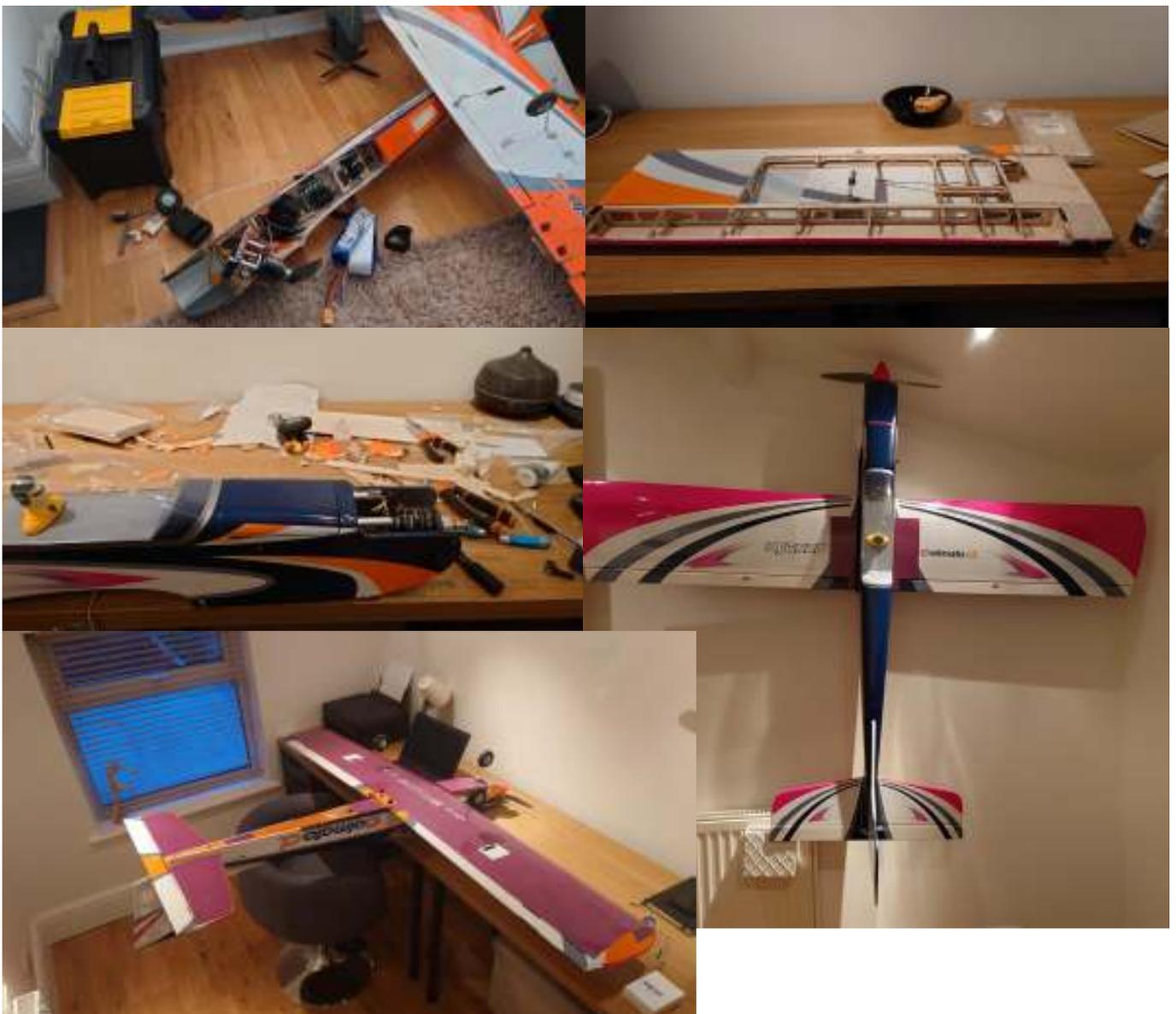


Buils

Manuel Palacios has been busy with these fantastic foam board builds. Manuel said “As the weather is not so great I spent some time airbrushing my foamboard wing, with a little bit of star wars inspired painting scheme”. Nicely done Manuel.



Douglas Santos had an unfortunate crash, but what a great effort on the rebuild. It looks better than ever!





Slawomir Zajak is a member who has temporarily gone home to Poland. He has been posting some great video's on our whats app group, but unfortunately I can't put them in the news letter. Below is one of his planes in Poland. We hope you are well and we hope to see you back in the UK and flying with us again soon.



Kirk Redford's Edge that is pictured below. Kirk has impressed with his flying skills so far this year. Keep pushing limits, it's a pleasure to watch.



Lawrence North has finished his Cub, he has even managed to maiden it. Lawrence said "The Thunder Tiger J3 Cub (G-LACE) successfully flew today on its new wings. A nice takeoff, flight and landing with very little trimming needed". That's a tribute to your building skills, well done.





LED COMPETITION !

More entries have now been test flown and looking great. Keep the LED Builds coming!

The prize is fantastic as the committee has offered a FULLY BUILT VORTEX WING!

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 one of our patch's
- 2) All entries must be submitted to James Lewis via Whats app or email at editor@hhmfc.co.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.



We Need Transmitters 2.4ghz

We have been able to put together several trainer planes for our club to help new members get going. We do need a few more transmitters for the planes.

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



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.

Until the next edition, **Stay safe and keep building!**

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.

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