

# HALE HALL MODEL CLUB NEWSLETTER



## April 2021



Welcome to the April Newsletter. The relaxation of the lockdown rules has finally allowed flying to resume at Hale Hall. Let's hope progress continues and we can look forward to some normality when summer arrives. You never know, Competition Ken and Burger Bob may have some work to do!

## Flying Site Rules

Just a reminder that to stay safe and to comply with the Government Covid rules, which allow us to operate as an organised sport, we need to adhere to the following rules:

1. Sanitise hands BEFORE and AFTER operating the padlock and opening the gate. Same applies when closing the gate and padlock. At present the gate may be left open while there are members on site.
2. The club hut must stay locked unless getting the tractor keys for grass cutting when hands must be sanitised BEFORE and AFTER accessing the hut. There is a small windsock (by the gas bottles outside the hut) which should be used for the moment.
3. Take your own chair with you and do not share chairs or anything else at any time. If you have to use a chair from the stack outside the hut, then make sure you sanitise it BEFORE and AFTER use.
4. Keep at least 2m separation at all times, no helping your mate with his engine for example.
5. A maximum of TWO pilots in a pilots box area at any one time – strict 2m distancing MUST be observed at all times.
6. Sanitise any surface you touch that does not belong to you. Use your common sense, stay apart and follow sensible hygiene rules.
7. Check in and out via the Hale Hall Track and Trace register. Text 07396 656562.

## Out of lockdown

So March 29<sup>th</sup> arrived and Boris was good to his word and we were allowed to go flying again. Even the weather gods were smiling on us, Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> promised warm sunshine and a gentle

breeze. So I charged up my batteries, packed my cameras, made some butties and with some excitement travelled to the field. By lunchtime the car park was filling up nicely and the sounds and smells of a busy flying day at Hale Hall wafted through the air. It was almost as if lockdown and Coronavirus had never happened. The only tell-tale signs were conversations that revolved around vaccinations! Have you had your jab?, which type? , where & when? any side effects?

Many people, me included, had brought along a winter hack aircraft to get their fingers / thumbs accustomed to flying again. There were several brave members who had brought along their lockdown builds for first flights.

Bob Welton was first up with his SE5a, now looking great with dummy engine, windscreen and final markings applied. Bob reports that it flies well, much more relaxing than his Bristol Fighter!





Next up was Dave Ringland's fine DB Sport and Scale Moth 40 FS – 58" span semi-scale Gypsy Moth powered by a Saito 45 Four stroke. It is covered in yellow Solartex and black Chroma spray paint (used to be Flair Spectrum) in the livery of the aircraft featured in the film Out of Africa.

*As far as the build is concerned, this was a 'first generation' DB Sport and Scale kit which I'd bought many years ago on eBay. As such, it needed a bit of modification to design in separate servos for each aileron; the original design was for rudder only, with optional ailerons. Also, because of its vintage, it made me appreciate the accuracy of today's CNC cut kits; quite a few pieces needed 'fettling' to fit as per the plan. I also went off-piste a bit concerning the flying controls, incorporating closed loop cables for the elevator and rudder.*



*As far as the flying characteristics are concerned, the first (and second) flight was very rewarding – only a couple of clicks of down trim were required. The Saito 45 seems to match the airframe perfectly; no additional ballast was required to get the C of G in the right place. There was no need to lighten the all-sheet tail surfaces; indeed I added capping strips to them to simulate ribs.*







The finished article with rigging wires and cowl fitted.

## Did You Know?

Out of Africa's 1929-model Gipsy Moth G-AAMY biplane was shipped to Kenya in 1985 in the back of a DC8 for the filming of the movie. Sir Henry Dalrymple-White, a noted Royal Air Force Wing Commander in WW2, piloted it, soaring high above the Maasai Mara and the Great Rift Valley. He lived in Kenya and continued flying until his death aged 80 in 2006. The biplane was used for 50 hours of filming, during which it roused a large flock of pink flamingos – an iconic scene from the film.



The sun shining on a busy pit.

Our new car park being  
put to good use.

A great improvement.



## More First Flights.

Well maybe not actually a first flight, but our 'new' gang mower has had its first test at the Hale Hall field. Towed behind Neil Skinner's Land Rover it successfully cut a strip of the outfield. Jack is currently doing some repairs to the roller bearings, but it looks like it will make short work of cutting the outfield. We can then use the current mower for just the strip and pits, hopefully prolonging its life.



The gang mower awaiting its roller repairs

Mick Young has had a very successful first flight with his ARB Wot 4 (Almost Ready to Build, from the original Chris Foss kit!) Just a few clicks of trim and it was flying as you would expect a Foss design to fly. Power provided by an NGH 9 cc petrol, Mick has added an undercarriage from Carbon Copy.



Dagenham Dave has also flown his Avios C-130 Hercules in the Blue Angels colour scheme for the first time.

*The C130 uses a 2200 ma 4s battery. You can't get a bigger one in there as the battery fits sideways. You must use an 8 channel receiver, because there are so many bits and pieces on it (e.g. the ramp, 4 sets of flaps, undercarriage etc). We were surprised that the flight was very smooth, no trim settings needed, and it flew very well and very fast. The landing (for me!) was very good. On You Tube it shows it flying for 5-6 minutes, but we didn't time it. It suggests using the rudder when turning, but I never used it, nor did I use the flaps. It is a lovely aeroplane, it has very good feedback, and I hope to fly it again very soon. I wouldn't like to fly it in a crosswind though.*



## Local Club News.

### Chingle Model Club

As you may know the Chingle club has sadly closed its doors (or gates) after many years at the flying site near D'Urton Lane. The remaining club funds were split amongst the members, John Pilkington has generously donated his share to Hale Hall. The Committee are considering purchasing some club trophies with the money. Thanks again John.

### Blackburn Model Club

Blackburn model club who have flown at the Pleasington playing field site since 1938 are being threatened with eviction by the Council. They claim that the new European regulations (the ones which have required us to have a flier ID) state that unmanned aircraft "will not be flown in areas that are used for residential, commercial, industrial or recreational" purposes. The council wrote to the club telling them "it would no longer be appropriate for the club to be based at Pleasington " because it was a "very busy public space".

I believe the club are going to challenge the decision with the help of the BMFA and the CAA.

## What's on.

### Shows

Show organisers are slowly publishing their plans for 2021, many are rescheduling events to later in the year, please make sure that you check that they are still happening before you set off!

The Shuttleworth Collection has a number of events planned for this year. The events will be run as a 'Drive In'. You are allocated a parking slot which has space for you to picnic and watch the display. Unfortunately there will be no access to the hangers; hopefully this will change for events later in the year.

- Sunday 2 May – Season Premiere Drive-In Display
- Sunday 6 June – Flying Festival of Britain Drive-In Display
- Saturday 19 June – A Scurry of Chipmunks Evening Drive-in Display
- Sunday 4 July – Military Air Show Drive-in Display
- Saturday 17 July – Flying for Fun Evening Drive-in Display
- Sunday 1 August – Family Air Show (Need for Speed)
- Saturday 14 August – Flying Circus
- Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 September – Vintage Weekend
- Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 October – Race Weekend

### Duxford

Tickets are now on sale for the first 3 flying days at Duxford:

- Saturday 22 May, Flying days : Standing Together
- Sunday 6 June, Flying Days: Commemorating D-Day
- Sunday 20 June, Flying Days: Thank You Dads

- **June 26th** Blackpool & Fylde Radio Controlled Model Society Fly-in. 10am – 5 pm at the Weeton field.
- **August 7th – 8th** LMA Elvington Show
- **September 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5th** Weston Park Model Airshow.

## Parting shot.

So that is the end of another newsletter, I hope you found it interesting. Thanks to all contributors.

For future newsletters I would like to include as many of your projects and especially first flights as possible. So please document the occasion with few photos or contact me and I will try and come down with my camera. I do have some ideas for future articles, but the success of the newsletter will only continue if you, the members, provide me with some copy. Anything aircraft related will be more than welcome, days out, trips, build logs, full size or something for the Curiosity Corner.

Don't be shy; if you don't fancy writing a full article, just send me few notes and I will do the rest.

If you have any suggestions on subjects to be included in the Newsletter, drop me a line.

In these days of data protection we need to ask members if they have any objection to be included, either by name or photograph, in the Newsletter. If you do not wish to be in the Newsletter please let me know.

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