



Plenty of stands in the Showring Hall

West Country Show

Somerset showground hosts first model show

Normally host to things rural, equestrian and horticultural, the Royal Bath and West showground near Shepton Mallet hosted a very different show last year. Billed as an interactive modelling event, the South West Model Engineering, Model Making and Hobbies Exhibition certainly offered something for everyone from simple plastic kits to highly sophisticated engineering projects. Organised by Bristol based Nationwide Exhibitions (UK) there was a full programme of boating and flying displays.

Clubs and Trade

Supported by many clubs and the hobby trade there were over 70 stands. The bulk of these were indoors in two halls and there was ample space to peruse at leisure. For the boating fraternity there was an excellent selection of models on show and many were superb examples of the miniature scale modelling craft, a scratch built HMS Victory by Richard Harris from Cornwall, being one that caught the eye. Hovercraft had their own display area and the highly popular electric helicopters had a dedicated flying area, though not in constant action.

The Pitney Scale Model Aero Club had an impressive array of models on show and their members were in constant demand answering questions and promoting aeromodelling. There were several tool stands and traders who offer those accessories and equipment that are difficult to source. It was possible to buy a handful of 1 mm bolts and motor trade tools within the space of a few paces.

Plane and Boats and Trains

The flying site was a tidy walk from the main area but the organisers had laid on courtesy buses to ferry people back and forth. On Saturday there was a chilly and brisk breeze but the flyers managed to put on a good show that was opened by Steve Carr assisted by Tom Denyer, owners of Pet Tindall's Airplanes, and his large scale Red Bull Extra. This was followed by the Extreme Team from Winchester Flying Club and the Puffin Models team displayed various electric models. The flying slot continued with club displays and was continuous from 11.30 am to 1 pm and again from 2.30 pm to 4 pm on both days. The flying strip was freshly mown but a little on the rough side and would need to be upgraded for future events.

Running throughout the weekend was the steam railway operated by the East Somerset Model and Experimental Engineers on their on site permanent way, complete with turntable and level crossing. Boat enthusiasts had the luxury of a large pool where the marine displays provided excellent entertainment.

In addition to all the modelling activity there were ample refreshment stands and a Tornado Flight simulator to try your hand at full size fast jets.



Steve Carr's Red Bull Extra opened the flying display



This Sig Rascal 110 was flown by John Emms; Axi 5330/24 and 10s 3700 pack

There's More

Back inside there was more to see on the balcony as the Games Workshop® had trades stands with hands-on workshops and war-gaming. Miniature agricultural equipment from bygone days was in profusion and seemed in keeping with the venue.

onstrate the mixture of skills."

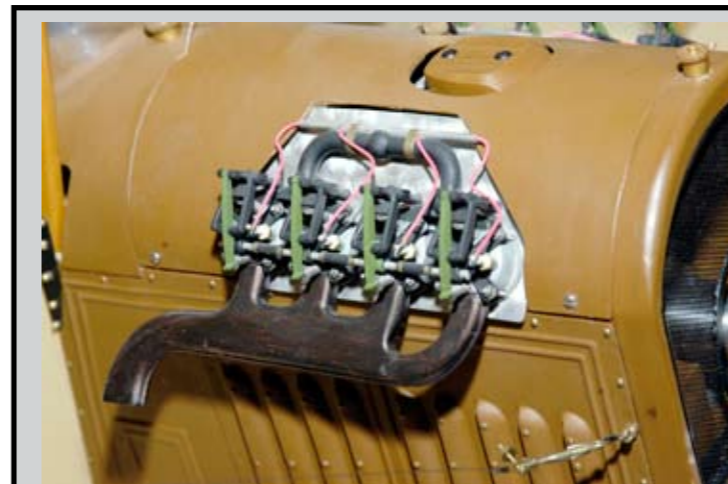
Final words from event manager Nadine Lingard who said: "It has been very busy with a positive feedback from the public, and we were delighted to have over 6000 visitors for the weekend."

This year the event is on the weekend of April 18th and 19th and in this issue we have a prize draw to win 10 tickets, see the next page on how to enter. **RCMW**



Two 88" Extreme Flight Extra 300 models in close 3-D formation, flown by Nathan Attridge and Tom Graham

Below: John Emms (left) and Chris Martindale concentrate on the flying



Engine detail on this Proctor Curtiss Jenny JN4-D2 by Gordon Libby. Model is Laser 80 powered



Superb scale detail on the Jenny