

## **A model weekend at the Royal Bath & West**

The great and good of the modelling world descended on Shepton Mallet last weekend (18-19 April) for the UK's most interactive model show.

Now in its second year, the two-day South West Model Engineering, Model Making and Hobbies Exhibition proved a tremendous success, with nearly 8000 visitors getting to grips with a diverse display of models being flown and ridden, floated, shown and driven.

Visitors took part in a huge array of activities, and nearly 130 modelling enthusiast clubs and traders encouraged visitors to learn the joys of modelling.

Airfix, Humbrol and Games Workshop featured heavily and indoor activities included model engineering displays, award-winning model railway layouts, military vehicles, live presentations and workshops.

Outdoors was dominated by a huge flying display, marine demonstrations on the boating pool, and a miniature ride-on railway.

Prizes for the best exhibit categories were hard fought. Shepton Mallet Drifters won the prize for best static display. Prize for moving display went to the West Sussex N Gauge Association. Airfix was voted best trade stand and the Stirling Engine Society was voted best moving engineering model.

The coveted best model in show award was chosen by visitors. Robert Saunders and his Dalek took the prize.

Event organiser, Scott Hider, says the event was a great success, with queues forming from early morning on both days.

"The popularity stemmed from the fact that we offered something for a healthy mix of different visitors," he said.

"One minute I was chatting with a hardcore model engineer who had enjoyed learning more of the intricacies of railway layouts. The next, I had a family come over to say thanks.

"Even though the kids were arguing as to whether the model flying display or loud model tanks was the best display, they were, apparently, both delighted with their brand new, and first, model kits.

"One of our goals for the show was to attract a younger generation to the joys of modelling, so I guess we could call that a success!

“However, we never rest on our laurels, and are already working on the plans for next year’s show; and we envisage it being the biggest and best yet,” he said.

The third South West Model Engineering, Model Making and Hobbies Show will take place at the Royal Bath & West Show Ground, Shepton Mallet, over the weekend of 17-18 April 2010. Anyone interested in exhibiting can contact the show organisers on 0117 907 1000, or via the event website: [www.swmee.co.uk](http://www.swmee.co.uk).

-ends-

Media contact: Gareth Dupre on 07833 364291 or [gareth@magicbeanspr.com](mailto:gareth@magicbeanspr.com).