

Southern Model Show - September 2015

I decided to give this show a try. It is now held at Headcorn Aerodrome but I had been before when it was still held at the Hop Farm (Paddock Wood). It is an annual event held over a weekend in mid September. For those not aware, Headcorn is roughly in the Ashford area. A very pleasant journey through the Kent country side although as an alternative you could undertake the majority of the journey by utilising the M20. Using the scenic route I clocked 45 miles each way from Orpington. It should be noted that in the main it is predominantly for model aircraft (with flying displays taking place throughout the day) and also to lesser degree, model trucks, tanks, boats etc. The entrance fee was officially £12 for adults but the lady on the gate said that if I admitted to being "a day over sixty" I could get in for £10. Well, to save a couple of quid, I'll admit to anything.

For the model boaters there was a raised/temporary pond and about a dozen or so local model boat clubs displaying their 'masterpieces'. There were only two traders dedicated to model boats, these being Models By Design and Mastman.

Mastman are apparently located in Orpington but only sell via their website www.mastman.co.uk or at shows. They also sell at shows, the model boat related items marketed by Hunter Systems. The latter no longer attend shows but still market via their own web-site: shop.huntersystems.co.uk. All a bit complicated!!!

The remainder of the traders were in the main model aircraft orientated but obviously there is a certain amount of read-across between model aircraft and model boats regarding materials, adhesives, radio control equipment etc. Those traders familiar to model boaters were Component Shop and Balsa Cabin.

The display of model aircraft continued throughout the day only disrupted (if that is the correct term) by mad fools jumping out of full sized and what appeared to be perfectly serviceable aircraft. There were also some very interesting visiting aircraft mainly of the WW2 variety.

There was also a flypast of the WW2 Memorial Flight (model variety) and a display by the Red Arrows (also in model format). I have no real interest in model aircraft or the full size variety for that matter but that side of the show was to me still very good.

Another interesting aspect was the radio controlled model trucks, all (I was informed) in 1/15 scale. This appeared to be rather an odd scale to use but possibly as the main supplier of parts is Tamiya is more understandable i.e. metric. The display was in the main, the trucks being loaded by model JCBs and the like in the same scale. Then transporting the spoil to another area before tipping.

Although not connected with the show but located on the same site is the Lashenden Air Warfare Museum:
lashendenairwar@gmail.com

This museum is open at weekends and other specified times (see their website) and is FREE. Did not try it but may be worth a look for those interested in aircraft.

Catering. In addition to the normal 'muck on a truck' vendors, that attend these shows with their hiked-up prices. There is a café outside the arena area (next to the museum) for those wanting their food in a more traditional setting i.e. sitting on a chair at a table.

Conclusion – A very pleasant show with plenty to interest model boaters, although most probably not one that I would visit on an annual basis.

The only downside for me was a pet hate which I have i.e. the inclusion of traders that sell items which have no connection with the show. Not really interested in buying dog-chews, sun glasses, beads, fudge, marmalade, a new dress!!!! or a hosepipe for washing the car.

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