



Ali Machinchi's Grumman Cougar takes-off for another display sortie



# LONG MARSTON 2011

Phil Dalton reports from this 2nd mid-England show

## A LEARNING CURVE

Now into its second year, this event (run by the Avonvale Model Flying Club near Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire) was a great success. Learning from some of the issues and amending the layout based on comments made last year there were tremendous improvements, which ranged from the quality of the 'personal facilities' (always important as far as the public are concerned) to a very comprehensive food and model trade layout.

Having the bar and outside public seating area at the mid-point of the flying display line enabled the crowd to see the display whilst enjoying the sunny intervals and also being sheltered from the fairly brisk wind. This gave them a rather false impression of the quite difficult conditions that the pilots were facing on the flight line itself – especially on Saturday when the wind direction was providing crosswind challenges.

The weather conditions meant that slotting was abandoned in favour of a turn-up-and-fly process and even then start-box

officials occasionally had to encourage pilots to fly, thus ensuring that the well patronised event by the public was entertaining.

Special thanks must go to all of the pilots who flew their aircraft over the weekend, but below are some who require a special mention, with apologies to those pilots who are omitted due to space constraints.

## THE DISPLAY PILOTS

After a short delay on Saturday due to rain, the show got off to a fast start with some jet flying by the Long Marston Jet Modellers who operate on the airfield every Monday of each week both winter and summer.

The main highlights of the show included several show stopping displays by the Red Arrows Hawk model display team of Steve and Matt Bishop. This year they are flying two Airworld 1:4 scale Hawk aircraft with JetCat P200 turbines and their routine is absolutely breathtaking. The Long Marston Airshow was the first of the season and it was obvious that they had



**Steve and Matt Bishop's 'Red Arrows' Hawks put on a well-rehearsed display routine**



**Robbie Skipton's CARF Models Extra does its stuff**



**Nicely finished Dawn Patrol Fokker Dr.1 Triplane takes-off**

been carrying out some very serious practise sessions leading up to this event, as their timing on crossovers and reversals was impeccable. During their routine they fly a period of time with red, white, and blue smoke, which enabled the well-known and very much liked commentator Dave Bishop of DB Sound to emphasise to the crowd that "they are British you know!" Each display ended with a 'wheels and flaps down flypast' followed by a joint landing no more than a few feet apart.

Providing some embarrassment to all pilots present was the flying demonstration put on by young Luke Bishop (aged 7) who is the grandson of Steve Bishop. Luke gave several



**This Nieuport 28 is another fine example flown by the Dawn Patrol group**

excellent solo demonstrations throughout the weekend with his ParkZone Habu electric jet – a name to look out for in the future for sure!

Ali Machinchi gave his normal exceptional display with his Grumman Cougar. Ali also flew a most unusual plane in the form of the large MDM Fox, which is in essence a jet powered glider. The first part of its display is made under jet power. For the second half of the display, the jet engine is turned off and retracts into the fuselage making the Fox a pure streamlined glider.

**7-year - old Luke Bishop takes a bow after flying his Habu EDF in a solo slot**



**Ali Machinchi's huge MDM Fox turbine-powered glider**



Ali performed an incredible aerobatic routine culminating in shutting down the motor at height and carrying out aerobatics on the glide all the way to touchdown.

World War I planes of the LMA's 'Dawn Patrol' flying in the very difficult conditions included a Bristol M1C, Albatros, Fokker Dr.1 Triplane, and a Nieuport 28 flown by Jez Harris, Pat Cuss, Steve Morris and Mike Brode.

A three-man team from nearby Leamington Hobby Centre put on a helicopter display with the helicopters being spaced out along the display line. The very large model of a Cobra attack helicopter gave an excellent display under the charge of John Greenfield. This helicopter is powered by a geared Zenoah 62 cc engine and the sound is extremely realistic.

A special mention must also be made of the excellent standard of aerobatic flying displayed by Steve Haugthy, Robbie Skipton, Alex Hawtin, Rob Meyers and a number of others who were always standing by to fly when there was a possibility of a gap in the flying programme.

For sheer numbers of planes in the air, the displays given by the Cambrian Fun Fighter Team with their hand launched aircraft and the Oxford Panic Team with their small biplanes, could not be beaten even though their respective displays were very different. Whilst the Cambrian Fun Fighters raced around the circuit at

breakneck speed in extremely close formation, the Oxford Panic Team did something entirely different. Each of the Panic Team's planes trailed a long streamer and once airborne, the objective of each plane was to 'shoot down' any other plane by flying into and cutting its trailing streamer. With a lot to watch in the air by both groups, entertainment was guaranteed.

If one has to sum up this show it has to give emphasis to the wide range of flying throughout the weekend despite the difficult conditions and the vagaries of the British weather. There was flying to meet every person's aspirations of the hobby from large and fast models to helicopters and fun flying types – what more could one ask for as a true representation of the hobby to a paying public.

There were a great variety of stands present selling hobby products suitable for all ages and tastes. Whilst this show had a somewhat embryonic feel to it, all I spoke to agreed that this show is capable of becoming one of the major shows in the radio controlled model aviation calendar.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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**RCMW**



Leamington Hobby Centre flew their Bell 47G display helicopter



The Oxford Panic Team prepare to take-off

John Greenfield's Cobra attack helicopter

