



*The last time we met as a club back on the 18th March 2020*

**G**reat news, by the time the next newsletter appears (June) we may be able to hold physical meetings again.

It has been a long time since we last met as a club, way back in March last year, so over a year ago.

Who would have thought, that what started as cough in China, some 5,500 miles away, would plunge the entire world into a global lockdown.

But it did, yet now we can see light at the end of the tunnel, normality will be quite different than what it was pre-COVID, but we will be able to meet up once again.

The plan at the moment, as long as the government's roadmap stays on track, is for a possible limited gathering in June, with us opening up meetings properly in July. What form the meetings will take and what rules will be in place, we do not know. At least we have something to look forward to.

Of course our model show will not be taking place in June, we may however hold one later on in the year, watch this space for more info.

**Editor**

### **Please Note:**

Articles and news are always welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. **BUT** views and information thus expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the editor or the club as a whole.

Articles for the June 2021 Issue to me please by May 27th 2021

Email me [modelclub@ipmssalisbury.co.uk](mailto:modelclub@ipmssalisbury.co.uk)

## Club News



As mentioned our model show will not be taking place this year in June.

But we are considering the possibility of having one later on in the year, possibly in September, but this is dependent on how the road map to recover continues.

### Model Club re-opening soon

Unbelievable as it may seem, we have not met as a club physically since 18th March 2020, over a year ago now. But some of us have managed to meet virtually via Zoom which has kept us going through the year with what we have been up to and seeing some amazing models, and watched as models have been made over the course of the meetings.

We are looking at a staggered re-opening of the club, of course this is down to how the relaxation of the lockdown rules continues, how the roll out of the vaccination continues and when we can safely use the Dennis Marsh Hall.

Our Hon Sec will be approaching the Hall to see how this can be done, we will keep you informed over the coming months on the progress.



## Top Tip Corner

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Ever had the need to get rid of the chrome on plastic?

Well worry not, here are two methods of getting rid of the chrome.

- Submerge it in Bleach
- Submerge it in Drain Un-Blocker

Both work very well in dissolving the chrome, of course please take all necessary precautions when using these products.



## Hunter of Bounties

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### 1/12 Scale Vignette

IPMS Salisbury has been making the best of a bad situation since suspension of normal service has occurred due to the Pandemic. During the second lockdown in November the club chairman organised a '4 week model challenge' running from Nov 8<sup>th</sup> to Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. I took part and for once made the deadline with ease. But due to entering the model in an online contest couldn't put the finished picture up as that would go against the contest rules. Now that is all over I can give detail on my Boba Fett build and thank Richard for updating the IPMS page. The figure is from Bandai, and the beast started as a toy, both however were modified with the following changes:

The figure in 1/12 was built as per the instructions. It is very well articulated, but those moving joints are prominent so would require attention. The trophy braids and cape were discarded and new ones made from string and for the cape, facial tissue set in place with paper stiffener.

Once the pose had been set, filler was applied to the lower limbs and rear armoured plate as the extreme articulation of him in a riding pose meant some large gaps were visible around the groin area.

The rocket pack was left off. I figured the fatigue of wearing a heavy pack while in the saddle would be avoided (even by a legend such as Boba). Further, the rocket was removed; in the real world soldiers unload their weapons when not in use, it should be the same in the Star Wars universe.

Everything on the figure was primed grey and shadows pre-painted in black before then being painted using acrylics. While I'd airbrushed the primer, I decided to brush paint the figure more for the enjoyment of hand painting than any decision on finish.



The beast was a toy Velociraptor that was modified with Milliput putty. The legs and arms were set in position, then scales added to hide the prominent joints. I added some larger eyes and horns to the head and flanks and by accident realised it looked a lot like a Tauntaun, the bipedal animal that is ridden by scouts on the ice planet Hoth in the film 'The Empire Strikes Back' so I added ears and changed the nose also. According to sources, the Tauntaun is a reptile so it fitted to have this as a desert member of the same type of species.

I cut paper templates to make a saddle after researching Western Calvary and WW1 German military saddles.

These templates were covered in rolled out Milliput and applied to the beast with stitching added while still soft. The net to hold the rocket pack is a dish cloth picked apart to be a single layer of mesh cloth that was pulled tight around the pack then immersed in a setting solution to harden the net. Painting was done in layers to first paint the pack, then washed in dark brown to add depth, then heavily dry brushed to pick out the netting.

Further work on the beast's body to try and remove seam lines was difficult as the plastic was not styrene and rather than sand off went rough and furry. I found a very sharp knife better to carve the parts then add small flattened balls of epoxy putty to replace scales. The beast was painted in enamels so I could add layers of washes and drybrush a sheen back with semi-matt colours. This ensured a different look between animal hide and the figure's cloth and armour. Once again basic blocking of colour was done with an airbrush, then extensive dry brushing with large flat tip brushes.



Various extra parts were made using odd parts and Milliput to equip the saddle and a spare set of pouches from a second Fett figure was added. One pouch is on the butt of the rifle, which is a mash up of the kit's main weapon with a 1/10 Winchester rifle butt grafted on. For the stock and barrel I used the leg from a dolls house chair with a muzzle added. Tiny details were grafted on to look busy before painting, the metal parts rubbed with graphite afterwards, the remainder done in acrylics to simulate wood grain. Thin strips of plastic card warmed with a soldering iron made belts on the packs as well as shaping the reigns. I wanted the reigns to also billow out in the same direction as the cape to suggest the figure is facing into

the wind. This worked out really well.

To keep the straps in place around the head of the beast I drilled tiny holes and used cut down pins to mimic riveted leather and pin the straps close to the reptile skin.

To finish the piece, I used a deep wooden box turned upside down, the surface built up with polystyrene and wall filler with cat litter for smaller rocks. While the filler was still soft the complete figure was screwed into place from underneath so the feet really pulled down into the base to indicate weight. Thinned enamel dust-coloured washes were built up along with a heavy dusting of pigment to tie everything together.



**Sibo**

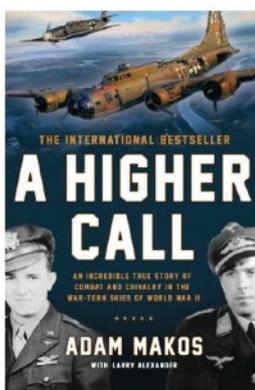


## Micro Model Show

Despite having Zoom meetings and online Flashmods, there definitely is a reduction in the social side of having a model club. But thankfully there has been a real camaraderie amongst the various members with different meet ups and exchanges happening since the outbreak first began and caused the normal Tuesday gatherings to stop.

In October when the 'Tier' system was in place, me and Nick Williams swapped our normal excursion to Belgium for 'Plastic and Steel' for a micro model contest of one model each as well as filling up on Belgium beer and snacks sourced from Waitrose and Lidl's to bring some of the European feel to the South West. Sadly, the tier system did not work and the country was again in lockdown in November and then a 3<sup>rd</sup> time from January until spring.

Chris Southwood landed a new job, starting days before the 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown began and due to its nature was expected to carry on working from an office in Amesbury. I bumped into him one morning while posting parcels at the Amesbury Post Office. He had been modelling away in his spare time and missing the chance to chat about what he'd been up-to (not every member of the club likes the Zoom style of meet up). As he



had to have a lunch break each day and Covid restrictions meant staff rooms closed we decided to have a meet up in my garden so we could socially distance ourselves while consuming lunch and discuss modelling matters. He brought along a completed set of resin figures and details of his current project. Chris intends to combine 2 kits of 1/48 B-17 so that the B-17G internals from the Revell kit can be used to flesh out the more basic B-17F from Revell/ Monogram. The reason for needing more internal detail is to build 'the old pub', the highly damaged B-17 that features in the biographical novel *A Higher Call* along with a Bf-109 G-6.

A book well worth reading.

Later in the month seeing Ray Rodda in Salisbury led me to take a fair number of pictures of his builds. He has limited access to the internet and staying in touch with club members, so it seemed a good idea to get a number of his models all together with us masked up and take some photos for the club newsletter. Ray has been busy mostly with large scale projects such as Merit's Red Baron Fokker Dr1 Triplane and SE5a, as well as numerous Tamiya kits, a few shown here. It would be fair to say Ray likes desert colour schemes. Hopefully as this newsletter goes to print it won't be too much longer until we all can meet up again at the scout hall.



Sibo



## 10.5cm Flak in Davenport

Much has been written and still more to be unearthed about the 'Admiral Graf Spee' the "Panzerschiff" or as known more readily "pocket battleship" that ended its days scuttled after being trapped by the British at the end of the 'Battle of the River Plate'.



I won't be tackling the ship in detail here, more of a focus on one of the Ship's weapons systems and the fact that against expectations some of the mighty Graf Spee ended up in Great Britain while the war still raged. 'Admiral Graf Spee' and her sisters were a result of The Treaty of Versailles that severely limited the size of the post war Kriegsmarine, stopping Germany from owning any dreadnought type battleships. The Germans could keep or build pre-dreadnought vessels of up to 10,000

tons, equivalent to a heavy cruiser in most modern navies of the day.

German engineers developed a novel, evasive solution; they designed the 'pocket battleship'. Smaller vessels of approx twelve thousand tons but with relatively heavy armaments that could outrun or outgun any cruiser fast enough to catch them. Their top speed of 28 knots (52 km/h) left only the battle cruisers of the British Royal Navy and French Navy fast enough and powerful enough to sink them.

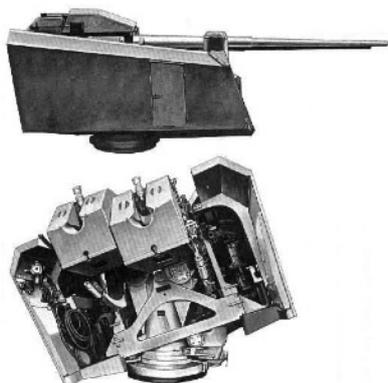
In truth the German ships were designed as raiders on merchant shipping not to combat other surface ships even after stretching the treaty limits to mount armour and larger calibre guns. The ship conducted patrols during the Spanish civil war, and prior to the outbreak of World War II was positioned in Southern merchant sea lanes. The Graf Spee sank nine vessels before being confronted by 3 British cruisers. Damaged in the exchange the Graf Spee was forced to put into port at Montevideo to make repairs which were not forthcoming, so the Captain decided to scuttle the ship rather than have it fall into enemy hands.

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The Captain, Langsdorff is regarded as a fine example of command, following naval conventions on avoidance of unnecessary death by ensuring survivors were picked up including allowing ships to cross deck sailors prior to his warship destroying the merchant ship; his humane treatment won him the respect of his prisoners. Even a brief summary can only touch on the events of the famous Battle of the River Plate so I'll let you dig out the film or library book if you desire.

Reading an old copy of 'The Royal Navy News' I came upon an article with period photographs showing the Davenport dockyard had on the quayside German 10.5cm Ordnance. This gun was the 3rd largest calibre on the ship after the six main 28cm and secondary 15cm guns. The 10.5cm guns were primarily AA guns. This short article led me onto further articles relating to the attempts to gain insight into German technology that at the time was ahead of the British in gun design and range finding.

A clandestine salvage operation was mounted by the British Admiralty using a South American salvage company as a front. The German Navy was more advanced than British Naval Intelligence had first thought being equipped in 1939 with FuMO 22, a rudimentary Radar fitted to the Graf Spee's foretop rangefinder turret. The Royal Navy would have no ship mounted gun-laying RADAR capability until 1941 although at the time of learning about Germany's efforts the UK's own research was well underway. The task took time and different 'Salvage experts' (in reality RN scientists), needed to travel to Montevideo as their relative area of expertise was needed. This was not a simple



matter as Uruguay was a Neutral country but with some German sympathisers so only single RN technical officials could be hosted at a time after travelling a long-disjointed route to South America. Therefore, concurrently the British Admiralty gave instruction for local salvage teams to recover items of interest which included all 3 types of main gun, sections of armour, degaussing equipment



and as well as the gun laying equipment.

As can be imagined the South American effort was less than the British hoped for and much on the desired list was never raised let alone shipped back to England. A pair of the 10.5cm AA did however make it back but as important as they would seem today after being inspected were placed on the dockside where they sat until it became forgotten why and in the 1970, they were cut up for scrap.

The twin 10.5 cm/65 SK C/33 guns look significantly different from the Flak guns seen on land. This weapon was used primarily on cruisers and capital ships against air attack but it could be used against surface targets too. A good weapon, but the training and elevation rates were rather slow. The twin guns were enclosed in a splinter proof cabin, open backed on some ships, fully enclosed on others. To counter the ship's pitch and roll the guns had a multi axial mounting. Able to move in 3 directions it was intended to be able to compensate for the motion of the ship and so maintain target lock. Unfortunately, this mounting proved not up to the effects of exposure to sea conditions with electrical faults limiting its effectiveness. In the Anti-Aircraft role, the guns delivered HE to a height of 12,500m.

**Sibo**

### **SALISBURY MODEL CENTRE (SMC)**

Re-opens on Monday 12 April. The aim is to be open every day of the week from 10 am. But shorter days on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday. Full times will be on Facebook and the shop website as we near re-opening. Please note some adverts are still circulating in print that are out of date so always check before hand.

While in lockdown SMC has been getting stocks of new releases as well as the consumables. But it isn't all back to normal as so much of the world still struggles with COVID 19 and the supply chain is still a mess. Even the Suez Canal grid lock will have a knock on to supply. Looking forward to seeing some familiar faces again, Sibos.