

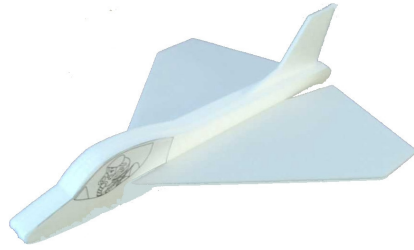
Something different.....

This wasn't our first visit to Terra Nova School at Jodrell Bank but when a visiting team from Cheshire Falcons arrived last September to lead an 'Activities Evening' and introduce 15 youngsters to Aeromodelling as a hobby we had their rapt attention and enthusiasm from the start. The children were broadly between 8 and 12 years of age and this was a completely new and exciting novelty for them, they watched open-mouthed as we presented our modest but varied RC flying display.



This time, nine months later, we were delighted to receive the headmaster's invitation to do it all again, but we knew that we had to offer a twist or two on our previous programme. We were also aware of our good fortune in September, that the weather had been warm & balmy. Would the June weather be so kind and if flying was not an option how would we fill the time?

Enter the BMFA and their very active programme to encourage modelling and flying skills in schools. We were introduced to a range of gliders and rubber-powered models to suit all age groups and situations; we selected the BMFA Aerojet, a simple foam chuck glider as ideal for our purpose.



While the rain blistered down outside we were able to give each pupil a kit to assemble, decorate and later to trim for flight, leading to 30 minutes or so of mayhem in the large gymnasium. We discovered that affixing a small piece of Blu-tack could give an otherwise gentle glider considerable aerobatic agility. Learning the basics of aerodynamics has never been such fun & this proved to be a super model to use if building time is short.

Each model was numbered and prizes awarded for build, appearance and flying performance. The lads made stronger models & trimmed for faster launches, but we were happy to see that the lasses with a more delicate approach picked up their share of the prizes.

There was great excitement when they learned that we had set up 3 lap tops in the next room running RC simulator programmes (with Tx controls of course), so everybody had an opportunity to fly some spectacular crashes.

As promised by the Met Office, the weather cleared and winds dropped after about 7.30pm when we were able at last to take to the skies and demonstrate what RC flying is all about.



Such was the enthusiastic response from these youngsters that we suggested that they might ask Mum & Dad to take them to the Weston Park model air display the following Weekend.

The evening went with such a swing, we believe, because the children were busy the whole time and in particular they loved the competitions, valuable lessons we have noted for future events.

School visits such as this take us outside the usual range of club activities. Eight of our members joined the group, each got involved in some aspect of organising or judging the events and we all saw such youthful bounce & enthusiasm in the response that I suspect we all came away a little richer for the experience.

A big vote of thanks goes to the Headmaster and Staff of Terra Nova School who made us so welcome again.

Our grateful thanks must also go to The BMFA for their support in this venture, the children proudly wore their BMFA lapel badges, and we were able to present several different BMFA model kits at a grand prize giving ceremony to round off a very successful evening.

Colin Brown.

www.cheshirefalcons.co.uk

