

The Popham Model Show 2022 – A report.

For the second time The Popham Airfield management opened its doors to arrange a model show. Due to the restraints of COVID last years the show had to be put together in around 7 weeks, but even so was seen to be a success by all that attended.

The 2022 show however was planned from soon after this first show giving the organizers far more time to plan and improve things. It was decided at the outset to expand what was a Model Air Show to a Model Show that included several other modelling disciplines such as Model railways, Model boats and a display of Armored vehicles.



As can be seen by the photographs far more visitors were in attendance and having spoken to many of them the vast majority said they cannot wait for the next show and how pleasing it was that once again a major show was taking place in the South of the country, Sandown and Blackbushe having been sadly missed for so long.

Again, the first show had around 9 traders present, and thanks to the work of Alan Wallington, this year no less than 35 Traders were in attendance, as well as the BMFA stand and Simulator.

Mike the Airfield Manager had also vastly improved the Catering and Bar facilities on offer.

Once again, a NOTAM was raised to close the airfield to full-size traffic between 10:00am and 4:00pm and the S. Area BMFA once again were tasked to arrange the flying display. Thanks must go to Peter Bennett for not only being the principal Flight-Director but also for all the unseen but very necessary insurance / risk assessment work that these days must be in place for a show of this size.

An early morning shot of the Traders “village” before the crowds arrived.



Thanks to the preparation work by David Newby the slot management was also vastly improved, and as far as the public were concerned the show ran continuously throughout the 6 hours on each day. However, to make life a little less stressful on the day, further improvements will be made, and the selection of pilots be reviewed to give fewer pilots more opportunities to fly.



On display were a vast number of model aircraft of all shapes and sizes, from Steve Carr flying his 1/3rd Scale 550cc Yak, the Ghost Squadron aerotowing an 8M glider to Laura Rowe flying a car! Everything in between varied from many scale aircraft from beautifully exhibited Helicopters, Fixed wing and Gliders examples driven by a combination of turbines, IC, and electric power units. All in all, something of interest for everyone to see.



The show culminated with the arrival of a celebrity, no less than Mack Rutherford, the 17-year-old a few stops away from completing his 52 country / 5 continent record breaking round the world trip in his Shark Ultra-light. Both Mack and his sister (also a circumnavigator) both took their first flights at Popham.

Note: Some Photographs are from the 2021 show as the latest ones are yet to be received.