

Wings 'n' Wheels

Model Aircraft Exhibition, North London, 26 June 2010 by Greg Hall

I'm over in the UK on holiday for a couple of months, my plans were to see a bit more of the UK (and possibly Europe), chase a few steam trains and maybe get to an air show. There is an annual model plane exhibition in north London called Wings 'n' Wheels which is meant to be one of the biggest in the UK so I thought it would be worth a visit.

Without your own transport it can sometimes be difficult to get to some of these events but as this one wasn't that far out of London I could get there using public transport, the London Underground tube train followed by a short cab ride. It was located at North Weald air field in Essex and although it was a large show it was situated on only a tiny part of the field, at the north end of one of the strips. For those that have access to the internet if you go to Google maps and put in the following post code CM166AR you can see exactly where it was.

When I walked through the gate I was somewhat overwhelmed by the size of the event, especially considering it was not a full size air show and they were 'just' model planes.



The exhibition has a 'bring and buy' where people can bring along their unwanted goods and sell them. This is one of the first things you see when you walk through the gate and there was certainly plenty there, planes, engines and radios. You select your item of interest and one of the stewards then brings it over for inspection.



The flying displays were well organised with a continual display of large warbirds, jets and aerobatic planes. The skill level of some of the pilot was extraordinary but then some were national champions! Two roulette jets put and very good routine and were real crowd pleasers. The build cost of these was £15 000 each.



A giant jet turbine powered 'glider' performed more like a high speed aerobatic plane and was also very impressive.





60% Extra 260 with fuel injected 500cc four cylinder engine.

Another crowd pleaser!



Enough warbirds to fly the Battle of Britain

I only had a happy snap camera so wasn't able to get any good inflight photos



There were about 70 trade stands selling everything a modeller could want from balsa up to 86" fibreglass ARF warbirds (£500-700)



Although there was a lot of choice one thing I can say is the cost of things was noticeably more than items purchased in Australia. Since the pound isn't doing too well at the moment and a lot of it comes from Asia I suppose this shouldn't be a surprise. I'm glad I only had a suitcase because if I was

living in England I would have left the show with a very empty wallet, but I never like going away empty handed and so found something small, a nice balsa plane.

More details on this exhibition can be found on their website – <http://www.wingsnwheels.net/>