

A Conversation with Bournestormers

By Mike Beckett

My meeting with Jon Cole brought back memories of my childhood when I first made contact with a model plane. But in those days, it was a simple kit comprising balsa wood and a very messy glue – the end product looking like something that had already been in a fight!

Jon, an ex-police officer, is the current chair of the Bournestormers Model Club and joined the club around eight years ago. He told me that the club was formed some 40 years ago and is primarily a group of people who have one thing in common – they all enjoy flying model aircraft and find building them just as enjoyable. So, along with members Roger, Malcolm and Steve, I began to learn more about this club.

Jon said: “We have training nights (usually Thursday afternoons /

evenings during British Summer Time) with registered instructors and an optional Chinese takeaway!” Jon explained. “We have been at our current five-acre site for the past 15 years, and we are open seven days a week for fifty-two weeks of the year flying from 10.00am until dusk. Our dedicated crew keeps the site in good order with grass cutting once a week.”

Jon told me that they have a team of instructors and examiners for all those from novice to those wishing to take a

recognised BMFA A or B test.

The Bournestormers is affiliated to the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) and abides by their rules. There are around 35 members actively in the Bournestormers but they would love to see more younger members participating.

“The major emphasis is on enjoyment and being part of a sociable group of people that on occasion will meet up and chat about anything and everything – until someone will say ‘Are we going to fly our planes?’”



“

The club has models that are used in introductory sessions where a Buddy Box is used to give the instructor control and the student also has control.

”