

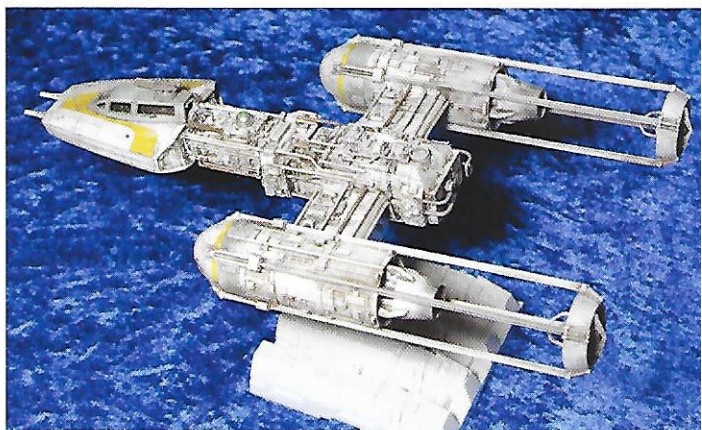
Bigger Than Ever

This year's Scale ModelWorld set new levels in terms of size, quality and numbers of competition entries, and this was reflected in the overall 'buzz' over both days at the Telford International Centre. It also set a new bar for the number of large-scale kit announcements, with Airfix's 1/24 Grumman F6F-5 Hellcat leading

George Tenedioti's completely scratch-built 1/48 Oerffag-Mickl G flying boat was a stunning example of modelmaking and in addition to winning Senior National Champion it also received the Rod Fielding Memorial Trophy and Jan Maes Award



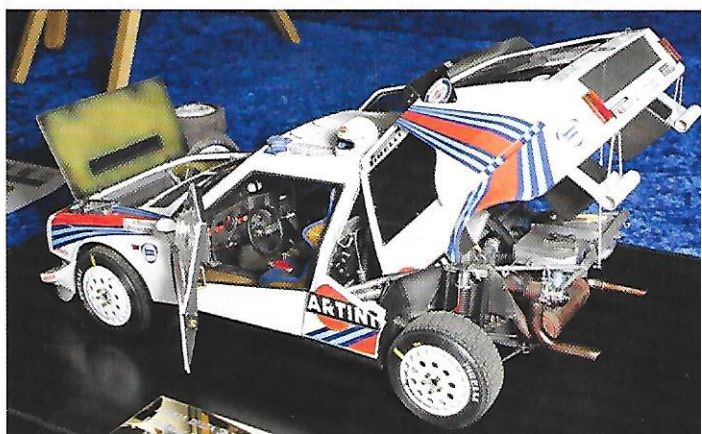
▲ Ondrej Smekal's First to Fight 1/72 Skoda Tank started as a wargaming kit, but a replacement barrel and cratch-built innards helped it win the military vehicles category.



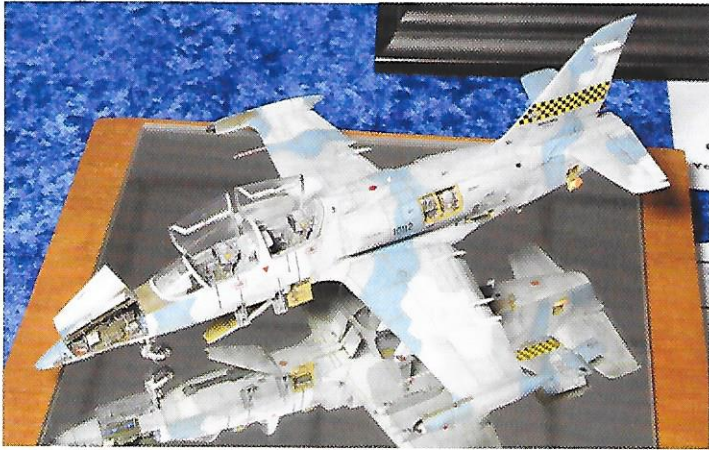
▲ Hats off to junior modeller Alex Bienek, whose 1/72 Bandai Star Wars Y-Wing benefited from painted markings and convincing weathering...this was best example of the type at SMW.



▲ Dieselpunk! Roger Brown's glorious Dragonfly took Gold in the Sci-Fi and Fantasy section, as well as the Gerry Anderson and Albion Alloys Sci-Fi trophies, and showed real imagination.



▲ Patrick Watson made more than 300 corrections to his Model Factory Hiro 1/12 Lancia Delta S4 WRC, backdating it to the 1985 RAC Rally Winner, with extensive modifications.



▲ Eduard's 1/72 L-39ZA Albatros was super-detailed by Francois Binder, with scratch-built avionics bays, and Royal Thai Air Force markings...this won Gold in its category.



▲ A crucial element in any vignette is groundwork; Matthew Farrer combined a stunning base with convincing figures on a Dragon 1/35 S.I.G33(SfI) auf Pz.Kpfw.II in his 'Desert Dog' scene.

the way (see News, p.6), followed closely by Wingnut Wings' 1/32 Lancasters (see Dec 2018 News, p.8) and its stunning 1/32 Handley Page O/400. The latter was revealed at the show and is due, along with its Avro cousin, in 2019. Not to be outdone, Eduard is due to release a newly tooled 1/48 Tempest Mk.V series I this month, and Copper State Models wowed visitors with its brand-new 1/48 Nieuport XVII Early/Late variants. Test-shots to savour included Tamiya's 1/48 Spitfire Mk.I, Hong Kong Models' 1/32 Lancaster B.I/III, Zoukei Mura's same-scale Kawasaki Ki-45 and Henschel Hs 129, and Airfix's 1/48 Spit' Mk.XIVe.

Easy as it would be to focus on the wealth of new products and announcements, this year's competition also hit new

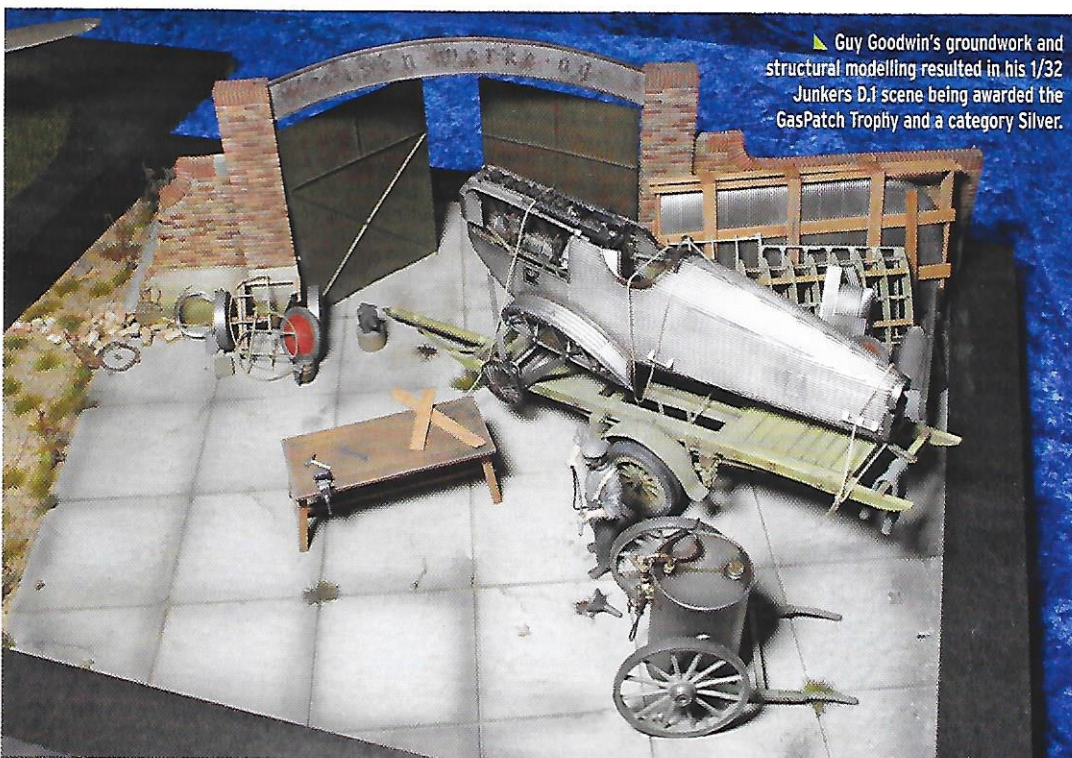


RAF
100

Supermarine Spitfire MK.24
80 Squadron, RAF Kai Tak, Hong Kong
1951. Last of the Breed



▼ Glenn Woodruff transformed Airfix's 1/72 Spitfire Mk.24, completing it as a category-winning 'Last of the Breed', in the shape of a Kai Tak-based 80 Squadron airframe.



▲ Guy Goodwin's groundwork and structural modelling resulted in his 1/32 Junkers D.1 scene being awarded the GasPatch Trophy and a category Silver.



▲ David Lane's white metal Chef D'Escadron de Chasseur, 12th Regt, 1806 displayed meticulous painting and blending, and deservedly won Gold in the Figures category.



▲ This year's Junior National Champion was Alex Bienek, with his splendid Tamiya 1/35 Mk.IV Male tank, finished as a German 'Beutepanzer', with painted markings and convincing rust.



▲ Amazingly, Ronald Heiler's Special Hobby 1/32 Bloch MB.152 is an out-of-the-box build, highlighting what can be done with just basic kit components and well-applied camouflage.

▲ Eric Phillippe's 1/144 France 1940 diorama had to be seen to be believed, being absolutely tiny, yet detailed beautifully throughout, with an H38 resin Renault R35 in the foreground.



heights, with more than 1,300 entrants...a 25% increase on the previous best. Once again, the standard seemed to creep ever higher in terms of build quality, and it was most encouraging to see not just the quantity of entrants from junior modellers, but also the skill – several could have challenged senior entries easily, such was their overall excellence. George Tenediotis' incredible scratch-built 1/48 Oeffag-Mickle G6 G-Series Flying Boat secured the Senior National Champion award, and the detail had to be seen to be believed. This was also true of Ondrej Smekal's 1/72 First to Fight Skoda Yugoslavian Tank, which must be the smallest ever Gold-winning model I've seen, with a scratch-built interior! This year's Junior

National Champion was Alex Bienek, with his amazing Tamiya 1/35 Mk.IV Male tank.

Unfortunately, I couldn't get around the clubs and special interest groups as much as I would have liked, but several displays caught the eye. The Mulberry Harbour SIG had a nine-foot-long 1/35 Landing Ship Tank (with full complement of embarked vehicles), while Bomb Command's impressive stand was the perfect accompaniment to the RAF100 collection. Regarding the latter, it was wonderful to see so many clubs and SIGs setting aside space for their own tribute to the RAF in its centenary year.

Stu Fone

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▼ Superb shading on the tunic and trousers marked out Drahoslav Janecek's Little John figure, complemented by the excellent facial expression and delicate work on the wooden staff.



▲ Replicating a scene accurately from a photograph is difficult enough, but doing so with the additional challenge of a grey-scale finish earned Philippe Moretti overall Gold in the Diorama category, with a scratch-built balloon and 51 heavily modified figures.