

The recent ad we took out in another British modelling magazine – *R.C.M. & E.* and also in the American magazine *RC Modeller* certainly seems to have done the trick in making sure our publication is read in all corners of the world. We have had a veritable flood of new subscribers from Australia and even New Zealand. Mr. L. G. Forrest from Tauranga tells me that models are prohibitively expensive in New Zealand – approximately £600-£700 for a kit, so consequently it is a very exclusive hobby. I should also imagine spares are expensive and difficult to get.

There has also been an encouraging response from areas in Europe not conventionally thought of as R/C helicopter areas ie. Greece, Yugoslavia and Spain.

Yugoslavia: Šumi Andrej was kind enough to write and let us know that we were actually achieving what we had set out to do. He says "Since I am somewhat isolated from the model helicopter 'world' I believe your magazine will provide me with the much needed information". He is currently flying a Schlüter Bell 222 and constructing a Superior, so I hope he finds the Summer '84 issue helpful. We are pleased that we have helped him to feel he is in touch with what is happening in the rest of the helicopter 'world'.

Spain: Milo Pastecchi from Barcelona is the sole importer of Schlüter helicopters, and he too complains of high prices putting the hobby out of the range of the average person. He is trying to change all that by starting mail order sales direct to the public in order to bring down the cost to the customer. He already reports good success with this kind of selling with Super Tigre engines. It is, however, more important to give a good back up service when selling a helicopter to someone who does not have the benefit of a local pilot to give him expert advice. We wish Milo lots of luck.

Pedro Caldentey from Porto Cristo,

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

by
Diana Cameron-Tough

Majorca added a novel and much appreciated touch with his subscription form – two attractive postcards from his home town. Of course, when the Editor saw the underground cavers with stalagmites and stalactites he immediately visualised some exacting flying with his Cobra – navigation and search lights on, skimming over the water and between obstacles. (You can read more about his yen for adventure with water in another part of the mag!)

Denmark: Before we move off from Europe to the other side of the world – I would like to modestly(!) quote from a letter from Claus Schmidt in Denmark. He echoes many of your views, and all we can say is "thank you and we're doing our best". I quote – "I am sure you have heard the following many times before, but I will say it anyway. I think that *R/C Helicopters* is the best thing that has happened to the hobby for a long time – there is just one snag – it sure is hard to wait for the next issue. Keep up the good

work, may you prosper, may the magazine grow and perhaps even become bi-monthly sometime in the future".

Encouragement like that is just what we need to help us through the times of frustration – like when our correspondence pile unanswered hits the ceiling!!

Australia: Nick Csabafy from N.C. Helicopter Services in Kew, Victoria tells us that helicoptering in Australia is not big, but as we have found all round the world it is a growing market. He has been involved in helicopters for the last ten years and has held the National Heli title for the last couple of years. He is the exclusive Hirobo agent for Australia, and as well as all the normal equipment and accessories which he sells, he also offers tuition, building to order and sells second hand choppers.

Michael Piquemal is president of the Rotary Flight Club of New South Wales. He says it currently has about 36 members with approximately 60 helicopters ranging from Heims to the Hirobo range to his latest edition a Blue Thunder. We have found over here that the Blue Thunder zips along so quickly it's not easy to get hold of one!!! He says the club has done a number of air shows, model shows and charity days, even though their flying is still in early stages – hovering manouvres, basic circuits, figure eights etc. When Michael has his Blue Thunder finished he will doubtless be even more popular at displays – especially among small boys.

Selangor, West Malaysia: My friend Michael Ng from Kelong seems to be doing a great job in encouraging helicopter flying and interest in our magazine in his part of the world. Mind you, after seeing the beautiful photographs he has sent of his models I am very, very impressed by the quality of his paintwork and no doubt his excellent attractive machines create a lot of interest whenever they fly.

By the way, for those of you who need to rush off and grab an atlas Selangor is close to Kuala Lumpur, and about 250 miles north of Singapore.

We have also had many new subscribers from the neighbouring countries of Borneo and Sabah (North Borneo). One of these days I really must visit all our subscribers!!

England: As per usual I finish off with the home news. As the wintry weather is descending, we do not seem to be out and about flying much, but I do hear that there is a whole batch of Squirrels being constructed and prettied up over the winter months – to do battle at the scale comps. next year. These are Robbe's new one, a Schlüter and also a Kalt fuselage – a nice selection.

There are also a few bright spots on the horizon for frustrated pilots in the Midlands. For a long while pilots in the



Michael Ng's favourite model – his wife Louise – with his beautifully painted Hirobo 808EX, with Hirobo SST main rotor blades.



Michael Ng, with the hat, and Mr. K.T. Chan, who has just opened a model shop, hovering the Kalt Long Ranger with Hirobo 808EX mechanics. It is used for photo taking and video recording.

North and Midlands have not been fairly represented with their share of specialist helicopter shops. Pilots were finding they had to cover large distances for spares and advice, or try to do it all over the telephone – great for the expert, but a problem for a beginner. Well two new shops have opened up, with the express intention of giving sound advice to those with problems.

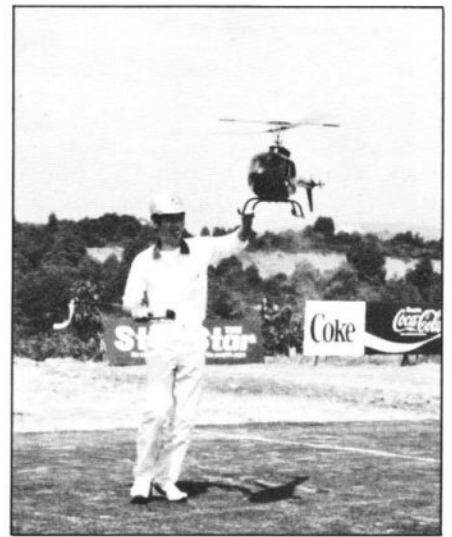
Khalid Mahmood has recently opened Nottingham Radio Controlled Helicopters in Chilwell. He tells me that when he said he was buying a helicopter all his friends tried to persuade him against it – thinking they were too difficult to fly. Unheeded and very determined, he went off and bought a Kalt Baron 50. He found the engineering and flying characteristics of a helicopter fascinating and that it was a definite challenge, enhanced by the fact that few helicopters are seen about. He was pleasantly surprised as to the ease with which his first helicopter went together, which he took off to Goose Fair, a well known local spot, to test and practise. He always found himself surrounded by interested spectators wanting to know the usual questions, and also where can I purchase such a machine. Naturally this led his thoughts to opening his own shop. Also, after 20 years as a

motor engineer he felt it was time for a change. As with all new ventures with the best interests of the hobby in mind, we wish Khalid well.

Similarly we wish the best to John Hickman with his new business Central Helicopters. He felt pilots in his area were neglected in terms of setting up advice etc, so he decided to have a go at opening a shop and giving valuable help to all. His shop is in New Balderton near Newark. (He also runs a travel agency, so you can plan your holiday at the same time!)

In the next issue you can read about some more helpful tips from Mr. Hadari. In the meantime he would love to meet any readers visiting his country. His address is: Mr. Eitan Hadari, 11/5 Yekhian Street, Carmiel, Israel 20100. Tel: 04-987240.

West Indies: As you have probably read by now we will be in the West Indies, by the time you are reading this issue. We will certainly find it strange having Christmas in a warm climate, but the Editor has never been happy in temperatures under 70°, and Sam also seems to love the warmth. (By the way he is 1 now – doesn't time fly.) Therefore if any of you in the West Indies are 'heli nuts' – please let us know. The Editor has made sure the important items have been shipped



Mr. Kunii from Japan demonstrating the stability of his Hirobo Corvette SST during the Selangor Fun Fly held in February – definitely a trick not to be recommended.

out – a stable of helicopters to build, review and just have fun with. Therefore we would love to meet up with like minded enthusiasts. Franz Fletcher from Jamaica has recently been in the news with his scale win at the AMA nats, but how many more of you are out there hovering among the palm trees.

I would like to conclude with a word from the Subscriptions Manager (whoever she is). There appears to be no copies of Issue No.1 – Summer '83, left for sale in the UK. They are now collectors items! However Miniature Aircraft Supply in the States still have some left, so please don't write to me for copies, as I can only disappoint you. If we get some more I will let you all know.

By the way, if any of you are stuck for a Christmas present – how about giving a sub. to this magazine. Wives take note on what better way to make your man happy!

Until next time – have a Good Christmas and a Happy Hovering New Year.



Khalid Mahmood demonstrating you can fly a Baron 20 anywhere – especially in your front garden!



Kiernan Padden with some of his pupils and a couple of his helicopters. I wonder if R/C helicopter flying is on the curriculum!