

Clear Dope

February 2020



Chichester and District Model Aero Club: Committee 2020

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Hi February already and not much flying I'm afraid, progress on Thorney is ongoing

This months meeting in the 13th February is a talk by Dave Lainchbury on

The Battle of Britain



Over West Sussex

Club Night – 13th February

A Cautionary Tale:

Whilst we re-negotiate our licence to fly at Thorney I thought that the time had come to try some slope soaring on the Trundle.

So, last week the bank balance took another hit with the purchase of a HobbyKing Excalibur powered glider.

When said model arrived on my doorstep it was unpacked immediately to be made ready for flight.



It's an interesting bird; high performance on a 4S battery, but comes with an "overlay" nose especially for soaring.

Tail controls connected, suitable receiver fitted, ESC connected, bind plug inserted, battery connected - receiver light flashes - indicating it is ready to bind, so bind sequence initiated from the transmitter.

ESC bleeps in standard fashion, immediately followed by a "woof" sound. I looked up and was amazed to see the entire cockpit area engulfed in flame!

It's easy to be wise after the event, but my very first reaction was to try and blow out the flames! Needless to say, this was fruitless. The fire in the fuselage was flaring like a Roman candle!

Luckily the battery was outside the fuselage, and could be disconnected quickly. However, even then the fire in the fuselage continued to burn ferociously, and it was only by smothering it with a damp cloth that I was able to extinguish it.

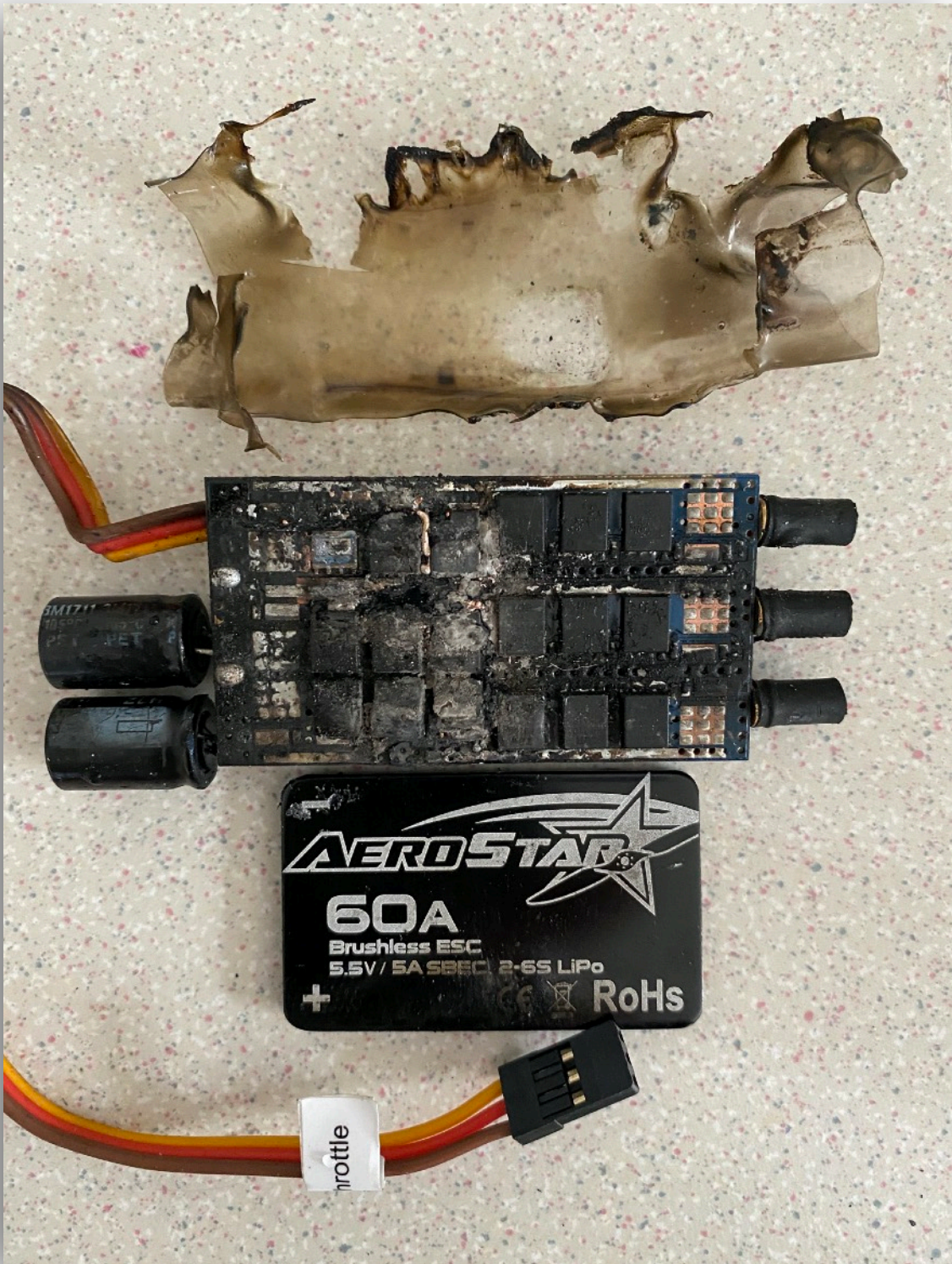
So what happened? It was apparent that on connection the ESC had burst into flame and, yes, the battery polarity was correct!



Although I've heard about similar events with charging LIPOs, this was an unexpected experience (and surprise) for me! However, an internet search reveals that "new" ESCs bursting into flames on first connection is not unheard of.

The main learning points that I took from this experience were:

1. Expect the unexpected when connecting an ESC for the first time, and do so in a safe area!
2. Make sure that the battery can be quickly disconnected.
3. Foams burn with a vengeance! Once on fire, they are difficult to extinguish!



Finally, although HobbyKing has its detractors I have to say, in fairness, that they replaced the kit without question, and at no cost.

CADMAC Programme - 2020

13 th Feb	Club Night	Talk: "The Battle of Britain over West Sussex" by David Lainchbury.
3 rd March	Committee	
12 th March	Club Night	Talk/topic: TBD
7 th April	Committee	
9 th April	Club Night	Auction.
5 th May	Committee	
14 th May	Club Night	Light Flight & C/L – Fishbourne Centre sports field.
2 nd June	Committee	
11 th June	Club Night	Light Flight & C/L – Fishbourne Centre sports field.
7 th July	Committee	
9 th July	Club Night	Light Flight & C/L – Fishbourne Centre sports field.
4 th August	Committee	
13 th August	Club Night	Light Flight & C/L – Fishbourne Centre sports field.
1 st September	Committee	
10 th September	Club Night	Talk: "Flying the Jaguar in RAF service" – Tim Kerss
6 th October	Committee	
8 th October	Club Night	Andrew Gibbs' Quiz night
3 rd November	Committee	
12 th November	Club Night	AGM – start at 8.00pm
1 st December	Committee	Fees Committee meeting
10 th December	Club Night	Subscription Collection and Table Top Sale (Members only)

Please note the March date will be confirmed shortly

Competition Calendar



in Progress

Flying alone on Thorney is not recommended however pilots are requested to concentrate on flying within the grass area to the **west of the runway**.

When Driving Around Thorney be aware of young children on bikes

Please Try to leave Porthole as tidy as possible, making sure no fuel is left on site

The Commander at Baker Barracks Thorney and the MOD have decreed that there shall be NO drone flying whatsoever

When flying at Thorney please keep an eye out for traffic(all kinds walkers, horses, bikes, runners, and low flying aircraft) coming from behind the flyers and inform them accordingly

The club Facebook page is now in its fourth year. It has over one hundred members. It contains many contemporary site reports, and has a wealth of photos in its archives.

Administered by Nick Gates. and David Hayward

Here is the link:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Chichesteraeromodellers/>