



Two Over The Channel

One of the more significant events of this year, model helicopter wise, has been the crossing of the English Channel, not by one Englishman, but by two!

Both Len Mount and Colin Bliss made successful crossings within days of each other. The two attempts were mounted for very different reasons, Len's being a target on records, with a number of claims now pending, while Colin's was for charity fund raising. The different aims meant that the models were also very different. Colin's machine was, in fact, a model of the full-size chase aircraft and petrol driven. The lack of any official constraints meant that weight was not a problem, here and a petrol engine Baron provided the basic machinery. For Len, however, the problem was to produce a machine weighing under 5 Kg, with fuel sufficient to cross the Channel — no mean feat, with a great deal of technology being applied to achieve that end.

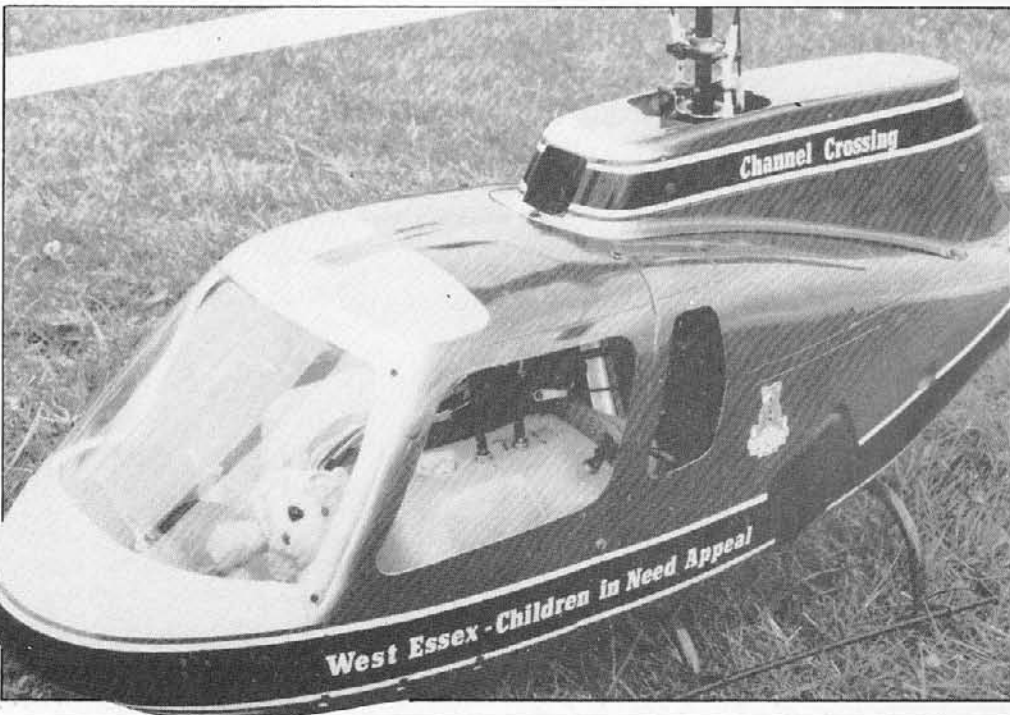
The English weather played its part in both flights, forcing an earlier attempt by Len to be called off. In the event, his suc-

Len and a very pensive chase helicopter pilot.

Look closely through the window — now that's what we call a fuel tank! Script on side says:

*Pilots:— Colin Bliss
Eddie Coventry
Eddie flew chase machine.*

Two Brits successfully fly their Heli's across the Channel.





A very happy-looking Len Mount strapped into the chase Hughes 500.



The Bliss Squirrel is a scale model of the chase helicopter.

A very pleased Colin Bliss with his cross-channel model.

Successful flight ended with a forced, engine-off, landing, controlled from the chase machine! Fortunately, the target was reached and the model undamaged. Colin's was extended by head winds, just about to the limit of the pilot's endurance.

The mount flight is claiming records along the following lines:

- Distance; 38 miles,
- Time; 31 mins (Channel crossing),
- Speed; 73.5 mph (average),
- Altitude 1250 ft.

With a well proven model such as this obviously is, we wouldn't be at all surprised to see some more record-breaking from this direction.

The Bliss flight has raised and continues to raise, considerable sums for charity via the West Essex Aeromodellers' Appeal for BBC Children In Need '88. We tied Colin down near a microphone at the team trials and have a tape describing the planning and flight and found the story just too good to abbreviate for this issue. So, we will be running this in full next time. Don't miss it.

Thanks go to Peter Robinson for the details and photos of Len's flight — blame JD for the rest. □

Peter Robinson, Tina Mount and Len Mount with the model

