



1st April 2014
Newsletter

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Spring has Sprung! (Well, last week it did.)

After an awful wet and dreary Winter, Spring has sprung and the good weather is nearly here. As a forward looking Club we have introduced a few new rules to encourage everyone to make full use of the Club and its facilities.

Car Parking near Pits.

The 'red' area of car park is to be reserved for Committee Members parking only. The other members are now to be required to park on the scrappy, old black stuff. This allows Committee members full access to the pits, allowing them to carry out their duties without wasting time in carrying their flight boxes across the car park. This is effective from date of publication.

The thought process is that we need Committee members to be there to 'police' the other members, to help them do this, they need ready and easy access.

New Illuminated Gate Combination Lock.

The Club has bought a new padlock for the gate to promote safety and provide easy access for Emergency Services. Because of previous problems and so ensure the Members are competent in its use, we are going to introduce an Assessment and Testing Scheme for every member. There will be two levels of competency, an 'A' and a 'B' test.

The A test will certify the member is safe to use the lock for access.

The B test goes further and proves the member can both access and egress the site. Failure will mean you have to wait for a certified member.

SkyNet Models.com

This new internet model shop has started within the last year and is based in Rickmansworth. The owner wishes to join our club so has offered a discount to the Club. To check everything works okay, the Committee have been regularly sourcing their modelling needs from SkyNet over the last few months. Isaac and Mike Hunt, the proprietors has struck a deal for Committee members of 25% off their final bill. The club has further arranged that Mat, as the Chairman, has 50% off his purchases. The club is paying the difference between the actual cost and the discounted price. Look out for Mat's new models throughout the Summer!

It certainly seems that the internet is both killing off business whilst at the same time providing new opportunities for others. Moor Models has closed recently but SkyNet has taken off, so to speak.

In November last year, John Fowles lost his Oxalys in the rough far out to the right. Despite searches with the FPV and many, many, walks out there, the model was never found. Not until a guest with a Quad equipped with a Go Pro camera took some footage and the model was spotted. The plane had chosen a small gap in the brambles and plunged in vertically to the mud, the wings had come off and ended up alongside the fuselage. In all, it did a wonderful job of reducing its size to the smallest area to make itself hard to spot. John had to resort to a petrol powered cutter to get through the brambles before he could reach it though. The plane was only about 25' away from a tree that was climbed to give a good view! I think the fuel tubing was all that was salvagable. And one wheel. John will be sourcing a new model from SkyNet no doubt!



The Quad with the camera carried underneath.



New Roller Purchased.

In the marvellous weather we experienced mid March we managed to get the mowers serviced and the grass cut at the field. The club has bought a new roller that needed to be filled with sand to give it the weight, hopefully the small amount of metal in it means that it wont attract the thieves.

Here's a motley collection of members, four people trying to get 200kg of sand into the roller. Trying to organise this lot was akin to herding cats.



The March Club night featured Club President Lloyd Ressler giving a very informative talk about his long and varied modelling 'career'. The talk was supported with photo's of his cutting edge creations. Lloyd has had a long friendship with Neil Tidey of Laser Engines fame, where Lloyd has made and built all sorts of single and multi cylinder engines with Neil. Apologies for this poor photo but it's a phone camera photo of the projector screen. It's a ground breaking engine so deserved an airing, it's a multi cylinder Laser.



Remember two years ago we had a Club night BBQ at the field and were joined by CML Distribution? Well, they want to come back to show off their Dynam range of foamies. Last time they built and flew brand new models which resulted in a Schwarm of ME 262's at the field. Shove a note in your diary for 9th July 2014.



Peter Conway R.I.P.

Our longer serving members will be saddened to hear of the death on 27th February, of Peter Conway, at the age of 88.

Peter was an active flyer and committee member of WLMAC from our early days at Harefield c.1986, until about 12 years ago when his declining health and eyesight forced his retirement to a care home on the south coast.

A graduate engineer and one-time college lecturer, also with his business partner Eric Falkner, Peter owned and ran the Brentford Radio Control Centre for several years until it was later taken over by fellow members Peter Emanuel and Pramath Pandya.

Here's Derek Jones taking advantage of the March sunshine with his new Hanger 9 Mustang. Derek has fitted this plane with the E Flite electric motor and E Flite retracts. It flew wonderfully but the retracts failed so have been sent back for repair, the plane currently sports fixed undercarriage. This is Hanger 9's new range of slightly smaller models that they've bought out, it's certainly very pretty.





Another model taking to the sky was Kayo Contractors Cub, he's owned it for ages and flown it once before but it came out again in March. Chairman Mat flew it first and sorted out the trims and then handed control over to Kayo who flew it really well.

Certainly a lovely looking plane.

Yet another model taking advantage was my Tony Nijhuis 72" wingspan Spitfire. This is powered by a Laser 150 which performed faultlessly. The model is a solid 15 lbs in weight but with the huge wing it flies really well. The eagle eyed will spot that it hasn't got the front cowl so to ensure there weren't any over heating problems in the early flights.



Advanced Training 2014 - Beyond the A

Following on from the advanced training sessions last summer, we will run similar sessions this year for anyone wanting to try anything beyond the usual A-test training: manoeuvres from the BMFA B or C certificates or just getting started on some simple aerobatics. There will be one session each month:

**1pm on 3rd Saturday of the month,
starting from 19th April**

Mat and Stuart will be on hand to help, and it will be a mix of training, practice and self-help assist. So whether you want to practice towards one of the tests, try 3D, try some different manoeuvres or just need help setting up your plane for aerobatics we will try to help. If you're interested in attending please let Mat or Stuart know - we will keep you informed by email if the weather forecast forces a postponement.

New member Robin Kearney introduces himself.

I've been flying since 2008, although I previously flew a little in the 80s, mostly CL and RC then, but now only RC. I passed my A certificate with the Wanstead club 18 months ago, before I moved from East London to Ruislip in May of 2013. Since then I've been flying at Northwick park while waiting for a place at the WLMAC. Mostly I fly sports/semi scale fixed wing, with about a 50/50 split between IC and electric. I am currently teaching myself to fly helicopters and am close to A standard (I think!). I've recently built a quadcopter, so that is keeping me amused at the moment. I've also built a couple of RC boats for the children who are constantly asking if we can go and sail them.

Don't forget to say hello to Robin when you see him at the field.



Work Party Success!

A Work Party was held on Saturday 29th March and has just managed to make it into the newsletter making it a bumper 5 page edition. The work that was carried out on the Astro Turf was hard work, clearing the moss and grass that had sprouted on top. The field was cut and rolled, as was the pits area. The field looks in tip top condition after all the efforts from Club members. There's a special mention to those who worked planting the spiky bushes on the 'Mudderhorn', an onerous task. There was a good turn out so 'Thanks' to everyone who helped.



Following the best traditions of all major construction work, our car park also hides a major secret. I'm not sure if Peter and Tony are trying to rescue the victim or making sure they are properly covered!

Roger Darvell helped out on Saturday by bringing some massive machinery to help. He also started re laying the path out the front of the Club house. He left strict instructions that no-one trod on the newly laid slabs for a couple of days. Here's a snap of someone who wasn't listening!

Some will have noticed that there are some rabbit holes in the outer field. The Club has arranged for a bag of top soil, a barrow in the mower shed and there's even buckets and a shovel in the club house. Should any member wish to fill these holes in, please feel free! We used to have regular Work Parties to sort out rabbit holes but no longer. The Club won't be arranging to fill these in or organising Work Parties, apart from the pre Scale Day efforts. We've got a wonderful Astroturf runway that is smooth and free from holes. It's also bigger than some other Clubs entire landing area.

If you do go out to fill in holes, make sure you tell any fliers! Plus, keep an eye and ear out for any 'dead sticks'. Oh, and put the tools back too.

