



May 2016 Edition
Editor : David Orrells

The Day the BBC came to WLMAC

Wednesday 6th April was a rather blustery day with rain threatening all day, exactly as the weather girl had predicted. However, WLMAC still saw a decent turnout of members, its amazing what the offer of a free lunch does.

The BBC are currently making a programme about author Roald Dahl to be screened early July. The show will feature 12 memorable incidents throughout his life and one of these involved him and model engines. The design of the engine inspired him to invent a medicinal valve. So, the BBC contacted Mat and asked to see some old planes, old engines and a typical club in action. In return, they supplied lunch for anyone who turned up. The wind was a bit strong and I doubt that, without the BBC, that anyone would have been at the field at all. We managed to get some planes in the air for them to film. Lookout for the programme, the scheduled date to air is Saturday 2nd July in the evening.





The programmes producer of the show zeroed in on Leon and Ron for their knowledge about the old engines. They were asked to chat about the engines whilst the cameraman filmed them from every conceivable angle. Because of the strong wind the model, a Majestic Major, wasn't able to fly but they fired the engine up showing off its exposed rockers.

Thanks to Tony Taylor for this snap of the action being filmed.

Frank flew his Barnstormer around the sky and the BBC then gaffer-taped a Go Pro camera into the cockpit. Frank then flew the plane, with camera, around the patch. Hopefully, some of this footage will make it onto the screen.



Poor old Leon features again after his model was claimed by the trees out to the left. The model was marooned up some tall saplings so a rescue party went out. The Aero Loop that we'd bought some years ago was no use, someone had broken it and then left it stored away.

The solution was to saw the sapling down and release the plane. Unfortunately, the only saw to hand was a hacksaw with a blade for cutting metal. The rescuers cocks pictured here Charlie, Mat and Leon, persevered and eventually cut the sapling allowing the plane to fall to the floor.

So, to help anyone in a similar situation in the future, Leon has donated a wood saw, it's in the hut. The Club has bought another Aero Loop too. Please feel free to use it, but, if you break it, let us know so that we can buy the spare part. Don't just pack it up and leave it for someone else to find.



A decent AeroLoop pole would have helped but it's been broken.

Here's Award Winning Pilot Charlie's new model, a Graupner Yak 11 powered by a Saito 125 four stroke glow. This plane has spent most of it's life in its box, it's been sold and owned several times but no-one has ever got around to building it. The maiden flight showed it to be a great flier that really grooves around the sky. Because of the size of the cowl, the engine and exhaust are totally enclosed. The exhaust gasses are then directed out through the side vent the same as the full size.



The mechanical retracts are ok but he's going to replace these with electric retracts. The quality of the kit is great, nothing had been omitted to save a bit of money. The covering is plastic film but then sprayed with paint over the top.

Here's our new BBQ, the old one finally rusted through. This one has two cooking areas so we can cook on half or all of it, ideal for when there is only a few of us. Thanks to Roy for getting it delivered from John Lewis and putting it all together.



Here's Chairman Mat's much abused foamie delta Laser Arrow launching vertically. The plane is stood on its tail, the throttle slammed open and the plane shoots up into the sky. It's minus the foam coaming after that gave up mid flight but Mat insists that this is a design feature to improve cooling.



This C 17 Globemaster flew over and around the patch the other day, it was probably linked to the visit by President Obama. It was later seen on the ground at Northolt so it had probably bought over the hot dogs/ cars/ toilet roll for his visit. One of those useless facts picked up at an air show about the Globemaster is thus. The Globemaster can carry more on its tail lift than the total lift capacity of the Hercules.

Award Winning Pilot Charlie had a go at limbo the other day, he used the tape around the mesh to fly under with his Vampire. The tape is about 4' off the floor so it took some doing. After four successful passes, the inevitable happened and he hit one of the steel pins. However, thanks to a bit of superglue and some bamboo sticks, the plane was flying the next day.





Here's the trainer that wont die. This is Chairman's Mat's Riot, it's had a hard life and he put it into the Astroturf the other other day. He smashed the nose off and there was damage to the rudder assembly. However, a few squirts of superglue, bits from the spares box and it's ready to fly again. Not quite as good as new but you get the drift....

Sorry We're Late

This Newsletter is a bit later than normal, Chairman Mat's computer was in for repair and so it couldn't be sent out. Normal service will be resumed for next month.

Membership Cards for 2017

Following a discussion at the field one day about membership cards and their quality, the Committee had a discussion the other night. We talked about the advantages of buying a second hand machine that would produce a high quality, plastic membership card similar to a credit card. The downside is that after it's produced 100 cards the machine would sit unused for another 364 days, in someones house or garage, taking up space. Plus, the cards would cost more to produce. So, we discounted that idea.

However, we talked some more and decided to abandon the cards completely. Can you remember the last time you, or indeed anyone, was asked to produce their card? The telephone numbers on the back for the Committee are already displayed inside the hut. If you really need someones number, shove it into your mobile phone memory. If not, carry the existing card around, the telephone numbers wont all change overnight. We're telling you now so that you've got 8 months to enter the telephone numbers into your mobile. It will save someone a few hours work, possibly £20-30 in card, all for something that's never used.

Dave Chinnery treated us all to the sight and sound of his new Saito engine the other day. Its the FA-120R3 or, in other words, a three cylinder, four stroke glow engine with a capacity of 19cc in total. It hauled his Wot 4 XL around the sky with ease. He's also fitted the collector ring exhaust which is an expensive extra but the whole thing did sound rather good. The engine was in the Wot 4 to allow it to be run in and tested, it's destined for another model.





Colin Martin

At Last, New Members!

We've got four new members but only got snaps from three of them. It's not meant to look like Convicts Corner so my apologies. We've haven't got a photo of Tony Lovett yet, I'm afraid.

We've got Marcus Richardson, shown below, who hasn't got an A certificate yet but I'm told he's close to one.

Colin Martin is shown in the blue T shirt to the left and he already has his A certificate.

Just remember Gents, scatter some biscuits around when you arrive at the field, it's bound to break down barriers and start conversations. Biscuits with fillings are the best!

The rest of you, play nicely with the new members, make them welcome and don't eat all their biscuits.



Marcus Richardson

Here's new member Paul Stebbing, who joined recently, he needs training. I snapped this photo after he enjoyed a flight with Mat and Tony, he's still smiling after a successful landing.

Send in a Snap of Yourself

We're going to ask everyone to send in a digital image of themselves to Chairman Mat, this way we can build up a photo library of all members. We're going to print pictures of all the Committee members and put them in a folder in the Club Hut. At least new members can look at the snaps and recognise who is who. Who to avoid, who likes Jaffa cakes, important stuff. If you are happy with it, we'll pop everyone's picture in the folder, so everyone can at least point at a picture and we'll all know who we're talking about. But, if you don't want the picture in the Club, please let us know, but still send in a picture.