



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2003

Editor : Bob Young

Girl Killed by Model Plane

A 13-year-old girl has died after she was struck on the head by a model aeroplane. Tara Lipscombe, from Dartford, was walking with her mother across Dartford Heath in Kent at about 1700 BST on Tuesday 16th April when the incident happened. Police say the radio-controlled plane appears to have flown out of control and hit the girl. Tara was badly injured and taken by air ambulance to Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford where she died at about 2000 BST.

The plane was being flown by a 55-year-old man from south London who was spoken to at the scene by officers from Kent Police.

Police said Tara's family had left the area and were staying with friends or family as they are quite clearly devastated by what has happened.

An investigation is being carried out into the circumstances of the incident, but police say early indications suggest it was "a very tragic accident". The owner and operator of the model plane were both in shock after the incident, according to one witness.

Mr Lee, a model aeroplane enthusiast for 40 years, said about 30 people regularly flew planes on the 130-hectare heath. The Acrowot petrol-powered aircraft involved in the incident would be examined by police and, if necessary, by outside experts.



This picture shows the scene at Wroughton at the end of Science Week in March. Entrance was free and the Swindon Model Club hosted a serious flying display of Model Turbo Jets. Many models were started using the single button start system, demonstrating the progress that has been achieved in the operation of these power plants.

Whilst a jet makes a low pass over the main runway, one of the Aristocrats of the modelling world, brings his twin Jet model into the pits. Note the model occupies pride of place next to the driver.

Our Next Meeting on Thursday, 8th May 8.00pm at the Battle of Britian Club, will be a talk by Stuart McKay on the De Havilland Moth Series of Aircraft.

Stuart has extensive knowledge of these aeroplanes and has numerous pictures of all the different variants. He was heavily involved in the formation of de Havilland Support Ltd, but now acts in a part time capacity as Director and Company Secretary. The majority of Stuart's time is devoted to his role as the founder and Secretary of the de Havilland Moth Club, Editor of the Club magazine The Moth, and managing the annual International Moth Rally held at Woburn Abbey. Stuart is a popular speaker and this promises to be a very interesting evening.

West London Model Aeroplane Club

Summary of Flying Rules for 2003

1 Safety

Don't:-

- Take off or land pointing at the Clubhouse or Pits
- Take off when a model is landing
- Fly over the Clubhouse or Pits
- Fly inside the no-fly lines(see drawing)
- Fly near full size aircraft
- Taxi into or out of the Pits
- Take your transmitter into the rough
- Take someone else's peg off the board
- Fly when the grass is being cut

Do:-

- Use a peg with your name and frequency on it
- Stand by the windsock except, if necessary, on take off
- Call your landings and low passes, and acknowledge other calls
- Make your low passes reasonably parallel to the no-fly lines in a direction agreed with the other pilots
- Hand launch from the mown area
- Ensure that a fail safe device if fitted or PCM receiver is set to close the throttle on loss of transmitter signal

2 Noise

Don't:-

- Exceed 3 ic engined models in the air at a time
- Fly a model over the BMFA noise limit (82 dbA at 7 metres)
- Use full throttle for more than one third of the flight
- Fly outside the permitted boundaries of the field

3 Courtesy

Don't:-

- Use a frequency for more than 15 minutes if someone is waiting for it.
- Operate helicopters if there are fixed wing models about.

BIG FREE GIVE - AWAY. HURRY HURRY HURRY

Our treasurer Peter Nielsen has a stock of hundreds (possibly thousands) of aeromodelling magazines that his wife has persuaded him to take to the dump for recycling, in just one week's time.

This will be your last chance to take your choice of historic magazines including "Aeromodeller", "Model Aircraft", "Silent Flight", "R.C.M.& E", "Radio Modeller", "Scale Aircraft", and many other titles, spanning the early 1950's (when Peter was a mere lad), until the present day.

To avoid this terrible destruction of aeromodelling memorabilia, ring Peter NOW on 01494 675716 to arrange a free viewing, and collect as many magazines as you can carry, entirely FREE OF CHARGE.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED !