



NEWSLETTER

July 2003

Editor : Bob Young

ACCESS TO FLYING FIELD - LATEST

Our last special note on this subject advised members not to fly at Harefield until further notice because of the perceived risk that the individual claiming to be the new owner might carry out his threat to replace our lock with one of his own. However, information has just come to us from our landlord SITA that they are in fact currently in negotiation with this individual, Steve Elcock, who works for Ray Philby, to sell the whole site to them.

Negotiations are protracted because they involve persuading the Environment Agency to transfer the site Waste Operating License, which is a lengthy bureaucratic process. In the meantime, SITA have instructed us that under no circumstances are WE to let Steve Elcock have a key. They are currently considering giving Steve Elcock a key so that he and Ray Philby can complete inspections of the site.

This is the third occasion during our seventeen year tenure at Harefield that the site has been the subject of sale negotiation; the first two came to nothing due to problems with the transfer of the operating license. The latest information from SITA is that the buyers have not commenced their negotiation with the Environment Agency yet so the completion of the sale is some way off. Nevertheless, we need to behave on the assumption that Steve Elcock may indeed become our new landlord and treat him with appropriate courtesy should he approach any one of us, in the hope that under his ownership we can continue to use the site for model flying.

Contrary to our former opinion, we now think it unlikely that this prospective owner while still in negotiation, would actually carry out his threat to replace our lock with own. Under these new circumstances we feel that members should feel free to resume flying but should take a few simple precautions until the matter is resolved, such as making sure you are not alone while flying and having a mobile phone with you with a note of relevant telephone numbers (see below).

The telephone numbers of the committee members are printed on your membership card. However, potentially more useful if you are unlucky enough to find yourself unable to leave the site because the lock had been



changed, are the helpful offers made by members Ken Yard, Brian Lee and Alan Coleman. Ken runs a welding business with fellow member Derek Jones a short distance away and if called by a member in distress could be at the field within minutes with suitable equipment to remove a lock. His mobile number is 07919 920788.

Similarly, Brian Lee (07771 617227) and Alan Coleman (07810 516867) both live nearby and have volunteered to help marooned members. Our thanks are due to all three. In summary, our latest information suggests that the risks of being locked in were perhaps over stated in our last letter, and flying can now resume with appropriate precautions. The committee is keeping in touch with SITA and will report new information as it emerges.

TREEVING A MODEL *by Brian Lee*

A technical failure [absolutely nothing to do with pilot error you understand !!!!!!!!!!!!!] recently left my Ilsan Extra 300 neatly impaled on the top branch of the tallest tree on the north eastern side of the field .

Even if I had decided to return to the antics of my ape relatives there was still no way I could retrieve it as the tree was at least 70 ft high and the first part of the trunk was devoid of any cling-onable branches.



Not a photo of the Extra, but one from our archives.

Des Wheatley and John Fowles were with me and pointed out that there was a service advertised in the clubhouse from a guy who lived in Croydon who would come out for £40 to £50.

It was late in the afternoon and rain was forecast for the next day – so time was not on my side. However, I had just had some trees lopped in my garden and fortunately had retained the guy's card.

One call to his mobile saw me next day waiting at the gate to the field at 06.30hr! He was there on time and exactly 45 minutes later I was locking the gate with my Extra in the back [the only damage being to the canopy!!] and then on the way back home! Cost: £50! Nothing really compared to the potential loss or ruin, if it had rained.

The man's name is Alan. The beauty of it is that he lives in Harefield and can come out late afternoons or early mornings at a drop of a hat. He will charge between forty and fifty depending upon the severity of the job. Should you need his help, his numbers are:

Mobile: 07961557025
Home: 01895 825922 – if you're lucky.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have decided to give up model building due to rheumatism in my hands. Therefore, I wish to dispose of all my aeroplanes and accessories. I thought it best to offer this equipment to members of WLMAC at very low prices. There is almost a full model shop of stuff here. There are five models, all electric, fully equipped, ready to fly, in excellent condition.

There are two 6 ft. Vintage models

- One 65" J3 Cub with an Astro Brushless Motor
- 1 56" Fleet Bi-plane with Astro 40 geared motor
- 1 Grade Eindecker Park Flyer.

There are two matched transmitters with all the bells and whistles, with 5 pcm receivers and a buddy lead, in metal cases.

Amongst other equipment are 6 chargers - flight box - many props - boxed Dremel - heat gun - model iron - Coverite temperature gauge - many servos of different sizes and age - wing incident meter - two control incident gauges - electric motors - many types of batteries - one set of a miniature receiver - two miniature servos - miniature speed control - electric motor and propellor with batteries. One Z wire bender pliers - one Astro battery charger - one Astro watt meter - wind meter - 4-way wrench - prop. reamer - box of Futaba crystals - large field box - electric fret saw - one Seivert gas torch and bottle. There are many other small items that would be of use.

Phone for details or come for a visit to see the equipment. **ALL IS OPEN TO OFFERS.**

Lloyd Phone 01753 882480

49 members now receive the newsletter by email. If you receive the Newsletter by post but now have an email address then contact Bob Young at bob.t.young@btinternet.com to get your colour copy.

NEXT MEETING - There will no meeting at the Battle of Britain club this month.

In July and August social fly-ins will be held at the field on the second Wednesday in the month - weather permitting.