



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2004

Editor : Bob Young

SAFETY INITIATIVE FOR 2004

In the December Newsletter we featured a proposal concerning the safety risks to members using the pits area to the west of the clubhouse when the wind direction is from the South. The danger arises because the area in question (between the clubhouse and container extending northward toward the flightline) lies directly below the flight path of aircraft taking off at a time when they are most prone to stall and spin out of control. This proposal, also discussed during the AGM, received general support, with no dissenters, and none have commented against the proposal since then. Accordingly, the Committee gives notice that it proposes, subject to discussion on the detail, to incorporate such a rule into the rulebook early in the flying season.

Other safety and field security issues discussed at the AGM included:

- 1 The phasing in, over a two year period, of a rule that members who had not achieved A certificate status would only be allowed fly under supervision.
- 2 With the construction of 20 new flats at the Springwell Lock, it was proposed that new lower noise limit should be phased-in during 2004 to ensure that we avoid any further noise complaints. This would be supported by a Noise Test day early in the spring and the rigid enforcement of the existing flying boundary of the tree line to the West of the field.
- 3 The use of work parties to accelerate the field extension work and the resolution of the damage caused by the rabbits.

It is not too late to comment on these issues and the method of implementation, so if you have a view please make please make it known to a committee member.



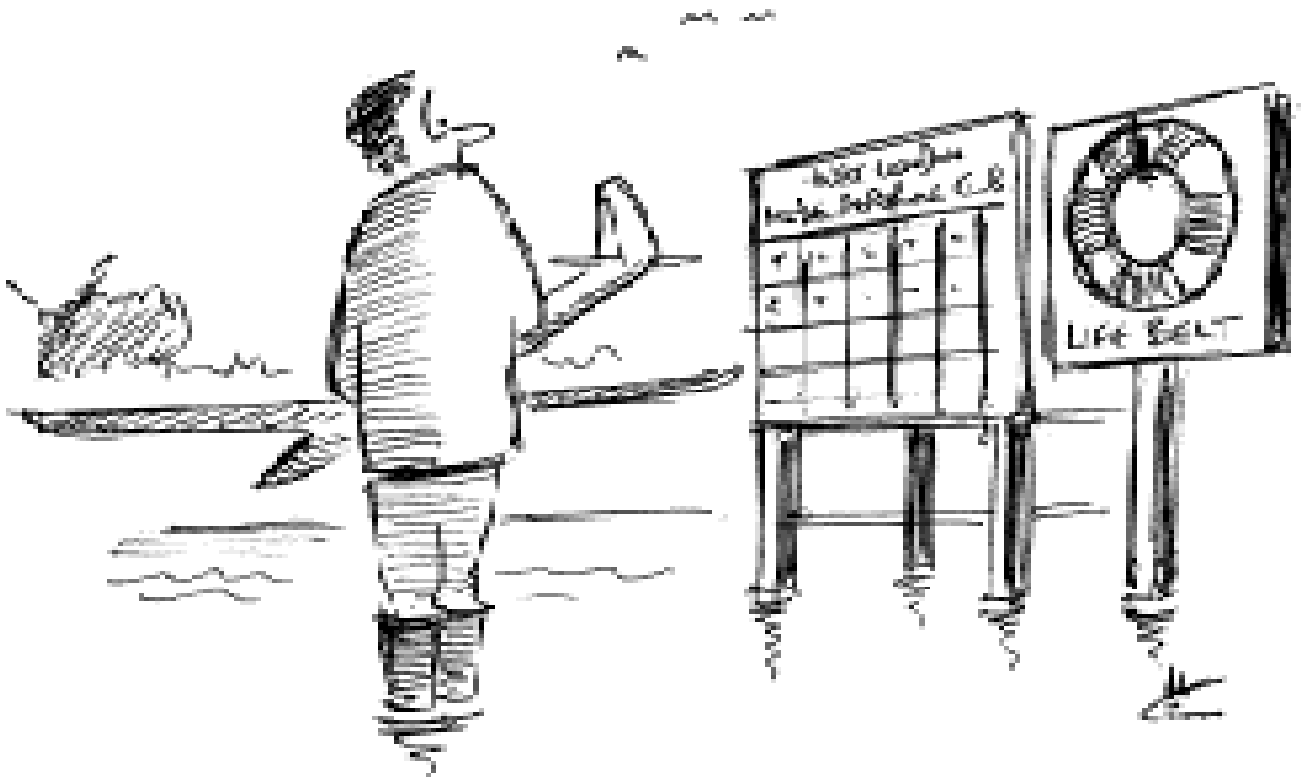
A reminder of summer flying

CLUB FINANCES HEALTHY

Treasurer Peter Nielsen reported to the AGM in December, that despite a fall in income caused by a reduction in member numbers, the Club's cash reserves increased during 2003 by over £2,000, to £15,600.

Unusually, during the last year there have been no sudden calls for emergency expenditure such as the access problems, road and clubhouse repairs that seem to plague us most years and this has given the committee the confidence to reduce the annual subscription for 2003 to £65.

The committee still considers it essential to maintain a healthy bank balance so that the Club can react swiftly and positively to sudden crises.



SOGGY SITE.

Few will be surprised to learn that our flying site has been impacted by recent rain. It is best to regard it as unflyable but if you can't do without your flying fix, please take care and do not paddle on the grass.

NO RENEWAL, NO FLY.

There are still some members who have yet to renew their membership. They are reminded that without current membership, and in particular without BMFA membership and its insurance cover, they may not fly at Harefield. If you have simply overlooked it, please send your cheque (£65 for membership. BMFA membership is £23 for adults and £13 for juniors) to **Peter Nielsen at 176, Cherry Tree Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1BA.**



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the AGM the existing committee members were re-elected and two new committee members were elected. Alan Coleman, who was co-opted onto the committee during November, was re-elected with Peter Emanuel, Roy Lanning, Peter Nielsen, Leon Taylor and Bob Young. John Fowles and Des Wheatley were elected at the meeting to fill the two remaining committee vacancies. If you would like to contact them they can be reached on the following telephone numbers:

Alan Coleman	01923 442052
John Fowles	01923 775749
Des Wheatley	01923 490346

Tony Taylor emailed a number of photographs following an excellent flying afternoon enjoyed by himself, Des Wheatley and Stewart Wilkinson. Stewart's Sopwith Pup, acquired from Leon Taylor, is here shown flying against the spectacular Autumnal background at Harefield. Stewart says the Sopwith Camel is progressing, so members need to keep the pressure up on their winter projects!!!

Building, or bought something new and cool for the 2004 season? If so, bring it to the next monthly club meeting at the Battle of Britain Club on Thursday, January 8th at 8 p.m. It's always a good excuse just to stand around and talk model aeroplanes!

Want a Colour copy? If so, send your email address to bob.t.young@btinternet.com