

WLMAC Newsletter March 2021

Editor – Felix Scicluna



Please see the very end of Newsletter for some member items for sale.

Welcome to our March Newsletter - Whilst still in lockdown, we are seeing a downturn in the amount of people being affected by the pandemic. Hopefully, by now most of our membership have had their first vaccine and we will soon be able to return to the patches. This month we have a report from Graham Motler about Li-Po batteries and some advice from Tony Parrott about landing skills which I'm sure after this long break we will all have to brush up on. We also have one project from Colin Martin which is definitely worth seeing and an important request from Bob Howard (of both WLMAC and Warren Farm Radio Flyers) to support them and Brent River and Canal Society in their efforts to become part of a local nature reserve.

Parish Notices

Pickeridge Farm- Mat advises that we've received confirmation from the planners that our application for Pickeridge Farm has moved on to the next stage and is now being processed. As part of this, interested parties can make their views known

LiPo Batteries

Most, if not all of us RC enthusiasts, will have a few Li-Po batteries, stored in our vehicles, homes or outhouses. Do you understand how to use/ treat these? Have you checked if your current insurance covers you in case anything untoward happens? Graham has prepared a very useful report with video links – a bit further on. Also, Mathew specifically researched the insurance aspect of this some years ago and went with a company called Walter Midgley who specialise in insurance for modellers. He recently contacted them on behalf of the club and they kindly sent us a “flyer” in case anyone feels the need for specific insurance advice, more protection etc.



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Report on LiPo batteries by Graham Motler – Charging Lithium Polymer or Li-Po batteries **MUST** be carried out using the correct chargers that will monitor the voltages of each cell through the balance leads.

Lithium Polymer or Li-Po batteries can store 350% (approx) more energy than a typical NiCd/ Nimh battery pack and weigh 10% - 20% less. They discharge current at a higher rate than a NiCd/ Nimh battery, and can usually be re-charged in about 1 hour. They also don't develop memory or voltage depression problems like NiCd/ Nimh.

Mishandling of these batteries can lead to fire, explosions and toxic smoke inhalation. All good quality Li-po battery packs come with 2 leads. The main charge / discharge lead and a balance

lead. Using a balance charger to charge your Li-po batteries will ensure that all the cells in the battery pack are balanced at the same voltage.

The voltage of each cell is important to the condition (during use) and safety of each cell. A 1 cell(1s) Li-Po battery has a nominal storage voltage of 3.7v. When fully charged it has a maximum voltage of 4.2v and when fully discharged, it should never go below 3.0v without risking cell damage. Based on this logic, a "5S4P" battery pack means that the pack contains 5 cells in a series circuit and 4 cells in a parallel circuit. Since each cell is 3.7v (nominal) a 5S Li-Po battery has a storage voltage of 18.5v, a fully charged voltage of 21.0v and a minimum discharged voltage of 15.0v before damage occurs.

The Li-Po charger you're using must be able to handle the cell count of the battery you are charging. A good charger will automatically detect the cell count of the battery being charged while the cheaper ones will require a manual setting.

Chargers that auto detect the cell count of a LiPo battery can sometimes be wrong. They use the current voltage of the battery to determine the cell count and if the battery is fully charged or at a lower voltage than it should be, it may read the cell count incorrectly. This is why it is very important to double check that it reads the correct cell count which is typically displayed on the LCD display.

Researching into a good quality Li-Po charger from the outset will not only save you money in the long run and give you more enjoyment of whatever you are running, but will also ensure your safety!

There is a good video on YouTube explaining 10 mistakes to avoid with Li-Po batteries. [10 Dangerous Lipo Battery Mistakes - Fire and explosion causes - YouTube](#)

At the field – Mathew's recent visit to the field to change the webcam batteries provides a lonely and damp picture. However, the recent government news on lockdown easing is promising and as soon as the BMFA release their guidance the committee will then decide when and how we can safely re-open and let you know.



A request for support from Warren farm radio flyers – Dear all, You may be aware that Brent River and Canal Society (BRCS) recently published their “Vision for Warren Farm”, which essentially contained a proposal for Warren Farm to become part of a wider “Local Nature reserve”. The document contained an assurance that Warren Farm radio Flyers would continue to operate on the site. Their vision statement is attached.

Further to this, there is now a website dedicated to the proposal. The website has been created by the people with whom we have been working for several years to ensure the future of the site.

The website includes a link to a petition supporting the aims. In our view, and following the commitment in the BRCS Vision Statement, it is the best option for the continued existence both of our flying site and the wildlife which has proliferated there since the end of its use as a sports venue.

Please visit the website (link below), and consider signing the petition.

[Warren Farm Nature Reserve](#)

Finally, please feel free to forward this email to anyone who you believe would be happy to support this vision.

Best Regards

Bob Howard

Chairman/Secretary
Warren Farm Radio Flyers

Projects

Colin Martin’s Black horse turbo beaver- Colin has been putting winter lockdown to good use, the Beaver is powered by a 150 Saito and an 89 inch wing span. We look

forward to seeing it down patch, hopefully soon.



All events cancelled due to Covid, events table left open for reference in the event of lockdown being lifted soon.

Events

Date	Event	Location	Description
Thursday March	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	
Thursday April	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	The Balsa bash
Thursday May	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	Skills night
Sunday 13 June (Sat 12 practice)	BMFA	Harefield	BMFA scale day
Wednesday June	Club Meeting	Harefield	BBQ at the field
Saturday July	Work party	Harefield	Prepare the site for Fun day
Sunday 1 July	Fun Day	Harefield	Annual family Fun Day
Wednesday August	Club Meeting	Harefield	BBQ at the field
Wednesday September	Club Meeting	Harefield	BBQ at the field
Thursday October	Club Meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	Guest speaker
Thursday November	Club Meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	Quiz night
Thursday 9 December	AGM	Uxbridge Golf Club	Membership renewals
Thursday 9 December	Christmas Meal	Uxbridge Golf Club	Partners are welcome but are required to pay full price of meal