



NEWSLETTER

July 2004

Editor : Bob Young

NOISE COMPLAINT

Members should by now all be aware that as the result of a noise complaint to our landlord SITA, by a house-holder at the Harefield end of Springwell Lane, **the flying of internal combustion powered models must finish by 7pm each day.** There is however no restriction on electric model flying after this time. The complainant has a history of complaints against the Club over several years, in spite of living more than half a mile away to the rear and right of us as we stand on the flight line with our backs to the clubhouse. We suspect that this same individual has on four occasions blocked our access by putting a padlocked chain on the gate and it is clear that given the slightest excuse he will use every opportunity to complain about us in the future. The committee has attempted to enter into dialogue with him but he rejects our approach, preferring to complain directly to SITA or other relevant authority.

It would be a big mistake to treat this matter as routine and unimportant. A noise complainer who gets no satisfaction can give us big trouble. A few years ago the Chesham Flying Club became the target of a determined complainer and was closed down by the local council while it was made to apply for planning permission, an expensive and time consuming business that would not necessarily be successful at Harefield. That club finished with drastic limits to its flying hours despite the fact that it owned its own field.

Effective noise control at Harefield is now a priority, coupled with strict adherence to the boundaries of our permitted flying area. You are reminded that with the exception of takeoff and landing directions dictated by the wind, no model should cross a line extended to the left and right of a line drawn along the length of the clubhouse (see picture). You are also reminded of the Club's requirement that full-throttle should in general be used only when taking off; most of the flight should be at half throttle or less.



We also ask users of **older**

two stroke engines to bear well in mind that even when below the BMFA 82db noise limit, the "angry bee" sound of these engines travels further and irritates our neighbours far more than the typical 4-stroke, or modern 2-stroke with its relatively long-stroke engine design. At the very least, older 2-strokes should be fitted with a "mouse" extension silencer and rarely if ever flown at full throttle. If in doubt about the viability of your own engine please seek advice from a member of the committee.

We do not approach these problems with a desire to impose rules for the sake of them. It is a matter of getting to grips with a situation that has the potential of becoming very serious and we ask that all members cooperate by telling other members if they appear to infringe the permitted boundaries or noise limits. Any two members who observe another flying in a way they feel could be heard by our neighbours must ask him to cease. This is particularly important on Sunday afternoons when local householders tell us they notice us most. **We must all learn to fly in a manner that makes the surrounding community unaware of our presence, or risk losing the field altogether.**

MEMBERS' CHOICE OF FREQUENCY

Prompted by the news (reported in June's newsletter), that an unknown model flyer is using Channel 68 close to our field, we have decided to make a record of the preferred frequencies of each of our members who fly at Harefield.

The immediate purpose is to enable our two or three members who regularly use channel 68 but who for safety reasons feel they must now change, to choose another frequency that will cause minimum inconvenience to fellow members. In the longer term, maintaining such a record, which will be displayed in the clubhouse and circulated with the Newsletter, will help new members to select the most convenient frequency.

Therefore, to enable this record of frequencies to be compiled, will all flying members please reply as soon as possible to this email with a short message on the following lines:

**"I Fred Nerk usually fly on Channel —."
(If you use more than one channel, then say so.)**

Will those without email access, please send a postcard or telephone Bob Young with the information, to the following address: - 19 Todd Close Holmer Green Bucks, HP15 6UX Tel: 01494 718565.

NOISE TAIL PIECE

The pictures below show the field as it is now and as it was when the committee met the Environmental Agency in 1996 to discuss the club's flying at the field. Clearly we do not want to lose the magnificent field we have today over a noise issue that can be easily remedied if every flyer uses the right muffler.



Lew Wrapson found this example of a pilot who was not impressed with the flying skills of the rest of his squadron.

NEXT MEETING

There will be **no** meeting at the Battle of Britain club this month.

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

Scale day will be on 12th September 2004 so make a note in your diary. See next months newsletter for more details.