



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2006

Editor : Bob Young

ANOTHER WINDY SCALE DAY

A stiff, gusting wind kept all but one model earthbound on this year's Scale Day. Postponing the event to the following Sunday was not possible as a number of our members were committed to participate in the Wycombe club's model show on that day. (It was frustrating to find that two Sundays later the weather was perfect, with bright sunshine and warmth, and the lightest of breezes.) But the decision to go ahead had to be made and the committee gritted its combined teeth and made it, as they had to do on a similarly windy Scale Day in 2004. Nevertheless more than twenty members with their families turned out to enjoy a sunny and convivial day on the planned date. An excellent cold buffet and wine were provided by the club and arranged on the day by Penny Pugh, her son Steve and Des Wheatley. By popular vote, Best Flight of the Day award was won by Brian Lee who also succeeded in winning the Large Military Scale and Peter Conway trophies with his impressive DH2 pusher biplane of the First World War. David Whiteley won the Large Civil Scale trophy with his immaculate Spacewalker, Des Wheatley won the Military Scale Trophy with a P51 Mustang and John Fowles walked off with the Civil scale trophy with his Pitts Special. Some of the highlights from the show are shown in the Photographs to the right and below.



NEXT MEETING

Alex Weiss, who has been a WLMAC member for many years, will be talking to us at the next club meeting on **12th October** about his favourite aircraft and models. He has been aeromodelling for more than half a century, building more than fifty radio controlled models. As well as monoplanes and a biplane, his list includes an autogyro, canards and deltas. Many have been his own original designs of which 14 have been published by RCM&E or Radio Modeler. He has published magazine articles on subjects as diverse as four stroke engines and aerodynamic flutter. As a much younger RAF pilot he flew Jet Provosts, Vampires and Hunters and spent several years as a flying instructor and instrument rating examiner. His later career in the electronics industry took him to more than 50 countries.

BIKIES DROP IN AT HAREFIELD

Local vintage motor cycle enthusiasts made our Harefield flying site a pit stop on their outing one Wednesday afternoon in September - by invitation of Secretary Leon Taylor, who is himself a bit of a vintage motorcycle and car buff. They made an appreciative and mechanically knowledgeable audience as members flew for them and showed off their models on the ground. Leon handed over his transmitter to one of the motorcyclists - Mel Knight, a lapsed model aircraft man - to try out his monster Fokker Einderker.



Mike Sullivan



FILM MAKERS USE MINIATURE HELICOPTER

Some members were rather miffed when they arrived at the field on a beautiful sunny Monday in mid-September to find emergency signs all over the place warning of restrictions on the use of two frequencies and possible requests for suspended flying for the benefit of a film unit working at Stocker's Farm, just across the trees from us at Harefield. It was the best that could be done in the circumstances - we were told of the filming only days before it began and to complicate matters, the film unit was using a camera-carrying, radio controlled mini helicopter! After endless emails and phone calls over the weekend we managed to establish what frequencies they were using on the



very morning they started shooting. Hence the emergency signs. They were using normal 35Mz model aircraft frequencies - 85 and 76 to be exact - and we were obliged to ask members to stay off those frequencies for several days. Rather bigger than the helicopters to be found at your average model flying site, this one, operated by the Plymouth based company "Hovercam", was powered by a Wren jet turbine and

carried the gyro-stabilised camera in a football-sized nacelle the nose. Calling for two men on the transmitters, the helicopter transmitted its pictures to a receiver on the ground, where they were recorded. Cinema buffs may care to know that the film, to reach the cinemas next year, is called "28 Weeks Later". It's a horror film about Britain being wiped out by a "rage virus." The Americans, of course, come to the rescue.

Mike Sullivan



WARNING OF STRAY TRANSMISSIONS

Intermittent rogue transmissions have been detected at Harefield on **Channels 74 and 75**. They were spotted on our own frequency monitor and also by the monitor being used by the film unit camera helicopter team at Stocker's Farm. Members using those channels are advised to suspend their flying, or change their crystals to another channel until we can announce an all clear.