



NEWSLETTER

February 2009

Editor : Michael Sullivan

CLUBHOUSE LEFT TWO THIRDS EXPOSED TO VANDALS

Members turning up at Harefield on Tuesday, January 20th found that two of the three locks on the club house door had not been secured, and the wind sock had been left out, to be tossed about the field in high winds. It is vital that the field is left as vandal-resistant as possible. For those who do not know the history, previous assaults on the club house have included an attempt to saw through the clubhouse door hinges and jemmy open the steel window shutters. The vandals are always out there, ready to take advantage of a chink in what is literally our armour, so we publish yet again the important actions to be taken before the last members leave the field. Be part of it...don't just leave it to committee members!

WINDOWS. If the steel window shutters are open, they must be carefully secured. It takes two people to do it, so NEVER leave a single member flying with the club house shutters still open. If you do not yet know how to close and secure them, ask for a demonstration from somebody who *does* know.

WIND SOCK AND STUFF. Put the windsock inside the club house, along with tables, chairs and parasols.

LIGHTS. Switch off lights and the inverter, the black box secured to the wall underneath the tea-making table. The red switch is on the top of the box, on the right..

GENERAL. Before locking up the club house, take a good look around. Make sure the sink taps are turned off. Make sure the gas hob is not still burning (it has happened!) and turn off the gas supply at the bottle. Cast an eye around outside for lost property and if anyone has left anything behind, put it in the club house.

DOOR. The club house door has THREE locks, which are operated by the same key. If you don't yet have a key, make sure you have one as soon as possible by asking Key Masters Peter Nielsen or John Fowles (see their phone numbers overleaf.) Turn ALL THREE door locks.



Winter shadows lengthen at the end of a bright but chilly day at Harefield. Soon the sun will be gone and people will be packing up and heading for the exit gate, anxious to thaw out at home. This is the danger time, when clearing up and securing the clubhouse may be hurried or even left undone because members assume that somebody else will do it. Newsletter says yet again that if the vandals get into the clubhouse it will be a major disaster for the club. Security is everybody's business, so spend a few minutes making sure that the field is tidied and the clubhouse door and windows are closed and locked as described above.

IT'S CALLED "INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS!"

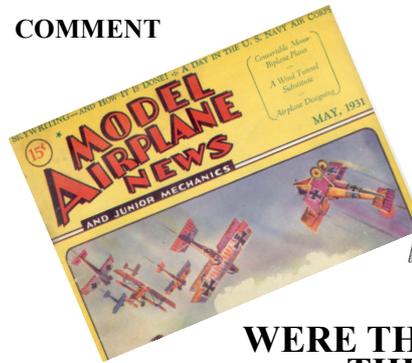


Having checked out the forecast and been assured of good flying weather one day in January, Leon Taylor, Ian McPherson and Bob Young hurried to Harefield, only to find that Mother Nature had decided to cloak the field in fog. In an attempt to avoid this kind of disappointment the committee is to explore the feasibility of installing a "weather station" at our site. If it is possible, it will enable members to telephone it and listen to a recording of actual time conditions at the field.



While aeromodellers had another 20 years to wait for radio control, Winston Churchill was in on it back in 1941. Here he is with a "Queen Bee" a full size, radio controlled, pilotless Tiger Moth. They were used for naval gunnery practice!

COMMENT



WERE THOSE REALLY THE DAYS?

Our older and more venerable members can remember the days when there was no such thing as radio control for model aircraft and there is still a lingering affection for vintage model designs that were once launched into free flight on a wing and a prayer. My friend Jack Lane has sent me a copy of an American aeromodelling magazine published in May, 1931— ten years before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour and only thirteen years after the end of the First World War. Leafing through its pages all those years after they were printed is to heighten one's appreciation of the wonderful digital, proportional control of our models we now enjoy and often take so much for granted. But flying radio controlled models still calls for skills that must be learned the hard way – a fact that the manufacturers of all those tasty-looking ARTFs and "park flyers" tend to confine to the small print. MS

Jack Lane, the keen young builder of this free flight scale Model of a Stinson Reliant is now 78 years old. No radio control for him in those days!



DIARY DATES

The NEXT CLUB MEETING on Thursday, February 12th, at 8–0 p.m.

at the BATTLE OF BRITAIN CLUB will be a PROJECT EVENING. Bring along your new models, finished or unfinished, to show them off and jaw about them with your fellow members!

SCALE DAY is provisionally set for **SUNDAY JULY 12TH.**

FREQUENCY CENSUS

Bob Young is to update his records of the 35 MHz frequencies used by each member and list those who are now also flying 2.4 Gig. (See his attachment to this Newsletter.) Please respond to his request for particulars of your trannies, receivers and crystals!

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE
The stalwart volunteers who run our club, voted into office at the December AGM, are listed on the right. These are the people who maintain the field and club house, manage our funds, organise and finance the club events of which our Scale Day is the annual climax and deal with crises when they happen. They meet regularly to review events and make decisions. They are shown along with their responsibilities and home telephone numbers.

Cut out and keep this section of the Newsletter for the day in 2009 when you need help or information from the right man. They are at your service!

Honorary President.	Lloyd Ressler	01753 882480
Chairman	Bob Young.	01494 718565
Secretary	Leon Taylor	01494 672004
Chief of examiners.	Leon Taylor	01494 672004
Landowner Liaison officer	Leon Taylor	01494 672004
BMFA Liaison officer	Leon Taylor	01494 672004
Membership Secretary	John Fowles	01923 775749
Fuel Sales Manager	John Fowles	01923 775749
Bring and Buy Manager	John Fowles	01923 775749
Treasurer	Peter Nielsen	01494 675716
Key Masters	Peter Nielsen	01494 675716
	John Fowles	01923 775749
Prize and Cup Masters	Peter Nielsen	01494 675716
	Bob Young	01494 718565
Auditor	Stuart Whitehouse	01753 516502
Contest Director	Stuart Whitehouse	01753 516502
Welfare Officer	Roy Lanning	01923 466563
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