



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

Editor: Michael Sullivan

WLMAC WISHES YOU ALL A

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Newsletter and the WLMAC committee greet you and the New Year with a sunny shot of Leon Taylor's World War One Bristol M1C fighter aloft over Harefield in the summer that has gone. Leon built it from a kit mailed to him from the USA. With a wingspan of only 63 inches and a modest weight of 7 lbs it flies on an OS 52 FS. Like the full-size, it takes a bit of care on the sticks but it looks and sounds nice in the air. Eat your hearts out, ARTF addicts!

CHRISTMAS BIKE VANDALS MAUL FIELD.

Our flying site was damaged over Christmas by vandals who broke in at a remote spot on the perimeter and raced scrambler bikes all over the field, gouging deep, circular ruts in the grass. (see right).

Members who hurried to the field traced the muddy wheel tracks to nearby premises and moves have since been made to stave off such damaging intrusions. Chairman Bob Young emailed an SOS for volunteers to repair the damage. An emergency work party took advantage of a thaw to heal the wounds in the soft ground. It was the second emergency to hit us in December. Earlier the front gate was found to be unlocked, and the padlock left standing on the ledge above the gate latch, still unlocked but without a key in it. It is thought that during the pre-Christmas freeze somebody had abandoned the unlocked gate after having difficulty in operating the padlock or closing the gate.



Aerial photo Chris Card

Members, especially recently-joined members, are reminded that the gate should NEVER be left unlocked and unattended, however briefly. Vandals, thieves and fly tippers will waste no time in taking advantage of a lapse in our security and our landlords will take a dim view of it.. ALWAYS alert a committee member to a damaged or unlocked gate, clubhouse door or window. Committee members' phone numbers are on the back of your membership card, which should always be with you when you fly. If you do not have a mobile phone there is one in the clubhouse.



AGM NEWS

FLOURISHING WLMAC

Our 2009 AGM just before Christmas heard from Chairman Bob Young his report of an expanding and flourishing club that has completed a decade of operation without a major crisis. Scale Day saw the biggest attendance in the club's history. Twelve new members joined the club in 2009 and eleven potential new members are on a waiting list. The membership limit is to be increased from 90 to ninety five. Mat Dawson's training scheme, which went through 22 gallons of glo-fuel in its period of operation, is to be discontinued, but the radio equipment and models, financed by the club, will be maintained for use by members who want to learn to fly under a new "mentoring" system. Eleven "A" certificates were presented to members by President Lloyd Ressler. A squad of experienced members is to be recruited, each one of which will undertake to be responsible for instructing and monitoring the progress of individual newcomers who have been accepted as beginner flyers.

HEALTHY FINANCES. Treasurer Peter Nielsen reported that with all loans to the club by members now repaid the club's cash reserves stand at £21,000, - a deliberate accumulation of funds to be ready for any sudden crises or a change in the club's circumstances.



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER.

With the limit of club membership now raised to 95, an additional place on the committee has been created. David Orrells, a keen and active member, has been voted on to it. David's name and telephone number is already on the back of membership cards but at the time of going to press his particular responsibility had not been decided, due to weather-postponement of a January committee meeting. A full list of committee members and their responsibilities will appear in February.

FEBRUARY MEETING

This is the time of year for members to show off their new projects. Whatever masterpiece or ARTF purchase you have up your sleeve for the 2010 season, finished or unfinished, bring it along to the Battle of Britain Club at 8-0 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11th

There will also be a talk on Flying Boats.



KEEP THOSE PHOTOS COMING.

Handy digital cameras have made enthusiastic happysnappers and even amateur press photographers out of us all. Newsletter has been pleased to publish many excellent photographs from WLMAC members. Email yours to Editor Mike Sullivan at sullivan316@btinternet.com



Photo Bob Young

Phil Snowden has a sunny smile on a bright winter's day before the big freeze set in as he takes advantage of the first of our new model stands. His model is his Seagull Models Percival Mew Gull, a Saito 120 powered scale model of the pre-war racer, flown by the late Alex Henshaw in a record breaking flight to Capetown and back..



Over the years, scale models of the Mew Gull have earned themselves a reputation for trickiness in the air. On its maiden flight Phil's model flicked inverted at height, from which it recovered but the model then went on to "bite" even fellow Mew Gull owner and flyer Leon Taylor as he tried to land Phil's model tidily. Leon has posted his recommendations for modifications to the Mew Gull ARTF kit on RCM&E's website in the hope of taming it..