



# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2011

Editor: Michael Sullivan

## ASTRO TURF PLAN GETS GO-AHEAD

The well-attended Annual General Meeting in December voted overwhelmingly for the proposal to set up a landing and take-off area in the centre of our flying field, using "Astro Turf". It is thought that this will make WLMAC the first British model flying club to overcome the problem of rough ground with artificial grass. Despite some fears that the proposal was contentious enough to generate fierce argument, the discussion was calm and informative, with only a handful of the fifty or so members present quietly voting against the plan.

The landowners have given permission for the turf to be laid, subject to certain conditions. Mathew Dawson, who put a great deal of research into the idea of using artificial grass, said that alternative configurations of the three hundred square metres of the turf or perhaps more will be considered. Since the AGM Mathew has learned from the Football Foundation that undamaged Astro Turf may be obtained from football clubs seeking to upgrade their turf specification or from hockey pitches being converted to football. If that should come to anything it may be possible to install a larger Astro Turf landing and take-off area at much lower cost than originally estimated. Meanwhile the battle with the rabbits at Harefield goes on. Rain has neutralised the chilli-power that had been partially successful in deterring the rabbits from re-digging their holes and the chilli treatment will continue through the new year. The AGM heard that in 2010 the Club spent £1500 on equipment for spraying the field with garlic-laced rabbit deterrent.



Above. A big vote of approval for the Astro Turf proposal.



Left: Signing up at the AGM for another year with WLMAC. Membership now stands at a record-breaking ninety-five with five eager would-be members on the waiting list.



The bulky steel tank (see left) that lay two thirds of the way across the entrance gate to our site has been pushed back by the landowners as part of an operation to improve access for larger vehicles. The tank—a relic of the site's busy days as a landfill site for rubbish, was put in place ten years ago to discourage the fly tippers and "travellers" who always have their eyes on the site. This is the time to remind everybody—particularly recently-joined members—of the need to be diligent about securing the club house window shutters and locking up at the end of the day. Several times it has been found that only ONE of the THREE door locks had been secured. NEVER leave the main gate open and unattended and always ensure that the padlock pin has clicked home as you leave. Vandals, thieves and trespassers are about—don't make it easy for them



Above: This mighty, sixty eight inch span Hawker Sea Fury in Royal Canadian Air Force livery is one of several models offered for sale by long-term WLMAC member Gary Skerton. Built from the Topflite kit, it has flaps, retractable undercarriage and a 22cc Zenoah petrol engine. That huge, five bladed propeller, along with its spinner, is only for scale-like, static display! Fitted radio is 35 MHz but of course there would be no problem with converting to 2.4 Gig. Gary confesses that the aeromodelling "urge" has left him for the time being and he is not renewing his membership. But he says that a return to the fold is not out of the question once his two sons have flown the nest. He is hanging on to two other large and impressive models and he still offers his services to the club with his mechanical excavator for which he holds a licence to operate. Other models for sale are:-

Modeltech Formula 3D 58" span with 90 F/S.  
 Thunder Tiger Raptor V2 heli with  
 46 2stroke and gyro.  
 Kyosho Nexus 30 heli (no engine)

Serious would-be buyers can contact Gary on GarySkerton@aol.com or phone him on 07747 738650 to make an offer.



**THE WLMAC COMMITTEE** was re-elected at the AGM. The only change to it is that **LEON TAYLOR** is now booking speakers and arranging events for the club's monthly meetings.

Committee members' telephone numbers are to be found on the back of your membership card. Their responsibilities are:-

- Lloyd Ressler: President
- Bob Young: Chairman.
- Roy Lanning: Secretary.  
BMFA liaison.
- Stewart Whitehouse: Treasurer
- Peter Nielsen: Auditor.  
Battle of Britain Club liaison.
- Leon Taylor: Entertainment.  
SITA (landlord) liaison  
Chief Examiner..
- John Fowles: Membership Secretary.  
Keymaster.
- Mathew Dawson: Club Training  
Astro Turf project Manager.
- David Orrells: Noise tests.  
Welfare.
- Des Wheatley. Field Manager.

**There is NO CLUB MEETING IN JANUARY.**  
 The next monthly meeting at  
 the **BATTLE OF BRITAIN CLUB** is on

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH**  
**AT 8-0 P.M.**

**ARTHUR CREIGHTON,**  
 Former airline captain and Fellow of  
 the Royal Institute of Navigation  
 will talk about his aviation experiences  
**DURING THE COLD WAR.**



**FOOTNOTE.** Our model flying field sees plenty of misjudged landings. Here's a shot of a man doing it in a large and expensive, full-sized glider. **OUCH!**