



# NEWSLETTER

*Cross channel celebratory edition.*

OCTOBER 2008

Editor: Michael Sullivan

## POKEY NEW MOWER FOR HAREFIELD AT BARGAIN PRICE.

The cuttings fly as Field Manager Des Wheatley speeds across the Harefield patch on a new mower that will do a quicker and more thorough job of keeping our grass model-friendly. Des has brought the field to its present good condition with many patient hours at the wheel of the old rotary mower. The Committee decided that an upgrade was justified, so Leon Taylor and John Fowles set out with Des during September to look for one. They bought the second hand machine from its owner in Amersham, who had advertised it on Ebay. The agreed price of £600 was £1280 less than the price asked for an identical second hand machine at a dealership. The new machine might not look as sleek as the old one but it's a good deal more powerful and can slice a sixty eight inch wide path through the grass with its three cylindrical blades, working in the same way as those old fashioned, push-and-puff lawn mowers we can all remember. The result is a faster job and a closer cut. Harefield's grass is thick and strong after the rainy summer and with Des's dutiful attention with mower and roller, next year's patch should be like velvet. Our old rotary mower will be retained as a useful general purpose machine, and tug for the field roller.



## STRANGERS WALK INTO OUR FIELD AND EXPECT TO FLY.

Two WLMAC members, flying at Harefield on a weekday at the end of September were joined by three men, carrying an electric model helicopter and two fixed wing models. They were not members and they had walked up to the field from the gate, presumably leaving their car parked outside. They proposed to fly, and when it was pointed out to them that the site is on private land, and the WLMAC is a private club with properly managed membership one of them became aggressive, claiming to have spotted our field from his full sized helicopter as he flew over it. The three eventually withdrew "with bad grace." It is to be hoped that this will turn out to be an isolated incident but members are advised quietly to satisfy themselves that anyone they do not recognise at the field is a member. If not, the intruder should be politely advised that our site is on private property, that the owners limit access to it to WLMAC members and any who enter the property without membership or the owners' permission are trespassing. And even if the intruder has BMFA insurance, it would be invalid if he

is flying without the owner's permission. If you have a mobile phone, it should always be with you in your car and available to contact a committee member if difficulty with intruders develops.

The recent crisis of the disappearing gate keys has passed now that Membership Secretary John Fowles has distributed keys for the new locks on the gate and the club house. Our thanks to John for his speedy attention to a difficult problem. Remember – NEVER leave the padlock unlocked or your keys unattended for another member who says he will follow you down from the field. Unless he's right behind you!

### IMPROVE YOUR PADLOCK TECHNIQUE!

Some members have been leaving the padlock on the gate upside down – that is with the key hole pointing at the sky. This is not a good idea because it makes it easier for vandals to put glue or pieces of wood into the hole, as well as providing easy access for rain, which will rust the inside of the padlock at a faster rate. Keyhole facing downward, please!

## LEON'S HAIRY MOMENT



Secretary Leon Taylor gets a full page spread in the latest edition of "Aeroplane", with his account of his "hairy moment" at Booker airfield (High Wycombe) in 1948, when he made the mistake of walking across the middle of the field on a grey and drizzly November afternoon. "To my horror", he wrote, "there emerged from the gloom, coming straight at me, the Tiger Moth returning from its last flight of the day. It was flaring for landing, its wheels two or three feet from the ground and about thirty yards away." He describes how he threw himself flat, feeling the rush of air and smelling the engine as the biplane skimmed over him. Leon's prize for his entry is the original of cartoonist Sewell's illustration of his hairy moment.

## DOWN TO THE FEW

Matthew Dawson's flight training scheme has whittled down the number of members who do not have the A Certificate of Achievement to a handful in preparation for the New Year in which there can be no solo flying without the certificate. Stuart Whitehouse is now a Club Examiner, along with Andy Hopper, Peter Emanuel, Bob Howard and Leon Taylor. Two membership applications from would be members who have flying experience but no "A" certificate were recently accepted on condition that they trained for the Certificate immediately and did not fly unsupervised until they qualified for it.

## NO NEED FOR THAT HUSH

Windy, unflyable weather was a friend to us for a change when film makers went to work in the Stockers Farm woods, right next door to our field. A film unit had made a late request for silence from us on three weekdays in September. Their location manager was advised to make personal contact with anybody who turned up to fly, so that mobile phone contact could be established for the requested silence at shooting times. Members were alerted to it all by a special notice circulated by email but as it happened, the weather was either windy or wet or both and nobody wanted to fly anyway.

## NEXT MEETING.....

at 8-0 p.m. on Thursday, October 9th at the Battle of Britain Club is the first to come inside after a series of summer field meetings that ran the gauntlet of persistent bad weather. As announced in Newsletter's September special notice, DB Sport and Scale will be at the meeting to tell us all about the goodies they have on offer, and to hand over some of them to those who ordered them in advance through Roy Lanning.



Above: So what's this, then? Another one of those natty foam, electric park fly thingies? No! It's the real thing, snapped by John Fowles as it growled about over Harefield on a sunny September Saturday, in company with a Hurricane (below). The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight couple were using RAF Northolt to position for weekend air display appearances. For recognition buffs, the Spit is a post war photo reconnaissance job, later fitted with a Griffon engine and five bladed propeller.



## QUALITY MODELS FOR SALE

Prolific builder Vic Collins of the Wycombe Club has two models for sale:-

Auster. 84 inch span. Laser 80. £250 or nearest offer.

Piper Cub. 84 inch span. Laser 70. £250 or nearest offer. Both are from DB kits and both are ready to fly apart from their radio receivers. Several experienced WLMAC fliers have bought from Vic and vouch for the quality of his builds.

Call Vic on 01844 343282, (Princes Risborough.)



FOOTNOTE. All right! Not strictly to the rule book, but it was towards the end of a rare warm and sunny weekday, nobody else was about and David Whitehouse (left) and John Smith were snapped in a relaxed mood as their gliders circled lazily high above the field. Not really recommended for IC models, however. For those you must be literally "on your toes"!

*For a colour copy by email please contact Bob at [bob.t.young@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.t.young@btinternet.com)*