



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2008

Editor: Michael Sullivan

RAINY SUMMER BROUGHT MIXED BLESSINGS.

Apart from depriving us of many flying days, the summer's heavy rain created a more than usually dense jungle of weeds, nettles and brambles to the south of the field that was sometimes utterly impenetrable for members setting out in search of downed models. Peter Nielsen's trusty camera plane was brought in to search for one model swallowed up in the deep greenery – the owner and pilot had managed to fold its wings on his very first flight after passing his "A" certificate! But there was no sign of it, even from above.

There has since been a big operation to hack the undergrowth further away from the boundary of the field. Even with such a hazard on our doorstep, it's still difficult to persuade people to spend a few bob on one of those on-board buzzers, designed for tracking models hiding deep in the undergrowth. On the other hand the wet summer has brought the grass of our flying site to a level of unprecedented density, mown to a velvety smoothness in October by Field Manager Des Wheatley with the club's new mower.



Stewart Whitehouse's electric Zero rises from the velvety Harefield grass. Looks like a bowling green, doesn't it?

CLUB MEETING HEARS ABOUT DB'S TRICKS OF THE TRADE.



Rapt attention from the punters for Eddie's demonstration of the built up Spitfire wing, with flaps and gear installed.

A well attended October club meeting listened intently to Eddie Stocker, proprietor of DB Sport and Scale, who let us into some of the secrets of kit production. Eddie turns out high quality model aircraft kits with the help of his wife, Judy, who does the finance and stock control and "a lad who comes in three days a week." The results on display at the meeting, are some hugely attractive boxes of stuff that can be converted by devotees of traditional building into impressive models. Their principal feature is the highly accurate, laser cut parts. Even the multiple fuselage stringers on DB's big Hawker Hurricane are laser cut, nestling in a plank of high quality balsa, waiting to be eased out with the minimum of pressure. Eddie has no time for foam wings on the grounds of their weight and unsuitability for mounting retracts

His latest masterpiece is an 81 inch span Spitfire kit with its finished weight whittled down to 17 lbs from the 25 lbs of the original design. It has built up wings that separate for transport to the field and air retracts at the authentic, scale position, firmly anchored at the correct angle by the robust, laser cut plywood parts. Eddie was due to start "cutting" the kit on the Monday after his talk to us and the Spitfire will feature in RCM&E after its maiden flight. After which it can be confidently predicted that it will sell like hot cakes.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Will be at 8–0 p.m, on Thursday the 13th at the Battle of Britain Club. Brentford RC will be holding its pre-Christmas Bazaar at which the assembled addicts will be invited to "try before you buy." Bring your wallets.

For a colour copy by email please contact Bob at bob.t.young@btinternet.com



ABOVE. Veteran WLMAC member and former RAF jet pilot Alex Weiss (extreme left of the page) and Derek Critcher (extreme right) received their certificates and a handshake from Chairman Bob Young at the October club meeting. Alan Coleman and his son Ben (centre picture) look suitably pleased with themselves at the field after passing their A tests. 14 members passed their A test during the year, leaving 11 active fliers who will need the certificate to fly solo in 2009.

REPELLING BOARDERS

A stout stockade has been installed by our landlords to one side of the main entrance gate (picture below) following a motorised assault by some people who were unhappy that the new padlock was keeping them out. They removed part of the fence and drove their 4X4 up the bank to by-pass the gate. The picture below shows the four substantial wooden piles, set in concrete, that now plug the gap. They are photographed from inside the property, with the gate out of sight to the right. That's Springwell Lane beyond, with a car just appearing at the bend. Time to warn members yet again to make sure that gate is shut and padlocked at all times, and be ready to call a committee member if you see anything or anybody you are not happy about.



JOIN THE DECISION MAKERS

The security and maintenance of our field and club house, the management of our money and the events and club meetings through the year do not just happen by magic—they are the result of diligent work by our volunteer committee members. But they do not regard themselves as an all powerful elite—the committee is democratically elected each year and newcomers to their ranks are always welcome. If you would like to make a contribution to the running of our enviable club, get yourself proposed and seconded by any two fellow members. You don't have to sign your life away—make your first application for a year's service. A proposal to join the Committee must be submitted at least 21 days before the AGM on December 11th. So fill in the form below and fire it off promptly to our Secretary, Leon Taylor.

COMMITTEE MEMBER NOMINATION FORM

Candidate Name : _____ (CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE)

Proposer : _____ Seconder : _____

I agree to serve on the committee for one year

Signed : _____ Date : _____

Return to: Leon Taylor
 WLMAC Secretary
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 Beaconsfield
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