



NEWSLETTER

January 2009

Editor : Michael Sullivan

THE LIGHTS GO ON AT HAREFIELD.



Our armour plated club house is now sporting electric lighting, installed just before Christmas by Matt Dawson and Roy Lanning (below) . Brought to the field eleven years ago, the vandal resistant box was originally designed as a movable building site office. It was wired for mains electricity which is, of course, not available at Harefield. But Matt took advice from the caravanning fraternity and installed an "inverter", which powers four energy-saving light bulbs from a hefty twelve volt battery, making use of the original internal wiring. Now there is light for hardy flyers, sheltering from the winter cold, or tidying up in the fading light of a late evening in summer. Push button switches turn the lights off after a while, to compensate for absent minded members who might leave them on as they lock up. But the drill is to switch off the inverter itself to save the battery, which will provide hundreds of hours of light.



There will be
NO JANUARY MEETING
as we give ourselves a rest
from the festive season
and put in some workshop
time in preparation for
February's

PROJECT EVENING

Whatever you have lined
up for the 2009 flying
season, do bring it along to
show it off and talk about
it as we dream of summer
flying weather.



Above: On a gloomy January day, the club house is flooded with light at the touch of a switch. Not exactly rocket science, but nevertheless a giant leap forward for our facilities at Harefield.

Left: The box of tricks. The big twelve volt battery stands on the floor underneath the tea-making table. The inverter, on the wall above it, should be switched on and off by the red switch on its top, on the right. Don't forget it!

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

A GOOD YEAR, DESPITE THE WEATHER.

Club Chairman Bob Young told the Annual General Meeting in December that 2008 had been an "excellent year", despite bad weather that had curtailed flying and caused several field events to be cancelled. He was "really pleased" by the way the committee members had discharged their responsibilities in the maintenance and organisation of the club and its field.

Treasurer Peter Nielsen reported that the purchase of a three cylinder mower, much more efficient than the existing one, the necessary replacement of padlocks and keys and the cost of models and equipment for the new training programme had pushed the year's expenditure beyond income, reducing the cash reserve to just under £21,000. He reminded members that it was important to maintain a comfortable cash reserve to meet unexpected crises. The landowner is known to want to sell the site, and a change of ownership - assuming that the club would be allowed to stay - could face us with the payment of rent and/or the cost of barrier fencing if the site were to be returned to its earlier role as a landfill site. "We have lived under these threats for many years but we must be prepared for the worst scenario" he said. There were no new candidates for membership of the Committee and the retiring members were re-elected by a unanimous vote. Events Organiser Roy Lanning said that the last year's pattern of meetings and field events would be repeated, with guest speakers in March and October, and the summer months of June July, August and September set aside for events and meetings at the field.

BE A PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER

Send your digital photographs of people, events and incidents at Harefield to Newsletter's editor at sullivan316@btinternet.com

BUDDY UP ON OUR WEBSITE!

Our website www.wlmac.co.uk has a new feature, protected from outside network surfers by a password, that enables a member to tell other members of his intention to fly at Harefield on a certain date and time. Here's how you do it:-
CLICK on "Who's at field" on the website home page.

ENTER your email address and the password (shown for security reasons in the email that carries this newsletter).

SELECT a day.

Enter details like "after mid-day" in the box.

CLICK on "add me."

Your name and details are now displayed for other members to see.

This feature, devised by Stuart Whitehouse, makes a flying rendezvous easier—and cheaper—than phoning around for flying buddies. Or come to that, to avoid a member you would rather not bump into.....Try it!



Recently joined member Chris Prentice was presented with his A Certificate (above) by Chairman Bob Young at the December AGM. Sixteen members have qualified for the A Certificate, leaving ten who now need the Certificate to fly unsupervised at Harefield, whatever their experience and ability. The training scheme, run by Matt Dawson, will continue through 2009. Novice flyers will be admitted to membership upon payment of £50 towards the cost of the scheme (in addition to the joining and membership fees) and the undertaking that they should train for the Certificate. Veteran club member Peter Dorow (left) celebrated 34 years with the club by qualifying for his A Certificate of Achievement!



Before we discuss noise complaints, perhaps you'd be good enough to show me your A Certificate of Achievement!