



# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

Editor: Michael Sullivan

## MATHEW DAWSON TO BE NEW CHAIRMAN.

Mathew Dawson (pictured below) is to succeed Bob Young as WLMAC's Chairman. The driving force behind the acquisition of our highly successful



Astro Turf runway, the construction of the twenty wooden model tables at the field, and the club's successful flying training scheme, Mathew will take up the post in January. Bob Young, who will stay on as a committee member, told the AGM "I feel it is now time to pass this job over to a member of the new generation. Mathew comes from a local farming family so he knows the area very well and has many contacts that may be useful to the club. He has already shown lots of enthusiasm, energy and ability in the projects he has taken on for the club."

## FILM UNIT WANTS ACCESS TO WLMAC FLYING SITE.

Committee members are seeking a meeting with representatives of the film unit that will be at work on Stocker's Farm for two weeks in February and have indicated that they want to film from within the boundaries of our flying site.

The filming of a winter battle scene for "Henry IV", starring actor Jeremy Irons, will be one of several adaptations of Shakespeare plays for BBC's "Cultural Olympiad" to be broadcast on BBC 2 next year. It involves three major production companies and there is no doubt that the operation at Stockers Farm will be a big one.

At the AGM Members expressed fears of damage to our field if film unit vehicles are brought on to it and some argued strongly for resistance to such access. There was a long debate about the best way to handle film companies that expect and request WLMAC to cease or curtail flying activities for their benefit. Leading committee members concluded that the club should be reluctant to suspend flying during good flying weather in the summer, but would agree to suspension of flying in the winter in return for compensatory fees from the film unit. The priority must always be to minimise interruption of the club's flying activities

## DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE OR A STORY FOR NEWSLETTER?

Editor Mike Sullivan is always pleased to hear from you at [sullivan316@btinternet.com](mailto:sullivan316@btinternet.com) or telephone 0208 998 1702

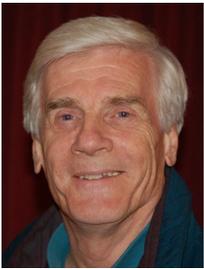
## FIRST THE RABBITS, NOW THE BADGERS.

A patch of diggings in the natural grass bordering one end of our Astro Turf runway caused some head scratching in the club towards the end of the summer season. They did not resemble the neat round holes inflicted by rabbits and some thought it might have been deer, foraging for moss. But one of our agricultural advisers declared that it was the work of badgers, digging for grubs that live below the surface. A typical communal badger's toilet has been located at the edge of the field and it turns out that the nocturnal creatures' excavations have been in search of leatherjackets—the larvae of the European Crane Fly, commonly known as the "Daddy Longlegs". The gangling flying insects lay their eggs in grass so that the emerging larvae can feast on the tender grass roots. The Leatherjackets can grow to a length of 25 mm and badgers are particularly partial to them. The solution to this new problem is rather easier than our attempts to discourage rabbit diggings— a pour-on liquid that kills the leatherjackets.

## VETERAN COMMITTEE MAN NIELSEN RETIRES

Peter Nielsen, whose model was the first to fly at the Harefield site when the club took up residence there, is retiring from his committee membership. He has been Newsletter editor, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Joint Chairman during his twenty five years as a club officer. But Peter says he will still fly as rank and file member of the club.





Mike Pugh (left) a familiar face at the flying field, has joined the club's Committee. For the benefit of all members, especially those who recently joined, Newsletter publishes this "rogue's gallery" of committee members who were formally voted back into office at the Annual General Meeting.



Bob Young



Leon Taylor



Stuart Whitehouse



John Fowles

Chairman Mat Dawson is pictured on Page 1.

### ODDS AND SODS FROM THE AGM

The BMFA has switched to a new insurer, increasing third party liability cover to twenty five million pounds. "This means", quipped Treasurer Stuart Whitehouse, "that you can now have a really expensive crash."

Most of those members who were sceptical about last year's proposal to lay an Astro Turf runway, and even voted against it, have since changed their minds, and agree that the new runway is a huge asset to the club. Mat Dawson remarked that landings have improved "now there is something to aim at."

The Astro Turf runway, organised and acquired by Mat Dawson and installed by Roger Darvel and his skilled employees, cost the club a total of £10,000. Treasurer Stuart Whitehouse says that this, in addition to spending on various anti-rabbit measures was the main reason for the continuing small deficit in the club accounts. Members voted in favour of the idea of an increase in membership fees for 2012, to be discussed at the next AGM.

Some members have asked for the surplus Astro Turf, which is piled up behind the club house, should be used to extend the existing runway or lay another runway at an angle to the present one. Mat Dawson advised that a few seasons should go by for the present runway to be monitored for any problems that may show themselves. An extension or addition to the runway would require the same technique of removing existing turf and laying and levelling a bed of sand. This will also come up for discussion at the next AGM.

The club rules have been reviewed and "tidied up". It is no longer mandatory for 2.4 gig flyers to display a peg on the frequency board. The number of members still flying on 35 MHz is dwindling and they are urged to consider switching to trouble free 2.4 Gig. Helicopter flyers are now required to seek agreement from every fixed wing flyer present before each and every flight.

David Orrells, the man behind our indoor flying sessions has his eye on an alternative venue in Uxbridge which has a hall twice the size of the school hall we are currently using in Chorleywood. It will not be available until the Autumn of 2012.



David Orrells



Des Wheatley



Roy Lanning

The various responsibilities of the committee members shown above will be allocated at the January committee meeting and announced in Newsletter.



As winter tightens its damp and chilly grip on our Harefield flying site, Newsletter takes a random dip into its photograph album to remind ourselves of sunny summer days in the most successful year in the club's history. The best Scale Day ever. The triumph of our pioneering Astro Turf project. The assembly of 20 now-indispensable model tables, and a series of industrious and well attended work parties. We are a flourishing club of quite extraordinarily good humour and comradeship. Newsletter wishes you all

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**