

# WLMAC Newsletter February 2021

Editor – Felix Scicluna



Tony B Seagull Bucker Jungmeister in the American colours

**Please see the very end of Newsletter for some member items for sale.**

Welcome to our February Newsletter. Normally a very quiet month with little activity at the field. This year due to lockdown, there is none, also no club nights and members are forbidden to even visit each other in their own homes. So, I thought the Newsletter was going to be the most boring one ever. Luckily, thanks to members kindly sending in pictures and notes about their projects, it now hopefully makes interesting reading. So, to the rest of us, get those tools out and get on with a project that's been in the shed waiting to be started, come on you must all have something! And please send in pictures and notes to me for publication. Finally, in association with the new Article 16 exemptions, we would encourage

you all to take the online BMFA RCC test mentioned in more detail below Mat, Stuart, Frank, Graham and myself have completed it (for Mat's 1<sup>st</sup> go he managed 29 out of 40 which is the lowest record so far), come on let's all give it a go, it doesn't take too long and you will have a better understanding of Article 16 by the time you're done and it will help the BMFA with their ongoing liaison with the CAA etc. It will also mean you don't have to answer any of the mandatory questions if you take any achievement scheme tests in the next 5 years and it doesn't affect any "grandfather rights" either! [Registration Competency Test – Model Aircraft & Drone Flying – Be Lawful – Be Safe – Be Responsible \(bmfa.uk\)](https://www.bmfa.org.uk/Registration-Competency-Test-Model-Aircraft-Drone-Flying-Be-Lawful-Be-Safe-Be-Responsible)

## **CAA Article 16 Authorisation**

Stuart has added some handy advice to our website regarding the rules as they apply to Harefield and these can be visited on the following link: <http://wlmac.co.uk/legal-update.aspx>

### **A guide to model flying after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 (the nitty gritty).**

It is now a requirement for any of you that intend to fly and hold an appropriate achievement scheme cert, to log onto the BMFA Membership Portal and tick the box to confirm you have read and understood Article 16.

<https://bmfa.azolve.com/Account.mvc/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

It also offers you a link to read the article again. Ticking the box is all that's required, but is the responsibility of each and every one of us to understand the article. See a copy of the page below. NB you don't have to tick the other boxes unless you want to.

The quickest way to learn about it all is to take the BMFA's revised RCC test. You can't fail because if you get it wrong first time you get an email telling you the right answers, so just do it again. Think of it as a learning aid rather than a test – but at the end of it you get a competency certificate and it goes on your BMFA record and member certificate! See [Mandatory Questions - BMFA Achievement Scheme](#)

Agreements & Opt-ins

Communication Preferences ▲

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Article 16 Confirmation & Our Communications

Tick this box to confirm you have read and understood the Article 16 Authorisation and agree to abide by its terms and conditions if operating within it.  
See <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/article-16>

Important note: You can only use an Achievement Scheme certificate obtained before 31/12/2020 as an acceptable proof of competency if you have ticked this box.

E-Newsletter  ⓘ

I would you like to receive email news from affiliated clubs I am a member of?

GoMembership Communications

I would like to receive GoMembership news, features and product information

I would like to receive information from GoMembership's partners or affiliates

## Parish Notices

**The committee attended a Zoom meeting**, invited by the Wycombe club and hosted by Andy Symons from the BMFA to explain Article 16 and answer any question we may have had during the discussions.

Andy also advised that whilst the CAA are updating their system, members may get a request from the CAA to pay for their operator ID. If you have paid your BMFA through WLMAC, **please ignore the request**. The BMFA will not be able to update the CAA with the renewals until 5<sup>th</sup> February, we will then all be given new operator ID's which replaces the number you have and will need to be displayed on/ in any plane where you are deemed the operator.

**Tier 4 online booking system** - Big thanks to Brian Buckley for setting up the booking form for all our tier 4 registered flyers, although flying has now stopped, when the fields are opened again with whatever rules, Brian has made the form adaptable.

The online form is also adaptable for all our members to use when we start using Pickeridge Farm under the 28 day rule.

**Pickeridge Farm**- With full planning permission now applied for, Mathew and Stuart attended a Zoom meeting with the planning officer which was very encouraging.

**At the field in the January snow** – Mat went to the field after the January snow had melted and noticed the remains of a big snowball on the patch. Luckily the kids left our benches alone this time.



**Club glow fuel for sale**- John Fowles has just stocked up with fuel, which is available for the following prices: 20% - £22 10% - £17. We also have some 5% - £15.

Members are tending to use 10% the most and there is plenty in stock. We do not have a lot of 5% but it is still available and will need to be re-ordered when these have been sold. We also have a limited supply of straight Methanol (great for cleaning off uncured epoxy) which we can sell at 1 gallon for £8 or 1/2 gallon at £4 but this would need to be dispensed into a smaller container. We can also get other mixtures made by request but these can only be ordered when we make a bulk order, so if anybody requires a “special mix” they need to let us know - either John, Mat or any of the Committee Members but this would obviously have to end up with John for when he places the order.



## Winter Projects

**Mathew finishes spraying two WW2 warbirds** – After carefully preparing and priming, Mat finally sprayed the topcoat on both planes, ready for Dave O to finish off.

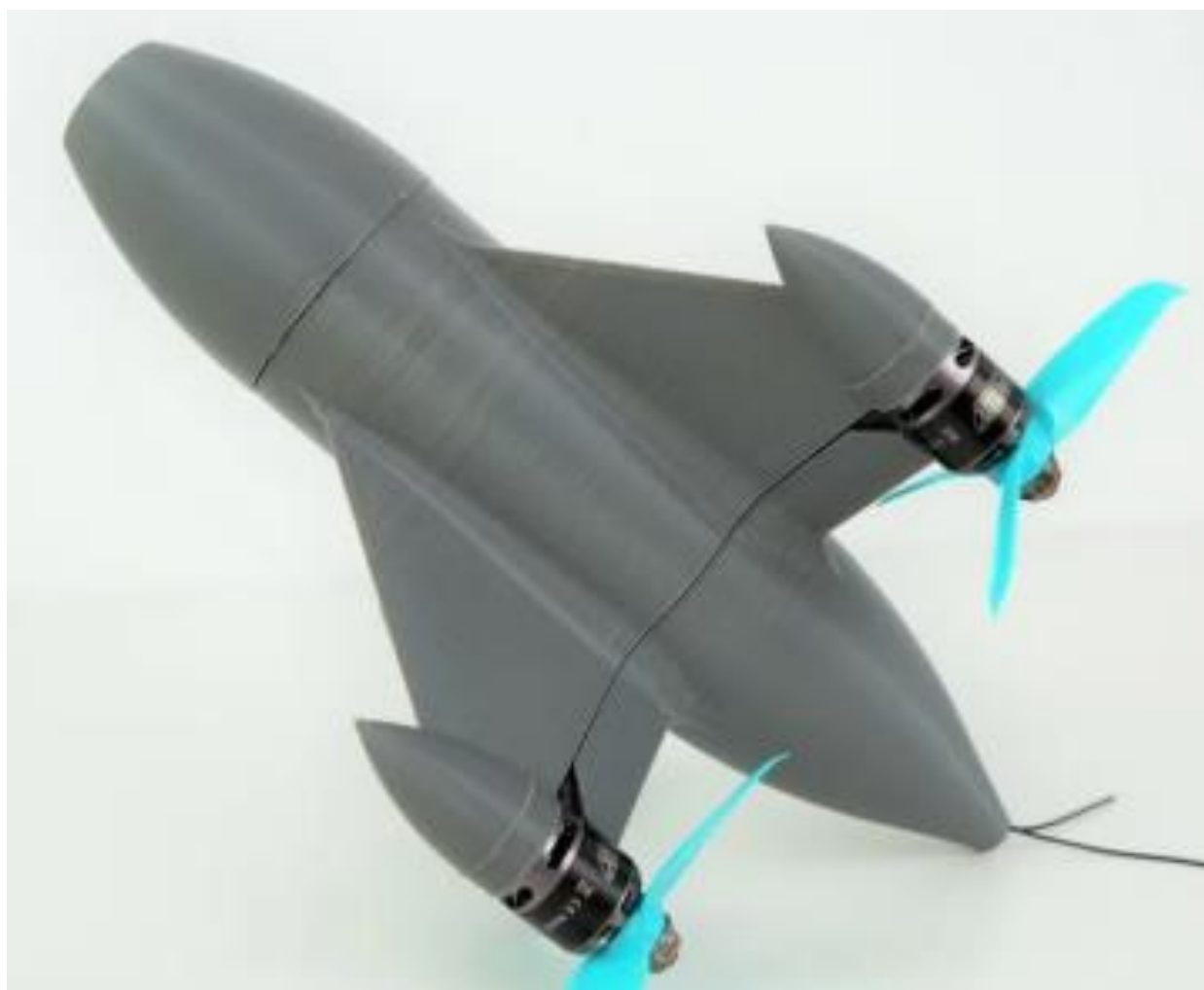




Mathew finished spraying Dave O's 2 warbirds and how well they came out. Well worth the effort.

**By Kevin Lambi-** Looking ahead to 2021 Projects, So for some reason each time I attempt to take time off and plan to go flying I seem be thwarted by a lockdown or a tier increase. For me this is dangerous as I start to look at the hobby sites and you tube. Once I find something I start to think...."yep that sounds like a good idea" and "I'm going to give that a go". With that said some of my 2021 projects include a 3D printer so I have invested in a new Prusa Mini+ 3D printer. I already have an Ender 3 3D printer, but I've gotten fed up of continually tuning the printer. Bad news was there is a 9 week lead time for the printer however it arrived on New Year's Eve, so I'm really hoping that's a good omen rather than a bad omen! Setup of the printer was really easy and after a few tuning prints I was off!

## Quad Rocket



One of the 3D printed projects that caught my eye was a 3D printed quad rocket. Essentially, it's the electronics of a multi rotor but overlaid on a rocket body. Why? Speed! One thing I do like to do in this hobby is to go as fast as possible, safely. Apparently, this design can go up to 160MPH from you tube vids which I know is not as fast as some of the pylon racers but I like to start slow and work my way up. The right ESC and motor components will be key so I don't create a melted plastic fireball so I'm thinking I'll need to test out the electronics on a bench first to see the limits I can push. The other challenge I

see is flying it. Technically it should be like flying a normal quad at 90 degrees. I have seen the creator of this successfully fly so I'm hopeful that I can pull it off. Printing has already started on the 3d parts but will report more on this as I progress.

## Hovercraft



For those ground based days at the field I was thinking about making a hovercraft. This particular design caught my eye. Simple single esc, motor, servo design. The original build has a 4S esc/motor in but I'm thinking about 6S build. Looks like the most difficult part here will be sewing (or finding someone to sew) the skirt. Once I get this up and running I can see what else it can do...maybe add LED's, FPV etc. I haven't seen it in action yet but there have been some requests.

I do have some non-3d printed projects planned for the year but will have to see how the year pans out.

**Tony B Seagull Bucker Jungmeister** – Powered by Saito R3, three-cylinder petrol radial. Macgregor servos and a Powerbox sensor switch. Having ordered the kit and waited months for delivery, the wrong one was delivered a couple of months later the correct one arrived, when Tony checked it, the wings did not match up, luckily his supplier had ordered two of the same model and the manufacturer had accidently switched the wings. With building started and going well, an accident in the kitchen resulting in the cowl falling off the table causing damage (covered in previous Newsletters) Luckily chairman Mat came to the rescue, Mat repaired and resprayed it like and it's like new again.







**Roy Lanning Spifire Pro-fighter**- With just a couple of our members left to start their kits now Roy has started and is progressing well with his Spitfire. Although the kit came with a good video explaining every step of the build it did not come with the details of the Spitfire's wing, so Roy has had to do a bit of investigating to get the project progressed.





**Richard Saunders Sikorsky S39** – Richard has very kindly sent in details of his most recent winter lockdown project, very good project Richard, gives me the idea of maybe having a pond area at the side of the patch at our new site in Pickeridge in the future, we have the space, a subject for the committee to discuss?

As I'm rather short of hangar space (I'm either not crashing enough or rebuilding too much) it seemed a good idea to scratch-build something small-scale, yet... erm... challenging. But, like they say: be careful what you wish for...

Back in the early 1930s, the Sikorsky S39 amphibian was described as "a bunch of airplane parts flying in formation". What better way to fill those endless lockdown days?

So back in November I downloaded an old plan from Outerzone for a 76" span glow-powered S39, scaled it down to about 4' span, reworked it for a 3S 2200 lipo-sized electric version, and ordered a few sheets of balsa and several yards of streamlined 3/8" aluminium tubing.

A couple of months on, this is where this particular ugly duckling is at. Lipo and ESC live downstairs in steerage, while the rest of the radio gear flies Club Class up in the wing. The wiring between the two will be concealed by yet more struts. The rudder and elevator are fed by snakes inside the twin booms. And the landing gear will be fixed to brass eyebolts on the hull in optional "up" and "down" configuration. However, as there's nothing remotely waterproof about my model, this amphibian will be strictly land-based. Though, mind you, if that boating lake should ever materialise at the new field...

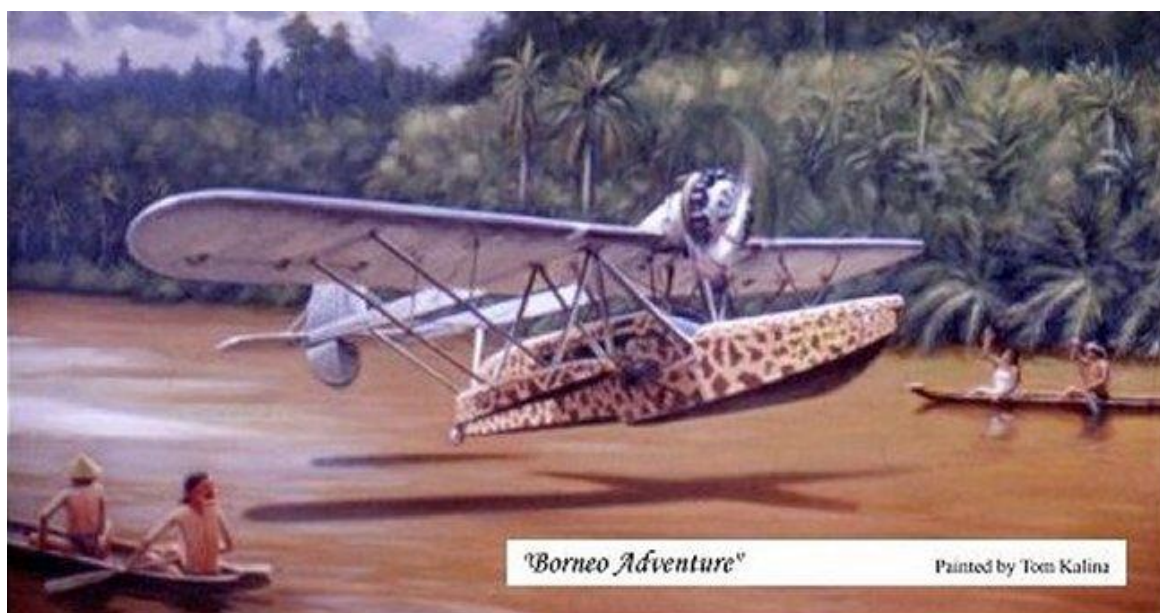
Working at this scale is a right PITA. Everything squeezes in there, but only just. Talk about plaiting sawdust - there were hours of fun to be had coaxing dampened 1/16" balsa to follow the compound curves of the hull with Mrs Saunders' rolling pin.

And that's the story so far. I've just embarked on the outer wing sections. Each panel will be permanently connected to its own float by a few feet more of strutter, but detachable from the rest of the plane for storage. Not much work left to do on the basic structure, but plenty of mindless fiddling and fettling to look forward to. And, yes, that includes the giraffe-skin paint job (well you have to, don't you?).

Will she ever fly? The wing loading doesn't look too bad. But there might be just a teensy-weensy bit of drag...

See you at the field one day.

Till then, happy (virtual) landings! Richard



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## CMR-128 Sikorsky S-39

[Single-Engined Amphibious Aircraft]





**Pete Ledger Cub undercarriage** – I have put the Grand Tundra landing gear on my Cub securing it by drilling into where the screws go in digging out a load of foam filling it with PB-Weld and then tapped this for long bolts, seems to work perfectly.



All Events cancelled at present but list below kept open in the hope that things will change soon.

## Events

Date	Event	Location	Description
Thursday February	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	Projects evening
Thursday March	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	
Thursday April	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	The Balsa bash
Thursday May	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	Skills night
Sunday 13 June (Sat 12 practice)	BMFA	Harefield	BMFA scale day
Wednesday June	Club Meeting	Harefield	BBQ at the field
Saturday July	Work party	Harefield	Prepare the site for Fun day
Sunday 1 July	Fun Day	Harefield	Annual family Fun Day
Wednesday August	Club Meeting	Harefield	BBQ at the field
Wednesday September	Club Meeting	Harefield	BBQ at the field
Thursday October	Club Meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	Guest speaker
Thursday November	Club Meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	Quiz night
Thursday 9 December	AGM	Uxbridge Golf Club	Membership renewals
Thursday December	Christmas Meal	Uxbridge Golf Club	Partners are welcome but are required to pay full price of meal

## Items for Sale

Puppeteer biplane, well built from Flair kit, covered in green & beige Solartex RAF colours with decals. 60" span. Aerobatic on fitted Saito 65FS, 5 Futaba servos. No crashes, in excellent condition.

Fit your receiver, NiMH and fly. [leontaylor@waitrose.com](mailto:leontaylor@waitrose.com)

Price £300



**Items from Pete Haywood** - I'm trying to have a bit of a clear out to make space for what I really want to build and fly, so have the following for free:

Mantua Gem 80 kit - unstarted Viperjet (grp), un-flown, servos fan unit available - reputedly heavy so would need lightening to fly well...

Socially distanced collection from Windsor or can bring to the patch when we are released.

**For Sale from Dave Chinery-** Myford ML10 lathe with reverse, on Myford stand. 3 and 4-jaw chucks and faceplate. Tailstock chuck and centres. 4-way quick-change turret tool-post, compound vertical slide for milling. Full set of change wheels for screw-cutting. Huge set of cutting tools, centre drills etc. All used but kept in excellent working order. Under-bed greenhouse heater for frost precautions in outbuilding. Loads of metal and plastic materials for use.

Offers over £1,499. Buyer collects.

Dave Chinery, [daviddchinery@aol.com](mailto:daviddchinery@aol.com) 07702 455777