



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

Editor: Michael Sullivan

ASTRO TURF FIELD TAKES SHAPE!



This was the scene at Harefield on the last day of May, as Newsletter prepared to go to press. Work on laying the substantial Astro Turf patch onto its carefully-levelled bed of sand was at an advanced stage. Wrinkles are to disappear as the turf is trimmed and butt-joined. It is hoped that the work will be completed in time for members to view it at the FIELD MEETING AND BARBECUE, NEXT WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 8th. See the following pages for the story of this the project, which was approved by a strong majority at WLMAC's Annual General Meeting last December. The Astro Turf is kept in place by the weight of special, super-fine, kiln-dried sand that falls between the artificial blades of grass and solidifies, out of sight, when the first substantial rain falls on it. Mat Dawson, who researched the whole project and acquired the discarded Astro Turf free of charge from an Orpington School, asks members to refrain from flying IC models from the new patch until he gives the go-ahead. Loose sand and model IC carburettors do not good companions make, and Mat will be making the first test flights from the patch with his own IC models.



SUNDAY, JULY 3RD
is our annual
SCALE DAY
Make a note and be there!

Full details of arrangements for the day, timings, entry classes etc., will be published in a special edition of Newsletter towards the end of June. So keep an eye on your emails!

**THE SECOND ROUND OF THE
INTER-CLUB COMPETITION
AT WLMAC'S HAREFIELD SITE
IS ON SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH.**

Dead stick spot landing contest and timed circuits for models carrying an egg. Bring stuff to attach the egg and egg box (supplied) to your model.

Turn up around 1030.

During this day, when the field is occupied, the entrance gate will be temporarily secured by a combination lock. Make a note of its number:-

2363

THE ASTRO TURF PROJECT.....THIS IS HOW IT WAS DONE.



Above: Mid-May, and the first of our rabbit-ravaged turf is scraped away. Above right: The first of 180 tons of sand is delivered. Heavy trucks like this could not have ventured on to our field in winter.



Above: The sand is spread and expertly "screeded" - levelled to provide a firm base for the new turf. Above right: At the school in Orpington, the Astro Turf hockey pitches are stripped and rolled for us.



Above: The two-metre-wide, carpet-like rolls of the turf are loaded aboard trucks that made repeated journeys around the M25 to and from Orpington, bringing 120 rolls to Harefield (above right).



Above: The shape of things to come. At the time of going to press it was estimated that the patch—much bigger than was at first envisaged—would be completed by next Wednesday, June 8th. Above right: Member Roger Darvell, whose landscaping company undertook the whole project, uses the soil and turf extracted from the field to make further inroads on the "rough" - the area of tough lumpy grass and brambles on the eastern edge of the field that makes a short landing or failed take-off a hazardous business. The whole project was properly put out to tender, but no other company was interested. See the page three for more about improvements to our field.



Above: Our old, upper access gate, frequently attacked by thieves and fly tippers, is now protected by a bank of soil, courtesy of our landlords. Below: It was originally intended that the frequency board be moved further to the right of the field but it has now been decided to mount it on the outer wall of the club house to give members less excuse for abandoning their pegs!



"On your marks, get set....." Stuart Whitehouse gets ready to give the "cleared for take-off" signal to Brian Hourican and David Orrels in the indoor flying competition at the Battle of Britain Club in mid-May. David Whiteley looks on. Ian McPherson won the competition. That was the last Battle of Britain Club meeting until October.



Above:- So big are the attendances at Harefield when flying weather is good these days that parking spaces immediately behind the pits are frequently tfull. So while they were at it, the turf layers laid down a base of firmer, compacted tarmac chips to extend the main car parking area.



Above: Peter Nielsen needs more space in his workshop, so he is offering to WLMAC members FREE OF CHARGE the undamaged airframe of his 55 inch wingspan HARMON ROCKET (above). He offers the RCV 58 four-stroke engine that powered it, the five servos and the 35 Mhz radio receiver at prices to be negotiated. This is a nice model. Call Peter on 01494 675716 or email him at pnielsen@btinternet.com

FOOTNOTE

Members may have been interested to hear that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals declared the last week in May to be "Rabbit Awareness Week." Newsletter has emailed the RSPCA to say that we at the WLMAC have been more than aware of rabbits for some time now, thank you very much.