

WLMAC Newsletter April 2019

Editor – Felix Scicluna



A fantastic turnout for our first work party of the year where we mainly concentrated on clearing the Astroturf of as much moss as possible. A big thankyou to everyone that attended.

Parish Notices

Club Rules

It's that time of year again and the Club Rules etc for 2019 have been issued to all members via email. Please take time to read and understand these (the main changes include for the flying of airships – similar rules to those for heli's). If you didn't receive these please contact Mathew. They are also displayed in the Club Hut.

Pilot's box / standing area - it's not out on the strip. There continues to be regular incidents where members have been standing out in the main flying area, whilst flying. This is not generally permitted and definitely not recommended for several good reasons - It's unsafe, not in accordance with the club rules (reduces effective communication), restricts the flying area (no pilot is allowed to fly between themselves and the pits at any time) and is distracting to the other pilots. It's one of those things that needs to be enforced, otherwise others are bound to think its ok and will do likewise. Also, we have several members that are training and we definitely don't want them copying the bad habits of others.

Whilst it may be occasionally necessary and permitted for a pilot to stand close to the plane when taking off from the patch (a test flight being an example), as soon as the plane is in the air, it is important that the pilot moves swiftly and safely to the designated area, close to any other pilot/s flying, for communication. Whilst it is permissible to stand anywhere along the paved strip, it is essential that when there is more than one pilot you must all stand together to enable comfortable and effective communication. If you need to move away, for example to get a better view for landing then make sure you communicate this to the other flyers. Members have been repeatedly spoken to concerning this important safety issue and any future failure to comply may result in disciplinary action and a possible flying suspension. If you have any queries regarding this or need any help or guidance then please contact a member of the Committee.

See WLMAC Rules C safety regulation 4 **“Stand close enough to the other pilots on the flight line so that you can communicate”**.

Up can coming Club night - Thursday 11th April is our balsa bash night with cash prizes. NB Mat isn't going to compete this year.

Car track and heli patch update

Finally, it's dried out just enough to cut the grass on both. However it's worth pointing out that while the heli patch is open for business 365 days a year the car track most certainly isn't. Typically we open that around the end of April and close it mid-December. These times are dictated by the weather and ground conditions rather than the calendar and Matt will fire out an e-mail to let you when it's open and, just as importantly, when it's closed.

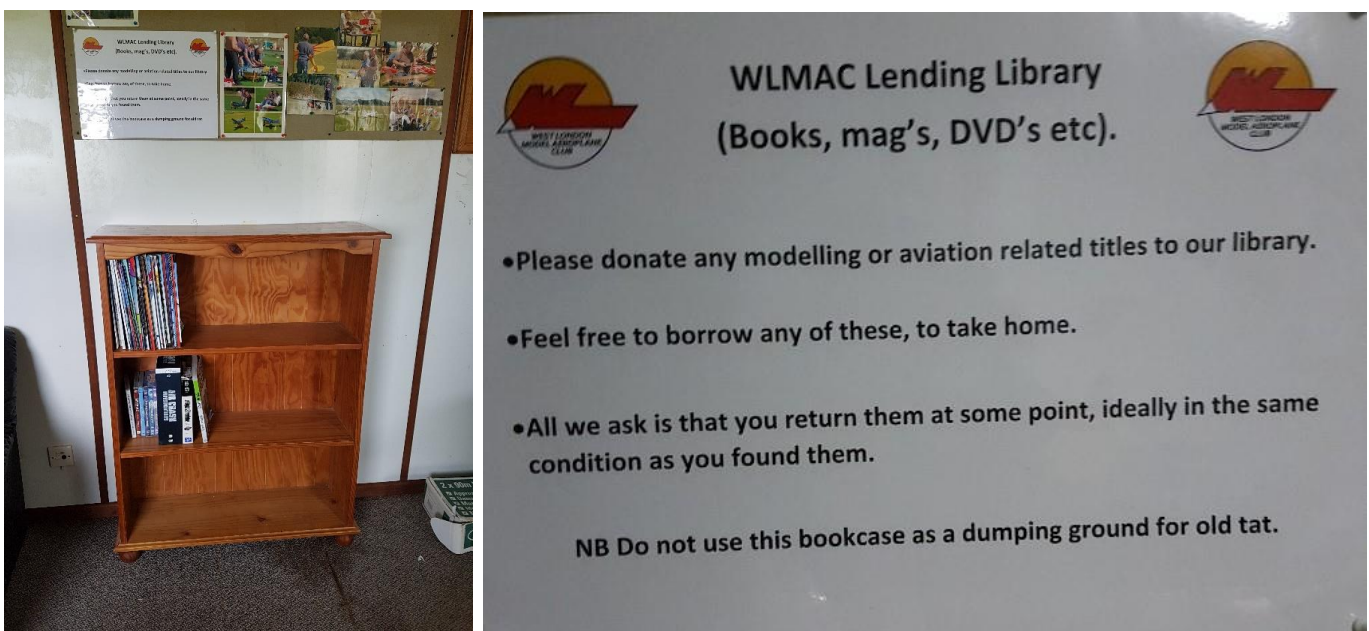
Any time soon we'll be organising a mini work party to tidy both facilities. That'll include repainting some of the markers on the car track and filling in bunny holes on both.

Finally, time for a few quick rule reminders. Both areas are electric only. No IC, no matter what time of day. Due to their proximity the heli patch and car track must not be used at the same time. No part of the heli flying area overlaps any part of

the car track (including the path to it or the pits) but as the no-fly line isn't a physical barrier you cannot fly if the track is in use or if there's any one in the pits/podium/track area. Likewise if you've turned up to use the track you can't go on it while the heli patch is being used. No one group has propriety, play nicely together. Ought not to be too difficult as around 90% of the heli pilots also own r/c cars.

Clubhouse news

Our new library has been installed. Please feel free to borrow any of the items on the shelves. Terms and conditions as per the notice above the shelves.



Paraglider incident 28th March 2019

Whilst a few of our members were tidying up for the evening a paraglider decided to pay them a visit, uninvited. On leaving he climbed to about 30 feet and crashed back on our patch close to the windsock. The paraglider ended up on top of the pilot and he appeared to be hurt. Our members called 999 and air ambulance was first on the scene followed by 3 other vehicles.

The pilot's father came over on the Friday to pick up the pieces. The damage sustained to our field was minimal, with an indentation to the Astroturf and tyre marks on the lawn from the 3 ambulances. Chairman Mat was quick to carry out

the repairs, levelling the patch and rolling the lawn. He's also been in touch with the Paraglider Association and the BMFA.

As a conciliation, one good thing came of the incident, the air ambulance landed in the middle of the patch, blowing the loose moss underneath it making the patch look much cleaner.

Since then, we have been informed that the pilot is out of hospital and on the mend.





Buggy and Truggy Racing

Saturday 9th March presented the Buggy and Truggy gang to race on the patch all afternoon as with the high winds there would be little chance of anyone turning up for a flight. A good afternoon was had by all, approximately 12 members turned up to race with various different models. We had battery power racing against nitro, the patch was covered with soft thick moss which made the going very slippery and all the cars were covered with gritty moss. The racing churned most of the moss which probably made it a bit easier to clear at the work-party.



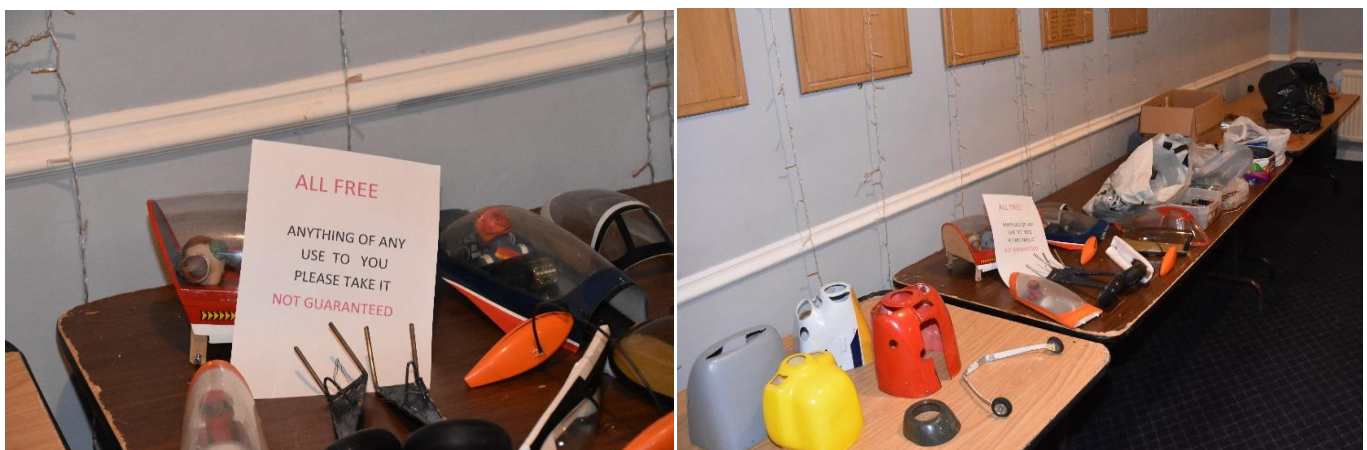
Charlie Orrells



Charlie proudly presents his well-earned Commercial Pilots Licence. Congratulations and well done Charlie. This took approx 2 years of intensive training. He's been applying for jobs and hopes to be employed as an airline pilot in the near future. We'll keep you posted on his progress.

Club Meeting

John Fowles brought in lots of old servos, receivers and various cowls and canopies to be given away, Dave Chinnery also brought in some chargers and bits mostly also to be given away.



Drone racing

Only 12 people tuned up to race and the racing was over quickly.



The final was between last year's champion Mark and Mike. Mike Won.

Work Party

Saturday 23rd we had a very good turnout of members, the carpark was full of cars and chairman Mat had decided that we were going to mainly concentrate on getting as many members as possible clearing the patch and what a difference it made. Also, a special thanks to Mike and Ashley for filling the potholes on the drive up to the patch.



After all that hard work we were all rewarded with hot soup fresh bread with cheese and nibbles.



Projects

Frank Dalby-Smith update on his Flair Puppeteer kit. Looking good Frank!



Just a quick couple of pic's to show progress & first fit of wings. They need a bit of alignment but should work out ok.

Still a lot to do and progress is likely to slow a bit as the better weather approaches.



John Smith proudly presented his Taft hobby ducted fan Jet. John Even gave us a flight display. Very nice.

New members



Above on the left we welcome Pete ledger who kindly came to help out at our work party, as I mentioned last month Pete is a novice. I watched Pete having a lesson and he is learning fast. On the right we also have a warm welcome to Darron Rodrigues who has a certificate and is a Pylon Racing champion.

Events

Date	Event	Location	Description
Thursday 11 th April	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	The Balsa bash
Thursday 9 th May	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	First Aid talk and Skills night
Sunday 9 th June	BMFA	Harefield	BMFA scale day
Wednesday 12 th June	Club meeting	Harefield	BBQ at the field
Saturday 13 th July	Work party	Harefield	Prepare the site for Fun Day

Sunday 14 th July	Fun Day	Harefield	Annual family Fun Day
Wednesday 14 th August	Club meeting	Harefield	BBQ at the field
Wednesday 11 th September	Club meeting	Harefield	BBQ at the field
Thursday 10 th October	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	Guest speaker
Thursday 14 th November	Club meeting	Uxbridge Golf Club	Quiz night
Thursday 12 th December	AGM	Uxbridge Golf Club	Membership renewals
Thursday 12 th December	Christmas meal	Uxbridge Golf Club	Partners are welcome but are required to pay full price of meal