

# WLMAC Newsletter

January 2025



## Club AGM

The Club held its AGM on the 12th December at the Golf Club. This was after plenty of members had enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal, so another good turnout.

The AGM used to be where members queued up to pay their subscriptions but with electronic banking very few now pay on the night. Stuart and Roy were able to take the payments easily this year.



During the AGM our Club Chairman Mat gave his annual review with lots of thank you's and much applause, Stuart explained the healthy finances. Then, as required by our constitution, the Committee all stood down and the elections took place for another year. There were a couple of changes to the Committee, Colin stepped down, then Peter Adams and I (David Orrells) were voted on. Mat will continue as Chairman and the other roles will be agreed at the next Committee meeting in January. If you don't know who the members are or what they look like, check them out using the mugshot facility on the website, where there is a separate section for the Committee.

Following the formal voting there was a discussion about Club membership with the concern that the Club seeming on occasion to be getting a bit busy at Harefield. The discussion wandered over several areas with a wide range of

opinions being offered. Rest assured, this will continue to be monitored by the Committee. Training was also discussed, with Mat “selling “ the various benefits of helping with our excellent club scheme. Again, lots of suggestions were tendered from the floor and several members have offered to help which is excellent and much appreciated.

As the New Year approaches, please be mindful that you cannot fly at the field in 2025 after December 31<sup>st</sup> unless you have paid your subscription fees. This is linked to your BMFA membership, which of course covers your insurance. So, if you haven't paid, please contact Stuart as soon as possible.



During the AGM there was the new and exciting "Mugshot Raffle" which was won by Rowen. He won a £50 gift voucher for use at Align T-rex models in Slough. To be included in this raffle, your photo has to be in the 'Mugshots' on the Club website. If your photo is not there, please send a picture to me or Felix and we'll make sure it's uploaded.

The Tony B Tuning award was presented this year to James P. This award is based on the person who has done something outstanding and leaning towards the use of I.C. engines.



**Adrian S** has been inducted to the Pickeridge hall of fame, here he is with Felix.



## Mehdi's Jumper.

Mehdi passed his A test recently and is busy practising and improving his flying skills. Alas, he managed to get himself slightly disorientated the other day and his Jumper 25 crashed just behind the Pilots box. Mehdi did the right thing and filled out a Safety Occurrence Report so that any lessons can be learnt. It's a situation we've all been in, especially just after passing our test.



## The Entrance Gate

As was reported before, the gate lock cable was cut at Harefield last month and one of the containers near the canal was burgled. This prompted us to review the gate security and we found a mobile welder to repair the gate. This had been damaged by a lorry a few years ago and the cable was a quick fix that lasted years. The welder extended the locking bar so that the

padlock once again fits inside the protective box. Could the first person to arrive, lock the padlock to the gate and then use the combination lock for the day.





We have two locks, the keyed padlock is for when there is no-one there, it's a stronger lock. The combination lock is for when someone is flying at the field. The reason is so that if we need the emergency services we can pass over them the code allowing them to drive all the way up to the Hut. If we didn't use a combination lock, the emergency services would be stuck at the gate or would cut the lock off. In the perfect world we'd send someone down to let them in, but maybe you are there alone or just two of you? Hence why we use a combination lock when people are at the field.

It was a dull day, the Saturday before Christmas, windy and grey. However, a few of the more hardy types were at the field.



Mehdi asked Mat to test fly his plane the other day, all was well until the covering gave way. Mat knew there was something wrong and landed as quickly as possible. It was only when he landed that we saw the extent of the problem.