

# *From the Pits*

The Newsletter of the Weston Model Flying Club

April 2008

[www.wmfclub.co.uk](http://www.wmfclub.co.uk)



## **Editorial**

### ***A new look***

Well a slightly new look to the newsletter front page anyway. The previous header had been that way for the last 6 years or so, so it was time for a change. Similarly the website has had a bit of an overhaul, more details inside.

Our social scene is very lively these days, with a popular skittles evening last month, and now a treasure hunt is planned for June. Details on this are on page 5.

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## **Club Meetings**

As most of you know we've been meeting at the Memorial Hall in Congresbury for the last few months since our previous venue was closed for refurbishment. We've now decided to stay at the Memorial Hall for the foreseeable future. See the last page for location if you've not been there yet.

Remember however that the June, July and August meetings will be at the field as always.

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## **Field Layout**

Following on from the article in the last issue on the new field layout, it has been decided to use two green stakes to mark the pilot boxes instead of cutting them into the grass. A third stake will also be used to mark the take-off point. Thus if the wind is across the field the take-off point should be about half-way up the field so that planes do not pass close to other pilots when taking off.

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## **Field Improvements**

The club has received a Lottery grant for £2750 towards a new clubhouse. Thanks are due to several members of the committee who have worked hard to achieve this. The clubhouse will be based on a 40 foot container and will be sited by the rhyne, exact position still to be determined. This should be a major improvement to the club's facilities when it's installed.

## Indoor Flying



One advantage of the Memorial Hall venue is the large room adjacent to the meeting room, where indoor flying is possible. We've had a couple of sessions after the meetings. And yes, that really is **Pat Teakle** flying a helicopter...



**Dave Cuff** brought along a selection of electric helicopters

**John Stennard**, our guest speaker at the March meeting, flew some extremely small planes and helicopters



## Radio Control TV (coming soon?)

Those of you with broadband internet may like to check out this site: <http://www.radiocontroltv.com/> promises an internet TV site dedicated to RC models. However it's not on the air yet and has been that way at least since I discovered it a couple of months ago, so a cynical view is that it may come to nothing. Still perhaps worth dropping in every now and then to check on progress.

## Tuition for Novices

Our current membership has taken off over the last few months which is very encouraging but it has raised another problem. Out of our membership almost a third are novices. This could present difficulties in the future with some new pilots missing out on tuition and leaving our sport.

The potential problem has been addressed and we believe a solution has been found. In the past we have relied on a few to teach the many and we thank amongst others **Ivan Sterment** and **Pat Teakle** who have willingly given their time to teach others.

There is an old saying – many hands make light work – and we have enlisted about a dozen other members to give tuition. **Gerry Crossman** has put together a schedule and flight log which should help newcomers to pass their “A” test and the Committee has agreed to adopt it.

The idea is that you are allocated an individual instructor (although if unavailable at any time your flight log will enable another instructor to take over) and it will be up to the two of you to arrange between yourselves suitable flying times. You will also be issued with a copy of “Up and away” from the BMFA which gives valuable information about other things not covered by our own schedule. We hope that this structured tuition will enable a novice to be a competent flyer in a relatively short time but this will vary between individuals.

If you are interested in having individual tuition please complete the form and return it to the Tuition Co-ordinator **Mike Barnett** who will organise an instructor for you. A sample form is shown on the next page, or you can get it from the website at [www.wmclub.co.uk/training.html](http://www.wmclub.co.uk/training.html)

**Gerry Crossman**

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## ARTF Build Quality



Recently an ARTF model came apart in the air when in level flight with no significant aerobatic loads. An inspection showed that not only was the wing brace little wider than the fuselage, but there was hardly any glue on it.

The problem with ARTF models is that you can't see the internal construction to check on this sort of thing.

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE MODEL FLYING CLUB**  
**APPLICATION FOR TUITION.**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO FLY WITH INSTRUCTION BY A CLUB TUTOR PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE TUITION CO-ORDINATOR, MIKE BARNETT AT 55 WESTBROOK ROAD, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, NORTH SOMERSET BS22 8JY.

YOUR NAME:

ADDRESS:

EVENING TELEPHONE NUMBER:

HAVE YOU DONE ANY RC MODEL FLYING IN THE PAST YES/NO \*  
IF SO, GIVE DETAILS AND APPROXIMATE DATES:

DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MODEL YES/NO\*  
IF SO, PLEASE GIVE DETAILS

DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN RADIO CONTROL EQUIPMENT YES/NO\*  
IF SO, PLEASE GIVE DETAILS INCLUDING MAKE, FREQUENCY AND MODE.

WHEN ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR TUITION WEEKDAYS/WEEKENDS/ANYTIME\*

**I AGREE THAT THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE DONE TO MY PLANE, RADIO OR ANY OTHER EQUIPMENT. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984 I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO INFORMATION SUPPLIED BEING HELD ON COMPUTERS**

PLEASE SIGN AND DATE : .....

\* Please cross out which is not applicable

## Web Site

If you've not already noticed, the website has been updated as the previous design had been with us for over 3 years.

The new site is based on a modern public-domain template which means that it conforms to modern Web standards and will be much easier to maintain and expand in the future.

There is a small Gallery page which will be expanded in the coming months. If you have any pictures for it, or indeed any other content for the website, please let me know.

Of course, if you're reading this via the website then you already know all this, because you're reading a description of the website from within the newsletter from within the website....



## Car Treasure Hunt

We are going to run a new event for us - a treasure hunt. It will involve driving approximately 15 to 20 miles around North Somerset and finding solutions to a number of clues en route. It's not a race so there is no need to speed about the lanes but hopefully it's something that you will enjoy. We will end up somewhere for some snacks, the results and perhaps a game of skittles.



It will be held on Saturday 7th June and you will be able to commence between 6 and 7 pm. The start point will be advised when you book in with **Gerry Crossman** on 07989 313474. The cost - £5 each person to include supper. We will also be running a draw on the night and would welcome prize donations.

We hope you will join us and help make this new venture a success for your Club. Please ring Gerry before the end of May for catering purposes.

**Gerry Crossman**

## New Trophy

It was decided at the AGM that a new award will be made for the 'Most Improved Pilot of the Year'. Following that decision, a new trophy has been kindly donated by our president **Robin Muir**, and will be awarded at or after the next AGM.

## Casualties



When **Pete Richards'** large Sukhoi unfortunately met its end in a big way, it was only the start of his problems... The nose landed exactly in the middle of a large cow pat, leading to Pete having to rinse off the engine in the water trough. To make matters worse he then got stuck climbing through the gate...



Photos by **Paul Lathall**

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## Vista

About three years ago I bought a laptop with Windows XP; later I bought a Great Planes 'Realflight' Generation 2 simulator. All worked well. Recently the laptop died so I bought a replacement with Windows Vista. The simulator would not run so I contacted the Great Planes website. After providing all the required information I received very promptly an e-mail containing the following:

"I regret the problems you are experiencing. However, the G2 software is not supported under Windows Vista. It maybe works if you disable the User Access control ...at your own risk."

**BE WARNED!!**

Would anyone still on XP like to make an offer for the G2?

**Roy Shaw.**

## Building Tips

You probably all know this, but I only recently found out that a very good alternative to lightweight balsa filler is this stuff: Polycell One Fill Polyfilla, as sold in the DIY sheds. It's very lightweight and appears to be essentially the same thing as what's sold in the model shops.

Make sure you get the right one, but it should be obvious, it's several times lighter than the other 'normal' fillers on the shelf!



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## Email

Just my usual occasional reminder that if you're getting this by normal post instead of email it's because we don't have your correct email address. If you change email address, as many people do, please be sure to let me and the membership secretary know so that we can update our records.

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## Biplanes Again



You'll all recognise these biplanes by now; not only are they on your 2008 membership card but also on the heading of the new web site, not to mention frequently to be seen flying in formation at the field. They are of course the Gypsy Moths of **Pat Teakle** and **Mike Barnett**. And rumour has it that a third Gypsy Moth of similar size and colour scheme is now in existence. Should be quite a sight to have all 3 in the air at once.

## Seen at the Field



**Andrew McIntosh's** new Hangar9 Raptor, although prop powered, looks very much the part in the air, and apparently flies like a trainer.

The new Chris Foss trainer, known simply as the Wot Trainer, is proving very popular with at least 5 examples that I've seen already. Unlike previous Chris Foss designs, this one features a built-up wing and is made in China, as are most ARTFs these days.



The downside of such wings is of course that if they hit the ground hard there's not much left to repair...



Very nice large Tiger Moth from new member **Mike Healey**. Although new to our club, Mike has been a well-known member of Woodspring Wings for many years.



## Competition Corner

### **Anagrams**

See if you can unscramble these anagrams; the solutions are all words or phrases which occur somewhere in this newsletter.

1. Cove In
2. It Be Sew
3. Real Idiot
4. Western Let
5. Aliases Cut
6. A Retro Twin
7. Electing Bums
8. Pet Firm Shot
9. Dying For Loin
10. Elfish Attendee
11. Clerk Sawn Twice
12. Overfed Simple Mint
13. Uncombed Towellings Fly

### **Jigsaw**

See if you can identify this aircraft from the jumbled part photos.



Answers to both competitions next issue.

**Martin Sarong**

## Events

Forthcoming events this year:

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2008 8pm	Club meeting at the <b>Memorial Hall</b>
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> Jun 2008 8pm	Club meeting at the field
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jul 2008 8pm	Club meeting at the field
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2008	Woodspring Wings show

## Club Meeting Venue



All club meetings apart from those in the summer months are normally at the **Memorial Hall**, High Street, Congresbury. If you're coming from Weston, turn right at the traffic lights, park in the pub car park immediately on your left, and the hall is just a few yards further along High St.

The summer meetings (June, July & August) are at the field at Wick St Lawrence.

## How to contact the Editor

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Thanks to **Steve O'Brien** for printing and distribution.

The Newsletter is issued (with luck!) 4 times a year, at the end of January, April, July and October. Any contributions should be sent to the editor by the middle of that month.

## And Finally...

The ladder which is kept in the club container was definitely a worthwhile investment...

