

From the Pits

www.wmfclub.co.uk

April 2012

Editorial

After a glorious month for flying in March, April has been rather a washout, fairly literally. Still, for those of us into building, it's a chance for some time in the workshop.

The Fun-Fly competitions are back this year; the first two are described here, and more are likely this summer. Hope to see you all joining in!

Club Meetings

Just a reminder that the meetings from April to September are at the field. It is also confirmed that we will be returning to the Memorial Hall, Congresbury next winter for the October through to March meetings.

Woodspring Wings 2012

Planning for this is well advanced. **Pete Richards** will be manning a WMFC Club stand at the show, and will no doubt be wanting assistance during the weekend.

Field Improvements

It had been a while since anyone landed in the rhyne, but **Dave Tremelling's** recent immersion (of his plane that is) has prompted some consideration of what would happen if someone did fall in. With current health and safety regulations in mind, it has been decided to provide a lifebelt for use in emergencies.



The lifebelt is attached to the side of the bridge, so in the event of a club member falling in, throw the lifebelt to him while holding on to the other end of the rope. If you can't pull him out, just tie the rope to the railings so he doesn't float away.

Fun-Fly Events

This year has seen the resurrection, at least in spirit, of the Fun-Fly competitions of old. This time there is no formal league, but occasional events for fun. First off in late March was a Limbo competition, organised by **Dave Beacham**. A paper tape was stretched across the field between two stakes, and all we had to do was fly under it. Simple you may think, but the paper tape, carefully chosen so as not to damage the planes, was then tied to two enormous steel posts hammered deep into the ground and definitely not movable... And there were extra points for bursting balloons tied to the ground.

Ivan tried to score extra points by flying inverted but couldn't quite make it under the tape. Several of us managed to hit the posts (it's quite easy really...) but **Mike Stinchcombe** provided the most spectacular impact, doing a pirouette at least 3 times around before coming to rest.

In the end it was all for fun and I can't quite remember who won, probably anyone whose plane survived the carnage...



The next event two weeks later was a Streamer Cut, again organised by Dave, who flew his Kadet with a paper streamer attached which the others were invited to cut. Again, easier said than done, although several cuts were made. As you can see the planes got rather close at times; in fact so close that Jamie's prop became embedded in Dave's wing! But both landed safely.



More competitions are planned. In fact as I write this on the last Sunday in April one was planned for today, but the gale force winds are just easing, the rain is still bucketing down and I think it's a fair bet that today's has been cancelled. I'm not going along to find out...



Donated Planes and Parts

Recently our secretary **Tom Flynn** received a donation to the club from a **David Wilmott** from Axbridge, who was a keen flyer until bad health and the passing of time put a stop to his hobby. According to Tom he is an ex pilot (now too old) who has lived and flown all over the world, and made a living being a pilot for many airlines stretching from Qantas to BMI.

The last few models he had, all electric, have been listed on the For Sale page of the website. The remaining bits have been listed on eBay and what to do with the proceeds from these sales will be decided when the amount is known.

Club Fuel

This now available again, Formula Irvine Contest 10, but due to wholesale price increases it is now £19 per gallon.

Please note that all fuel bought must be paid for in full, cash only – no credit! Payment must be to one of the keyholders: **Ron Bebe, Mike Pope or Dave & Trish Beacham**. Please make sure you have the correct money ready, since change is not always available.

Seen at the Field

A collection of Kamcos. **Jamie Cuff** with his Kossack biplane and Kavalier, both classic kits from the 1970s brought back to life!



And there are more Kamco models to come. It seems as if almost everyone has a Kadet now, and my Kavalier is coming along, see later.



Proposed Clubhouse Improvement

Dear Members,

I would like to submit the following idea for discussion. I believe that the club and its facilities have come a long way over the years I've been a member (for that I thank all the hard work done by everyone) and I don't see any reason to stop.

To this end I would like to submit to you an idea I had recently. The idea is to basically add to the currently container club house another tier creating an inside/outside viewing platform on the roof. The extra space could be used as a dinner area with uninterrupted views away from the elements or on the roof platform when the sun's out.

Before you dismiss the idea out of hand please just stop and think about it.

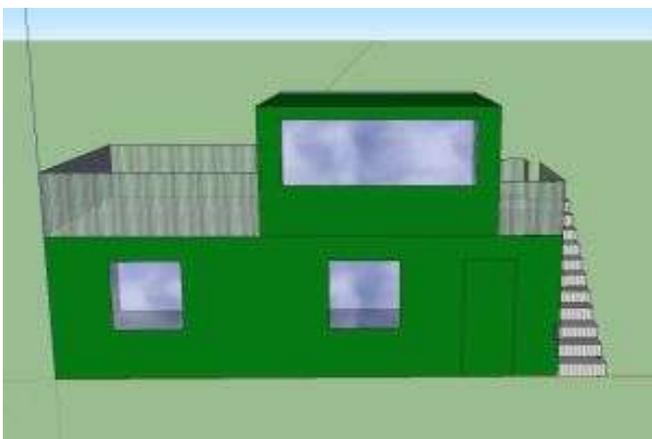
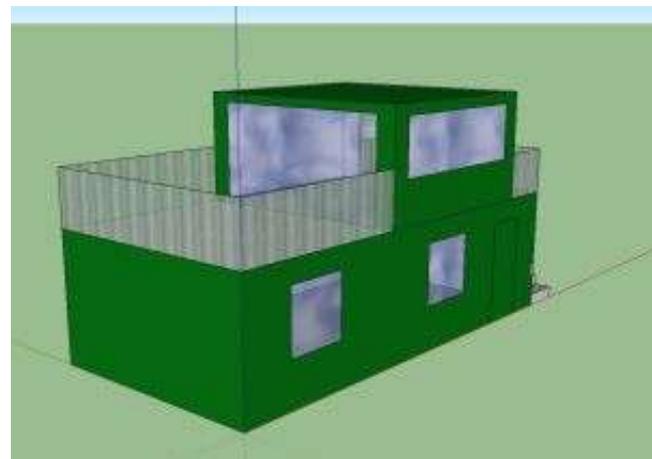
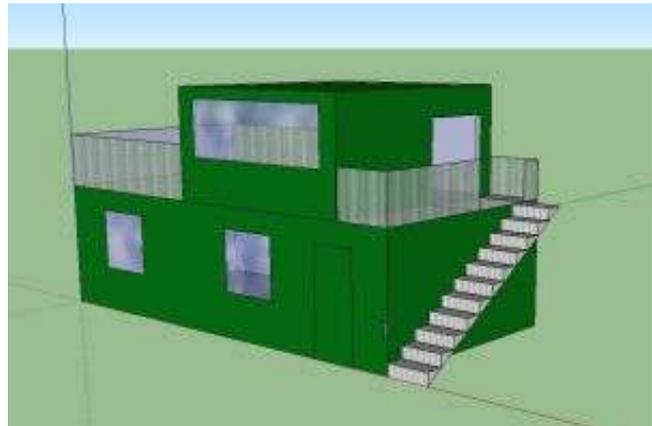
And before you cry "and how do we pay for it" lets fund it from the Woodspring Show windfall this year.

I've included some simple sketches to show you what I mean. Pictures paint a thousand words and all that!

I look forward to your considered feedback.

Happy Flying

Alan



BMFA Area Examiners Meeting

This will be held at the field on Saturday 19th May. The morning will be for fixed wing A and B certificate schedules/tests and the afternoon will cover the same for helicopters. There will be a BBQ during the day, with Trish doing teas.

Anyone who would like to take their A-, B- or even C-test on fixed-wing or helis should contact **Mike Pope** or **Dave Beacham** before then. Please note that there may be minor restrictions on general flying in that no-one else can fly when a test is being taken, but this should not cause any problems.

From the Workshop

Once again I've put aside the scale models to build a sports one; this time a Kamco Kavalier from parts kindly provided by **Jamie Cuff**.

The Kavalier was one of a series of kits produced by Clevedon-based company Kamco in the 1970s, others being the Kadet trainer, Kossack biplane, and Kloudrider glider.

Jamie supplied a copy of the original plan and a set of laser-cut parts for the ribs, formers, fuselage sides etc. In the workshop I had enough balsa for just about all the required strip and sheet, plus a spare engine, tank, wheels, even down to the spinner and prop! In the end I just had to make one trip to the model shop for some undercarriage wire and the covering.

Construction is fairly straightforward as was the Kamco style; slab-sided fuselage and constant-chord wing with only the stringered fuselage top and the nose front to give any rounded look. I stuck fairly close to the original except for the wing attachment, where I used dowels and nylon bolts instead of the rubber bands of the original. One servo was used to drive both ailerons, even though the torque rods are rather long; I did consider using separate servos but that seemed a bit too radical on a 'Retro' model!

I spent some time carefully doing the built-up tailplane, only for it to warp badly, so I replaced it with a simple 6mm sheet version which ended up about the same weight. Balsa pushrods were used of course, somehow they are more satisfying than using plastic snakes.

The engine is the JEN37 from Just Engines – I wasn't too impressed with it the first time, but I'll give it another chance with better glow-plug and fuel. We'll see...

Covering is yellow Pro-Film, trim yet to be decided. Jamie's version flies like a dream so I hope this one will too. Watch out for photos on the website in the very near future.



Events

Forthcoming events this year and next:

Date	Event
Thursday 3 rd May 2012 8pm	Club meeting at the Field
Saturday 19 th May 2012	Examiners Day at the Field
Thursday 7 th June 2012 8pm	Club meeting at the Field
Thursday 5 th July 2012 8pm	Club meeting at the Field
Sat / Sun 7-8 July 2012	Woodspring Wings Show

Website

Don't forget that all previous issues of the newsletter since I started doing it (back in October 2001!) are available on the club website www.wmfclub.co.uk. I also try to keep the Gallery section reasonably current with photos taken when I'm at the field, and finally don't forget the For Sale section where you can add your own For Sale and Wanted adverts.

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, and the hall is just a few yards further along High St.

The summer meetings (April to September) are at the field at Wick St Lawrence.

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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.