

From the Pits

The Newsletter of the Weston Model Flying Club

May 2014

www.wmfclub.co.uk



Editorial

Dave Cuff from Weston-Super-Models has retired after 25 years at the shop. Dave has been very supportive of our club, often donating equipment, giving generous discounts, and bringing models to show at club nights. We all wish him a happy retirement.

The Forum on the club website is now the main repository for minutes and the place for discussion of any activities. If you haven't registered yet, contact me for the invitation code. There are some tips in this newsletter to help you use it more effectively.

Club Etiquette

A couple of reminders on good practice at the club:

1. **Please leave the site as you found it!** This means cleaning up, washing any cups you have used, returning chairs and cushions to the clubhouse etc.
 2. **Don't forget to put your card on the pegboard.** Although most people now use 2.4GHz this still applies, and you should peg your card to the top of the pegboard.
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Examiners Day

Unfortunately the Examiners day scheduled for Saturday May 10th had to be cancelled due to bad weather. At the time of writing it had not yet been re-scheduled.

Mobile Phones

At the last AGM in November we agreed to drop the club rule forbidding mobile phones in the pits because it was un-enforceable, widely ignored, and the risk was thought to be very small. However a recent issue of BMFA News which reminded members that the BMFA advice remains to avoid their use re-ignited the debate, and we asked the BMFA a specific question: "Does the possession of a mobile phone on the flight-line invalidate our BMFA insurance in any way?" The reply was:

"no, it doesn't affect the insurance provided as part of the BMFA Membership. However that fact doesn't affect the potential legal responsibilities that we are all subject to, and every incident or accident is investigated on an individual basis by the CAA, there would be nothing to stop the prosecution of a model flyer if a mobile phone was proven to be a factor in a serious incident."

There was further clarification about the insurance implications in the June BMFA News: basically you are still insured if you are 'acting lawfully'. So the club position is still that mobiles are not forbidden, but the BMFA advice is to avoid having them around models.

Dave Cuff - Weston-Super-Models

The 29th of May saw the end of an era for Weston modellers as **Dave Cuff** of Weston-Super-Models retired and closed the shop.

Dave set up the business just over 25 years ago after a long career with Westland. In busy times he has been assisted in the shop by son Jamie and also by Ted Richardson and Trevor Hoskins.



In Dave's time at the shop he's had quite a few memorable requests. Like the time when Jeffrey Archer's mum came in and asked if he had a model of a bull-nosed Morris car. When told that he didn't, she asked "Can you make me one?" So Dave did exactly that. The man himself came in later to thank Dave for his efforts.

Then there was the time when the robotic Dusty Bin from the 3-2-1 TV game show with Ted Rogers developed a fault and was rushed to the shop for repair in time for the show.

One of his most difficult challenges came from the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), these days known as QinetiQ. They wanted a model plane to collect rocket exhaust samples. Dave not only had to build such a plane but also teach the DERA personnel how to fly it. As is common with such projects the requirements grew and grew until it was hardly a model any more.

The young princes Will & Harry, with minder, once visited the shop, although Dave didn't recognise them until they left, and it's not recorded what they bought...

Finally all of us at the club wish Dave a happy retirement and hope we'll see him down at the field a lot more.



Field Improvements

If you've been to the field at all in the last month or so you will no doubt have seen the changes which have taken place. Firstly we have a new and much enlarged car park, now with hard standing almost to the edge of the rhyne.



Then you will notice that the bridge has been re-treated with preservative, and that the clubhouse has been painted and also raised up on blocks, as the timbers it was resting on were beginning to rot. Thanks to **Mike Pope** for organising all this, and to many members who turned out for the working party on May 17th to do the painting. Thanks also to **Angela Lamb**, wife of **John**, for providing refreshments to the workers!



Finally we now have a 12v cool box to keep the milk cool during the summer, which is awaiting connection to the solar charging batteries.

Club Website

The Forum is now the main source of club information and records. Hence the old 'Members Area' has been removed, and all past minutes (since we started putting them online in May 2011) are now stored in the Forum / Club / Resources.

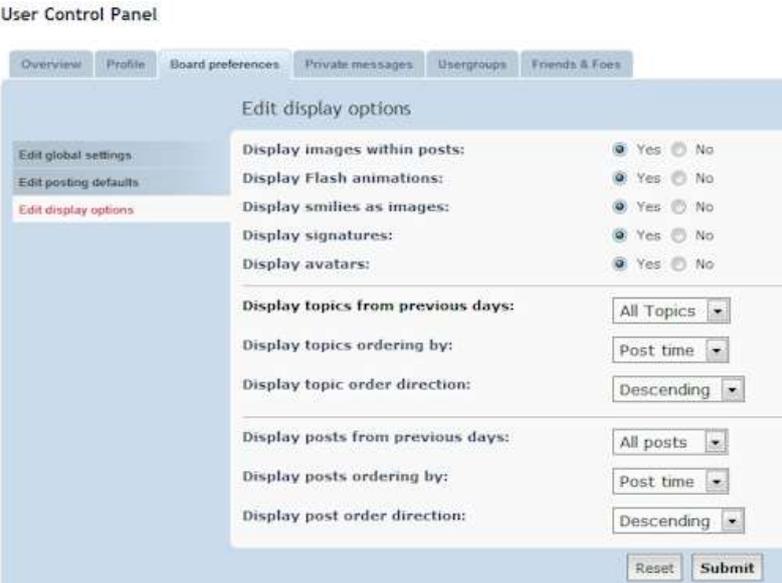
Here are a few tips for getting the most out of the Forum.

Reverse threads: by default posts are placed in Ascending order, so the first is at the top and subsequent posts appear below it. After 10 posts a new page is automatically created; in long threads this means you have to go to the last page and scroll down to find the latest entry. However you can change your settings to Descending order so that the latest posts are always shown first. Go to the **User Control Panel**, click on **Board preferences** at the top and **Edit display options on the left**. The last entry is **Display post order direction**. Set it to Descending.

Password Reset; if you forget your password, click on the word LOGIN on the Forum page. This takes you to the full Login page where there is an entry **I forgot my password**, the purpose of which should be fairly obvious!

Subscribe to topics / forums: almost at the very bottom of the page there is an option to Subscribe to a forum or topic. Clicking on this will cause an email to be sent to you whenever a new post is made in the forum or topic.

To change your registered email address or password, go to the **User Control Panel** and select **Profile / Edit account settings**. Just above this are pages where you can add or edit your signature (which appears at the end of any post you make) and your avatar (the small picture or logo which appears at the left of your post by your username).



The screenshot shows the 'User Control Panel' with the 'Board preferences' tab selected. The 'Edit display options' section is active, showing various settings for forum display. The settings are as follows:

Setting	Value
Display images within posts:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display Flash animations:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display smilies as images:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display signatures:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display avatars:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Display topics from previous days:	All Topics
Display topics ordering by:	Post time
Display topic order direction:	Descending
Display posts from previous days:	All posts
Display posts ordering by:	Post time
Display post order direction:	Descending

Buttons: Reset, Submit

There are a number of other settings available via the User Control Panel, take a few minutes to look around it. You get there by clicking on the text at top left, just under **Board Index**.

SU37 Parkjet Build

Some of you may have seen the Bandits that a few of us made and flew last year – using 6mm depron foam sheet and the plans downloaded from Parkjets.com. I think Ian's is still flying, but sadly the two I made both came to a sticky end (well a wet end in one case actually – fortunately no pictures!)

So what do you do with two 2200kv motors and a carbon rod on a winters evening (no this is not a fetish joke) – answer build yourself a twin, vectored thrust, semi scale SU37.

Building these foam jets really is straightforward. Download your plan from Parkjets, print it in tiled format, stick the resulting A4 sheets together, cut out the templates, stick them on to your foam depron sheet, cut out the parts, score and fold where shown and glue them all together – easy! It took me a week of evenings to make the SU37 – including the painting. Take care with your choice of paint though – emulsion works fine – and it's amazing what can be achieved with a one inch brush and some masking tape!

6mm depron sheet and carbon tubing (to reinforce as necessary) are both cheap and available on Ebay. You'll also need foam safe CA and/or hot melt glue.

The SU37 uses the cheap (blue) 9gm servos also available on Ebay. As the motors are mounted on the tailerons to give the vectored thrust, more robust servos are needed. I went for two Hitec HS82 MG. She'll fly on tailerons only – but I've added ailerons and rudders too (only because I had more spare servos from the Bandits!).

I am using a 2600 3S Lipo, which gives approx 5 mins duration. She flies really well, very agile and will 'cobra' like the real one.



One last tip – add some wire triangle shaped ‘legs’ to the rear of the jet pipes – so that the props and tailerons are lifted clear of the ground – saves the props and stops the servos stripping their gears if you knock the tailerons on landing – ‘been there done that’ as they say.



Pete Richards

Casualties

Two of the models featured in the last issue are no longer with us: **Mike Pope's** Kawasaki which I originally built ended up somewhere in the middle of this hedge, with **Paul Lathall** at the controls, a fast low pass that was rather too low!



And my Turbo Raven didn't get very far at all. In hindsight it was too heavy and just wallowed around with no effective lateral control until the inevitable descent into the trees. No-one else to blame here! Although the fuselage looks fairly intact in this photo it's a typical ARTF in that the covering is intact but the internal structure has shattered.

BMFA Grants

The BMFA Western Area has some money available for grants to local clubs to make improvements. At the May BMFA meeting we put forward a proposal for further improvements to the site for winter access, involving ring-matting to prevent the ground in the pits are from being churned up. At the time of writing these proposals were still being considered.

Events

Forthcoming events this year and next:

Date	Event
Thursday 5 th June 2014 8pm	Club meeting at the Field
Thursday 3 rd July 2014 8pm	Club meeting at the Field
Saturday 5 th & Sunday 6 th July	Woodspring Wings Show
Thursday 7 th August 2014 8pm	Club meeting at the Field

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.wmclub.co.uk. I also try to keep the Gallery section reasonably current with photos taken when I'm at the field, there is now a forum to exchange ideas and experience, 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 in the winter months (October to March) 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.

How to contact the Editor

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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.