

From the Pits.

The Newsletter of the Weston Model Flying Club

www.wmfclub.co.uk

October 2006

Editorial

Sorry the newsletter is a bit late again, but it does give me a chance to include a report on the AGM which took place in November.



It's nice to see that we have an increasing number of junior members, a couple of whom are featured in the newsletter this time.

Club Meetings

Several events have been arranged for future club meetings. On December 7th **Roy Shaw** will give a talk on meteorology. In the January 4th meeting **Pat Teakle** will talk about his Druine Turbulent model and give us some tips on construction and finishing models. Apparently Pat has constructed some parts for the model (hopefully not structural ones!) out of everyday items such as baked bean tins and cereal boxes. Pat may possibly talk about his Schneider Trophy Racers as well.

AGM Report

The AGM took place on Thursday 2nd November with 32 members present. The club fees for 2007 were set as shown below, the total being a slight increase on this year.

Membership Type	BMFA	Club	Field Fund	Total
Full members:	£27	£38	£40	£105
OAPs:	£27	£18	£40	£85
Juniors (below 18 years)	£14	£0	£0	£14

The committee saw little change with **Robin Muir** re-elected as chairman. The full list is given on page 2.

The no-smoking rule was originally introduced at last year's EGM but this was judged invalid as it had not been pre-announced. However at the AGM a proposal to uphold the rule was correctly introduced, voted on and passed with a large majority. Hence all club meetings are to be non-smoking.

The club has agreed in principle with the farmer to negotiate a new 10 year lease. However this does not remove the club's aim to purchase a field. More details will be given as the situation becomes clearer.

Finally the raffle prize of an ARTF plane was won by **Ralph Foster**.

2007 Committee

Title	Name	Phone	Email Address
President	Alan Meaney	01934 813957	alanmeaney@f2s.com
Chairman	Robin Muir	01275844046	robinmuir.homestead@virgin.net
Vice Chairman	Ivan Steerment	07775 981 677	isteerment@yahoo.co.uk
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Membership Sec	Dave McCartney	01934644046	dave@fuzzybrush.me.uk
Social Secretary	Ron Bebe	01934838131	ron.bebe@homecall.co.uk
Chief Safety Officer	Mike Pope	01934 516869	m.pope180@btinternet.com
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Club Examiner	Paul Lathall	07977 412615	plathall@hotmail.com
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Auditor	Mike Ling	01934625303	sally@ling23.fsnet.co.uk
Auditor	Paul Lathall	07977 412615	plathall@hotmail.com

Clubman of the Year

This year the award for the club member who has put most effort into the club was shared between **Ivan Steerment** and **Ron Bebe**, both very worthy winners.

Casualties

There don't seem to be many entries for Casualties at the moment, either because of better flying or perhaps because most people arrange their crashes when I'm not there with my camera...

Anyway the only embarrassment lately was my own Acrowot which lost its undercarriage not once but twice in the same afternoon. My excuse is that they don't make nylon bolts like they used to...



Training

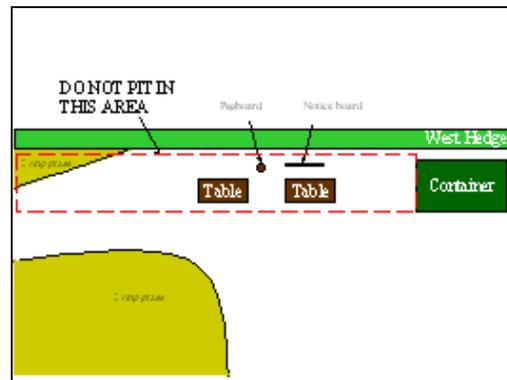
For much of the last year or so **Ivan Steerment** has done far more than his fair share of teaching newcomers to fly. Now however, Ivan is no longer able to devote the same amount of time and more volunteers are required to ‘buddy up’ with novice flyers. If you can help please let the committee know.

Safety (1)

As we’ve said several times in this newsletter and at the club meeting, **no mobile phones are to be taken into the pits**. A notice saying “No mobiles beyond this point” is now attached to the gate, so please observe it!

Safety (2)

You should not pit between the container and the patch, alongside the tables and the pegboard, in the area shown in red dotted lines in the diagram here.



September Social Event

The social / family day was held successfully and made a profit of £106 on the day. However, **Steve O’Brian** reported that vandals had burned down the portable toilet used for the social / family day. The Club is expected to be liable for £500 of the replacement cost.

The social / family day Raffle Draw was won by **Richard Newcombe** and the runner up was **Steve Ball**. The prizes were a bottle of wine each.



The meeting agreed that the Club should organise another social / family day for Sunday 28th July 2007 (to be confirmed) with camping and a hog roast.

Mike Pope

Skittles Evening



A repeat of last year's highly successful event has been scheduled for Saturday 20th January 2007, starting at 7.30 for 8.00pm. Tickets will be £12.50 per head to include Supper and entry in the raffle draw. The venue once again is the Red Cow pub, Brent Knoll.

Tickets are available from **Ron Bebe**, **Alan Meaney** and **Mike Ling** (see the Committee table on page 2 for contact details). Numbers will be limited to 50.

Quiz

See how many planes you can name with elliptical wings apart from the Spitfire / Seafire (too easy!).

Give yourself:

1 point for a British plane

2 for a German plane,

3 for a Japanese one,

4 for an American one, and

10 points for such a plane from any other country (I couldn't find one). Answers (at least the ones I know of) next issue.



2.4 Ghz Is On Its Way



This is the latest in radio technology and could see the demise of the frequency board (no more shooting down of your favourite model), waiting for a frequency, loading the wrong plane on your radio and flying away with reversed ailerons etc. etc.

Dave Cuff at **Weston Super Models** has some of these coming in, English spec, so just in time for Crimbo. Worth a look!

<http://www.horizonhobby.com/Products/Default.aspx?ProdID=SPM2710>

Mike Pope

Surprise for Club's Youngest Member

When ex club member **Cyril Jenkins** decided to leave the hobby completely, he had a large amount of planes and equipment to dispose of. Fortunately through an email circulated to the club members he managed to sell or give away most of his stock.

As a "thank-you" to the club Cyril decided to donate a Cessna plane to the club's youngest member. This turned out to be **Christopher Wiggins**, aged 11, who along with his dad **Andrew** collected the plane from Cyril in November. Congratulations to Christopher and thanks to Cyril from the club.



William Richards Passes 'A'

William Richards, 11, and father **Peter** joined the Weston Model Flying Club in January 2006 after a few visits in the previous months and having a try on the club trainer. This led to an Arising Star 63" trainer, LA46 and Futaba Radio and buddy box arriving in Santa's sack, shortly to be seen at the flying field for the obligatory flight checks by a competent member. The plane flew well and proved to be a good trainer with a well matched motor.



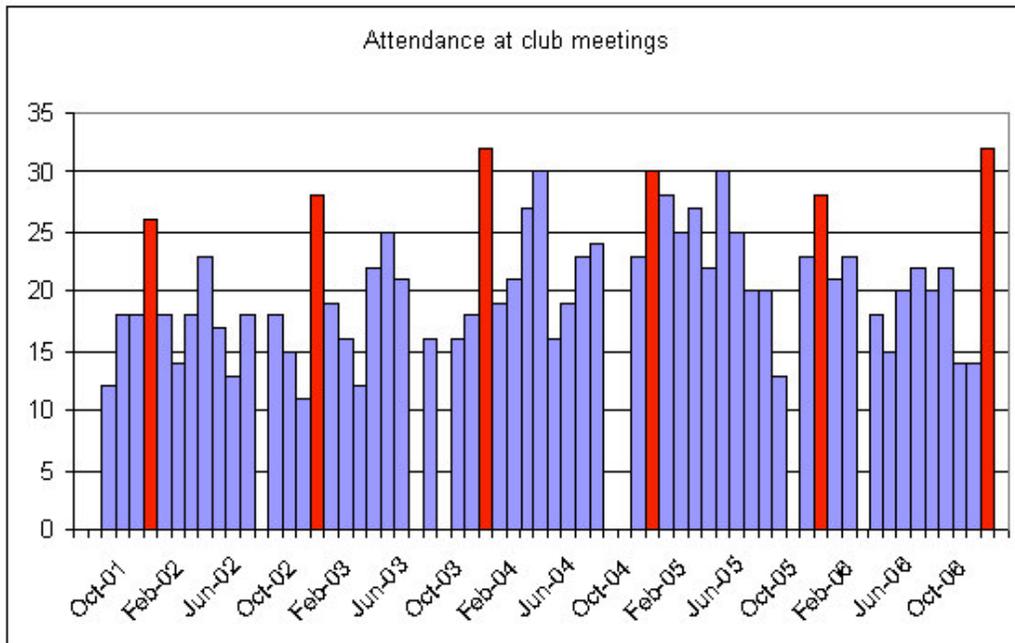
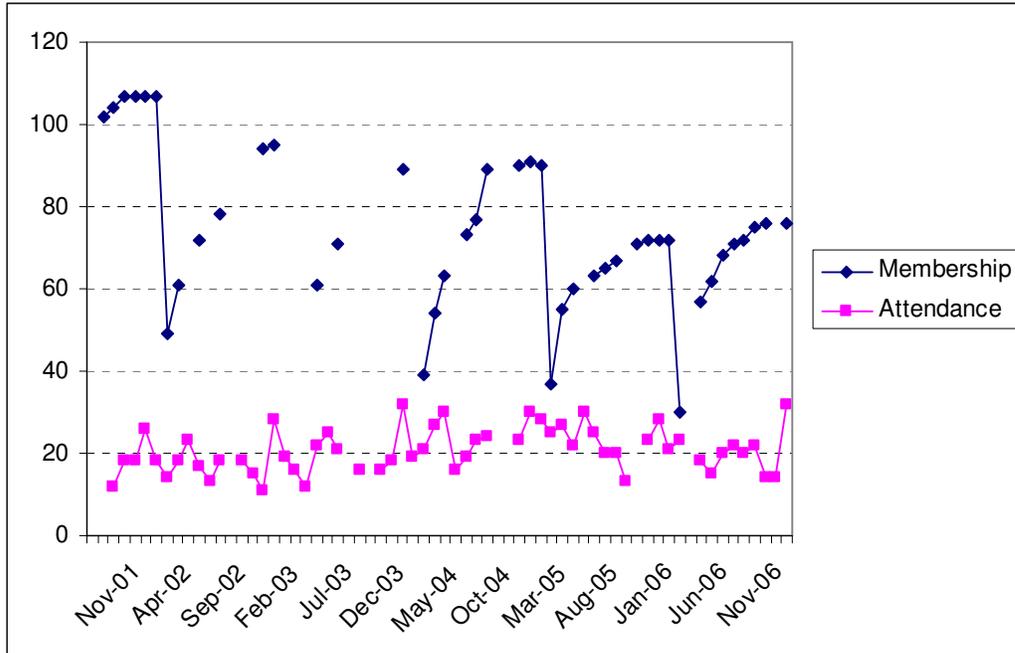
Both Pete and William would like to thank all the club members for their help and especially **Ivan** who has been there through all of the training. William passed his 'A' test on Sunday 30th July.

Shown is William with his new plane, a Four Star 40 a kit from SIG, built by Dad, and utilising the faithful LA46

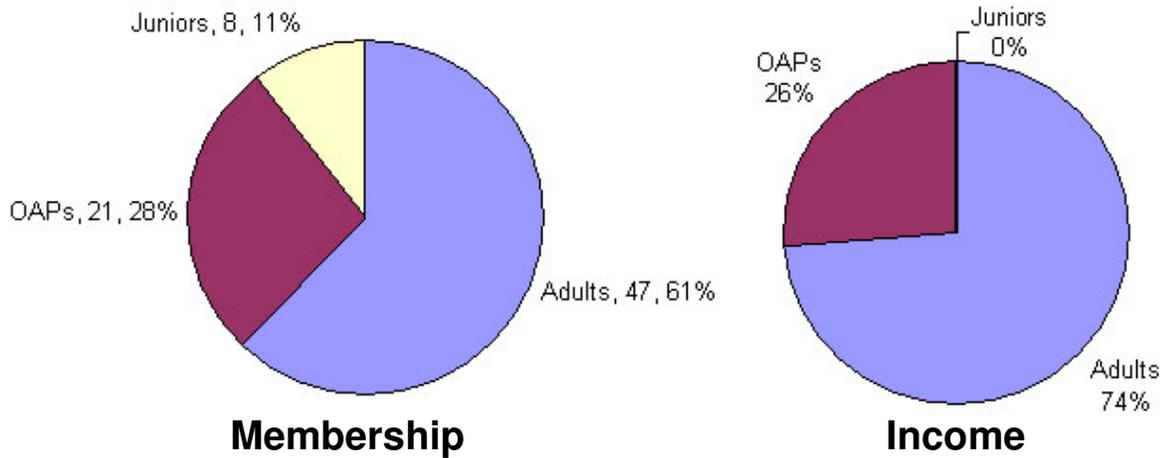
Mike Pope

Club Statistics

Following an enquiry at the last club meeting I thought I'd dig out some numbers on membership and attendances from the minutes of the last 5 years' club meetings. You can see that although the overall membership has fallen slightly from our highest levels, the attendance at club meetings has stayed about level or slightly up, which is encouraging, although it still means that two-thirds of the membership do not attend club meetings. Not surprisingly the AGM meetings (shown in red in the lower graph) attract the highest attendance.



Shown below is the make-up of the club membership (total 76) as of November 2006. Because juniors (under 18) have free membership and OAPs have reduced membership fees, nearly three-quarters of the club income is from adult members and the remaining quarter is from OAP members.



Seen at the Field

This rather pretty plane from **Gerry Crossman** unfortunately didn't survive the flight as it appeared to be tail-heavy after take-off.



Kawasaki Ki-61 – Last Chance

Last issue I described the 1/10th scale Kawasaki Fun Fighter I'd had in an unfinished state for many years, that it was now surplus and I'd accept £20 for it. Well no-one was interested so it's now free to anyone who wants it or it's going in the bin. Last chance...



Events

Forthcoming events this year and next:

Thursday 7 th December 2006 8pm	Club meeting at the Ashcombe
Thursday 4 th January 2007 8pm	Club meeting at the Ashcombe
Saturday 20 th January 2007	Skittles event at the Red Cow pub
Thursday 1 st February 2007 8pm	Club meeting at the Ashcombe

Club Meeting Venue



Email

If you currently get this newsletter by post and you would prefer to get it by email, let me know at the address below. Email recipients get their copy earlier and in full colour!

All club meetings apart from those in the summer months are at the **Ashcombe** pub in Ashcombe Road WSM.

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.