

From the Pits

The Newsletter of the Weston Model Flying Club

October 2013

www.wmfclub.co.uk



Editorial

It's been a while since the last newsletter back at the end of April. Since then we've had a successful Woodspring Show with great weather, much flying has been done and recently the AGM has been held. We have reports on all these.

Club Meetings

Meetings are now back in the Memorial Hall in Congresbury for the winter. Meetings at the field resume in April.

Field Improvements

Since the last newsletter a number of improvements have been made at the field. We have two starting tables, the blue one for electric only and the green one for electric or IC.

The solar-powered charging station is in use and should be completed soon with charging points on the outside of the clubhouse.

The patch has been in excellent condition this summer, largely down to regular grass cutting which is due to **Billy Simey**.



Fuel

Contest 10 is back in stock at the field. The price is £20, and Pro-Synth is still available at £15. Sales are handled by any committee member.

Fireworks

Aerial videos from model planes are not unusual these days, but this one I came across is better than most; a model plane's view of a firework display from right in the middle! You can find it at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDEGJr9muSw>



AGM Report

The AGM was held on Thursday 7th November at the Memorial Hall.

2014 Club Fees

The club fees remain the same as last year. At the time of writing it is not known whether the BMFA will change their fees (at their AGM on Nov 30th), the current ones are shown here.

Membership Type	Club	BMFA	Total
Adult members	£82	£32	£114
OAPs (65 & over)	£67	£32	£99
Juniors (below 18 years)	£0	£17	£17

2014 Committee

This year's changes are that **Ivan Steerment** becomes Vice Chairman, **Alan Tanner** is the Safety Officer, and **Ian Armstrong** is the new Secretary, replacing **Tom Flynn**. Many thanks to Tom for his work in the last two years. It was decided not to have a Social Secretary any more, and events will just be organised when appropriate.

Title	Name	Phone	Email Address
President	Robin Muir	01275 844046	robinmuir.homestead@virgin.net
Chairman	Mike Pope	01934 516869	mikepope@talktalk.net
Vice Chairman	Ivan Steerment	07775 981677	isteerment@gmail.com
Secretary	Ian Armstrong	07818 861580	ian@ia42.com
Treasurer	Pete Gifford	01934 519027	p_gifford61@hotmail.com
Membership Sec	Pete Richards	01275 852126	richardsfamily664@btinternet.com
Safety Officer	Alan Tanner	01934 524011	alanjtanner@btinternet.com

Other Points

The rule forbidding mobile phones in the pits has been removed as it was considered redundant and un-enforceable. The BMFA guidance remains to avoid the use of mobile phones in the pits and the flying field, but this is now voluntary.

Much discussion took place on proposed changes to the rules covering disciplinary and other matters. The rules are to be reviewed in their entirety with a target of having them ready for review at the March meeting. **Alan Meaney** undertook co-ordinating the review.

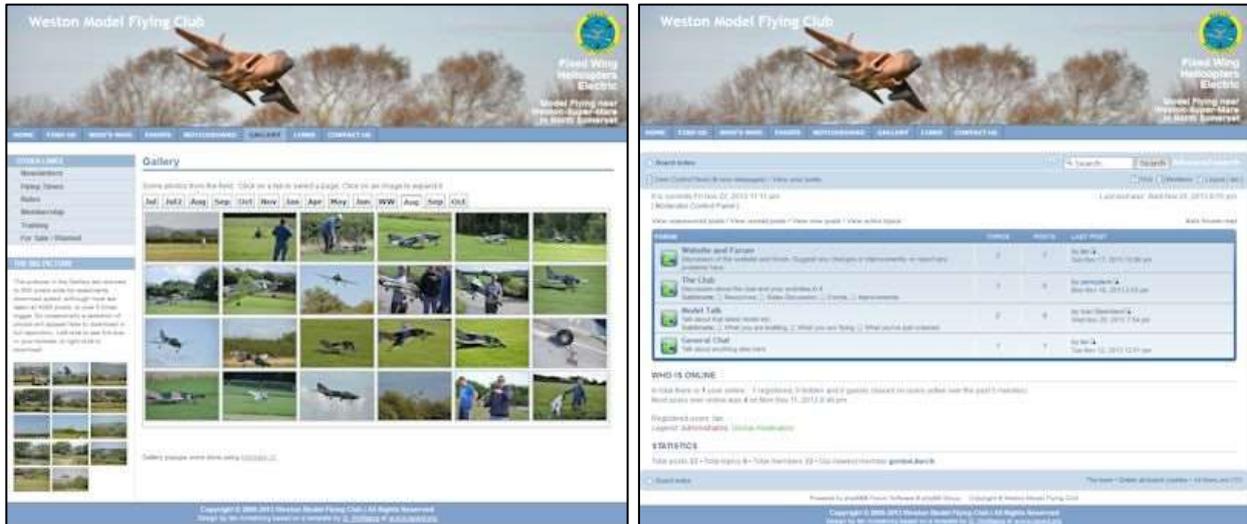
Unusually but richly deserved, this year both the **Clubman of the Year** and **Most Improved Flier** awards were won by the same person, **Billy Simey**. As noted elsewhere, Billy has been cutting the grass regularly and also finding time to put in plenty of practice since passing his A-test this summer.

Safety

We have had a few 'finger incidents' recently with electric models. Please remember that electric motors these days are often at least as powerful as IC engines, **and they do not stall**. In a recent incident at neighbours Woodspring, an un-restrained electric model ran forward and completely took the leg off a chair. Please take care when using all models.

Website Changes

The club website has undergone a few changes; firstly there is a wider layout, allowing more space for the Gallery which can now have more tabs and hence photos going back at least two years.



Secondly there is now a Forum for club members. All members should by now have received an email with joining instructions, but if you haven't and want to join, email me at the address on the last page of this newsletter.

At present it is a closed forum only open to members, but a debate is going on there as to whether it should be open to guests. Join in and have your say!

Seen at the Field

A number of Autogyros have been seen at the field over the summer, largely from **Mike Pope** and **Dave Tremelling**. It's probably fair to say that they have met with varying degrees of success. Both have had these small electric RTF models which seem to fly well but can be rather hard to keep track of in the air. Among the home-built versions, Mike's twin-rotor flew well, but Dave's single-rotor has so far failed to really get airborne, probably due to lack of head-speed; the usual symptom being a roll to the left on take-off.



Woodspring Wings 2013 Show



This summer's Woodspring Show took place on July 6/7. The weather was ideal; warm, blue skies and light winds. Lots of people came on the Saturday although fewer on the Sunday, but it was very much a successful show. One of the highlights was the Hawk of **Mark Weeks** shown here, but there were of course many others.

This year we had a dedicated website www.woodspringshow.co.uk which was used for pilot and trader registration. If you haven't seen it there are many photos and a video of the show there, as well as photos on our own website gallery page.

Our share of the final profits is over £2400. Many thanks to the WMFC club members who helped out.



From the Workshop

Polikarpov I-15

Progress has been slow over the summer, but I've recently CNC-cut the aileron hinges out of paxolin; special hinges are required because the ailerons are hinged in the scale position below the bottom wing surface.

I've started on the Cowl; a master has been turned from blue foam and will be covered with fibreglass. I use a 200:1 geared-down electric motor running at 10RPM to rotate the cowl slowly while the resin is setting so it spreads evenly and doesn't pool in one place.



Kadet Strip-down

After 10 years my Kadet has been in a rather sorry state recently with the covering film increasingly coming loose. The turning point came a couple of weeks ago when a large section of the wing film came away in flight, acting as a sudden air-brake and causing the plane to somersault in mid-air. Hence I decided to remove the film completely and re-cover it using glass cloth and Poly-C. Stripping down was a bit tedious, since large areas of the film came away easily but left behind small bits firmly attached, needing a combination of filing, sanding, heat and solvents to remove them.



Depron Twin

As my second venture into electric Depron models after the Bandit, I'm building one of these twin-motor cargo planes. It comes from a very long thread on rcgroups.com; you'll find it by looking for 'The Twins'. Many people have built them for dropping parachutes, carrying cameras, or just for fun flying. Mine is coming along well; Depron building doesn't take long, even for me.



Power will be two 1220KV 133W motors which should be more than enough for an all-up weight of about two pounds. Prototypes are reported to go vertical in most un-cargo-like behaviour!



Vinyl Cutter

I've had a few people ask me about how I cut the stickers that I have used on several of my models such as the tail of the Bandit here, and I've also cut out logos for other club members.

The machine is this one; a Graphtex Craft Robo C200. It's no longer available, but a similar device is now sold as the Silhouette Cameo.



It's about the size and shape of a small PC printer and works in a similar way with a roller to move the paper back and forth and a carriage moving left and right. However this carriage holds not a printer head but a tiny knife blade which protrudes just a few tenths of a millimeter. This depth can be adjusted to cut film, vinyl or cardboard.

For models Solartrin or self-adhesive sticky-backed vinyl is ideal. Solartrim will stick to shiny surfaces only; vinyl will stick to more surfaces including Depron – this is what I used on the Bandit.



The cutter works from vectors, i.e. lines and curves, and the cutter moves from one point to the next. So images, which are normally in pixel format (jpg, gif etc) have to be converted and the edges extracted to a vector format. There are several software tools to do this but most need a bit of 'cleaning up' afterwards unless the image is really sharp. The best way to do text is directly in Word or a similar program rather than as an image. For my Gangster I searched the web for a suitable font which I then downloaded and used in Word.



Limited multi-colour images can be done by extracting the shapes for the different colours and overlaying them.

Paint Stirring

Recently I found a tin of grey primer paint which had been in the bottom of a drawer for over 20 years! The paint was of course almost solid in the bottom and wouldn't stir well, so it occurred to me to attach it to the geared motor described previously to spin. After several hours turning slowly at about 10rpm, the paint was thoroughly mixed and good enough to use.



Events

Forthcoming events this year and next:

Date	Event
Thursday 5 th Dec 2013 8pm	Club meeting at the Memorial Hall
Thursday 2 nd Jan 2014 8pm	Club meeting at the Memorial Hall
Thursday 6 th Feb 2014 8pm	Club meeting at the Memorial Hall
Thursday 6 th Mar 2014 8pm	Club meeting at the Memorial Hall
Thursday 3 rd Apr 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.wmfclub.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 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.

How to contact the Editor

Ian Armstrong

Address: The Cottage, Roman Rd, Sandford, N.Somerset, BS25 5RE
 Tel: 01934 823 609 (Mobile: 07818 861 580)
 Email: ian@ia42.com

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.