

# From the Pits

The Newsletter of the Weston Model Flying Club

October 2008

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



## Editorial

We've always allowed prospective new members to fly accompanied 3 times before joining, and also allowed anyone joining in or after November to have their membership count for the following year. This year however, there have been one or two examples of people pushing these rules a bit too far.

Please remember that only club members and their invited guests are allowed to fly at the field, and that guests and prospective new members are restricted to 3 occasions in any one year and must be accompanied. Please also remember that subscriptions are due for existing members as well if you wish to fly after 31<sup>st</sup> December. 2009 membership forms will be available from the website or the membership secretary very soon.

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## Club Meetings

Club meetings are back at the Ashcombe until further notice. It's rather cramped now after the refurbishment and a better venue is really required, preferably with indoor flying space as we had at the Memorial Hall in Congresbury. The latter is not available to us this year, so does anyone know of an alternative? If so let someone on the committee know.

The December meeting will be a bring-and-buy auction, and there will be a buffet.

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## AGM Report

The AGM took place at the November meeting, as usual setting the fees for next year and electing the new committee.

This year the BMFA has left its fees unchanged, and the club fees have also been left the same apart from Junior membership which has been put back to zero. Hence the 2009 fees are as follows:

Membership Type	BMFA	Club	Total
Adult members	£28	£72	£100
OAPs	£28	£58	£86
Juniors (below 18 years)	£15	£0	£15

The committee has had just a few changes. **Ron Bebe** and **Ivan Steerment** have swapped places and **Pete Richards** is Membership Secretary, the role he filled unofficially last year.

After more years than anyone can remember, **Steve O'Brien** has stepped down from the Treasurer post and is succeeded by **Pete Gifford**. Steve will still be on the committee as an auditor, and I am also on it as Committee Member (and as you can see I'm still doing the newsletter).

Instead of a specific safety officer post, there is a safety committee of four members of the existing committee. The full list is shown below.

The **Clubman of the Year** award was shared by **Ron Bebe** and **Mike Ling**, richly deserved by both. The new **Most Improved Flier** award went to **Andrew McKintosh**, again well deserved. Thanks were also expressed to **Pat Teakle** who has been mowing the grass regularly.

In other news from the night, the new 10-year lease is almost ready to be signed. Once it is, we will be able to put up a fence separating our part of the field from the remainder, which will keep cows and sheep out.

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## 2009 Committee

Title	Name	Phone	Email Address
President	Robin Muir	01275 844046	robinmuir.homestead@virgin.net
Chairman	Mike Pope	01934 516869	mikepope@talktalk.net
Vice Chairman	Ron Bebe	01934 838131	Ron.bebe@homecall.co.uk
Hon. Secretary	Mike Ling	01934 625303	Sally6@sky.com
Membership Sec	Pete Richards	01275 852126	louise.richards2@tesco.net
Social Secretary	Ivan Steerment	07775 981 677	isteerment@gmail.com
Hon. Treasurer	Pete Gifford	01934 519027	p-gifford@supanet.com
Safety Committee	Mike Pope	01934 516869	mikepope@talktalk.net
	Robin Muir	01275 844046	robinmuir.homestead@virgin.net
	Ron Bebe	01934 838131	ron.bebe@homecall.co.uk
	Ivan Steerment	01934 525990	isteerment@gmail.com
Committee Member	Ian Armstrong	01934823609	iarmstrong@cix.co.uk
Auditor	Steve O'Brien	01934 877047	stevejohnobrien@aol.com
Auditor	Robin Muir	01275 844046	robinmuir.homestead@virgin.net

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## EGM Report

Before the AGM described previously, an EGM took place at the October meeting. The purpose of this one was to approve the new club rules in the light of the new lease on the field, and the resulting need for trustees. A number of other changes were made to the rules to bring them up to date with the current club practices and improvements. The updated rules are on the website and everyone will get a copy with their new membership pack.

## Blade MCX Indoor Helicopter

At the November AGM meeting I was fortunate enough to win the raffle prize which this year was this E-flite electric indoor micro-helicopter.

It's my first experience with helicopters apart from a few minutes on slightly larger machines at a club night earlier this year, although I had practiced on a computer simulator before now.

The model is incredibly stable for such a small machine, which is only 200mm (8") long and weighs just 28g (1oz), since it's equipped with a gyro. So stable in fact that the last photo here was done by me taking my hands off the transmitter and grabbing my camera!

Power is from a small LiPo battery which gives 3-5 minutes flight and is then recharged from the charger which, like the transmitter, runs off 4 AA cells.

Will this convert me to larger helicopters? Well I'm not sure about that yet, but it's certainly had plenty of use in the living room. I'd write more, but I see the charger light has just gone out so I've got to go and test it again...



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## Web Site

The Website now has a For Sale page in which you can upload your own adverts, either for sale or wanted. Adverts can include a photo and are normally displayed for 2 months. Please let me know if you want them left for longer or if they can be removed earlier.

At the moment your email address is not added to the advert for privacy reasons, but again I can add it if you let me know.

While we're on the subject, any contributions to the website, e.g. photos for the Gallery, suggestions for improvements or anything else, would be welcome. Email me directly or use the contact page on the website.

## Eastnor Castle in August

### *Report by Robin Muir*

August did I say? The weather forecast was to be continuous heavy rain all day but I packed the waterproofs and set off any way! When I arrived I hadn't actually seen any rain. Walking over to the display area, it felt like October with a strong biting wind blowing up the strip.

I lost no time starting to get a few pics in case the forecast did prove accurate. The pits were quite long and the majority of the traders stands were pitched parallel to them about 30 yards back, as you can see.



Part of the pits



The traders' stands

This arrangement was very convenient for watching the display in progress while wandering about looking for some suitable retail therapy



More of the pits



That well known German oddity!  
So well known I can never remember its name!

Looking up and down the pits, I picked a few aircraft to snap; ones that we are unlikely to see at Weston



There were 2 large Pitts Specials



The Glider Trust had an interesting display



Nathan Farrell-Jones' huge Extra and a Jet Provost behind



Nice but I don't know what it is!

As I wandered about, the display was going on and I managed to get one or two decent photos of planes in flight –



Nathan Farrel-Jones knife edging the Extra



Lee Waples prop hanging the big Yak



The 2 Pitts in close formation



before landing



The ATS guys from Redruth were there but without Jamie Cuff on this occasion



There is an ATS aircraft in this shot, Can you spot it??

While I was there, I came across one or two familiar names and faces –



We all know Paul .....



.but if that's him in the cockpit, hasn't he changed!!!!

I also met up with Terry Davies and Andrew Macintosh



I wonder who is saying what and to whom?? I have a Battery Checker as a prize for the funniest caption. Entries to the editor by the January meeting.

**Robin Muir**

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## Field Improvements

Unfortunately planning permission for the new club house has been refused by North Somerset planners. The reason given was that:

‘The proposed storage container would be in a very open location where it would be unduly prominent in a remote rural landscape and within the Coastal Zone. The proposal would result in a proliferation of similar structures, and would be within 5 metres of the boundary of a designated Wildlife Site. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policies GDP/3, CF/3, ECH/7 and ECH/15 of the North Somerset Replacement Local Plan and advice in the "Biodiversity and Trees" supplementary planning document.’

Given the other eye-sores of the wrecked barn, rubble, other containers and the towers of the nearby gun club, this does seem rather incredible, but there we are. A revised plan with the clubhouse near the hedge is being drawn up.

This is what the club house would have looked like in our proposed location.



## Casualties

Could this be the new picture on the Rhubarb Stick award? **Pete and Will Richards'** model went in vertically so fast that Will had difficulty pulling it out of the ground.

I haven't heard who was in charge at the time but no doubt someone will grass them up...



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## Seen at the Field

Here on the right is **Neville Brownlee** with his new Kamko Kadet in August. At this stage it was un-flown, but proved to be very successful with a number of flights throughout the afternoon.



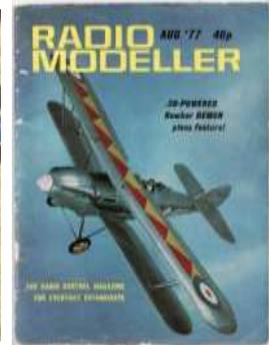
A very different model at the field was **Jamie Cuff's** Baby Boomerang jet powered model. Flies very smoothly but landing took up the whole field and more!

**Pat Teakle's** ExtraWot is now owned by **Mike Pope**, who says: "This is now in my possession and must be flown (this was a condition of ownership) anyone wishing to have a go give me a shout when I bring it to the field."



## Hawker Hart

Having (temporarily) put the Beaufighter aside for a while, I started thinking about my next model. Long ago I built a 1/10 scale 46" model of the Hawker Demon from the Gordon Whitehead plan featured in a 1977 issue of Radio Modeller. It flew

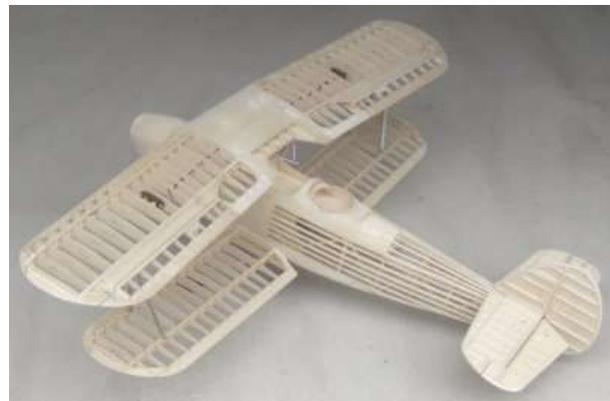


about 45 times in 2000/2001 before being terminally damaged in a very hard landing. This is the only remaining photo of it. Although very tricky on take-off or landing (since the CG is virtually over the wheels) it was a delight to fly and could go in the car in one piece without de-rigging, which is a major advantage over my other biplanes and is great for just nipping out for a quick fly on a summer evening.

I still have the plan and the magazine, so it seemed time to build another one. This time I'm going for the Hart bomber (the Demon was the fighter variant) which has slightly simpler exhausts and colour scheme. The latter comes from the useful 'Profile Publications' leaflet on the Hart (1965, two shillings!) and shows a Hart of 57 Squadron stationed at Netheravon in Wiltshire in 1931.



I've not been tempted by electric power before but I've decided now is the time to try, since the Hart's slim nose profile doesn't really look right with a glow engine hanging out. So the model will have a totally enclosed brushless motor and Lipo battery giving a more-or-less scale profile. As you can see it's just at the covering stage so far. I'm not going to predict when it will be finished as all my previous modelling time-scales have been wildly optimistic, but watch this space!




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## Radio propagation on 2.4 GHz

A transmitting radio aerial should be reasonably vertical and if so then the radio signal radiates somewhat similarly to the ripples caused by dropping a stone in a pond. It follows that to obtain best reception the receiving aerial should also be vertically disposed. Those on 2.4 g know that the two Spektrum receivers should have their aerials disposed at right angles to each other so that in the moving aircraft if one receiver gets a poor signal then the signal received by the other can be utilised. It is quite possible to place two aerials at right angles to each other but both in the horizontal! My Spektrum handbook does not warn about this.

**Roy Shaw**

## Competition Answers

Here are the answers to last issue's competitions

### Anagrams

- |                             |                          |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Cove In                  | Novice                   |                          |
| 2. It Be Sew                | Web Site                 |                          |
| 3. Real Idiot               | Editorial                | Appropriate?             |
| 4. Western Let              | Newsletter               |                          |
| 5. Aliases Cut              | Casualties               |                          |
| 6. A Retro Twin             | Wot Trainer              |                          |
| 7. Electing Bums            | Club Meetings            | Definitely appropriate?? |
| 8. Pet Firm Shot            | From the Pits            |                          |
| 9. Dying For Loin           | Indoor Flying            |                          |
| 10. Elfish Attendee         | Seen at the Field        |                          |
| 11. Clerk Sawn Twice        | Wick St Lawrence         |                          |
| 12. Overfed Simple Mint     | Field Improvements       |                          |
| 13. Uncombed Towellings Fly | Weston Model Flying Club |                          |

...and hopefully you'll have got the extra one... Martin Sarong = Ian Armstrong

### Jigsaw

The scrambled picture was of course this one, Mike Healey's Tiger Moth.




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## Training Scheme

I have taken over from **Mike Barnett** as training scheme co-ordinator. The scheme was described in detail in the last issue and is also on the website. However take-up has been virtually non-existent so far.

## Events

Forthcoming events this year and next:

Date	Event
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2008 8pm	<b>AGM</b> at the Ashcombe
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2008 8pm	Club meeting at the Ashcombe
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2009 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.

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.