

WATFORD WAYFARERS



MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

Affiliated to the BMFA (Club No.269)

Fixed Wing Flying Site

The latest news on Bovington is that the landowners are indeed holding weekly car boot sales on Saturdays although when I went to have a nose about at the first one, only two cars had turned up and they were closing early - just after 9 o'clock. We have been told that they will persevere with this as it was always their plan to run such events and they can maintain security by manning the gates while the event is on. The sale is held on the runway, well away from the flying site and they have assured us that they are still trying to purchase additional land to provide access to the site away from the house and farmyard.

In the meantime, not wanting to hold our breath waiting for what may turn out to be false hope, lots of work has been going on to identify alternative sites. A number of locations have been viewed - with Arthur and Peter already clocking up over 250 miles looking at various farms. Thanks go to [John Markham](#), [Steve Hill](#), [Paul Robinson](#) and [Adam Derby](#) for putting forward possible sites. At the moment there is only one possibility in the frame where we are waiting to hear from the owner so please don't stop looking and asking and let Arthur know if you come across something worth investigating.

Andy Todd

For Sale

[John Siddall](#) needs to sell his partly complete airframe is a Tartan 44cc twin cylinder petrol engine. Gloster Gladiator as he really needs the space.



The model is scratch built from plans that John drew up, and is largely finished except for the cowl, canopy, undercarriage, wing spars and covering. It has a wingspan in the region of 8 ft. and will weigh in at about 25lb when complete. Included with the

This will make a fabulous model when finished and John is willing to consider any offers from serious model builders.

If you are interested call John on 020 8950 1857 or make contact at the next club night.



Club Night

May club night
Thursday 27th May 8:00 pm
Holywell Primary School, Tolpits Lane, Watford
Flying, flight simulator and Tomboy project

April Club Night

[Mick Wilshere](#) opened the meeting with some good news as he had negotiated an offer from Phoenix MFC for our members to be allowed to fly at Phoenix's London Colney site for two months from 1st May in return for a charge of £200 per month, this being similar to the rent that was paid for Bovingdon. The pros and cons were widely discussed and acceptance of the offer was voted for by a significant majority. Details of the rules have been circulated to all members.

As mentioned last month, we have been asked if we could put on a display of helicopter flying as part of a community event at Patchetts Green, near Aldenham which is being held in support of the Army Benevolent Fund and Herts Police charity, mencop. [Paul Roberts](#) has been to view the proposed flying site and confirmed that it was suitable, if a little small, but 1 heli could fly at any time. BMFA have confirmed that normal insurance cover will be valid as long as usual safety rules are applied. Volunteers have been found to fly and it is hoped to have club information on show to promote the club.



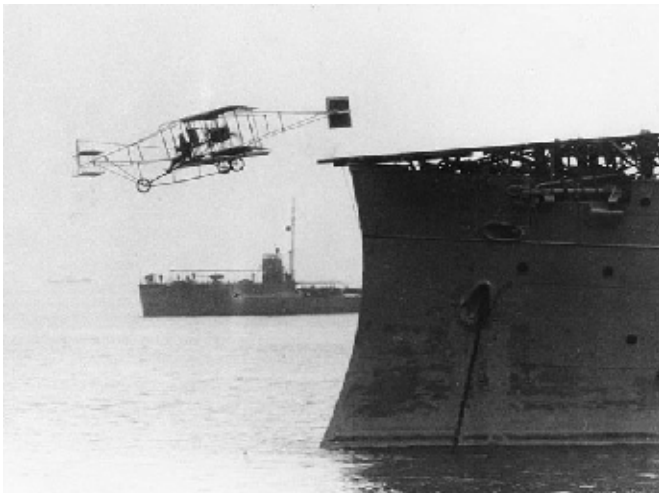
Mick had news that [Alan Moss](#), a previous club secretary, is very ill with cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy treatment. Alan wants to continue building for as long as he can and our best wishes go out to him.

The meeting over, there was flying in the back hall, discussions about Tomboy building and all manner of things in the front hall and the first taste of a flight simulator on a big screen thanks to [Gary Field](#). Hopefully, this will become a regular attraction.

The First Aircraft Carrier

Many thanks to [Richard Crapp](#) who sent these pictures.

Eugene Ely flies his Curtiss pusher airplane off from the deck of USS Birmingham on 14 November 1910. It was the first airplane takeoff from a warship. He flew for two miles before landing on a Willoughby Spit beach.



The last photo looks to be an action photo with the prop spinning and the sand bags being dragged by the plane. Anyone fancy a go? More next time.

It was a big success and so they decided to continue the experiment. But this time, a plane had to land on a ship. It happens on 18 January 1911, Eugene Ely lands with the same plane on USS Pennsylvania, making the first landing on a warship in history and a historical event.

The next photo appears to be the landing approach. Note how the sand bags on one side of the deck are connected by a rope to the corresponding bag on the other side, forming an increasing brake when hooked by the plane.

