

WATFORD WAYFARERS



MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

Affiliated to the BMFA (Club No.269)

Editorial jottings

I'm sure you won't be surprised to hear that it's awfully difficult to produce a newsletter without news. I know this doesn't stop the newspapers, radio and television but they pay their journalists to ~~make it up~~ - sorry, find something to report.

I'm afraid there's no significant news about a fixed wing flying site. The only glimmer of light in the darkness is that the Webbs continue to make encouraging noises about imminently buying some land to provide access to the site at Bovington. Keep watching this space as well as looking out for potential new ones. You have been doing that, haven't you?

As we approach the end of our two month agreement to fly at the Phoenix club's site it's interesting to reflect on what we got for our money. Well, access to what must be one of the best flying sites in the south of England if not the whole country for a starter. Which makes me wonder why so few people have been to use the superb facilities. I know of one person who couldn't fly there because of the frequency cut off at channel 79 but I don't believe that this is a wide issue.

I'm aware that Phoenix has a reputation as being the home of jets jockeys and flyers of large aerobatic models which may make some people apprehensive about the reception they will get with their favourite models. I can tell you that the answer is a warm welcome - they are a very nice bunch of guys who always have time to chat or lend a helping hand, especially to newcomers. Yes, there may be large models flying but this just calls for common sense and perhaps a short wait until they land - make the most of seeing some fantastic models in the air. However, the sky is rarely too busy - even if the car park's full, the majority of folks will be nattering or tinkering with their models.



Jet jockey? No, just the editor posing!

Worried about crashing and making a spectacle of yourself? You'll be in good company, believe me - there are crashes there all the time. I've even seen a couple of jets crash which really does make you wince!

So, if we're going to talk to Phoenix about extending our invitation it would be nice to have some feedback from members - particularly fixed wing flyers. **Please** drop me an email either -

I've flown at Phoenix and I liked this but didn't like that; or
I haven't been to Phoenix because.....

The names of the innocent will be protected!

Andy Todd

Club Night

June club night
Thursday 24th June 8:00 pm
Holywell Primary School, Tolpits Lane, Watford

Flying, Tomboy project and try your skills on the flight simulator - cheapest crashes!

Heli's

While the fixed wing flyers may have their problems, the heli flyers have not had it all easy.



The gent who usually cuts the grass at the heli patch had the temerity to go on holiday and a period of good growing weather made for interesting challenges. Thanks to [Dave Verrall](#) for sending a couple of pictures - on the left, you can make out his 450 size heli tackling the near foot high growth, while below, [Colin Buckley's](#) 700 size seems to be about to take on the task of the missing mower.

Fortunately normal service has been resumed and the patch is in good flying condition again.

The event at Patchett's Green on 27th May was plagued with some awful weather which gave little chance of much flying. [Steve Roberts](#), [Pete Christy](#) and [Roger Mayo](#) turned out and Steve and Roger managed a couple of flights on the display field but conditions didn't allow Pete to get in the air. Attendance at the fete was very much down by comparison to other years because folks wouldn't venture out on a wet'n'windy day BUT the fete organiser was VERY pleased with what the Watford Wayfarers Club had done for them.



The weekend of 12/13th June saw three of our members head north of the border for the Scottish Heli



Nationals organised by the Scottish Aeromodellers Association at their Aberdeen club. Despite needing the fire brigade to deal with an over-excited battery in his hotel room, [Steve Roberts](#) went on to win F3C for the seventh year running with [Dave Wilshere](#) taking 5th place.

In the F3N discipline (freestyle) Steve obviously decided to let someone else in on the act, taking 3rd place.

[Pete Christy](#) meanwhile was 3rd in the Sportsmans class while achieving 3rd, 4th and 5th places in Scale (*presumably with 3 models! Ed*).

So the only category we didn't feature in was Best Scottish!

Finally, if you missed it, there is an excellent article on page 26 of the last BMFA News, written by [Pete Christy](#) about his heli flying career. A very interesting and amusing read.