

WATFORD WAYFARERS



MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

Affiliated to the BMFA (Club No.269)

Editorial

So much for the warm, sunny and calm autumn. It seems a rare occasion when the wind stops blowing but that has at least made me get out and discover the wonders of slope soaring at Ivinghoe. It's really quite exhilarating and even my ST Models Blaze performed acceptably well, managing some ragged aerobatic manoeuvres in more experienced hands than mine. Next time I hope to try landing so hard hats on!



So has anyone else been doing anything this summer? Apart, that is, from the brave souls who ventured out at the Nationals in August (see page 2.) I haven't heard anything from anybody which is a shame really as a newsletter can't really survive without some news.

I did say at the outset that all feedback was welcome, good or bad. So at least the comment that was made to me at the last meeting about material being sent to me, but not appearing, was someone caring. To try and correct this, I have included a couple of items sent in earlier in the year but that really is about it - next month should be a 4 page issue but I need more stories and pictures to fill that space.

Andy Todd

First Aircraft Carrier

Following the May bulletin's pictures of the first flights on & off a ship, [Paul Robinson](#) sent the following: Charles Rumney Samson was the first British pilot to take off from a ship, on 10 January 1912, from a foredeck ramp mounted on the battleship HMS Africa, which was anchored in the River Medway, flying a Short Improved S.27 aeroplane. On 2 May 1912, using the same ramp and airplane, he became the first pilot to take off from a moving ship, the battleship HMS Hibernia in Weymouth Bay.



The historic takeoff from Hibernia

On 2 August 1917 Squadron Commander Edwin Dunning landed a Sopwith Pup on board HMS Furious, becoming the first person to land an aircraft on a moving ship. On 7 August, he made one more



HMS Furious. Note fly-off deck forward and landing on deck aft.

successful landing in the same manner, however on his third attempt the engine choked and the aircraft crashed off the starboard bow, killing him. The ship's deck arrangement was far from ideal; in order to land, aircraft had to manoeuvre around the superstructure.

Club Night

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Thursday 30th September 8:00pm
Holywell Primary School, Tolpits Lane,
Watford

Indoor flying, flight simulator
and Tomboy parade

The Nationals

I think there is little doubt that the 2010 Nationals will be remembered principally for the weather. The wind blew mightily on the Saturday and then, when you thought it couldn't get any worse, on Sunday it did with marquees being blown down and flying suspended in many competitions. You could only feel sorry for everyone concerned, especially the pilots trying to carry out precision manoeuvres.



If you didn't see Richard and his colleagues performing their superb display with his pair of one third scale Boeing Stearman biplanes complete with fully animated wing walkers, you missed an absolute treat and should make a point of trying to catch them at a show.



As a club we were very well represented with [Steve Roberts](#), [Pete Christy](#) and new member [Scott Marshall](#) flying helis, [Richard Crapp](#) flying his Ryan PT22 in the fixed wing scale competition and [Richard Rawle](#) flying in the air display. On the ground, [Paul Roberts](#) did a sterling job marshalling the heli pilots. Congratulations to everyone for being there but especially to Steve who retained his title as F3C national champion and Pete who came second in the heli scale competition.



Top Gun



Did you know that [Richard Crapp](#) also entered Top Gun in Lakeland, Florida last April?

Sadly, while he and colleague Dave Toyer made it to Florida their models didn't, falling foul of airline bureaucracy at Gatwick. However, not to be beaten they went to a model shop and bought this colourful Aeronca Champ. Richard was at least pleased that they didn't come last!