

# WATFORD WAYFARERS



## MODEL AERO CLUB

Affiliated to the BMFA (Club No.269)

### AGM

Another year has flown by (couldn't resist that) and the AGM is upon us. The most important, practical part of the meeting is the collecting of subscription renewals, which does make life so much easier for our Treasurer instead of having to chase up individual members. Please therefore make an effort to come and pay for next year.

You will also then be able to buy lots of raffle tickets and be in with a chance of winning one of the 10 - yes that's ten - prizes on offer from the Silverlit range. If you don't want to fly it, it could be a very cheap way of solving a Christmas present problem.



By the time you receive this, the renewal forms will already have been sent out, so you have already seen that we are reducing the annual subscription to cover the increase in BMFA fees. Times are hard and every little helps, while the club can afford the gesture. Of course you could always use the saving to buy one or two more raffle tickets.....

Other matters for the meeting are the appointment of the committee for the next year and a review of the club's constitution. All of the committee have offered to stand again except that I have asked to relinquish the role of BMFA rep. Step forward [Richard Crapp](#) who has offered to take this on. Of course if anyone else wants to muck in and have a go they just need to speak to [Arthur Peacop](#) and we could even have a ballot!

The committee have agreed a fairly significant overhaul of the constitution which, it was felt, had fallen behind the times and didn't meet with many of the BMFA's recommendations. Because this couldn't be prepared in time for proper notice to be given for the AGM, the proposed document will be sent out before the meeting and the Chairman will give a brief overview of the changes and the reason for them, but a vote on it will actually be taken at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be convened as part of our January club night. So don't worry if you don't get time to read it before the AGM, you'll have another two months to do so.

Andy Todd

### Awards

[Richard Crapp](#) has been awarded the Eric Coates trophy for scale endeavour. The BMFA scale technical committee decided Richard deserved recognition for rebuilding his Ryan PT22 after its big crash last year and successfully flying it in this year's competitions.

Richard was obviously impressed with being given the award as it cost him a fortune to attend the prize-giving after buying a new suit, a ticket to the dinner for his wife and an overnight hotel stay.

Well done Richard.

### AGM & Club Night

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 24h November at 8:00pm

Holywell Primary School, Tolpits Lane, Watford

Please bring your membership renewals and lots of money for the raffle

Indoor flying, chat and flight simulator

## Never assume



*His request approved, the CNN News photographer quickly used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight.*

*He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport.*

*Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger.*

*He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, 'Let's go!'*

*The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off.*

*Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, 'Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides.'*

*'Why?' asked the pilot.*

*'Because I'm a photographer for CNN', he responded, 'and I need to get some close up shots.'*

*The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, finally he stammered, 'So, what you're telling me, is . . . You're NOT my flight instructor?'*

## Book review

With Ch\*\*\*\*\*as approaching and the usual problem of being asked what you want about to crop up, you might like to consider a little light reading for the holiday period. I have just read these two books (many thanks Mick) and can highly recommend them both as being the most readable accounts I have ever come across on their respective subjects. Although published in 1961 and 1972 both are still available (as secondhand copies) on Amazon and Ebay (and Ernest Gann's is even available for Kindle (if you don't know what that means ask a small child!))



Fate is the Hunter, by Ernest K Gann, traces the author's experiences from the mid 1930's when he started flying as a second officer for one of the fledgling airlines and follows the development of passenger flying through to the early fifties, encompassing along the way the development of trans-ocean flying during World War 2. Gann's writing style starts out with rather flowery symbolism but after a couple of pages the fascinating story takes over. The constant death toll amongst his fellow pilots really does make you realise how dangerous it was in those early days.



Flight Path, by Frank T Courtney, follows the author's life from 1913, when he persuaded Claude Graham-White to take him on as an apprentice at Hendon - unpaid, but with the fees usually paid by apprentices waived. His story takes you through World War 1, (where he disputes many of the now accepted stories), and into the world of a test pilot. Crashing was just part of the job as there was no way of finding out if something would fly other than by trying it. After the war he flew for just about every manufacturer in the world and has stories to tell about a huge range of aircraft, some famous and some long forgotten. A fascinating read.