

January 2014 Newsletter



Well the time has come for me to produce another newsletter again.

What can I say? The winds are high, and the sun, the temperature, and the motivation to fly are all low! I have personally been pre-occupying myself by repeatedly chucking large amounts of wine down my throat over the christmas and new year period, and I have also purchased a new model to build.



Mikado's Logo 550SX, a stretched and upgraded version of the popular 500.

It is a Mikado Logo 550SX that will allow me to share the packs between it and my 700, so I justified it to myself as a "cheap christmas present to myself" as I wouldn't have to buy any extra batteries to run it, just the kit itself!

The 550SX is a slightly stretched and upgraded version of the popular 500. I have always heard how well Mikado's fly but have never had the pleasure of flying one myself, so the green Goblin has now left my fleet for pasteurs new and been replaced with the 550SX. (Lets ignore the fact that I bought myself a Henseleit TDR in November-ish for now!)



The TDR - A very sleek machine!

Both machines are German engineered and the quality of the components is second to none; Even down to the way the aluminium parts of the TDR have all been tumbled to give a very smooth and satisfying finish to them.

I have really been taking my time over the build of the Mikado, making sure all the wires are nicely braided and routed discreetly around the airframe, hot glueing things in place, shimming all the gears that require it and generally ensuring

everything is done nicely (Rather than my usual style of throwing it together and clearing it up after the first crash!) So far I've had it six weeks and it's still a long way off getting airborne!

So, as there hasn't been much flying going on, all I can do is hope that you all had a wonderful christmas and new years, and that you've managed to occupy yourself tinkering during the cold weather just like I have! I have also been having some thoughts regarding games we can play at the barbeques when the summer comes around, And I am looking forward to some little competitions once the weather permits!

-Carl Newton, Newsletter Editor





WORDS: ANDY TODD: CLUB CHAIRMAN

THE AGM IN BRIEF

My report to the meeting, which summarises the events of the last year, is attached to this newsletter.

The statement of accounts was presented showing that there was a surplus in the year of £1,113. This was achieved despite a reduction in membership to 78, mainly because of new member's joining fees and a donation from the film company.

The committee recommended that there should be no increase in the yearly club subscription, and, in the event of an unexpected increase in the BMFA subscription, the club would hope to absorb it.

Stuart Marsh reported that the gate and gateposts at the entrance to Bedmond have just been replaced, hopefully solving a long-standing problem.

In accordance with the Club constitution, all committee members must stand for reappointment and with the exception of Peter Guiver and Dave Verrall, all the Officers and Committee members had agreed to stand for a further year.

In recognition of Peter's 25 years as Treasurer, with the thanks of all the members, he was presented with an engraved salver and £100 of John Lewis gift vouchers.

A nomination had been received to appoint Craig Blake as Heli Rep to replace Dave Verrall. No nominations had been received for the post of Treasurer or Social Secretary.

The meeting unanimously voted to confirm all appointments and the committee for 2014 therefore consists of:

Chairman	Andy Todd	Secretary	Arthur Peacop
Treasurer	Vacant (AT To Cover)	Fixed Wing Rep	Gary Field
Heli Rep	Stuart Marsh	Fixed Wing Rep	Andy Stimson
Heli Rep	Craig Blake	BMFA Rep	Richard Crapp
Newsletter Editor	Carl Newton	Social Secretary	Vacant

Last year a rule was introduced whereby anyone not renewing their membership by 31st December would have to pay the £50 joining fee. In practice this was too draconian and wasn't enforced. Recognising that there was still an issue over late payers, an amendment to the constitution was put forward to include the ability to charge a late payment surcharge to anyone renewing late and that the level of surcharge would be fixed by the committee when setting annual subscription levels (See paragraphs 14 and 52 of the constitution). The amendment was unanimously agreed and the surcharge was set at £10 per month – i.e. £10 for renewal in January, £20 for February and £30 for March.

The fact that anyone who hasn't renewed by 31st December would be uninsured unless they had taken out BMFA membership elsewhere was discussed and it was agreed that ways would be looked at of making it clear at the flying field who was (and possibly wasn't) authorised to fly.

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I mentioned in my report the successful integration of fixed wing and heli flying at Bovingdon on the barbeque days. To encourage greater unification between the two elements of the membership, it was decided that there would be a one year trial of general heli flying at Bovingdon. At present, detailed arrangements at the flying field would be agreed day by day but this would be kept under constant review to ensure that safety isn't compromised and that no conflict arises between aircraft types. Any heli flyer who wants to fly at Bovingdon needs to make arrangements to obtain a key and to be shown the way in to flying field and the procedures with the locks. I suggest initial contact is made with Stuart Marsh or Craig Blake.

The club has not had a president since Ron Moulton died in 2010. A nomination had been received, recognising Peter Guiver's long service as Treasurer, that he be elected to the honorary position of President and this was passed unanimously.

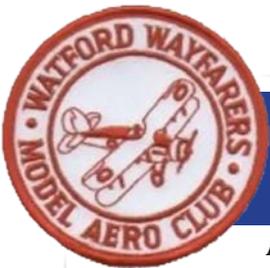
A raffle was held and a small surplus was made. As well as some examples from Flying Toys products, this year prizes included a couple of micro quad-copters, a Lipo battery charger and a transmitter case which seemed to go down well.

Thanks were expressed to all those that supported the AGM.

All that we need now is for the wind to die down, the rain to stop! Happy New Year

-Andy Todd, Club Chairman





WORDS: ANDY TODD: CLUB CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After a poor start to the year I think we can actually say that we had a good summer with over four months of decent weather. There has been some good flying and hopefully everyone managed to enjoy at least some of it.

Our relations with our landlords seem very positive. The situation at Bovingdon continues to throw up unwanted surprises from time to time but I think we have come to the conclusion that we'll deal with whatever turns up as and when it does so and just get on with enjoying the flying.

When I took on this position last year, I had in mind a number of objectives to develop the club. My two main objectives were and are to improve the facilities available to the members and to unify the club and overcome the two clubs under one umbrella that we have had. I think we've made some progress on both of these during the year.

In terms of facilities, at Bovingdon –

- We continued efforts to improve the flying strip by widening it, tweaking the position of the pilots' box and using the heavy roller in the spring. Thanks again to Gary for the use of his tractor for this task.
- We had a small work party which saw a start made on repairing the original track by the fence, making it useable by even small cars, and clearance of the small trees and roots around the entrance to the trailer. Many thanks to the members who took part.
- We built two model benches, principally for working on and starting i/c powered models to go with the tables already there. Thanks to Andy Stimpson for giving up his time to build these.

Bedmond presents a greater problem in terms of what we can do to improve facilities. One area of regular aggravation is the entrance. To help here, we have invested in a new hedge trimmer to help keep undergrowth under control. Thanks to Kris Komin for recent clearance work and to Paul Roberts for sourcing the new machine. We have also had the gate and gate posts replaced, which has helped things.

In terms of unifying the membership, the monthly barbeques proved very successful and showed that fixed wing and heli flyers can happily co-exist and can talk to each other! As a result, the committee has agreed that we should extend this and, as a trial for one year, we will allow heli flying at Bovingdon. We're not initially setting out any particular rules, as hopefully the common sense displayed at the barbeques will prevail but clearly that will be kept under review.

For 2014 we will continue to look at how to improve the facilities at Bovingdon. We will research what we can do about a clubhouse as I really would like to see us develop the social side of being at the flying field. It may be that we will have to settle for improving what we've got but we'll see.

The only other significant event to comment on is the filming at Bovingdon. The second no-fly period has ended and it's fair to say that, thanks to some poor weather, we haven't really been inconvenienced. Against this we have received a very useful sum of money which we can spend on improving facilities!

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So what else has been going on over the last year? Well we have a number of members who have made their mark on the competition front. Firstly, Steve Roberts led the UK F3C precision aerobatics heli team who attended the world championships in Poland in July. Steve came a creditable 15th and helped the team to 7th position out of 26 countries. Another member, Roger Mayo, was team reserve and ex-Wayfarers member Mark Christy came 25th.



L->R; Roger Mayo, Mark Christy, Steve Roberts & Matthew Reuben



Richard and his Wessex

Steve also continues to dominate the UK F3C scene, holding on to the national champions title for the ninth time.

Richard Crapp has also been in action. His Westland Wessex seemed to dominate the magazine covers of every magazine on the newsstand during the year, and very deservedly so, it really is a thing of great beauty. I lose track of Richard's globe trotting but I do know he was placed 8th in the scale competition at the nats. Well done to everyone who entered a competition. If I've missed anyone else then apologies, its because you are too modest and I'm not aware!

I must say thank you's to the rest of the committee for their help and support over the year; Arthur – who undoubtedly has the hardest job sorting out all the paperwork and liaising with the BMFA.

Peter for looking after the purse strings and also helping with some of the BMFA returns. A special mention is needed here because this is Peter's 25th year as treasurer and he has finally decided to let someone else have a go and so isn't standing for re-election – but more of that later.

Gary for his watching brief over Bovington as fixed wing rep and for largely single-handedly carrying out most of the training that we carry out of fixed wing models.

Stuart for picking up the role of heli rep last year and dealing with matters at Bedmond.

Andy Stimson and Dave Verrall for supporting Gary & Stuart as field reps. Dave has decided that he will also not stand for re-election to the committee having done five years in the role.

Richard for representing the club at the BMFA area meetings, so ensuring we have an input to BMFA decision making.

Carl for producing four excellent newsletters this year – they seem to be growing in size with each edition so watch this space.

And finally a very big thank you to John Markham for organising this room and the refreshments for us every month. I have told John that if he ever thinks about retiring, he needs to get approval from all of us first.

-Andy Todd, Club Chairman





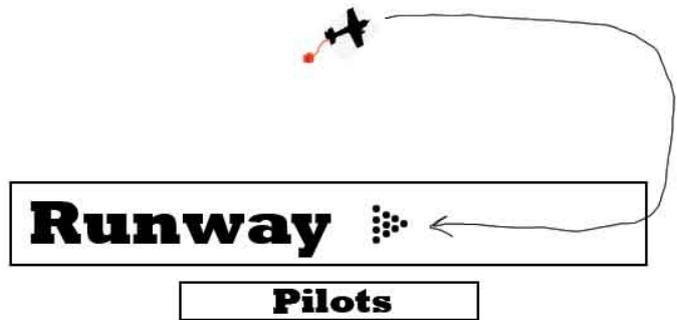
WORDS: CARL NEWTON:NEWSLETTER EDITOR

BARBEQUE GAMES

One of the things we spoke about doing last summer for the barbeques was to play some games. This never really materialised, as the only ones I could really think of at the time were helicopter related, and helicopters were thin on the ground!

Since then I've had a chance to have a bit of a think, and I've come up with a few games that could be a bit of a laugh! I'm always up for more input though, So if you can think of any others then let me know.

First off, 10 pin bowling! This is pretty self explanatory. The pilot ties a string with a tennis ball or similar to the back of his plane, and then makes a low pass along the run way to try to knock over as many pins as he can with the ball. If the plane touches the pins or the ground, it counts as a foul, and the pilot loses any score made on that pass.



The pilot gets two runs, and the score is totalled up. If the pilot gets a strike or a spare, the pins are reset and they get a third pass. There will be no multiplication of scores however, your score will only be equal to how many pins you knock down.



Next up - Bomb drop! A target will be laid on the runway, and a disposable cup will be affixed to the top of the pilots aircraft with tape or glue. A shuttlecock will be placed into the cup, the pilot must then take off and make a pass over the runway. At the appropriate moment, the pilot must do a barrel roll, or a loop to invert the aircraft and drop the shuttlecock, hopefully onto the target! The score will increase the closer you get to the centre, and the pilot with the highest score at the end wins.

Finally, Musical planes! This one is pretty self explanatory; Planes take off when the music starts, and circle however they like. When the music stops, land as quick as you can! The last person to land is eliminated. If you crash, you are eliminated. The last pilot at the end wins!



I suggest we play this one last, and use a cheap model!

If anyone can think of any other games please do let me know. We may even make the competition interesting with some small prizes!

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Talking of barbeque games, we were discussing this recently at the committee meeting. We decided that we would continue the summer barbeques as last year, with the first official one being the first Saturday in May; All the way through to October, weather permitting of course!

As mentioned at the club night, we will be looking to purchase a gas barbecue to be left at the club for all to access, so feel free to use it any time you see fit. Please just ensure you clean it and switch it off properly when you are finished! This along with other improvements we are planning (The use of a gazebo and generator) should allow us to stay around even just for the social aspect if it does begin to rain a little.

Soon hopefully the evenings will be drawing lighter; and we may start trying to do some mid-week flying. This is obviously a fairly long way off yet, but we wanted to float the idea early to get peoples brains ticking. There is no reason we cannot do mid week barbeques on a Wednesday night if the sun is out!

-Carl Newton

FIXED WING FOR SALE

FOR SALE, Offers invited, location Bovington

Boomerang 40 R/C Model Aircraft Sports Trainer (£65) with Glow Plug 2 Stroke Engine (£80)

This model was completed from a Seagull kit and has been flown about 10 times. It is complete with everything needed to fly, including (Prices listed below are for "new"):

- Futaba T6EX 2.4GHz computerised system. (£100)
- Futaba T6YG FM controller buddy box and lead.(£50)
- 2 Battery chargers for above, mains.
- JP 'POWERtorque' Series II model engine starter.(£25)
- POWERcell 12 volt 7 AMP-HOUR lead acid battery for starter.(£15)
- Battery charger for above, mains.(£12)
- A2 Pro 2100mAh Glow Plug Starter. (£10)
- Battery charger for above.
- Irvine Hand Fuel Pump.(£10)
- Spare NiMH 4.8V battery for on board systems.(£12)
- Fuel

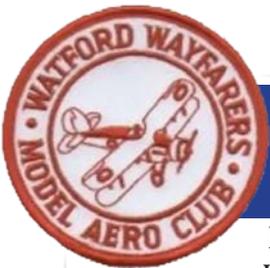
Total cost new approx £379

The model is powered by an O.S. Max-46LA 2 Stroke engine.

Wing span 155cm. Wing area 3950 sq cm. Approximate flying weight 2.6-2.8kg. Flying skill level Sports Trainer.

Contact Richard Biggs
07516 637 108
richbig@hotmail.com





WORDS: CARL NEWTON / RICHARD CRAPP

UVX2014 EXPO

I received an interesting email from Richard Crapp recently regarding a new project from Jeff Barringer, called "UVX 2014 - The Unmanned Vehicle Expo". This is a new event that Jeff is arranging for the first time in 2014. Details are as below, Maybe we will see some of you there?!

Introducing UVX 2014 - the Unmanned Vehicle Expo

The uptake of Unmanned Vehicles has been truly sensational in the recent past, with Developers, Manufacturers, Distributors, and Users embracing the technology with unprecedented enthusiasm.

UVX 2014 brings together all the stakeholders for the first time ever - Developers, Manufacturers, Distributors, Vendors, Academics, Hardware and Software Specialists, Media, Professionals and Hobby Users.

We expect more unmanned technology than ever before... Robotics, UAVs, Multicopters, Helicopters, UGVs, FPV, Photography, Navigation, Mounting Systems, Security, Videography, GPS, Survey etcetera, And with the huge levels of interest and local promotion, we expect a massive response from the Public

The Event of the Year will be held over the weekend of 26/27 July 2014 at Moulton College, near Northampton, England. We will have two large halls - The TechZone for Hobbyists and the TradeZone for Professionals with 2400 sq. metres of Exhibition Space. In addition, the Site has ample parking, accommodation, catering, seminar and demonstration facilities, and is within 100km of 5 International airports.

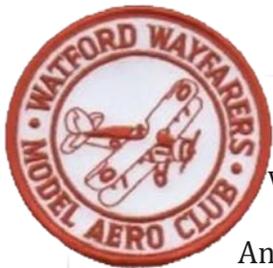
An idea whose time has come - contact us info@uvxpo.com

See you there
Jeff Barringer
Event Organiser, UVX2014

<http://www.uvxpo.com>
jeff@uvxpo.com



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If you have any models that you would like to show off, or any items you are looking to sell, swap, or just want rid of for the cost of postage, then please do let me know and I will review them for insertion into the next news letter.

Any submissions of interesting articles, or even a request for something that you would like to hear about will also be greatly received. Andy has kindly been writing articles for the newsletter for all of these recent issues; However, member submissions are golden, and if you have been working with a local scout troop, school or even television crew then please do let me know!

You can forward any submissions, questions or suggestions to me at carl.d.newton@gmail.com

WORDS: CARL NEWTON: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

CLUB NIGHT

It's that time again, our monthly club night will soon be upon us. As always, please feel free to make an appearance for a mixture of flight, chat and tea/coffee.

The next night will be held on Thursday February 27th at 8:00PM.

As usual it will be at the Holywell Primary School, Tolpits Lane, Watford

Until the next time...

-Carl Newton, Newsletter Editor

