



April 2013 Newsletter

Hello again, and welcome to the thrilling April 2013 edition of the Watford Wayfarers MAC news letter!

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter with your family / models!



An interesting likeness...

Not a lot has really changed since the last news letter, The weather is either slightly less wet and just as cold, or marginally warmer with 40 mile per hour winds. The ground seems to be drying up nicely at both the heli & the fixed wing site's, but it still cannot escape the definition of "slightly mushy" just yet!

March and April have been peculiar months from a weather perspective; My other hobby is classic & performance car's, and I can distinctly remember that by the middle of April last year I had already attended two car shows wearing short's and flip-flops! We can only hope that in the next couple of weeks the weather will start to look up (Although this is not looking hopeful from the weather forecasts!)

With the weather treating us to many impromptu snow storms, bout's of sleet, mild hurricanes, and many other uncharacteristic phenomenon, flying has been sporadic at best, and the flying sites have been uncharacteristically quiet for this time of year. However, with the summer hours now upon us and the longer days, this should improve. I took a trip to the flying site just after the clock change in April after work, and was in the air at 7pm! (Despite what felt like 30mph winds, my 700 was having a hard time with it!)

We can only hope that as April progresses, the weather will progress with it, and we can all get out there again without the aid of gloves, hats and windbreakers.

I realise this may be strange to read, seeing as you are no doubt reading this at the beginning of May; However, changing the weather by way of "optimistic prediction" Is the only way I can think of to bring the sun out and wish the wind away, because Mother Nature doesn't seem to be doing it!

Thing's really are that bad that just the other day I caught the local flasher describing himself to unsuspecting women!

With most of us filling our days with the fruitless pleasures of things like work, DIY, or even watching television; I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing away this ridiculous weather and hoping for some sunny, windless days so that we can all get back into the air again.

I can only hope that this issue of our newsletter will help you all to pass the time until the skies smile upon us devout aero modellers. I hope you enjoy!

-Carl Newton, Newsletter Editor



12 Hours snow fall - Fortunately not local!





HAMFC SWAP MEET

We have been informed that the Hanworth Airpark Model Flying Club will be holding a Swap meet. Feel free to take along any unwanted equipment and try to get some new toys!

Wednesday 1st May at Royal Naval Association Hanworth Branch, Park Road, Hanworth, TW13 6PP

“Bring, Buy or Swap” evening to allow you to recycle unwanted modelling items and pick up stuff for the summer. Entrance and set-up from 20:00hrs, No admission or set-up charges to reduce the cash you have for purchases. There is a bar available but you’ll have to fund those purchases yourself.

Let us know if you are coming so that we can plan enough space/tables!

Contact Chris Ireland, HAMFC Secretary on 01784 256588 or leave a message and he will get back to you. For more information about the club please visit <http://hamfc.webng.com/>

WORDS: MIKE CHILSON: RCSCALEBUILDER.COM

HELP YOUR HOBBY

The following article was brought to my attention some time ago by our BMFA Rep, Richard Crapp. He thought it was rather good, I had a read and I also agree, so we decided to include it in our news letter.

Greetings fellow modellers,

Here is a question to ask yourself. What are your goals in the hobby this year? Attend more events? Build another model? Buy a new radio? Those are all great goals but how about a goal to help our hobby?

You would be surprised at the impact each of us can have in our local modelling communities by doing the simplest things. And when our local modelling communities are healthy, guess what, our hobby as a whole is better off. So you are asking yourself “OK Mike, so what can I do?? Well quite a lot actually... I call it the “Three C’s”. Pick any ONE of them and you being a pro-active member of our hobby.

First, COMMUNICATE, if your local club or organization is sponsoring an event at a shopping mall or some other type of demonstration, grab one of your pride and joys and attend. If you don’t have a model you want to show, go and help answer questions. Communicating with the public is the KEY to bringing new members in. Also, if you have a scout troop in your area be sure and seek out the scout master and I am sure he would be interested in you coming and speaking to the kids about model aviation. Setup a day when a local TV station can come out and film you guys flying. There are hundreds of ideas.

Next, you can COLLABORATE. Got someone in your local club interested in R/C Scale Building? Become their mentor! Even though you may feel you are not qualified to teach someone else you are. Get together with them once a week, maybe one evening and help them accomplish their project. Even if you spend 90% socializing and 10% working on a model you have accomplished your goal and hopefully made a new building buddy.

Want to take it a step farther? Start a building seminar offering tips and tricks to help folks get started and advertise it at your local hobby shop.. Heck, they may help! Feel like you are a better flyer than a builder? Offer to become the trainer at your club and teach new members to fly!

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Last (but certainly not least) is CONTRIBUTE. This means many things, your time your effort and of course funds. Be sure and show up at local club work days and meetings and give your input. Enjoy writing? Write an article for one of the hobby magazines. Heck, post your build here on RCSB! The possibilities are endless. Also, be sure to try to support organizations that are you think are doing a good job promoting our hobby by joining and becoming active members.

There are many, many folks on this site that do one, two, and all three of these things on a regular basis. THIS is one of the main reasons this is the finest community site on the web in my humble opinion. So take this year and see what YOU can do to help drive our hobby forward. Oh, and the best part of doing any of these things.. You walk away with the satisfaction YOU have helped R/C Scale.

Until next month...

- Mike Chilson, <http://www.rcscalebuilder.com>

WORDS: ANDY TODD: CLUB CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

I attended a BMFA conference for club chairmen at the beginning of March. The day was divided into four sessions, the first being a detailed look at our insurance cover, then sessions explaining the support the BMFA provides to clubs, recommendations on running a club and, lastly, the achievement schemes. Elsewhere in this newsletter I've written about the insurance in more detail as there seems to be a lot of misunderstandings about this in general circulation. Many anecdotes were told during the day and one of the funnier ones concerned the insurance.

A club member, and I seem to remember that it was actually a club chairman, was distraught when one of his models met an unfortunate end. He retrieved the wreckage with assistance from suitably sympathetic colleagues and, having got it back to the pits, the on-site post mortem confirmed a faulty engine. In a fit of pique, the grieving member saw fit to hurl the offending item away from himself -- through the windscreen of his own car. Oh dear. And no, the insurance didn't cover that. Perhaps a salutary lesson for all Bovingdon fliers?

An interesting, but probably not surprising fact that came out during the day was that the most common reason for clubs losing their flying site is noise. We are lucky at both our flying sites with having few, if any, neighbours to have a problem. That's not to say that we should be complacent about noise as a single complaint could cause major problems. Please therefore do everything to ensure that your models are as quiet as possible with good, effective exhausts on IC engines and careful prop selection -- noise from the prop can outweigh noise from the engine and can make even an electric model relatively noisy.

Another anecdote from the conference was about a club where two factions had developed over some issue and relations had deteriorated to such an extent that one club night ended with a mass brawl in the car park. Now most of us have flown at clubs where there is discontent -- frequently caused by inconsiderate flying. However, I suspect we have all also cursed under our breath at the noise of an engine being run interminably in the pits while 'sorting out' a problem. This is often done by someone being very thoughtful about their neighbours at home and not wanting to annoy them with the noise. Strangely, no-one seems to give any thought to what their fellow club members might think at the field but please, if you intend running an engine more than just briefly to warm it up before flying, set yourself up somewhere away from the rest of the poor souls trying to enjoy their flying in (relative) peace.

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Well I can hardly write this piece without mentioning the weather. To say it has been rubbish is of course an understatement and, as a result, we are still having to be careful at Bovington with the state of the ground, especially for parking. If you are going to Bovington, and especially if you are the first there, please have a look at the ground conditions before attempting to drive to the normal parking area and, if it looks too wet, park on the track in the wood or just outside.



The GeeBee's Parade

Obviously we haven't been able to use the heavy roller on the patch yet but this will happen eventually.

There may well be hardier sorts than me but I think I have only managed to fly about three or four times so far this year and I have a backlog of models now awaiting their maiden flights. However, these two beauties have been flown by Tony Parrott and Felix Scicluna and two more are 'under assembly' to join the fleet. They are Gee Bee R3's, manufactured by Starmax and supplied by Hobby King. At £100 all up



Sittin' Pretty!

including motor, speed controller, servos etc., they are stunning value, stunning quality and Tony reports that it flies beautifully. The EPO foam is the smoothest finish I have come across and the attention to detail is admirable – the hardware pack includes spare screws, linkages etc, the foam has cut-outs above the servos so that you can get a screwdriver in to unscrew the horn for adjustment and many others little things - other manufacturers could learn a lot from this model. There may be mixed reports about Hobby King products but make no mistake, this is one worth every penny. The only note of caution I would add is that I changed the speed controller for a larger one but I have a natural mistrust of cheap Chinese speed controllers after bad experience with an FMS supplied ESC.

WORDS: ANDY TODD: CLUB CHAIRMAN

YOUR INSURANCE

Hopefully none of us will ever have cause to have to claim on the insurance which our BMFA membership brings. However, just in case, I hope the following summary is both useful should the worst happen and informative in dispelling some myths that seem to surround the insurance cover.

The core of the insurance is £25 million of third party civil liability insurance. This provides cover for you, the flyer, against any civil liabilities you may incur during your lawfully recognised model flying activities. This means that you must have complied with the law as defined in the Air Navigation Order, the relevant parts of which are set out on page 15 of the BMFA handbook. You should know what this says otherwise you could never claim to be "satisfied that the flight can safely be made", so I'm not going to reproduce them here.

As with any other third party insurance, this is NOT an automatic cover for the 'injured party'. The person insured is you, the flyer and it is up to the third party to prove that you were at fault before the insurance will pay out.

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It is therefore important that in the event of any incident that may have insurance implications, you should never admit any liability to any third party involved in the incident. This may be difficult, but is especially important if there are witnesses present.

However it is essential when completing the incident report form (see below) that you provide an honest and truthful account of events leading to the incident. If you believe that you have any responsibility or liability for the incident then you should declare this on the reporting form. Remember that the insurers will defend your case on the basis of your report and if you declare that it wasn't your fault, then that is the line the insurers will take and they will fight against any pay out. If your report reads like a work of fiction, perhaps being full of inconsistencies, you can expect a friendly call from the BMFA seeking to 'clarify' your statement before it is sent to the insurers. Do understand that you will NOT be penalised in any way as a result of any declaration you make on the BMFA incident report form.



Not what you want to see after a Sunday shopping trip!

Prompt notification of all incidents/accidents that may result in a claim on the policy is essential. Initial telephone contact with the BMFA's Leicester Office should be within 24 hours of the incident. Reports out of office hours will be recorded on the office answer phone. The office will supply you



Dont charge lipo's in your car....

with an incident report form which will become the basis of an initial report of an incident to the Insurer if required. The office staff will give you any specific advice you need to help you complete this form. Regardless of how serious an incident may be, the reporting procedure outlined above will nearly always be adequate.

Note that claims relating to property damage are subject to a £50 excess.

The insurance applies to the whole of the UK and elsewhere in the world if you are temporarily abroad. However, note that although the BMFA insurance cover is fully valid in the USA and Canada, you

are required to inform the BMFA office if you intend to fly in those countries on your BMFA insurance. Member-to-member liability is covered including damage to property belonging to fellow members.

Indemnity is automatically extended to any Principals (Landowners, Schools, Local Authorities, Government Departments etc.) whose land or premises is used by any BMFA affiliated club or individual registered member. The Indemnity is also extended to the Committee Members of the club and all lawful club activities are also indemnified.

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Airside Cover indemnity is provided for members operating their private motor vehicle 'airside' on an airfield or aerodrome, in pursuit of any activity associated with model flying where the member's own private motor vehicle policy makes a specific exclusion in this respect. A higher excess is applicable to any claim made under this special provision.

Club indemnity is extended to cover first time visitors to a club who have no previous experience but are seeking to try out model flying prior to joining the BMFA and the Club. Indemnity under this First Time Inexperienced Flyer provision will only be in place when flights are being totally organised and supervised by a suitable club member approved by the Club Committee. The limit of this indemnity is 3 separate day visits for any single inexperienced flyer.

Club indemnity is extended to enable clubs to welcome Model Flyers from overseas countries to fly at their club sites during short visits to the UK. In the interest of promoting good international relations the BMFA will absorb the cost of providing this indemnity for a period not exceeding 30 consecutive days for any one overseas visitor in any single membership year. Club Secretaries are required to notify the BMFA, in advance, if this provision is required.

Employer's Liability Cover with a £10 million level of indemnity is provided to all affiliated clubs. This covers legal liabilities for damages and legal costs arising from death or injuries caused to employees in the course of their 'employment'. The definition of 'employee' in this context includes labour only sub-contractors and volunteers working within the club.

The change of broker and insurer last year has, by all accounts, gone well with a distinct improvement in the claims handling timescale and overall experience. The insurers are very positive about the BMFA scheme and have taken a positive approach to dealing with possible grey areas. There has certainly been no suggestion of trying to avoid any claim because minor details have not been properly attended to.

If there's anything you are unsure about on the insurance cover you are welcome to ring the BMFA office and they will be happy to advise.

-Andy Todd, Club Chairman



Not quite a swish!





WORDS: CARL NEWTON: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

A JOLLY OLD KNEES UP!

One of the things the committee have recently been discussing is arranging some social events for the club, to promote member relations and club activity. We all know it's much more fun to fly with someone than it is to go on your own! To this end, we are looking into the possibility of many things, including indoor winter flying, day trips to interesting aviation related places, and regular barbecues in the summer to name but a few.

One thing we could really use to make this happen is some sort of "social secretary" to help oversee these arrangements. That isn't necessarily to say that we are looking for someone to arrange every aspect of all of them, but more of a controller who can delegate tasks and bring people together to make things happen. Any volunteers would be greatly received. This will be discussed in more detail at the club night, but for now we are pleased to announce the first WWMAC BBQ / fun day.

We will be holding this event on June the 1st and starting small! It will be a bring your own food and drink affair, current members and their families are welcome. We will provide the means to cook your food and potentially some other small misc items (Disposable cutlery, serviettes etc) but it is up to you to bring your own food and drink. There will be flying throughout the day, with some fun games being arranged for the pilots (Spot landing/auto rotation competition etc)

The event will be for fixed wing **AND** Helicopters (Don't worry, controls will be in place to ensure no models are prematurely de constructed mid air!) and it will be held at the Bovingdon site. **So join us on the 1st of June from 3PM onwards.** Bring your models, some burgers, sausages, a few beers and a camping chair or two and enjoy an afternoon of decent flying, decent chatter and (Hopefully!) decent weather! Entry is free, all that we ask is that you take your litter with you when you leave.

Obviously the weather may pose a problem to our plans and so you will need to look out for a notice on the website and an email a couple of days before 1st June either confirming or cancelling the day. It would be helpful, for planning purposes, to get an idea of possible numbers so if you think you might make it, a quick email to wayfarers@sarratt.net will be appreciated. If you include a mobile number we'll also send a text to confirm/cancel.

If the idea catches on we may expand these events into the "Funflies" you often hear about, with proper competitions and prizes. It's up to you to make it a success, so please make an appearance and help us make it a fun day for all.

WORDS: CARL NEWTON: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

CONTENT SUBMISSIONS!

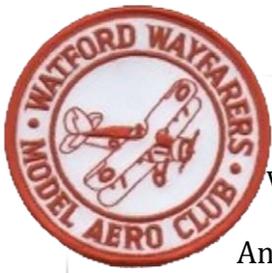
So, we are coming to the end of the second news letter that I have written so far for the WWMAC. As much as I love making up stories and anecdotes, you members can always feel free to submit anything you wish to me and I will review for inclusion in the next newsletter. I am already working with a few members about doing features on their most prized models, and Andy and I have also been murmuring about including a for sale / swap shop section.

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.

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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 these recent two 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 April 25th at 8:00PM.

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

Apologies that I could not make it down last time (Despite my request for anyone to bring any interesting models down for me to feature!) Work commitments got the better of me.

I will endeavour this week to make it down to say hello and chat to people about how wordy this particular news letter has been! (Because of course, you have all read it in full!)

With the evenings drawing lighter, sunset is scheduled for 8:00PM sharp at the moment. We may not get any outdoor flying done this month, but hopefully by the time the next newsletter comes around, we will have all been out in the playground breaking our micro heli's and small RTF planes!

Until the next time....

-Carl Newton, Newsletter Editor

