



Flight Desk

February 2003

The official newsletter of Chesham Model Flying Club Ltd

Volume 15

Issue 1

CLUB NIGHT

Wednesday 19th, 8pm White Hill Center

Jolyon Bambridge, a member of High Wycombe & District MAC will be giving a talk and slide/video show. Jolyon is very well known in the film world for building and flying models for special effects scenes etc. He has worked on several of the Bond films and Star Wars and created models for television advertising.

If you remember the Audi advert with the hedgehog that fell off the road, it was Jolyon who made and controlled that hedgehog. His talk is very professional and uses a PC projector for showing slides and video clips.

He gave a talk at the Wycombe club last year and he comes highly recommended.

Inside This Issue

Editors Ramblings	3
Happy New Year !	3
Letters to the Editor.....	4
No letters this time.....	4
Committee Matters	4
Chairman's Soapbox.....	4
Members Pages	7
Trying to be clever	7
What's Going On!	8
Forthcoming Events	8
Electric Indoor RC Flying (I.F.O.'S & Similar).....	8
Event Reports	8
Diary Dates	8
Instructors Corner	9
News from Alan Spicer, <i>Director of flight training & safety</i>	9
Flying Times.....	10
Pilot Tuition.....	11
The Instructor Rota	11
Adverts	12
For Sale	12
Contact Details	13
Committee	13
Instructors.....	13
Members.....	13
Our Sponsors	15

Editors Ramblings

Happy New Year !

A bit late I know, but

The feedback on the 'new' format has been excellent and many of you, over 50% of the membership will be receiving this version in all its glory by email. You will have also noticed that the format has changed to PDF, which has free software easily available for 99.9999% of machines and operating systems out there! If you are reading this and you got it by email – it worked!! Also the compression is very good, so the file size – download time is a lot shorter.

Have you checked out the new CMFC web site !! <http://www.cheshammodelflyingclub.co.uk/>



Not a lot else to report this time round, apart from that I actually went flying twice in January – lovely sunny, although freezing afternoons. On a different note, does anyone have any plans for a radio controlled, IC or Electric hovercraft?

The deadline for your next issue of 'Flight Desk' is the 4th April 2003 so please send your contributions by E-mail to: - colin.forsey@btinternet.com or post hand written, typed or 3 ½" floppy disk to:

**COLIN FORSEY,
57, DISRAELI CRESCENT,
HUGHENDEN PARK,
HIGH WYCOMBE,
BUCKS
HP13 5EW**

Photos, pictures or cartoons are very welcome. Please remember that any article copied from another publication should have the original author's permission. Paper copy can be Faxed to me 01494 558464

I need your input, as this is your newsletter - please help to make it a success.

Letters to the Editor

No letters this time.

So why not send me a letter, any comments/ideas for flight desk, ideas for flying competitions etc.

Committee Matters

Chairman's Soapbox

BRITISH HELI TEAM PRACTISE AT NEWGROUND – SAT 05 APRIL

The committee has responded to a request to make available Newground Field for the 3 man British team to practise ahead of the World Championships to be held this year in Japan. Club member Pete Christy will be in charge on the day, and club member and son of Pete, - Mark Christy, current UK Heli Champion will be there. There will be no guarantee of any club flying on the day, only perhaps when the sessions have concluded, the time of which is not known. Club flying is prohibited until this time. Anyone visiting to spectate, should observe all the usual club rules, and any rules imposed on the day by Pete Christy in the interests of safety and the concentration of those taking part.

RAILTRACK (NETWORK RAIL) AND THEIR WASTE MATERIALS

Following a salvo of e-mails and phone calls from myself to 'all and sundry' protesting about the latest incident of dumping on our land of rubber pads, plastic clips etc. from the railway on Nov30 / Dec 01, I was rewarded with some positive action. This problem and many others concerning the behaviour of some of Railtrack's contractors over the past 10 years, was finally aired in detail at Newground field on Thursday 23 Jan at 1.00pm. Representing the club was myself, backed by Alan Spicer and Bill Hockey. We were met by Teresa Ortigosa, (Railtrack Midlands Environmental Engineer), two representatives from contractor Balfour Beattie, one from contractor Jarvis, and one representing another contractor, soon to commence installation of new signalling close to Tring Station. I gave them a detailed account of the major incidents of dumping, and other unacceptable behaviour that we have witnessed, and a 200 page dossier, - being copies of letters and e-mails that the incidents have generated, including correspondence from Railtrack and our letters of protest to various third parties.

The bag of 'exhibits' I had collected on the morning of Sunday Dec 1st, the result of overnight track maintenance, (ie-used materials thrown on to our land), were emptied out and photographed. We then took a tour of the trackside boundary, where more photos were taken, of discarded items on the railway itself and unused materials of potential danger to the safe running of trains, - items that I know have been there for at least 3 years. It was clear that the party of 5 viewed the behaviour of those responsible for the dumping of items on our land, as totally unacceptable. All representatives took notes and were to make reports to their respective companies. We all left the field just before 3.00pm. - Teresa Ortigosa promising to e-mail me when she had studied all the information.

Several days later I received a phone call from Teresa Ortigosa, to explain that all the issues raised by myself on behalf of the club, concerning waste management with Network Rail's (formerly Railtrack) contractors are now being addressed by Network Rail. Incidentally Railtrack ceases to exist from Monday 03 Feb when they officially become Network Rail, the recently formed organisation created by the government to take over the running of the railway system. From the information I received, the contractors when identified, responsible for the dumping of waste materials on our land Nov 30 / Dec 01 will be fined by Network Rail. Also, all waste materials ON the railway system itself, adjacent to our land, will have to be removed by contractors, - This includes old rails, concrete blocks, metal clips, rubber pads, plastic clips etc. A more secure boundary fence will be erected to stop trespass FROM the railway system on to our land. The Community Relations Headquarters at Birmingham, -

(Network Rail Midlands Region) are now handling our complaints and will be contacting me, (regular mail), in due course to confirm the actions to be taken.

An important side issue to the continued dumping of waste materials, is that The Environment Agency are now involved. They have contacted me and requested a copy of the 200 + page 'dossier' of e-mails / letters we have, for them to study. They will be visiting me on Wednesday 05 Feb to collect this information and also the bag of dumped materials to take away and photograph as evidence. It is likely they may themselves bring a prosecution concerning our 'local' problem, - but in any case will be meeting with and challenging Network Rail to provide them with Waste Management Procedures concerning the proper disposal of their used materials, rubber pads etc, on a nationwide basis. This is to be initiated on the likelihood that the indiscriminate disposal of such items is not confined to a length of track that is only half a mile long, (our boundary), on a nationwide system that is some 100,000 miles long, - ie. It could be happening anywhere / everywhere. The problem exists, as we know, with those individuals working on the railway, failing to execute their duties properly with concern for the environment, and the failure of any management tier structure to check out these failings and carry out any appropriate 'deterrent measures'.

Corporate websites as I have discovered, in respect of their commitment to behaviour linked to a clean and safe environment are usually 'to die for' and probably well meant. However, typical of the world we live in, they are top rate 'spin', - often miles apart from reality. Do those generating these 'codes' exercise any practical input? - Sadly not, - It is left to voluntary environmental pressure groups (this could be CMFC Ltd) and 'Joe public' to give them the 'wake up call', - I await with interest the final outcome! It is, however, regrettable that Dacorum Borough Council who I first contacted were unwilling to involve themselves on our behalf, in respect of an issue that could be affecting the Borough, the county of Hertfordshire, or indeed the whole of the UK.

LATEST NEWS:- I did have the visit from the Environment Agency. I had to make a statement about the dumping and sign in 4 places. This means they will now take action, although it will not be a quick process. The bag of dumped materials was again emptied out and photographs taken as evidence.

I have sent a final e-mail to Railtrack, the transcript of which is as follows:-

Thank you for your recent e-mail, - I look forward to hearing from Pam Gilman in Birmingham.

Also I would like to bring the following to your attention as it is directly concerning the complaints being investigated, and as such not a 'new' complaint. Perhaps you could forward this message to your Community Relations Team dealing with our complaints. We had a work party at our site on Sunday 02 Feb, and made a final 'sweep' of our land on our boundary with the railway. We collected a black bin bag (half full) of various rubbish, which we have disposed of. Also in our front hedge near to the road bridge over the railway was some used trackside fencing, (not there 9 months ago). Also a length of scaffold pole, and a 4 metre length of 100 x 50mm timber, - these materials were used by Birse Rail in the construction of your new trackside footpath. At the time the footpath was being constructed, about 50 of these lengths of scaffold pole were tipped from the road by the bridge, down the bank on our land, to the track. To ease transportation to the trackside, over a dozen small trees were chainsawed on our land, which lie where they were cut. This was, as always, without our permission.

Regarding the materials described above, they are left on a large concrete inspection cover on our land, some 60 metres north of the road bridge near to overhead gantry G 30 34. They are visible from the railway and can be removed from our land by the contractors responsible as soon as possible. We could have placed them on the railway side of the fence, but this may have posed a safety problem, which is probably why your contractors kindly dumped the items on our land in the first place.

On behalf of our club I am grateful that our complaints have finally been taken seriously by you and your colleagues who visited our site. When you fine the contractors responsible for the dumping, it is hoped you can address the subject of compensation to our club for collecting / dealing with these and other discarded materials over the years, especially in consideration of the fact that we have in a responsible manner, - assumed the role of unofficial inspectors, keeping you informed of the frequent and serious transgressions of environmental codes by half a dozen or more of your principal contractors. I downloaded a pdf file of Railtrack's booklet about Safety on the Railway. I quote:- "We adopt an attitude of zero tolerance towards precursor events with catastrophic consequences. Catastrophic risks are defined as those events with the potential to cause multi - fatality accidents such as train collisions, derailment and fire." The concrete channels on the trackside adjacent to our land, which have been there for over 2 years, could be termed as such, and represent the tools of the trade for a 'would be vandal'. It is fortunate perhaps that 3 years ago British Waterways renewed their entire boundary fence between their towpath and our land, with treated timber posts, stockproof mesh topped with barbed wire, (some 900 metres long). Since then all known acts of trespass and vandalism on our property have ceased.

THE NEW SEASON

As we look forward to the new flying season, -with sunny and warm weather, and the sweet smell of cut grass, the following jobs are to be carried out.

- Replacement of some feather edge boards on the hut at Pednor.
- The painting of the tin roof on the hut at Pednor.
- Drainage ditches on the bridleway, beyond the club hut at Pednor, to stem the flow of water causing erosion to the bridleway, and flooding of the car park and pits following even moderate rainfall.
- Fix leaks in the container at Newground using flashband.
- Paint container at Newground.
- Roll outfield (tractor / roller), and patch (ride-on roller), Newground.
- Re-shape entrance at Newground, - Thames Water to oblige.
- Cutting of roadside hedge at Newground.

Members Pages

Trying to be clever

I have been looking for a new challenge, as I like big models, I thought I would build bigger but the problem was engines, I heard about some 130cc McCulloch engines going cheap. With a lot of searching and questions I tracked them down to a gentleman in Liverpool. Fantastic I ordered 2 £70 each can't go wrong. 130 cc twin engine bomber. Huge. Chequebook was ready.

The box arrived..... Well.

THEY WERE GO CART ENGINES (lesson number 1. don't buy without inspecting). Not to be deterred, I thought I could convert them. With a previous knowledge of engine development, (Rolls Royce development Tech) the drawings were made, the material sourced. the machining began (I only have a 4" hobby lathe and my files) four weeks later 2 converted 130cc engines. The next problem was carbs, the original go cart carbs, had a serious problem. When I talked to the go cart boys these engine would splutter and stop on a left hand bend, so unless you put your hand over the carb in the turn, you stopped. I didn't have arms that long. to cut a long story short, A tillotson racing carb and a walbro carb were fitted.



The final test would they run?

From new, Started 3rd flick and 5 flick respectively, 55lbs of static trust at 5800rpm.

Total cost £250 each and a lot of man hours.

Was it worth it? No, good experience though

The good bit, the building has commenced with the biggest model ever.

Nigel Pickering



What's Going On!

Forthcoming Events

Electric Indoor RC Flying (I.F.O.'S & Similar)

This is organised by the Aylesbury & District M.F.C. It's on every Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 9.30pm. At the Cottesloe School, Church Street, Wing.

Limited places are available, if you are interested contact GEOFF WALKER on 01494 864985



Event Reports

Did anyone see / buy anything at the Watford Bring and Buy that would interest the rest of us?

Diary Dates

** Proposed Dates / Events*

February	19th	Club Night, 8.00pm at The White Hill Centre, Chesham
March		
April	16th	Club Night, 8.00pm at The White Hill Centre, Chesham
May		
June	19th	Club Night, Silent Night Flying @ Pednor, 6.30 start
July	16th	<i>* Club Night, Silent Flying @ Pednor</i>
August	20th	<i>* Club Night, Silent Flying @ Pednor</i>
September	17th	<i>* Club Night, Silent Flying @ Pednor</i>
October	5th	Halton Show, 25 th Anniversary Show
	15th	AGM, 8.00pm at The White Hill Centre, Chesham
November		
December	17th	Club Night, 8.00pm at The White Hill Centre, Chesham
	26th	Boxing Day flying at Pednor, Late morning /Early afternoon

Instructors Corner

News from Alan Spicer, *Director of flight training & safety*

Hi everyone, and a happy New Year to one and all. I'm afraid I will not be writing anything at all on the instructing side this time, there is a very good reason for this..... There hasn't been any.....!! The weather has been so bad on Saturday mornings (too windy, too wet, too cold, and too snowy do you want any more excuses? and If no one rings then we don't go down the field simple as that.

The last time I actually flew outdoors was Boxing day morning at our club get together, there were twenty five members present, and I would like to thank you all for coming, it was a good turnout considering the very damp conditions and the waterfall coming over the steps into the field. Incidentally those dangerous slabs into the field have now been ripped up, another two added, wrapped in non slip chicken wire and relayed by myself Dave Humpy, Geoff Walker and Tom Barlow, and how good they look too, even if I say so myself, thanks a lot chaps, a good job done. Must not forget, thanks to John Barber for the lovely non-alcoholic punch.....hic..!! (I fink it wosh non alcoholic....) And the mince pies and sausage rolls, not to forget the blazing brazier and thanks to Kev Hammond (alias chocks away Ginger....) for the supply of wood to fuel the fire.

I have been doing most of my R/C flying this winter indoors at Rickmansworth sports hall every other week on a Friday, and some Tuesday evenings at Wing just the other side of Aylesbury. I have also been partaking in some free flight again on the odd Sunday around the South East with me 'ole sidekick Geoff Walker also Bill Hockey and John Stroud it's great fun.

I bought an ARTF GWS Piper J3 Cub approx 39 inch wingspan rudder and elevator, has the usual motor and g/box set-up as per GWS, and I am using the new 7.2- 720 mah Lithium Iron batteries, they are almost the third of the weight of a Nicad or Nickel Metal Hydride of the same capacity. I am well happy with the performance and duration of this model, I get a 27 mins flight on one charge, can't be bad.



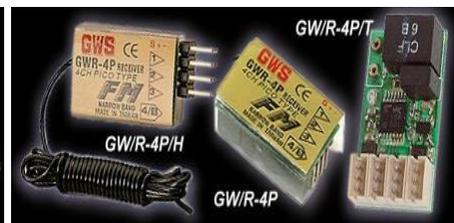
J3 Cub 39 inch wingspan



Gearbox and motor set up



5 amp speed control



Four Channel Receiver



9 gram servos

Go to..... <http://www.gws.com.tw>

I have just finished building a Beeline models 20 inch wingspan kit of the Sopwith Pup, (my dear wife Janet bought me for Christmas) again radio control, it has four full strip ailerons and elevator, and using the same lithium iron battery packs. Certain sections of the kit together with the instructions were a bit sparse in places along the way, I did redesign parts of it I didn't like, to hopefully make it simpler and more accessible. I am very pleased with the finished model it looks smashing, and if it flies as good as it looks I'll be well chuffed. Janet is also pleased I've finished it as.....

- 1/ She can now have the dining room table back and
- 2/ she won't have to put up with all the tutting and huffing and puffing noises at the "sparse" sections of the kit I was making, whilst she was watching T.V. All that there is to do now is the test flight; I'm really looking forward that.

Anyway must go now, I have got to take all my tools back into the garage and get sorted, and on to my next project.....NO not aero modelling.....decorating the flaming dining room.....wish me luck.....!!!

All the best happy flying.....AL



Sopwith Pup

Go to..... <http://www.beelinemodels.com/>

Flying Times

Pednor

Power	Monday, Thursday and Friday: - 9am to 1pm
Power (79dB(A) max)	Saturday: - 9am to 2pm
Gliders/Electric	Any daylight hours

Newground

Power	Monday to Saturday: - 9am to 7pm
	Sunday & Bank Holidays: - 10am to 6pm
Electric	Any daylight hours

Pilot Tuition

Flying tuition is available to any junior or new members who have yet to achieve their 'solo' wings. A flying instructor will be available to attend the Pednor field each Saturday morning from 10.30am to 2.00pm weather and pupil attendance permitting. To avoid the possibility of wasting instructor's time attending an empty field please **Telephone the appropriate instructor on the Wednesday or Thursday evening** to confirm that you would like tuition on the Saturday.

The Instructor Rota

The rota for the next few months is as follows: -

February	22	Geoff Walker
March	1	Alan Spicer
	8	Frank Dalby-Smith
	15	Dave Anderson
	22	Geoff Walker
	29	Alan Spicer
April	5	Frank Dalby-Smith
	12	Dave Anderson
	19	Geoff Walker
	26	Alan Spicer
May	3	Frank Dalby-Smith
	10	Dave Anderson
	17	Geoff Walker
	24	Alan Spicer
	31	Frank Dalby-Smith

Additional instruction is available at Newground on Saturday or Sunday afternoons with Robin Thwaites. Please telephone to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Adverts

Do you have anything "modelling orientated" for sale or do you want to find something, then let me know and I'll put an advert in for you.

For Sale

JODEL REGENT, 84inch scale model 2 1/2 inch to 1 Foot, Practical Scale by Roy Scott. Millennium .65 two-stroke motor, trike U/C, flies well. Need the space! Colour scheme in Glosstex Cream and Red. Fit Rx, Battery, and fly.
All for the sum of £90 o.n.o.

PUPPETEER by Flair. A bit battered but flies like a dream! 4th in the Chesham Scale meet 2002.
For sale with all servos £40. o.n.o.
For sale with all servos and LASER 61 £80.o.n.o.

Several engines to clear :-
Old WEBRA.61 Pumper with spares and silencer. *£25.o.n.o.*
New O.S. .10LA just run in. *£25.*
S.C.1.08 good condition, with 2 silencers and engine mount. *£40.o.n.o.*

Tel. Peter Conway on 01494 758385 or Email to peter@pconway63.fsnet.co.uk.

For Sale

Folding Bed, John Lewis de-luxe model on wheels, with headboard and interior sprung mattress. Folded size: (cm) 91 W x 30 D x 88 H. Little use, so in superb condition.

£ 5 0 . 0 0

Tel. Geoff on 0 1 4 9 4 - 8 6 4 9 8 5

For Sale

*Packard Bell PC, 486, 66MHz, 1.5 GB HD.
C/ W CD ROM, floppy disc drive, 56K modem,
14" monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers.
W indows 95 and MS Office '97 inc.*

£ 5 5 . 0 0 o . n . o .

Tel. Geoff on 0 1 4 9 4 - 8 6 4 9 8 5

Our Sponsors

We thank our sponsors for their support, in helping with the financial support of this newsletter

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