



Flight Desk

June 2015

The official newsletter of Chesham Model Flying Club Ltd

Volume 27

Issue 3

June 17th Club Night

Pednor

Silent Night Flying

Any electric or gliding model. Food and conversation mixed with flying.

What more could you want.

Editors Ramblings



This newsletter is a bit thin and just a little late. Holidays have come between me and my laptop which explains the lateness. The thinness is down to you. A reminder that this is your newsletter. If you don't send me something to share then it all becomes a bit boring. All I need is an email with the text and pictures. Even just the text, and I can do the rest. Over to you.

Major news has been the marriage of Becca and Toby. They have both become involved as committee members and we are all very happy for them and wish them every success in the future. They appear to have had fine weather and the day went well.



A very art house shot. See you both when you get back from honeymoon.

Our next club event is Silent Night at Pednor on Wednesday 17th June in the evening. People normally start gathering from 6:00 and fly until it gets too dark. Only electric and gliders are permitted but, if the weather is right, it can be a superb evening and quite different from daytime flying. The Pednor flyers are organising sausage rolls as an extra inducement. Please come along and enjoy.

As always, you can contact me, Colin Hooper.

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Site Maintenance

This went extremely well at Newground despite the appalling rain that dogged the morning. The patch was rolled in both directions and the other site facilities were tidied up. Thanks to Richard Johnson for organising and to Steve Bull and Austen Pearce for getting wet with us.

Pednor has also had a cut and a roll to improve the flying surface. The Pednor crew had better weather than Newground enjoyed, along with less acreage to prepare. If you come to the Silent Night you can enjoy the fruits of their labours.

Secretary's Notepad



Becca Newton has had other things on her mind and is let off this time.

Summary of Club Events in the next quarter

June 17 th	Club Night @ Pednor - Silent Flight Evening
July 15 th	Committee Meeting @ WHC, 8pm.
July 19 th	Competition @ Newground "Bombing the Tablecloth"
August 19 th	Club Night @ Pednor - Silent Flight Evening

Humpy's Addendum

Get ready for Pednor this Wednesday 6.00pm till late. John Barber and his team have rolled the patch. It will be close mown on Monday / Tuesday.

The track vegetation has also been strimmed.

John has confirmed he meant Hot Dogs + cold drinks.

Latest on outfield: - It has been ploughed, apparently to get rid of Ragwort. However the Estate have confirmed that the surface will be prepared and grass will be sown at the end of the year. It will then stay as grass for the foreseeable future, - topped as required.

It should then be Pednor Field as it used to be !

Let's get back those 'Golden Days' of Bungee Launch Gliding !

Humpy

Competition Report

BALLOON BURSTING COMPETITION MONDAY 4 MAY

Fortunately, the weather Gods decided to smile on NG for this event – in stark contrast to the horrendous conditions over the rest of the Holiday weekend and the forecast for the following week.

As I've said before, this is a labour intensive comp. which needs dedicated assistance; I was, therefore, delighted to welcome Leon Coward who arrived not long after myself to help set things up. We soon had twelve balloons out on the patch and eventually eleven pilots turned up. It was also a pleasure to see a goodly number of other halves/guest spectators and a line of chairs in the "gallery".

Over half of the entries were electric and we had an eclectic mix of model types ranging from expensive stuff to el cheapo, Club Trainer to lightweight foamie and the usual pukka fun fly examples.

Several pilots spent time prepping their models, particularly the i/c engines where reliability is crucial. It is good to see that old fashioned values, including helping others, remain a feature of this Club.

This year we flew two rounds comprising slots of three minutes each and all pilots stood on a doormat which stayed in the same position for everybody. As far as possible it was a level playing field but, as usual, the balloons wobbled up and down in the fickle breeze. Luck plays its part and many flew pass after pass without success. The overall

standard of flying was very high and this means very low! New member Austen Pearce entertained us with some ground hugging aerobatics and Toby Newton, using a Club



Trainer, showed just how versatile this can be in the right hands. No one scored zero but gaining 50 points for a balloon burst and 5 for cutting one loose means that bursts are essential to build a decent score.

There was only one real casualty (i.e. expensive/extensive damage) plus a number of minor mishaps and, as usual, everyone ensured that the ethos of good sportsmanship prevailed. There is always someone kind enough to pick up the pieces for you!

After a truly belting second round Toby came out well on top with RG second; Trevor Brunt took the third podium position flying the ex Mike Martin Limbo Dancer which carried on where it left off last year. A bottle of decent wine apiece.

In total we got through 56 balloons plus the odd spontaneous burst and overall the conditions were excellent with sun and blue skies.

My thanks once again to all those who turned out – some with models untested since last year! I owe a great deal to Leon for his very able help keeping the balloons going and to Mike Kitchen who provided valuable back up when required.

Running this on the Bank Holiday Monday is certainly a good move but looking at the weather today (Tuesday 5) how very lucky we were!

Remember, it's the taking part that matters!

Cheers,

RG

Safety Officer's Corner



Well, the flying season should be under way by now but the weather seems to have other ideas. I can't remember a time when so many flying days have been aborted due to high winds. This has led to lots of sessions turning into discussion groups, and one of the many topics that crop up are batteries. Whilst a lot of members now fly electric models and are very conversant with Li po's and their requisite care, my thoughts are more with transmitter batteries.

It occurred to me that we regularly change our receiver batteries either on a time basis or when we build a new model. However our transmitters are rather more hidden, we obviously charge them before each session but how often do we replace them, bearing in mind that all batteries have a finite number of cycles.

My own transmitter was purchased probably four or five years ago and still had the original battery. For peace of mind I recently changed it although it was still performing well. The new battery came from Vaportech and is one of their low discharge units, it is 8 cells and came complete with the appropriate JR/Spektrum plug. It cost a very reasonable £11.95, a small price to pay when you are potentially controlling a model worth many hundreds.

Occasionally we all have 'an incident' with a plane, this can be an unexpected glitch when flying which can result in an unexpected movement or at worse a crash. Time and again the resultant opinion is "it must be the receiver". I too fell into this trap recently when my trusty hack experienced what I describe as a difficult flight, I only had intermittent control and my only course of action was to ditch in the safest area available, leading to a write off.

Again, common opinion was receiver failure, which seemed reasonable enough, but why? Back home the autopsy was started, the receiver was consigned to the bin. Whilst stripping the plane of its salvageable parts the switch was removed. The lead to the battery had been passed through a former during the assembly, upon removal I was horrified to see the insulation on all three wires had worn away thus shorting out. This was happening due to vibration (Saito 1.80) thus causing the intermittence. Lesson learnt Not to jump to conclusions and wrap all wires in foam when passing through formers.

Ps: receiver was retrieved from bin and works faultlessly.

Safe flying

Steve Bull

Club Training

Remember that training currently takes place at Newground with either Dave Anderson, Simon Adams or Richard Ginger. You will need to contact the designated trainer by the Thursday to confirm your interest. If the weather is looking poor for the Saturday, a call will save you travelling to find training has been cancelled.

Month	Date	Trainer
June	6	Simon Adams
	13	No Training
	20	Richard Ginger
	27	Dave Anderson
July	4	Simon Adams
	11	No Training
	18	Richard Ginger
	25	Dave Anderson
August	1	Simon Adams
	8	No Training
	15	Richard Ginger
	22	Dave Anderson
	29	Simon Adams

Committee

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