



Flight Desk

December 2018

The official newsletter of Chesham Model Flying Club Ltd

Volume 30

Issue 6

December 19th Club AGM

White Hill Centre

20:00

Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls

Editors Ramblings



What a busy time we have had since the last newsletter. We have welcomed a number of new members and I am sure that you will welcome them to our club.

Kevin Lambi, Mervyn Dry, Cuneyt Seckin, Pawel Kurpiewski, Bill Hofmann, Graham Best and Ian Scottow we hope you find us to be a friendly bunch.

Both Trevor Brunt and Jeff Denty have been patch cutters for more years than we care to remember and they are standing down. However, Trevor gave Newground its last patch cut of the year and ran an ad hoc traing course on using the mower at the same time. Steve Bull, Richard Ginger and myself were awarded certificates, thanks Trev. We will carry on the good work between us until we are too old to carry on (not that you're old Trevor).



The flying continues apace, despite the cooler temperatures and very variable winds. You only have to look at Leon's flight log analysis to see who we are. Thanks to Steve Langbridge for merging the Pednor figures into it. We may visit the field a lot but actual flight times are not so high. It is a very social thing being at the field and a lot of talking takes place. Very therapeutic. We benefit greatly from the shelter at Newground and it would be nice to have something similar at Pednor. However the difference between owning your field and renting it makes it difficult to achieve. We have been dismayed to hear that two local clubs have lost their flying fields which were rented from third parties. It helps to make us very appreciative of the efforts made to secure ownership of Newground in the past.

In 2019 we have only planned one club night at the White Hill Centre. That is the "Winter Projects" meeting in February. If you will be doing any building over the winter, we would like to see your efforts "in the flesh" so to speak. We are just as interested in ARTF's as we are in kit builds, so bear it in mind over the coming months. We have other social club events planned through the year but these will be flying field based and some will involve food!

As always, you can contact me, Colin Hooper.

cmfc.colin@gmail.com

Club Matters

The Club AGM will be held at the White Hill Centre, Chesham, on Wednesday December 19th starting at 8pm. All members are urged to attend or give their apologies in advance. Membership renewals following the AGM must be completed before the end of January 2019. The renewal form will be available on the Club web site, see page https://chmfc.co.uk/membership_renew.php but the page will only be live following the members approval of club fees at the AGM.

Summary of Club Events in the next quarter

December 19 th	AGM @ The White Hill Centre 20:00 (Wednesday)
December 26 th	Boxing Day Meet @ Newground
January 15 th	Committee meeting @ WHC, 20:00 (Tuesday)
February 20 th	Club Night "Winter Projects" @ WHC, 20:00 (Wednesday)

Chairman's Soapbox

AGM / CLUBNIGHT - WED. DEC. 19th. 8.00pm

Usual format complete with traditional mince pies and sausage rolls. As well as the mince pies and sausage rolls, there will of course be tea, coffee provided, and all being well the bar should be open if you need something alcoholic. It's your club, - find out the latest news and have a say on its future. Don't miss it!

This should be an interesting evening with Colin - our new Membership Secretary, and Steve Langbridge - our new Treasurer, - with plenty to say as the club goes truly 'Digital' with respect to subscriptions and accounts.

Also, an ex member has several airframes and other 'stuff' to donate to the club. All items will be available to view on the night. We will not have an auction, instead there will be a piece of paper beside each item. If, and only if, you have a genuine interest in owning any item, you can put your name against it, or indeed multiple items.

We then put the names 'in the hat' for each item and if your name is pulled out, it's yours free. However, we don't expect any item to be passed on for payment.

NEWGROUND - LATEST

The patch is looking reasonable for this time of year. It's been mown recently for the last time this season, courtesy of Trevor Brunt who along with his mate Jeff Denty are retiring from patch mowing at Newground after several years outstanding service; - thanks to both of them!

There was someone in mind to take over, but regulars Colin Hooper, Steve Bull and Richard Ginger have now volunteered, - all offering to carry out the mowing with no cost to the club, except of course petrol. This is a spirited gesture by them, much appreciated. There is some slight damage to the patch caused by our rabbit friends, and parts that got scorched during the hot spell. Plans are in hand to carry out repairs.

As I write this, the road hedge and our tall trackside hedge have not yet been cut as expected, but it is imminent.

Humpy

Treasurer's Report



As of 1st September I have taken over from Richard Johnson as treasurer of Chesham Model Flying Club.

Richard had left the accounts in a very clear and concise manner, and I would like to thank him for his time in helping transfer the account to me.

As always the Banks were the main problems, resulting in us closing our account at Barclays, and moving the balance to our HSBC account.

My first job as treasurer was to convert the accounts from spreadsheet base to an accounts package, and then on to understanding the maintenance processes involved.

The club had been operating on a Cash and Cheque basis for many years. As I am also treasurer for 2 other companies, I knew this would need to change.

I started working on building a new Chesham Model Flying Club website in June - <https://chmfc.co.uk> and subsequently added an online form for new

members. All new joining transactions are now completed online, with payment by bank transfer, or through the Paypal system, where credit/debit cards are also accepted (for those without a Paypal account). This has been extremely successful with the 7 new members in the last 3 months.

A similar online form will be in place for **your** end of year renewals, and will be presented at the AGM at the Whitehill Centre, Chesham, on 19th December. The online renewals form cannot be released before the AGM, as the small membership renewal fee increases need to be approved at the meeting before we can release the form. The renewal form will also give **ALL** club members the opportunity to renew their BMFA membership through the club if they have not already done so direct with the BMFA.

FINANCIAL STATUS

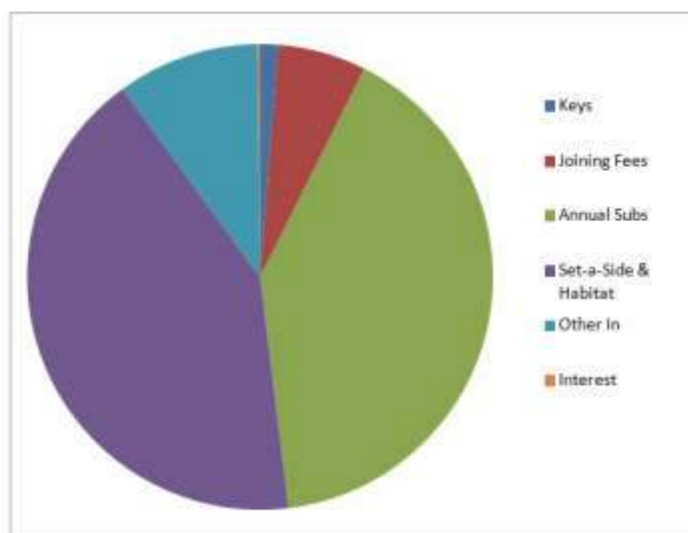
The 2017 Income was £9134 and Expenditure £10461 A deficit of £1327
 Income for 2018 was £8116 and Expenditure £8900 A deficit of £784

INCOME BREAKDOWN

	Keys	Joining Fees	Annual Subs	Set-a-Side & Habitat	Other In	Interest
2016/17	120	500	3,430	4,540	467	77
2017/18	100	500	3300	3400	800	16

Year Loss
£1,327.00

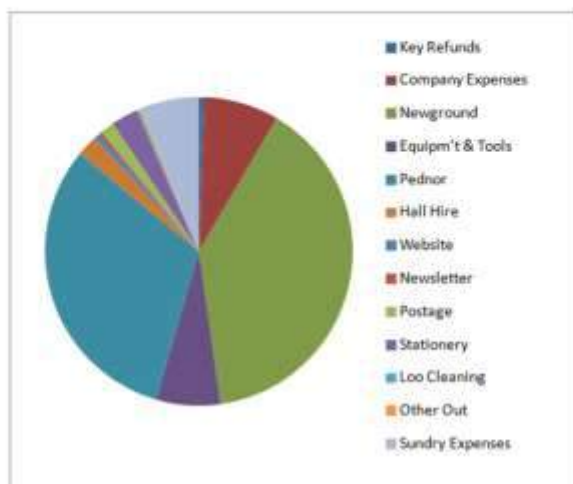
£784.50



Others
 £475.00 Illegal credit card use
 £325.00 HSBC Refund

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

2016/17	100	1,020	4,803	1,670	1,680	150	218	23	170	390	61	136	40
	Key Refunds	Company Expenses	Newground	Equipm't & Tools	Pednor	Hall Hire	Website	Newsletter	Postage	Stationery	Loo Cleaning	Other Out	Sundry Expenses
2017/18	50	700	3,500	600	2,800	200	50	30	130	250	20	20	550



Expenses	£600.00 Accountant
	£80.00 Bank Charges
Equipment	£300.00 Trainer
	£100.00 Batteries
	£130.00 Padlock
Pednor	£710.00 Mower repair
	£340.00 Scalpings Drive
	£1,100.00 Rent
Newground	£1,350.00 Outfield Cut
	£330.00 Mower service
Sundry	£475.00 Insurance

Our cash position has reduced from £13000 in 2014 to our current balance of £9500 as of 1st December.

The committee has therefore proposed to slightly increase the club annual fees to:

	CMFC Membership	BMFA
Seniors	£54	£38
Veterans	£36	£38
Juniors	£21	£17
Associates	£18	N/A

These fees are still less than any other flying club in the area, and are set to provide the service we expect at our 2 superb flying sites.

As outlined above, you will be able to renew you membership online after the AGM meeting. Club renewals must be made by 31st January 2019, after which an additional £10 will be levied for additional handling charges. Remember that BMFA renewals are mandatory if you wish to fly in January.

I look forward to seeing you at this important meeting.

Steve Langbridge - Treasurer
treasurer@chmfc.co.uk

Membership Report



Richard Johnson is officially standing down as Membership Secretary at the AGM, but I have assumed the role since September. My thanks to Richard for all his good works.

As a close friend of the Treasurer, Steve Langbridge, my offer to take on membership was made in the knowledge that we could dramatically streamline the enrolment of new members and the renewal of existing members on the back of Steve's reworking of the Club web site. So far we have put seven new members through the process. After the AGM you will be asked to renew using a similar online web page, I hope that you will agree it is easy when you see it! Those few members who are not endowed with a computer will be able to complete a paper version.

I was also persuaded to offer to stand as I was aware that the BMFA were also pursuing a streamlined approach to membership with web based tools that simplify the work load for the membership secretary and treasurer. The BMFA Portal is all that I could hope for. It removes a major headache in handling paper forms which need



posting to them. Payments by the club treasurer are also on line so no visits to banks. You, as BMFA members have access to your personal version of the portal. It can be found at <https://bmfa.azolve.com/Workbench/Home>

If you follow the link you will see a member login challenge which needs your email address and a password. If you have never used the portal before, use the "Forgot Password" to be sent one via the email address you entered. In future, the portal will be the way that you get your insurance and membership card via a download. As membership secretary I will manage certain aspects of your membership on your behalf using the portal. The BMFA training course that I attended covered all the bases as well as exploring the enhancements that are planned.

Those club members who choose to do their own BMFA renewals direct are asked to make an affiliation request to the Chesham Model Flying Club. It does not affect any other clubs you may enjoy membership of as you can affiliate to all of them via the portal!!

The current membership of our club comprises

Veterans	42
Senior	50
Junior	4
Associate	15
Total	111

This represents a flying membership of 96 with a voting total of 92 members. We have a capped membership of 120 flying members so we have scope to add a few more.

I am always available to field any questions you have concerning membership. Feel free to ask.

Colin Hooper - Membership Secretary
membership@chmfc.co.uk

Pednor Report



2018 Has been a busy and eventful year for Pednor. With the introduction of Pednor being the CMFC designated drone flying site, the main gate being flattened by a truck, hornets nests, and various maintenance works taking place over the summer.

After initial reservations from some members feeling that we would be over run by drones of all shapes and sizes, we can confirm this hasn't been the case. To date there has been only 2 new drone flying members to join the club, Ray Hogarth and Kevin Lambi, and we extend to them a warm welcome.

It's been great to see some new faces at Pednor, increase of flying times and variety of planes. One of strangest being John Baber's steam rocket. I believe John is currently working on the first steam plane and wish him luck on its maiden. Really looking forward to it John.

During the summer we had to evacuate several hundred hornets who had taken up flying at Pednor. With no BMFA insurance or solo clearance from Tring, their wings have now been permanently clipped.

Steve Langbridge and myself managed to salvage and renovate 2 of the original Pednor benches and Peter Hodge kindly made 2 new ones, vastly smartening the pits area along with a newly revamped wind sock. The patch itself received a heavy rolling and now, not quite a bowling green, is looking pretty good.

Wishing everyone a great Xmas and all the best in the New Year.

Geoff Wyrill

Newground Report

It has been a long and hot flying season at Newground. The revised pits layout and the safety separation for those not flying has seen the shelter become invaluable. Now that winter approaches it will become a mixed blessing because the temperature inside the shelter also plummets. Plans are afoot to improve this by installing removable polycarbonate glazing into the four large openings. This will help to keep the wind out as well as allowing a cosier feel.

The webcam is due to get an overhaul following the withdrawal of the web hosting arrangements at the end of the year. A new host has been found and they have created a similar package for our images. Conveniently, it is hosted on our own web site suppliers servers, Gradient Hosting and Martin Langbridge are to be complimented on going the extra mile to keep our webcams alive. By the time you read this we should have completed the migration.

Also planned for 2019 are a table bench combo outside the shelter so that we have somewhere to picnic when the sun shines.

The ongoing improvements to our facilities are courtesy of a small band of regular flyers who continue to give freely of their time when it comes to work parties. Much like Pednor, there is a recognition that their efforts increase their own enjoyment of the flying field.

Member's Ramblings

A First For CMFC, The Power Of Steam

A few months ago a friend from UKRA (UK Rocket Association) sent me a link to an American paper on 'hot water rockets'. Strictly speaking these are hot water jets not rockets but they were being flown like rockets. As far as we could see no one had been mad enough to fit one into a r/c model aircraft before so, I thought, let's try it!



After a bit of design work we built a steel tube containing approx. 1 litre of water. Carried out pressure tests on the tube and machined a nozzle for it. Designed a release system and time for the first test with various instrumentation monitoring temperatures, pressure etc.

While testing the prototype in the garden the release mechanism failed early and this resulted in the first flight which was the black and decker workmate heading down the garden! This unit was heated by an external blow torch aimed at the outside of the tube. Back to the drawing board and a redesign of the release mechanism cured that. The method of heating was then changed from external to internal using a 2 kw electric heater built into the jet and a larger, 1.6l tube.

Over the next couple of months and over 30 discharges whilst attached to a post in the garden we reached a reliable, safe motor. Surprisingly no complaints from the neighbours....yet. On reflection not particularly noisy. We began to realize how powerful the motor was when it lifted the post and test rig weighing 15Kg out of the ground.

Now, time for intentional flight. We fitted the motor into a delta aircraft that I built some years ago.



The first flight was the most successful so far. It was launched vertically up a rail and flown in a wide circle to almost land on the patch. See photo. Subsequent vertical launches were not so successful so we fitted the model with wheels and took off horizontally from the patch. Continuing stability problems were encountered. It was soon realised that if its climbing the cg is too far back and as soon as I level out the weight moves the cg too far forward.

Developments in hand this winter are to accurately plot performance on a data logger and to build a new aircraft for it.

John & Martin Barber

Leon has been number crunching at Newground again. I have included Pednor stats courtesy of Steve Langbridge. This is the end of year for most of you so see how you fared!

FIELD VISITS 1st JANUARY TO 27th NOVEMBER '18				
NAME	TOTAL VISITS	TOTAL FLIGHT MINUTES	<i>Total Flight Hours</i>	AVERAGE FLIGHT TIME (Minutes) PER VISIT
Richard Ginger	116	3487	58.1	30
Colin Hooper	103	2576	43.0	26
Steve Langbridge	87	3607	60.1	41
Steve Bull	80	1350	22.5	17
Austen Pearce	70	1939	32.3	28
Geoff Wyrill	49	1635	27.3	34
Malcolm Saville	46	641	10.7	14
Steve Triggs	40	1518	25.3	38
Trevor Mines	40	1019	17.0	25
Trevor Brunt	38	526	8.8	14
John Barber	29	313	5.2	11
Michael O'Neill	28	1090	18.2	39
Mike Kitchen	28	771	12.9	28
Robert George	26	662	11.0	25
Robin Hodge	26	650	10.8	25
Leon Coward	24	1619	27.0	67
Dave Anderson	24	533	8.9	22
Steven Atherton	23	705	11.8	31
Mike Martin	23	223	3.8	16
Robert Clark	21	506	8.4	24
Steve Edwards	21	451	7.5	21
Emil Smit	19	984	16.4	52
Ben Martin	19	583	9.7	31
P J Hodge	19	316	5.3	17
Simon Adams	16	726	12.1	45
Robin Thwaites	16	566	9.4	35
Paul Baker	15	596	9.9	40
Andrew Rimmer	15	439	7.3	29
Mall Emms	15	379	6.3	25
Alfie Williams	14	197	3.3	14
Doug Brittain	12	241	4.0	20
Jon Sandler	12	204	3.4	17
Jeff Denty	10	185	3.1	19
Phil Camp	10	146	2.4	15
Lionel King	10	124	2.1	12
Charles Parkins	9	174	2.9	19
Oswald Marsh	7	440	7.3	63
Dempster Hamilton	7	236	3.9	34
Piers Acland	7	215	3.6	31

Richard Johnson	7	158	2.6	23
Nick Hartgroves	6	135	2.3	23
Ray Hogarth	5	129	2.2	26
David Baverstock	5	96	1.6	19
Reynold Thomas	4	131	2.2	33
Adrian Jack	3	214	3.6	71
Luke Lane	3	119	2.0	40
Kevin Lambi	3	104	1.7	35
Diego Hamilton	3	86	1.4	29
Bill Hofmann	3	74	1.2	25
John Kitchenside	3	55	0.9	18
Con Lehane	3	52	0.9	17
Keith Vickers	2	78	1.3	39
Ron Stephens	2	54	0.9	27
Gary King	2	34	0.6	17
Pete Le Blond	2	28	0.5	14
Rob Crawford	1	60	1.0	60
Jason Spicer	1	32	0.5	32
Frank Dalby-Smith	1	29	0.5	29
Mark Welland	1	16	0.3	16
Manjeet Ghataora (Guest)	1	15	0.3	15
Will Rawden (Guest)	1	14	0.2	14
Clifford Vincent	1	10	0.2	10
Mervyn Dry	1	10	0.2	10
Ian Scottow (Guest)	1	5	0.1	5
John Cole	1	0	0.0	0
GRAND TOTALS	486	13,838	231	

Instructors' Corner



What started out as a relatively quiet year has ended (almost!) with an influx of several new members, some of whom are very experienced pilots – plus those new to the hobby. One or two local clubs have faced the loss or potential loss of their flying facilities and this is always a risk where security of tenure is not guaranteed. Since I took over from Al Spicer as Chief Instructor the focus for training moved to Newground and I apologise to our regular Pednor fliers if this seems partisan. Newground is very convenient for me and the other Instructors and it scores overwhelmingly in terms of permitted i/c flying and the storage of our kit. Models have got larger since the Stone Age and virtually all of the i/c stuff I and the other Instructors fly out of choice is way too big/heavy for a restricted site.

All the Instructors have “B” certificates. Simon is a qualified Heli Examiner and I hold a Fixed Wing Examiner’s ticket. Hence we can do, jointly, “B” certificates plus, individually, ANY “A” Test or Basic Competency Certificate. The BMFA have had to revise the rules/criteria to take into account some of the very light models now available

and the enhancement of flight aids such as multi axis levelling and “crash safe “ modes. Unfortunately the words “no skill required” have crept into sales jargon and whilst this might tempt some people into the hobby (particularly “drone fliers”) it is sadly the case that “no responsibility required” often follows. The BMFA’s decision to downplay the long standing category of “Country Member” in favour of Affiliated Club or Non Affiliated Club membership for all pilots might help put irresponsible/ignorant/unlawful fliers completely outside the pale and immediately liable for prosecution if caught.

My sincere thanks to all our Instructors who give their time and effort completely voluntarily. If anyone out there wishes to join the team please contact me!

Congratulations to all who have gained BMFA Certification or progressed to “solo” status this year, there have been one or two heartwarming success stories which make it all worthwhile. Many clubs do not have a “solo” status, which I generally grant when a member is able to demonstrate safe flying. There is not a great deal of difference between safe flying and the “A” test – if you can’t take off and land with reasonable accuracy you won’t get “solo” either, and you ought to be aware of the legal controls covering model aircraft activities.

We are therefore trying to get all existing SOLO/NO”A” members to go for the latter ASAP. Furthermore we would ask that all new uncertificated pilots attempt the “A” cert within 6 months of joining. If you are genuinely enthusiastic rather than a “hangar queen” and have a suitable model this ought to be achievable. I’m always prepared to offer coaching and extra tuition because I am a total addict and I will endeavour to accommodate any reasonable times. However, please remember that our OFFICIAL TRAINING takes place on Saturday mornings only and by prior arrangement with the Duty Instructor.

Finally, enjoy the festive season, try to get some flying in and let’s hope Santa (gender neutral?) fills your sack with decent aeromodelling goodies!

RG

Safety Officer's Corner



Well, this summer turned out to be one of the best that I can remember for flying. During the hot sunny periods there weren’t many days when Newground wasn’t occupied, and we were very lucky with our BBQ events.

It’s also been good to see some new members that actually fly! Our membership is looking rather healthier than it has done for a few years. Which brings me to a point that was discussed at our last committee meeting.

As you all know, our club has always had a 'Solo' rating for new fliers, which was unique to the club. This meant that the instructors would allow pilots to fly on their own when it was felt that they were competent and more importantly safe. This has always worked very well. However, since the emergence of Drone flying and all of the hysteria that accompanies it, the rules of flying any model aircraft has come under scrutiny. To this end we have decided, following BMFA recommendations that the solo rating will only last for a period of six months. During that period the pilot will be expected to take an A test, failure to doing that they will revert to being a trainee and will not be allowed to fly solo. All existing Solo holders will also be encouraged to do the A test.

Please don't see this as a witch hunt as I know we all do this hobby for pleasure, but we do have to comply with current regulations. As I stated earlier, we have been one of the few clubs that haven't insisted on an A Certificate to fly solo.

That's about it for this year. Hope to see you all at the AGM on the 19th December.

Steve Bull

Club Training

Remember that training currently takes place at Newground with either Dave Anderson, Simon Adams Austen Pearce 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
December	1	Austen Pearce
	8	Richard Ginger
	15	Dave Anderson
	22	Simon Adams
	29	Austen Pearce
January	5	Richard Ginger
	12	Dave Anderson
	19	Simon Adams
	26	Austen Pearce
February	2	Richard Ginger
	9	Dave Anderson
	16	Simon Adams
	23	Austen Pearce

Committee

Chairman	Dave Humphrey	07855 181230	davedesign@btinternet.com
Secretary	Karen Wyrill		ka.wyrill@gmail.com
Treasurer	Steve Langbridge	01494 863949	treasurer@chmfc.co.uk
Membership	Colin Hooper	07749 891465	membership@chmfc.co.uk
NG Groundsman	Pete Hodge	01494 785143	brendahodge@talktalk.net
Pednor Groundsman	Geoff Wyrill	07748 145779	g.wyrill@gmail.com
Safety	Steve Bull	07801 966612	flysteve12@gmail.com

Instructors

Richard Ginger	01296 688030
Dave Anderson	01494 583127
Simon Adams	07970 409831
Austen Pearce	07842 149855

Newsletter Editor

Colin Hooper	07749 891465	cmfc.colin@gmail.com
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Chesham Model Flying Club Limited

Minutes of the 29th AGM held at the White Hill Centre, Chesham on Wednesday 20 December 2017.

Apologies: Douglas Brittain, Robert Clark, Mike Humphrey Leon Coward, Diego Hamilton, Dempster Hamilton, Matthew Jack, Adrian Jack, Peter Miller, Trevor Mines, Andrew Rimmer, Richard Saunders, David Turner, David Woodnut.

Minutes of the 2016 AGM that had been circulated with the December Newsletter were taken as read approved and signed by the Chairman (Dave Humphrey).

Proposed: John Kichenside
Seconded: John Barber

Matters Arising:

None.

Chairman's Report:

A warm welcome to all of you to the 29th AGM of Chesham Model Flying Club Ltd. Most of what follows will have been featured in our bi-monthly newsletter for those of you who regularly read its contents.

Our Agri-environmental schemes continue to financially benefit the club, without such income would result in a significant increase in annual subscriptions.

Fence repairs were carried out on the canal side at Newground. The damage was the result of persons unknown gaining entry to the field for the attempted break-in when the lockbox on the container was mutilated, but those responsible did not gain entry.

The fence repair work was organised by Pete Hodge assisted by several NG regulars and included chain sawing 2 trees that had fallen across the canal boundary fence.

The winter projects club night at the WHC in February was well attended and will be repeated in February 2018. Sadly other club nights at WHC were cancelled due to poor attendance linked to lack of suitable speakers.

Club member Leon Coward continues to publish data at NG and in the newsletter showing members visits / flight times throughout the year.

In June the Silent Flight Night at NG was well attended with over 30 people present. Colin organised club burgers / sausages and buns assisted by head chef Steve Bull, and others.

NG patch was rolled and benefitted from a Moss Kill and a Weed and Feed. Pednor patch was also rolled with John Barber / Steve Langbridge / John Kichenside and Martin Barber doing the honours.

Steve Bull, NG Safety Officer and Committee Member has expanded his newsletter contribution 'Safety Officer's Corner' listing any field 'happenings' and giving good advice on safety issues.

Other regular Newsletter items are Instructors' Corner, Members' Ramblings and Chairman's Soapbox.

All this information and more is expertly dealt with by Colin who edits and produces Flightdesk, our bi-monthly newsletter and has done so since previous editor Colin Forsey's final contribution in October 2003.

Colin recently stood down from his committee post, but continues to give valuable support producing the newsletter – (85 issues to date), and managing the NG Web Cam, - responsible for the installation and any troubleshooting as may be required.

Although no longer a committee member, his commitment to his duties is second to none, and he continues to make proposals to the committee for discussion.

At this point, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Colin for all his past efforts and continued enthusiasm linked to the future well being of the club.

APPLAUSE !

All members should be aware that the committee welcome input on any ideas / moans and groans etc, so that they may be highlighted for discussion. The trick is, - not to confine such thoughts to the flying field, as has happened in the past, but as soon as possible get your views properly aired for the benefit of all club members. If it's a Safety issue - speak to Steve Bull, or simply phone or email any committee member. Such feedback from members regarding safety issues at NG, resulted finally in a positive discussion at the field where new guidance relating to pilot's box / start-up procedure and separation distances were agreed by all in attendance, and adopted as shown on photos posted in the container and the shelter.

Efforts to freeze a hike in the Pednor rent was not successful when I met with Gt. Hundridge Manor estate owner Charles Mullens. Our annual rent increase is linked to the RPI. He did point out that if we were not using the Pednor facility an amount say 3 or 4 times our rent would not persuade him to allow a new tenant the use of the land and building. He confirmed that he is more than happy for the club to be there for the foreseeable future.

New member Geoff Wyrill has injected fresh enthusiasm into the Pednor site, taking over mower duties from Martin Barber. The club has purchased a Strimmer for Pednor, which has seen use, as has the one purchased for NG.

Scalpings were laid on the track at Pednor to improve the surface. I can confirm for what it's worth that the patch at Pednor is much longer than NG. It measures a whopping 90 metres.

The Pednor mower is currently undergoing a major overhaul, at Taylor Tools in Kings Langley, and on its completion the NG mower will then get its annual service.

Trevor Brunt and Jeff Denty have done a good job manning the NG mower; - hopefully they will continue this task next year.

Jeff is also the NG Birdman, installing and inspecting the many nest boxes scattered over the site, - all these made by Pete Hodge, - thanks to both.

Geoff Wyrill has also volunteered to Weed and Feed the NG patch next year, representing a saving of over £200 versus our usual contractor Lawnmaster.

A Weed and Feed is not possible at Pednor where the Estate operates under the rules of 'Organic Farming', which prevent such treatments on any of its land.

As reported in Flightdesk both Rebecca as Secretary and husband Toby Newton decided to leave the club last month, creating vacancies on the committee. No proposals have been received to date for any suitable candidates willing, but most importantly able to fill these posts.

In the New Year – Pete Hodge will extend his bench skills to make 2 new benches for Pednor, and 2 ‘Pub Type’ barbeque tables for NG.

At next year’s August Bank Holiday meeting at NG, provision of club funded food will be increased to include the usual burgers, sausages and buns plus a variety of salad, potato salad, coleslaw etc. and anything else deemed appropriate by Colin and his helpers.
It coincides with the 30th Anniversary of the club. Fingers crossed for good weather and a big turnout.

Finally – as we look forward to the year ahead, - thanks to Richard Johnson for marrying the posts of Treasurer and Membership Secretary and streamlining the latter; - to Colin with the Newsletter and Webcam, the NG Instruction team, all those contributing to field maintenance at both sites, all the membership for their support, and members of the Committee, - whose aim as always is working for the membership as a whole, focussing on continued improvement and safeguarding the good name of the club.

Merry Christmas to all, good health and best wishes for 2018!

Secretary’s Report:

Not available

Membership Secretary’s Report:

Richard Johnson informed everyone that 2017 membership still maintained at previous levels and new forms were available to all current members who could pay by cheque on the night or by on-line payment. He requested that all forms duly signed must be returned to him.

Treasurer’s Report:

Richard Johnson referred to the extracts from the Annual Statement circulated to the membership at the meeting (prepared by our new accountants Littlestone Golding of Station Rd. Chesham), going through the key numbers therein to give an overview of the Accounts.
Budget figures for 2018 could be obtained from RJ.

Appointment of Accountants:

Richard recommended that we keep them for next year. Proposed that Littlestone Golding be re-appointed Accountants for 2018.

Proposed: Trevor Brunt

Seconded: John Barber

Election of Officers:

Dave H. said that the current Committee was prepared to stand again in the same positions if the membership wanted us to, with the exception of Toby Newton and Secretary Rebecca Newton.

Karen Wyrill, present at the meeting agreed to take on the role as Hon. Secretary

Proposed: John Barber

Seconded: Frank Dalby-Smith

Any Other Business:

None

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm

Dave Humphrey
26/01/2018.