

Wirral Radio Control Flying Society

Newsletter No3 2023



Photo:- Something a little different – Skybug One – more on this one in a future issue

I aim to get down to the field on a regular basis so don't be shy of the camera if you see it pointing in your direction. In addition if you have anything interesting you would like to contribute then please forward to our wrcfscommittee@outlook.com email mark 'Newsletter' and it will find its way to me for inclusion in a future issue.

Committee News

Key news is the notification for our club AGM

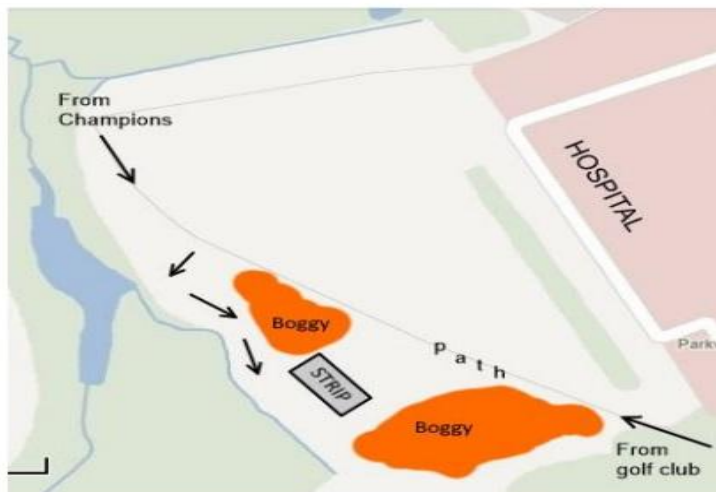
This is to be held on **WEDNESDAY Dec 6th at 7:30pm at the Lever Club.**

Please make every effort to attend this has been a tough year; a learning curve for a new committee and your opportunity to voice opinion and instigate change. All posts for committee position are up for vote so opportunities are there to get involved, it does not really take up more than a couple of hours a month at most and a great way to help your fellow members and keep the club running.

With membership numbers being as low as they have been for many years it means paying our subs as early as possible assists with us making payment commitments for the club. Whilst we are solvent we are conscious of the field lease renewal being up for re negotiation in Feb 2024 and whilst it is nice to be as flexible as we can we do have to managed our funds in a professional manner on the clubs behalf and so prompt payments just makes life easier for us all. The subscriptions for WRCFS

membership for 2024 will be set at the AGM. Andy has been working hard with Paul to get the club accounts aligned together with moving to a new bank giving us greater flexibility. It has been a frustrating period and made difficult by the unusual circumstance as the banks stated with all signatories leaving and new members stepping in making the job complex. Bank protocols are always frustrating and although taking almost a year we are now finally sorted.

It has been difficult to report on much flying activity as most seems to occur during the week and as work prevents my personal participation and a lack of info being forwarded then unless I just make stuff up, tempting though that might be on occasion, there is little to report from field activity.



Clearly at this time of year we need to be conscious of weather conditions and monitor the park regarding driving onto site and stick to the guidelines when the site gets waterlogged.

Editors Column

I decided that a new column was necessary. It has been almost a year now and the AGM is looming on the horizon. I would love to report what a successful year and how much flying we have all had and how the club has grown however the truth is we have stayed static. Given that last year we were talking about winding up the club I think this is actually a positive step forward, the club is solvent we have a steering group that have tried to pick things up as the year has progressed, dealt with many strange and new situations and we are still here if a little battered and bruised, but still as determined as ever to try and do our best moving forward.

During this past twelve months of being on the committee in the editors post I have, perhaps for the first time, seen the level of impact that squabbling, bad mouthing, and general bickering that has gone on, particularly on social media that has driven a wedge through the heart of what was always a sociable and fun-loving group. My god some of us know how to press each other's buttons. Social media being remote is all too easy to allow knee jerk reactions and this has been most evident.

I have tried to promote the need for regular club meetings to try and mitigate these issues but it seems it has taken us to the precipice before realisation that the current format of discussion is simply just not working. We need to change and adapt our structure and our attitudes to social media, bring a format back that allows for issues to be debated by the club, actions taken and followed up. I believe the only way to do this is with regular club meetings and without which we seriously risk the inevitable demise of WRCFS and I can't believe any of us wants that to happen.

The committee have had challenges, being new to the job in most cases and inevitable mistakes but I have to thank Paul Devlin as secretary for probably taking on the brunt of the day to day communication to the membership aided by the team behind of course, and I think that speaks volumes about his work ethic and desire to do a good job.

It is my hope that 2024 will bring a level of continuity to the committee, there are vacant executive positions. I stand by my own comments and say I am happy to continue assuming the club are happy to vote me in again.

I do believe we are at the bottom of a steep mountain that needs to be climbed to get the club back to where it was some years ago. It takes effort and commitment, and a true desire to make it work and most importantly the support of the membership. So, I ask please just commit to one evening to help re build the club, participate, get involved and come along to the AGM and future meetings.

We used to be one of the most proactive clubs in the country with a membership of over 100. We have members who have flown in multiple disciplines at National level, Judges at international scale competitions and competitors whom have been ranked at the highest levels as well as journalist and designers in the model press. We have as a club achieved so much in the past and we should be rightly proud that our members have made such contribution and left such a legacy. These achievements should be a catalyst and inspiration, let's bring back the good old days and make a pledge to make WRCFS all it can be and a fun club to be a member of.



This is what it's all about having fun in great company - Lindsay

Kit Review – BMJR Spacewalker 42” span by Gray Hawke

Kit is made in America so all measurements are in good old-fashioned inches. Plan is on 2 sheets, and highly detailed, providing a good deal of scale detail. Photo illustrated instruction booklet is included, although some assembly steps need a good amount of brain work before you start gluing bits together.

Parts are generally well laser cut and fit together well. Full hardware set is provided in the kit, including some nifty little “EZ fittings” for connecting pushrods to servo arms and control horns. Profile prints for the iconic “sunray” patterns are given on the plan, but I’m yet to work out the best way to use these to create the covering film shapes I’ll need.

Construction is all wood – including cowl and wheel pants – so there is quite a bit of lamination to do (each wheel spat comprises 14 separate pieces, for example).

The only significant issues I’ve encountered have been with the undercarriage; I was very careful to create the 2 wire u/c legs exactly as per the plan. But when assembled, they don’t sit at the correct angle relative to the fuselage, and the triangular covers don’t fit at all. Luckily, I discovered that rotating the u/c assembly through 180 degrees so the “front” is now the back produces a much better profile. I had to redo the u/c leg covers from scratch. Also, the axles were too short to reach the fixing collet inside the wheel spats, so a further 4 bits of wood were required to reduce the internal width of the wheel openings.

All in all, this is a satisfying build – not for beginners, but good value if you want to put some time and effort into making your own little Spacewalker.



And a couple of my "Work in progress":



4 channel r/c using 4x 9g servos; electric power (I'm using an Air 2210 150 watt motor, 20amp ESC and 3s 800Mah Lipo battery). At the time of writing, I've completed 75% of the build – all except the wings, but no covering yet.

Price £134.94 from Steve Webb Models as of Sep23

Many thanks to Gray for his contribution, if you would like to submit something for inclusion then just send articles photos or even just notes and i can kick into shape to our committee email at wrcfsccommittee@outlook.com

And finally on behalf of the current committee let me wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful new year, make sure you order early from Santa and give me something to write about next year.

Lindsay