

WEST CALDER AEROMODELLERS

AGM NOTICE

The 2003 AGM will be held in the West Calder Community Centre on Wednesday 19th November at 7:00 PM.

Agenda

- Chairman's Report
- Finance Report
- 2004 Fees (Proposal is £60)
- Office Bearers
 - Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer

Membership renewals

Close of Meeting

Coffee & General Discussion



ANNUAL REPORT 2003

Introduction

The club would like to extend thanks to Mathew Hamilton for allowing us the use of his land, and the Awards for All group for awarding us a grant to upgrade the flying site. The **Awards for All** scheme is designed to give small grant to groups who need a cash injection. There is no doubt that the scheme has been a major benefit to the club, allowing the transition from a piece of rough moor land to a custom built model flying club over 5 years, rather than the 40 years that some clubs have taken in the past. The skills of our members also continue to improve and most of the established pilots have now onto the second and third level of aircraft.

This has been another busy year as we try and get the club on a solid footing. Aeromodelling is a multi-layered sport with many aspects, from the weekend club flier, through a huge choice of competitive disciplines, to training, youth development, public awareness and site development. On behalf of all club members I would like to thank everyone who has devoted so much time to the various aspects.

Membership Numbers are 31 adults with 2 in the wings, so to speak, 3 juniors capable of flying, 2 at the beginning of their training and 2 about to start which puts us 8 ahead of the target set 5 years ago. Not bad for a 5 year old club, so please give yourself a pat on the back.

Kids Barbeque

The BBQ day in May was a great success with almost all members and their families coming along for a great day out. The hail storms were not quite expected, but were not enough to put a dampener on things. All burgers, rolls, crisps and juice were consumed by the hoard. Roll on next year.

Tarbrax Fun Day

This is a fun day for all the local villages, and comprises the world famous "Bing Race" in the morning, followed by games for the kidz in the afternoon. Unfortunately we could not attend but we donated £50 worth of model aircraft kits of varying complexity. We received a personal visit from the organiser to thank us, and have recruited 1 junior member as well.





Air Training Cadets

Membership numbers continue to rise, and we are now forging links with the Air Training Cadets. These young men and women show that society does have a future. Their discipline and willingness to help make them a valuable asset to the club. Andy Tullis represented at the club at the Air Cadets Training weekend at the Hamilton Club, on August 23rd and 24th 2003. This was a reward to the cadets for the sterling work at the Scottish Model Airshow, and resulted in 4 bronze (solo) passes.

Albanian Eagles

We received a cry for help from a group in Albania who were trying to get model flying started in the country. We send them a box of goddies, and also put them in touch with a gentleman from Germany who regularly visit Tirana, and who is now teaching them to fly. On behalf of the club I designed their web site at <http://www.albanian-eagles.org> and will hand over the running of the web site once they have someone suitably trained. To give some idea of what they are up against, there are **NO** model shops in the country.



participate. Two of our members spent a day promoting the club and we have increased our membership as a result.

Testing Day

Sunday 28th October was the BIG-DAY for 5 of our trainees as this was the day they sat their test which allows them to fly solo. We were blessed with great weather, and all five passed their "Bronze".

Instructors

A good club is driven forward by the goodwill of it's instructors who do a tremendous amount of unpaid teaching. This year we introduced a booking arrangement where novices book time with an instructor. This should reduce the amount of time wasted by turning up and not getting to fly. It also stops the instructors being too overloaded which ultimately leads to them not giving training. We have appointed 1 new instructor this year.



Summerlee

This was a great opportunity to present ourselves to the public, and Jim Hardie spent a great day displaying his models and chatting to the public. This resulted in a number of enquiries leading to new members.

Fun Fest

This was the first such event to be organised at Ingliston showground and we were privileged to be the only model flying club invited along to

The Main Event - The Runway Extension

The major activity this year was to upgrade the flying site to competition standard. After months of planning, discussions with contractors and waiting for the weather to clear, work finally got underway in the middle of March 2003. On Monday 17th March we took delivery of 200 tons of top soil and 40 tons of surface material, for which we will needed 2 experienced car park marshals. Andrew Edwards and Douglas Skinner offered and everything arrived as planned.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Jim Hardie & Andy Tullis were on hand to excavate the new runway and to spread the top soil with a hi-mac and dumper and the remaining club members came along on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday to do the final levelling, rolling and grass seeding. A few weeks earlier we had taken delivery of 500 tons of rubble which was used as the foundation for the main runway extension. This allowed the runway to be tapered off at the end, rather than have models come to an abrupt halt in the ditch.

Jim Hardie had also arranged to swap peat for top-soil with the result that we had a brand new pits extension to allow models to safely face east & west, with a walkway up the centre. This resulted in the extension being completed, the runway widened on the South of the tarmac runway, the pilot's stance extended back and elevated

Crosswind Runway

Things slowed down a bit thereafter due to the Scottish Model Airshow, but as soon as it was over, Jim McGlynn put in a week's work with a flail mower and cut all the remaining long grass and reeds. I then went to work with the fly-mo and cut out the shape of the cross-wind runway. Although the grass was pretty short, the area could not be used as a runway due to the undulations, holes and ruts etc. The grass cutting also exposed a second field drain we did not know about, so the decision was taken to pipe it.



Drains

In the middle of June a mini-digger and Bob Cat were hired and Keith, Jim, Davie and myself set to work digging out the drains, putting in the pipes and transferring and spreading 60 tons of topsoil onto the runway. Again the top-soil was rolled, fertilised and the grass seed sewn.

Model Stand

Most modellers like to use a model stand for both safety, and convenience. Safety because if something happens, the model is restrained, and convenience because everything is at working height therefore there is no bending down to work on a model. This is a major asset for our older members.

Engine run-up area

Almost as much time is spent getting engines to run properly as is spent flying the model. This can be a major nuisance and safety hazard if it is being done in the pits area. We have excavated an area behind the earth mound to use specifically as an engine bay. The earth walls ensure the noise is not heard in the pits area.

Pilot's Stance

As a result of the runway width extension, we had to move the pilots stance back a bit. It is now elevated giving a clearer view, and has a marked "landing" box to give a visual indication when a model is landing. This area can also be used as a judges seating area for competitions.

Safety Fence

Our first safety fence was plastic and lasted about a year before it started to break up. Not very good when it's purpose it so stop any wayward models. The new fence is much better being a nylon braided material. Being black it blends better into the countryside as opposed to the green we had previously. Unfortunately the local sheep were getting themselves tangled up in it, so it had to be taken down and replaced again.

Clubhouse

The heart of any club is the clubhouse and we are no exception. Jim & Dave spent a day fitting a front window and door so that we now get maximum light in, and minimum heat loss out.

