



CORFU RC FUN

Once again, a bunch of WLMAC fliers headed off to the RC Hotel in Corfu at the beginning of June. Our normal week in late May had already been booked, hence a slightly later trip. This year the group split into two with some travelling with EasyJet from Luton and the rest choosing British Airways from Heathrow. Once in Corfu everyone met up at the Hotel for lunch and then an afternoon around the pool to catch up on sleep, it had been an early start after all. The RC Hotel follows the same routine every day, a morning flying session, lunch, a restful afternoon around the pool, a late afternoon flying session followed by drinks and dinner at 9pm.

The food was, as always, excellent. The planes are a real mixture but the ever popular Wot 4 and AcroWot are the standards. There are many weird and wonderful planes available to try, some are plodders and some are more 'sporty', everything is electric now.

After a week, the flights home came around too soon. Alan Colman's son Ben was the First Officer flying the BA flight home. He kindly arranged for Chairman Mat to have a play in the cockpit. The next year has already been booked and believe it or, so has 2027!



It was very warm in June in Corfu, unusually warm we were told. With that in mind we've already booked the same week for 2026 but Roger D won't join us as he found it too warm. Roger has in fact booked to return on 18th September 2026 for a week and is prepared to offer the invitation out to see if anyone wants to join him for that week.

September is said to be wonderful out there, cooling down but still lovely and warm. The pool and sea will still be warm and the evenings are still long.

The costs are all on the RC Hotel website but as a ball park figure, full board, including a single room supplement with flying cost me £835 for 7 nights this year. The extra's are your drinks, ice creams, model plane losses plus the return flight costs. We've always found EasyJet the cheapest from either Luton or Gatwick. I've just checked for mid September 2025, the flights are currently £340 return, including a suitcase. (a suitcase in the hold is £50 each way!)

If you're interested in going in September 2026 contact myself or Mat and we'll help you in sort everything out. As a first time visitor, you'll need to send a deposit to Spiros, the RC Hotel owner to secure a room. And no, we don't get a bonus for recommending him!

Over 50% of all his bookings are returning guests, which tells you something. Plus we've been going for 14 years.

The Club held another successful BBQ at Harefield on Wednesday 11th June. It was Colin's last BBQ as he's moving house soon, down to the sunny South Coast. We hope that he'll occasionally pop in to see us!



Here is Felix with his Acro Wot powered by a Saito 82 four stroke engine.



Remember we featured Rowans elderly Hawk model last month? Sadly, it did not last long after it's repair. The tailplane failed after a high speed dive and the plane shredded itself in the trees.

I think that it may be too damaged to attempt a rebuild. Plus, the new engine that Rowan had just fitted suffered terminal damage too. The recently repaired and glassed air intakes survived though!

Family Fun Day is on Sunday 6th July at Harefield.

The format will be much the same as in previous years. The morning will be the same as any other day, flying as normal. Lunch is served around 1pm. The afternoon is reserved for individual or group slots where you can show off to friends and family.

Its a chance to invite friends and family to the field, to show it off and let them see where you spend so much time.

Invite them to have a look, Andy fires up the BBQ and a special lunch is laid on for everyone to enjoy.

There is a lot of cleaning and preparation the day before, we empty and clean the hut in readiness. Plus everything needs setting up during the Sunday morning itself. So please lend a hand when and wherever you can.



Last years Family
Fun Day

Roy L has been building a model Liberator, a 4 engined bomber model for quite some time now. He finally got it to maiden the other day with Mat at the controls. It needs some tweaking to make it fly nicer but looked and sounded fantastic!



Well done to Jon Brooks for passing his camera Drone A test on Saturday

The landowner has agreed to another user for the site, an Airsoft Company. Hence the building of a 'pillbox' on the inside of the tight bend using white sandbags. Attempts have also been made to secure the site from the dog walkers too. The Airsoft people know of our existence and really only want to use the more overgrown areas and down in the old quarry. They have been told that we drive up and down the track at all times of the day.

Airsoft is similar to paintballing, except the guns fire 6mm plastic balls. The teams shoot each other with some fairly realistic looking guns. The 'shooters' have to wear eye protection and tend to wear military style camouflage clothing and play at soldiers, the same way we play with toy planes.

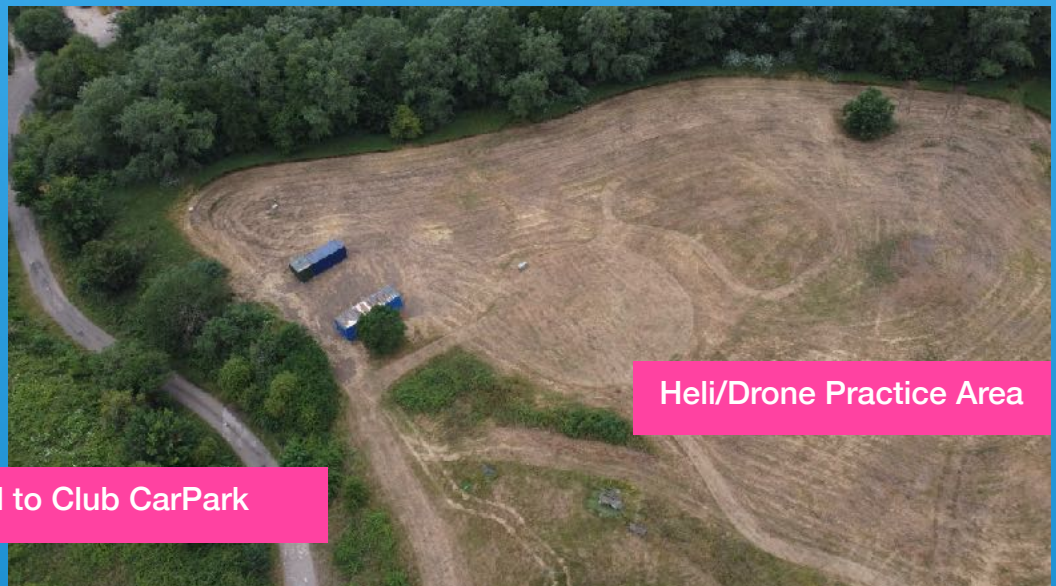
They will only use the site occasionally but their plans are still at the very early stage.

This version of the Newsletter is emailed to you directly and is the full version. The one that can be accessed by anyone via the Club Website is the shorter version. Anything we consider 'sensitive' is on the later pages and is these later pages are not uploaded. This way, information about new mowers/kitchens/valuable stuff is NOT available for all to see.

Just in case you go looking in the future for a certain article. So, this and subsequent pages will not appear on the website.

If you look near our Heli area you'll see the addition of a couple of containers. These have been placed there by the Site owner. He has a Private Pilots Licence and has bought a Super Cub style plane to fly but will hangar it at the field. He is going to keep it at the field, between the two new containers, he'll also erect a fence around it. He's also asked for a taxiway to be cut through the nettles and brambles which has been done. (This may even turn out to be our crosswind runway with enough cutting.)

This addition to the field should not impact on our activities in any way, plus, it is his field after all.



Access road to Club CarPark



The first cooked breakfast at the field!
Everyone is free to use the new kitchen but please wash up afterwards (in the hot water)
The new cooker boils a kettle a lot quicker too!

The new kitchen in the Club Hut is nearing completion. Thanks to Pete A and Graham M for leading the way and installing the pipework for the new water heater and the cooker. The water heater is plumbed into the taps so just turn on the hot tap and wait 1-2 seconds. The cooker has a button to press for the gas ignition, but it is battery powered. Thanks to Graham in sourcing refillable LPG gas, we can enjoy cheaper gas. There is NO need to turn the gas on or off each day either.

The cooker grill needs the heat shield during use, this deflects the heat away from the control knobs and your fingers. If you use the grill, please keep the oven door open.

The rest of the kitchen was fitted the following weekend by Dan C and Chairman Mat. The solar panels on the roof are now connected to the new leisure batteries so we have plenty of power. (But not enough to charge model batteries!) Dan is sorting out the toilet light so that it is linked to a motion detector.

Mat has still to fit another splashback behind the cooker.



The button to light the gas is on the right hand side.

The black heat shield below the knobs protects the knobs and your fingers, please don't remove it.

If you use the grill, keep the oven door open.

The new web cam is up and running at long last. Thanks entirely to Mehdi who has programmed a new Pi Zero mini computer and sorted out all the techie stuff. We gave up on the old mobile phone, moving to a Pi Zero instead. This is linked to a Sim card and sends the picture out every five minutes. There is still some 'fiddling' required, all around being able to take the Pi Zero out and return to the exact same place as before. A 3d printed box, stuck to the glass seems to be the answer.

If this works successfully, we'll consider a second camera which will 'talk' to the same Sim card. With a single camera we have enough data on the Sim card to increase the frequency of the photo's sending a new photo every five minutes. Should we add a second camera, we'll take and send a photo every ten minutes, which is enough for our needs.

There's even talk of buying a weather station which will give live wind speed and direction.

The problem associated with those is that we need sensors outside, in the wind. Now, these sensors will spin and rotate in the wind and this movement will attract the attention of the odd passing vandal. Which is why we've never tried to add these things before.

However, we may risk it and add these sensors on top of a telegraph pole that we would need to install. Hopefully, a mixture of anti climb paint and their height will dissuade any jobs from trying to liberate them. Again, these sensors would 'talk' to the same Pi Zero and send the information out onto the Club website.

In the meantime, one of the tables nearer the hut and in sight of the camera feed has a stick with a fluttering ribbon on it, I think we all know how that works.

Mehdi needs to do some work to find out how close or far away we can position these sensors. Far away in clean wind is great but he's not sure how far Bluetooth information will transmit up at the field. Similarly, a cable may, or may not, be the answer. Watch this space, it's work in progress.



Here's the new Pickeridge mower being off loaded, thanks go to Jeff C who knew where to buy a mower!

