

Feb 2019



FLIGHT BRIEFING

EDITORIAL

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As you know Chris is out of action at the moment, and is still in hospital. Although recently moved from Addenbrookes to Bedford, he is likely to be restricted in his many activities for a while yet.

In the circumstances it would be remiss of the committee not to take on some of the tasks that Chris performs for our club, including the preparation of this Newsletter which he has been doing for many many years.

Let us hope we can offer something that he would find acceptable.

We all wish you well, and hope for a speedy recovery Chris.

WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the AGM some of you asked about the possibility of having some sort of storage facility at Macca either as a permanent fixture or one that is transported to the field when required.

This was discussed at length both at the Jan committee meeting and then with our landlord.

It was decided that unfortunately the benefits do not outweigh the problems that may present themselves. Although our landlord was open to having something at Macca, he also said that whatever we have i.e. a container of some sort, WILL attract the unwanted attention of passers-by, especially those from the travelling community.

We also discussed the possibility of having a removable trailer such as an Ifor Williams. Our landlord was open to this and added that we could keep it at his yard at no cost. However, that itself causes issues in that someone has to then be responsible for transporting it to and from the field. He also stated that they often have 'unwanted' visitors checking out his yard and didn't think it would be long before it was stolen.

So, for now, at least we have abandoned the idea.

But it's not all bad news! With Wilden looking in a poor state at the moment and Macca still looking tremendous, the committee decided that as Macca has been the 'go to' site in 2018, then we should do what we can to make it accessible the whole year round. To this end we approached our landlord about the possibility of extending the track all the way to the corner of the field. The farmer agreed that this would be OK.

We have asked the chap who did the original track to give us a quote, not only for extending it, but also to widen it.

So hopefully, shortly, we will have a 4m wide hard surface from the gate to the corner of the field. As can be seen in the photo on the back page, the new flying area is marked out and has been seeded and should to some degree be useable this year (in the dryer weather at least).

In January we had a stone picking session and removed a huge amount of very large stones as well as some of the smaller ones. It was a long, cold couple of hours that we all suffered for over the next couple of days, but well worth it as it will save models getting broken and help prevent any damage to the mower. We may well have to repeat the process a bit later and it would be nice to have a few more members helping out the 'usual gang'. I might even bring donuts!

Lastly, as mentioned in the AGM, please get used to taxiing properly. Taxiing is a skill that needs to be practised and is necessary to keep the flight line clear and enable you to recover your model safely. It should be obvious which end of the flight line is the safest to recover your model but if you have any doubts, then please ask any of the instructors to explain/show you.

As also mentioned in the AGM, we have had a number of new members with little or no flying experience and have had to increase our strength in instructors accordingly. Here is the list of instructors:

Paul Goodwin
Roy Rogers
Paul Careless
Ken Staynor
Derek Chapman
Ollie Emery

I'm looking forward to another great years flying. And don't forget, flying is fun and the more you practice, the luckier you get! So get wiggling those sticks.

WEBSITE www.ivelmac.club

The Ivel MAC website has been instrumental in attracting quite a few new members to the club over the last few years. As well as giving basic information about our club to prospective members, it also holds information that may be useful to all club members.

There is a page with recent Club News and another with information about Upcoming Events. In addition, there is an extensive Photo Gallery with a collection of pics recent and old listed under different sections. There is also a download page which has newsletters from the last few years as well as links to various BMFA publications that you may find useful for reference.

If you have an idea for addition content, please speak to a member of the committee outlining your suggestion.

CAA CONSULTATION RESULT PUBLISHED

The published result of the consultation to which some of you contributed is available to read at:

assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/769128/future-of-drones-in-uk-consultation-response-web.pdf

It may be easier to look at the link on the club website on the NEWS page.

Note: There is an increase in "No Fly Zone" distance around airfields 4.6Km diameter increasing to 5Km in line with runways, 1Km Wide. ***** **Our flying sites are NOT affected by these changes.** *****

Website: www.ivelmac.club

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

INDOOR COMPETITION -- 13 Mar 19

This competition will be held at Moggerhanger Village Hall on 13 Mar 19 between 7-9pm. The design requirements will be announced on the night. Construction materials will be provided at a small charge

2019 RACING COMPETITION (Dates TBD)

Following the successful Racing event last year, it is planned to hold another racing event this year. Heats for seeding purposes will be held over a number of days/evenings in Spring/Summer. The aim is to have a final knock-out with 12 competitors.

With that in mind we would like names of those interested in joining the fray for the 2019 event as soon as possible. If you are interested, please contact Roy Rogers.

As in 2018, the basic idea is to race 2 models at a time each with similar size and power etc. There will be a different design for 2019. Also for 2019, competitors will need to build their own model/s to the standard design/power system, details of which will be available shortly. The 2019 design is expected to emerge soon from the Little Paxton Skunk Works and basic plans will be available.

For a small charge the club may/will offer parts to enable competitors to build the design.

GLIDER COMPETITION (Various Dates TBD)

We intend to hold a fairly simple electric glider competition over the Summer months. The details/rules of the event have yet to be clarified but hopefully will cater for a variety of models that could be used.

However, what we do know is that it will be run as a series of sessions, over a number of evenings/weekends. Also, a number (as yet unspecified) of results will count towards the competition result and a Cup to be awarded to the winner.

CLUB CAPS with LOGO

In the next 3-4 weeks, the club will have available a number of caps with the Ivel MAC Logo. These will be offered for the very inexpensive price of £10 each. If you would like one, please contact Richard Warner.



WILDEN

It seems that the cricket club is going through a bad patch regarding support and is having difficulties raising enough members to play matches. This means that there may be no incentive for them to mow “our” airfield for us and that we may need to involve ourselves in some grass cutting ourselves from time to time. At the moment, we do not envisage that we will cut the whole area, only enough for take-off and accurate landing.

When/If the time comes, we will ask for names for a rota to cut the grass.

MACCA

In late Autumn 2018, the farmer of our site at Macca made some adjustments to the shape of our field, following our many requests to reinstate the larger area we had, before the grass was re-sown. There is an increase in the area between just beyond the corner of the access track to a point about 4/4 of the way along the current longest side.

We have lost a small part of the field, where the old triangle came to a point at the corner of the wood. However, I do not think that section of the field was ever used deliberately.

We now have an even larger triangular area which should give a more useable “runway” particularly when there are winds from the North or from the South.



The added section is currently showing brown soil in the picture. It has been planted with seed, however, the farmer left it until rather late in 2018 to do it, and so far not many shoots have come up. The picture also shows the narrow section at the end that we have given up.

We expect to have to have some work-parties again in Spring. (Many thanks to all who came along in January for the initial stone picking.)

Until the next time keep the number of landings the same as the number of take-offs.