



HOLDFAST BUZZ

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Feb 3rd - Save the Date!

Join your fellow members at the HMAC General Meeting on Friday Feb 3rd. Luke Szarek will give a talk on batteries - types, properties and use.

More than 70 members and partners attended the HMAC Annual Christmas BBQ & Trophy Presentation on December 4th. See page 3 for the list of award recipients.

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The HMAC newsletter is your vehicle for sharing information, experiences, building projects, etc. with your fellow members. If you have photos of your latest model, a construction in progress or handy tip you'd like to share, please send it to Geoff at buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au for inclusion in a future edition of BUZZ.

From the President



Kingsley Neumann

"... We are always well served by our excellent group of instructors but we could do with a few more rated people to ease the workload. If you are interested please make your intentions known ..."

Welcome to 2017! I know I go on about the weather but really, this summer takes the cake! Hopefully, now that we are more than half-way through the season, things might settle down a bit.

The Christmas party went very well and congratulations are in order for all Award Winners. A photo report appears elsewhere in this issue. Thanks go to all the volunteer helpers who decorated the rooms and prepared the food.

The Club's competition scene is not exactly thriving but we expect to go ahead with monthly events starting on the first Sunday in February. Pylon is still popular but Combat is dropping off a bit. Kathy Paterson will continue to organise the main events for the time being but I am sure she would like to see someone else put their hand up for new events.

Some suggestions have already been made regarding the different types of flying events that could be run. We could revisit the Fun Fly Competitions where anybody can have a go. Some examples are Spot Landing, Timed Circuits, Bomb Drops and similar items. All it takes is a bit of interest from people and some effort in marshalling on the day. If you would like to help please let the Committee know.

Holdfast was once known for its participation in Scale Flying Competitions but that would have to be modified now that the ARF has almost completely taken over. There is even Drone Racing to consider.

It came as a surprise to all of us recently when we were notified that the popular Classic Air Races event at Constellation Club has been cancelled due to a lack of entries. There are many disappointed modellers from all Clubs.

Holdfast has regularly supplied volunteers on one of the pylons for the three day event. All is not lost however. There may be an announcement of a smaller event.

A steady stream of participants continue to register for the LIFT program. We have gained new Members from this initiative. Fortunately our fleet of Apprentice trainers is still serviceable despite the heavy use they get on weekends. We are always well served by our excellent group of instructors but we could do with a few more rated people to ease the workload. If you are interested please make your intentions known. Gold Wings is a prerequisite for the Instructor course. Potential Instructors can try out under the guidance of our regular Instructors

The Committee has met for the first time this year and discussion has resumed on the Septic Tank project. Progress was non-existent over the Christmas break but now a contractor has been chosen and preliminary worksite inspections have been made. The Committee is considering various options for the use of accessible toilet facilities by Members.

Congratulations to Nat and Ted Carter on the announcement of their wedding! Ted has wasted no time getting Nat into the flying scene and she is now a regular at training. Ted, of course, is our hardworking Committee man, assistant Instructor and maintenance man. Nat has also taken on the task of hand mowing.

On the subject of Field Maintenance our thanks go to Greg Peake for his many hot and dusty hours spent on the mower. The mowing team is small but the job gets done! And this season has produced some long grass.

Kingsley Neumann
President



Field Improvements - Update

Final details of the new septic tank are being ironed out with the contractor, mainly to do with plumbing runs and avoidance of existing underground services.

Being conscious of cost, the committee is looking at the option of sectioning off the kitchen/toilet area of the main clubroom so better use can be made of those amenities without compromising security of the meeting room and its contents. This will allow us to propose a more modest storage shed to replace the aging buildings. We would like to put his option to those attending the General Meeting on Friday Feb 3 for comment..

2016 Annual Awards Presentation

The following members received awards at the 2016 Christmas BBQ and Trophy Presentation Day, held at the Club on December 4th. Trophies were awarded to Pylon & Combat Competition winners as well as members who deserved encouragement and recognition of their consistent efforts and contribution. Of special note was the presentation of the Ross Lloyd Memorial Award to Ian Faulkner, who did an outstanding job in gaining grants for the Club. Congratulations to all.

Flying Competitions



Open Class Pylon
Tom Jacobsen (481 Points)



Standard Class Pylon
John Jefferson (304 Points)



Electric Pylon
Greg Leigh (581 Points)



WW1 Combat
John Jefferson (16 Points)



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Club Activities



Ross Lloyd Memorial Award
Presented to Ian Faulkner
for Outstanding Service to the Club



President's Appreciation Award
Presented to Ted Carter
for Dedicated Service to the Club



President's Appreciation Award
Presented to John Boath
for Dedicated Service to the Club



President's Encouragement Award
Presented to Ron Harwood
for Consistent Flying Training

Double Maiden - by John Jefferson

At last, the weather gods smiled favourably. Conditions were good to conduct a test flight on both my latest build projects, a Fokker DVII and a Mini Contender.

Maiden number 1, the DVII



All checks completed, fuelled up and motor started. I co-opted club member Russell O'Brien to be my wingman to help out with trim changes if needed. Taxying out onto the field I tried a few left and right turns to see how she handled on the ground – good response. Lined her up into what little wind there was and slowly opened the throttle. Tracking nicely she picked up speed and gently lifted off. So far so good. Then the drama started. As the airspeed increased the plane decided to go vertical. Unbelievably, it was prop-hanging; with a 25 glow motor! Easing off the throttle I had a few anxious moments as she gyrated through the sky. Eventually I recovered control and managed to land it safely. Phew, that was scary. For a while I thought it was a goner, but

no, she wanted to live to fly another day. Russell wasn't needed to help with trim changes; he also thought it was a goner and couldn't believe it came down in one piece.

Upon checking the model the cause was identified as too little decalage on the top wing. The plan I used showed a negative 1.5 degrees which I duly set using my incidence meter. However, I must have inadvertently decreased the angle when tightening the strut and cabane connectors.

Back to the workshop/hangar for remediation.

Maiden number 2, the Mini Contender



Freshly charged battery installed, checks completed, ready to go. I did my usual taxying turns to check ground handling – no problems. Lined her up into a gentle breeze, gradually increased power and she was away. Climbing to height and throttling back she flew incredibly well. I was more than pleased; I was amazed at how well she flew, as if she was on rails. The only trim change I needed was three clicks of right rudder. Time for a stall check, very benign, she just munched down slowly without dropping a wing. Some basic aerobatics, a loop and a roll, she handled them well. I was starting to enjoy myself. Time for landing, set up a nice descent profile and she settled down without bouncing.

Checking her over there were no loose bits, everything secure so I followed up with two more flights. Club member Bob McEwin was right when he said I'd enjoy flying it. She's indeed a delight!

DVII's turn again

The decalage was reset to where it should be and it was time to resume the flight testing. Club member Pete Robertson was at hand so I co-opted him as my wingman to help with any trim changes. This time the DVII took off nicely and as apprehensive as I was it didn't repeat its previous ungainly performance. A few clicks of down trim on the elevator, followed by a few circuits. Time to bring her down; she came in for a nice landing. After manually adjusting the elevator linkage she was ready for a follow-up flight. This time a few clicks of right aileron and she was able to fly hands off; a far cry from the original test flight. Another nice landing and I was happy with the outcome – at last!

Now she's ready for combat. She'll be my back-up "here's one I prepared earlier" model for when/if my main combat DVII gets shot down again.

Maiden flights are so much fun. You never know what is going to happen. Most times it's straightforward but now and again your reflexes are really put to the test.



Welcome to New Members

We extend a warm welcome to **Nat Turner** and **Chris Flynn** who have joined the club in recent weeks. Both Nat & Chris are progressing well in the LIFT Program. We hope you continue to participate in this enjoyable, sometimes challenging, sport.

"...Then the drama started. As the airspeed increased the plane decided to go vertical. Unbelievably, it was prop-hanging; with a 25 glow motor!..."



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Newcomers to R/C modelling are catered for by setting aside every Sunday morning from 10 am when qualified instructors will teach all aspects required for the safe operation of the model. During the training period no other models are allowed to fly, ensuring the least possible distractions to the student.

General Meeting Presentations

To give members a clearer picture of what to expect at our Monthly General Meetings, we will now publish a list of upcoming presentations for several months ahead. This listing will be updated in each issue of BUZZ, as well as the HMAc website. The currently scheduled presentations are listed below.

Month	Theme	Presenter/Details
February 3	Battery charging and maintenance	Luke Szarek
March 3	FPV and drones	TBA
April 7	Aerobatics/Pattern	TBA
May 5	Full size flying	TBA



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Wed Feb 1 - MASA Meeting
- Fri Feb 3 - General Meeting
- Sun Feb 5 - Pylon & Combat
- Wed Feb 15 - Committee Meeting
- Wed Mar 1 - MASA Meeting
- Fri Mar 3 - General Meeting
- Sun Mar 5 - Pylon & Combat
- Wed Mar 15 - Committee Meeting

Flying Achievements

Solo	Callum Veale	Instructors - Kingsley Neumann, John Jefferson
Solo	David Marques	Instructors - Graham Paterson, Peter Robertson
Silver (heli)	Phil Norwood	Instructor - Ashley West

Instructor Roster (February - March)

Date	Instructor	Instructor	Assistant
FEB 5	John Jefferson	Graham Paterson	Trevor Baudinette
FEB 12	Peter Robertson	Kingsley Neumann	Ted Carter
FEB 19	Max Thomas	John Jefferson	Geoff Haynes
FEB 26	Graham Paterson	Peter Robertson	Trevor Baudinette
MAR 5	Kingsley Neumann	Max Thomas	Ted Carter
MAR 12	John Jefferson	Graham Paterson	Geoff Haynes
MAR 19	Peter Robertson	Kingsley Neumann	Trevor Baudinette
MAR 26	Max Thomas	John Jefferson	Ted Carter
APR 2	Graham Paterson	Peter Robertson	Geoff Haynes
APR 9	Kingsley Neumann	Max Thomas	Trevor Baudinette

The following instructors are often available and are invited to assist when they can:
Luke Szarek, Shawn Jones, Alan Ayles, Ian Cole, Ian Williams

The Club is fortunate to have a dedicated band of Instructors and Assistants who offer their services to learners almost every Sunday. We would like to have more people on the Roster to ease the workload. If you can help please speak up and we can arrange the necessary Instructor Course. Gold Wings standard is a prerequisite for all Instructors.