



# LFC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Limerick Flying Club

[www.limerickflyingclub.com](http://www.limerickflyingclub.com)

Aug 2010

## Airfield Maintenance Groups are Go

By Mark Lloyd

As many club members will already be aware, it was decided at the first Committee meeting for the new session on March 10th, that I would be in charge of Airfield maintenance for the coming twelve months. This role basically means that I am tasked with looking after ALL of the club facilities within the Coonagh Airfield Site - not a small undertaking. As the role would clearly involve more work than one pair of hands would reasonably be able to handle, it was subsequently decided that the overall job would be broken down into smaller, more manageable sections with clearly defined areas of responsibility. Club members would be allocated to one of five sub groups which make up overall Airfield maintenance. These sub groups would then have team leaders appointed to manage the necessary work schedules and group members.

The sub groups have now been defined as follows: 1. Portacabin, 2. Hangar, 3. Grass Areas, 4. Tarmac Areas, 5. Clubhouse. I am delighted to report that these groups have now been allocated Team Leaders as follows: Portacabin - Peter Cazalet, Hangar - Barry O' Donnell, Grass Areas - Jacek Rosik, Tarmac Areas - Mark Lloyd.

These sub groups will be made up from the Club membership and new members will be allocated to a sub group on entry to the club dependant on their skill set/aptitude/preference etc. Most of our members have now put their hands up for inclusion on one, or more, of the sub groups, which is encouraging because it means that as a club we now have the committed membership which every successful organisation needs, to survive. Any members who have not yet joined one of the groups please e-mail me at [mlloyd11@gmail.com](mailto:mlloyd11@gmail.com) or phone me on (086) 224 4255, stating your preferred group (1-5 above), and I will do my best to oblige.

While on the subject of working groups, I would like to appeal to ALL club members to show their support by turning up to help out on Saturday 14th August when we will hopefully be able to cross two items off our lists. We will be carrying out two essential tasks on the day. Number 1, and most important, the trees growing into our flightpath on

the approach to "One-Zero" have been allowed to get quite high over the last few years and are badly in need of trimming and cutting back.

Number 2, is a Hangar cleanout before the Fly-In on 21<sup>st</sup> August, and also to hand it over to Barry and his team in some sort of reasonable condition. Following on from this, the next item will of course be the removal and spreading of the mound of earth adjacent to Alpha-Mike which we are hoping to tackle sometime in September - more on this in the next issue.

In general I think there has been great work done at the Airfield since February this year, both in terms of grass/weed control and also in relation to the runway surface, edges and grass margins on either side of the runway. I would like to thank those club members who have worked so hard in making a start to getting the Airfield looking presentable and also to all the club members who have turned out on the cleanup days. Hopefully, over the next few months there will be less and less need for these mass cleanup days as the sub groups within the club start to look after their own areas of responsibility in a more independent way, although we will always be available as a club to help out en-masse should the need arise in any particular area. That is what a club is all about after all.

## More Lax Security-Disgraceful

By Mike McGrath

On a recent Sunday morning in July the Duty Officer on the early shift arrived at the Airfield to find that a number of standard end-of-day duties from the previous evening's duty had not been carried out. The Fire Shed was left open & unlocked with the keys for the Fire Truck in the ignition; the Club House doors were left open and unlocked & both of the large fire extinguishers were left on the ramp area along with the portable Battery Booster pack. The Portacabin and the Main Hangar were thankfully, locked up. Needless to say, it doesn't bear thinking about the damage that could have taken place within the club if an undesirable had decided to take the Fire Truck for a joyride, not to mention the damage that this would do to the club's public image. Duty Officers are once more asked to make sure they attend (or arrange a reliable



# LFC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Limerick Flying Club

[www.limerickflyingclub.com](http://www.limerickflyingclub.com)

Aug 2010

swap) when it is their roistered duty and use the end of day checklist when finishing up in the evening.

## Events Calendar

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** August, Club Bar-B-Q and fly-in.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>** August, Atlantic Airventure, Shannon commemoration to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first powered flight in Ireland. All are welcome.

## Invitation to the Fun Weekend

By Harry McNamara

Further to previous notifications I confirm a social evening based on a BBQ will take place at Coonagh on 21st August 2010 at 20:00. Subject to weather we might even get a few overnight visitors by air.

A cover charge has to be worked out but it very much depends on the level of support we get both in terms of attendance and assistance in the running of the night. The more the merrier and the lower the cost per head will be. Any BBQ experts out there who would like to help? If the weather is good it would be nice to hold the event fully out of doors which means we will need to borrow patio tables and chairs. No contribution of logistical and organisational support will be too big or too small.

Right now for planning purposes I need indications of who can attend and whether or not they will have their other half with them. Numbers confirmed to me so far are about 20, including half a dozen wives, with only two members saying they are unavailable. This means some 80% of the membership has yet to respond with YEA or NAY. Please email [himaclis@iol.ie](mailto:himaclis@iol.ie) with names and numbers ASAP. You can send me a text to (087) 244 9034 giving names and numbers. If you have a friend or two who have expressed interest in flying this might be a good opportunity to introduce them to the club. Thank you for the excellent responses to my initial email. Ideas are flowing too as to how to make this a night to remember.

I have been taking soundings as regards pricing as well as getting offers on good value supplies. It can be taken that the price for the night will be pitched at 10 Euro with a small profit for the club social fund. I

presume this will have universal approval.

Please keep the responses coming. There are obviously logistical matters to be organised including getting pipes in the bar cleaned. So the sooner we have an idea on the numbers the better.

## Some visitors recently



So the weather is not so bad as to prevent all activities even in very small aircraft.



No details of owner or base but a nice plane. No doubt someone will update us for the next issue and provide some details.



# LFC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Limerick Flying Club

[www.limerickflyingclub.com](http://www.limerickflyingclub.com)

Aug 2010

## A very Interesting Visitor

Trevor Young flew into Coonagh a couple of weeks ago in his home built fabulous machine. All were very excited to see the arrival and departure and we also got very good reports about how well the machine flies and handles. Well done and best regards to Trevor and all the team who helped to make the dream a reality.



Apparently there is a legal prohibition on the use of ethanol mixture in fuel used for aircraft operation. The future of using Mogas is therefore in some doubt at least for the moment. There is however a remark and reply shown here which I think is fair comment.

How many engines have expired from ethanol poisoning in the last 50 years? Maurice

Far fewer than how many members have! G. Ed.

## Letter to the Editor

1. I did mention in my piece that I was very disappointed in the turnout for the Treasure Hunt even after emails/texts/notices etc. plus an entry list. I notice this was not mentioned, which I expected. I would be reluctant to bother with one again.

2. I agree with Minister John Gormley re those hideous jet skis-a danger and nuisance to anyone using our waterways.

Regards Foncy.

I apologise for that oversight, my fault. Ed.

## Visitors welcome but have we Fuel

By Joe Johnston, Chairman

Just to clarify why at this time we cannot supply fuel to non-club aircraft. The reason is simply as of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 ethanol is being added to all fuel in Ireland. The present non-ethanol fuel we have is to keep the club planes flying until we find another non-ethanol supply, which are current suppliers cannot guarantee. To put this into perspective, we had a visiting aircraft recently uplift 150ltrs of Mogas. This amount of fuel would keep the club planes flying for an average weekend when most of our flying takes place. Roughly speaking we have enough fuel to keep the club planes flying for the next 8 to 10 weeks. This should give us the time buffer we need to find an alternative secure supply of non-ethanol Mogas. My opinion on the matter is that I do believe we will find an alternative secure supply of Mogas. However it will never be as simple as it is now re-ordering two days before we run out. As for providing for non-club aircraft, I think that we will require more storage capacity at Coonagh in the long term to keep everyone happy.

## Bob claims his Prize

By Mark Lloyd



The lucky winner of the 'Fox-Papa' raffle, Bob Martin, had all his Christmas presents come at once on Saturday the 26th June when he got to claim his prize of a one hour flight in any aircraft based in



# LFC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Limerick Flying Club

[www.limerickflyingclub.com](http://www.limerickflyingclub.com)

Aug 2010

Coonagh. Bob, not surprisingly, chose to do his hour with Gerry Humphreys, in Gerry's fully Aerobatic Vans RV7, EI-HUM, which is practically based at the airfield (overhead if not on terra firma anyway) and was generously offered as part of the prize pool by Gerry. On his return Bob said he was surprised by just how fast and manoeuvrable the RV was in flight and also how stable it was. While he was keeping the finer details of what they got up to under wraps, it is safe to assume that some 'interesting' procedures took place during the course of the flight! Bob's winning ticket in the raffle was one of the 'free entry' tickets issued on behalf of any member who participated in the Runway cleanup day on 9<sup>th</sup> of May last, and needless to say, he was a very popular and deserving winner. His winning ticket was drawn by a club member on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> of May in the Clubhouse. The raffle raised a total of €790.00 for the club's 'Airfield Re-development Fund' which has been deposited with the Treasurer. The LFC Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members, including PPLs, students and instructors who supported the club by participating in both the BFP raffle and the Runway cleanup day.

## First Solos Recently



New instructor, Grainne Conway after her first solo at Coonagh. Always a happy day when there are some good news stories to report. We all hope you enjoy your time with us.



Well done Derek, back in the air alone again after an absence of fifty years, we are told. It is great to see people keeping up the interest, maybe it would be a spur for some of us who have hung up the headphones!

Brendan sent the next photographed person solo in the past couple of weeks but they are all so coy



# LFC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Limerick Flying Club

[www.limerickflyingclub.com](http://www.limerickflyingclub.com)

Aug 2010

about who it is. Maybe someone will tell us for the next issue. However well done in any case.



Many thanks to Harry, Mark and Gerry who submitted articles and pictures for this issue. We are looking forward to many more contributors for the future issues. Keep up the good work.

## Some more visitors to Coonagh



## Remembering John

About the end of July a couple of years ago we experienced the sad death of John Keane which accidentally occurred in County Kerry. He had set off from Coonagh in the very familiar aircraft and did not fly back in. However we still remember him and to a large extent he is still with us, because some of his ashes has been scattered on the Airfield by his son Paul, who of course is an active club member. Many of you will know that the registration of our newest Tecnam EI-JPK is prompted by the initials of John and Paul.



### Articles

The LFC Newsletter is published monthly, in the first week of the month. All articles, letters, etc. must reach the Editor at least two days before distribution. All club members, and non-members who are interested in our club, or flying, are invited to publish articles. Please submit your article by email to [newscoonagh@gmail.com](mailto:newscoonagh@gmail.com) or in person or by post. They may on any subject you wish, information, gossip, fun, logistics, or anything else.

### Disclaimer

The articles, opinions and ideas published in the LFC Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Limerick Flying Club (Coonagh) Limited Committee or its officers, who accept no liability for the articles or for any statements made.