

# Chairman's Report

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2011 has been a year of steady progress for Hexham Model Flying Club. In my report last year, I expressed the fear that unless we moved into new areas of activity, the club was in danger of stagnation. We needed new areas of activity and new members. I am absolutely delighted to report that I needn't have worried!

This year, thanks largely to the efforts of Mark Armstrong, the indoor flying events at Haydon Bridge have been hugely beneficial to the club. Building on the foundations laid by Joe Ronan, the indoor flying has resulted in not only a non weather dependent flying venue, but also into the recruitment of some of our most enthusiastic members. On top of this, Mark has managed to make a small profit.

We have welcomed five new members this year, two as a direct result of indoor flying and many as a result of publicity generated by Stanegate Flyers. This proves to me that advertising works. I suggest that if we wish to continue to grow, we might consider some form of further advertising.

Improvements continue at our flying site at Watch Currock, although sometimes it feels like one step forward and two back! In May, at the beginning of the season, a small party of volunteers descended on the site and spent a morning levelling tracks, sanding the runway, repairing lawnmowers and generally tidying up. This paid huge dividends throughout the year, and the flying strip and access have been first class all season. The farmer has carried out drainage in the next field and planted a crop. I am hopeful that the combination of the two will result in better vehicular access through the winter. He has also removed the 'pile', and whilst it is a bit of a mess at the moment, I hope that this will further improve access.

Members again took part in a flying display at the annual Hexham Bonfire. This year's display was particularly well received, in no small part to the enthusiastic and exciting flying. New members, Jamie Cansdale and Simon Mawson, were involved this year and contributed hugely to the excitement.

Huge thanks are due to the many members who help with the day to day chores such as grass cutting, road repairs, lawn mower maintenance etc. etc. We are very lucky to have one of the best model flying sites in the country. I think that we should all be very proud of being part of it.