



## April 2016

### This Month's Meeting - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April

The Committee are concerned that the Club is not functioning to its greatest potential. With this in mind it has been decided to have one last meeting at Imjin Barracks to address this problem. We have called this an "Open Committee Meeting". Please make the effort to come and make your views known and help the Committee to take the Club forward in a positive way. At least come and enjoy what might be the last opportunity to experience low cost drinks!

### Quote of the Month

"In flying I have learned that carelessness and overconfidence are usually far more dangerous than deliberately accepted risks.." — *Wilbur Wright*



And so already we find ourselves back in the hangars fiddling and making ready for what we hope will be some decent flying weather. Very tempting to do a wash and clean up but personally I decided more damp and possible frost would make a deep clean impractical. So a good pre-flight run up including a fuel contamination check followed by an hour's trouble free flight in the Blade was all it took to rekindle the

enthusiasm for another year. Back to business – the survey results!

It's worth pointing out that I am from the school of 'if it's not broken, don't try and fix it'. We had some interesting responses but having got over half last year's paid up members to reply I think we have a reasonable sample of votes from which to base some minor changes for the coming flying season. Commentary for each question follows the vote – this commentary was either direct from members or via email – so don't shoot the messenger...

**None of the following is set in stone – the final winter meeting in April will give you all a chance to air your views and it would be great to see more faces in what is being tagged as an 'open committee meeting'.**

All questions were related to the Summer BBQ's and based on 40 replies.

**1. Would you support a regular Air Ambulance (or other charity) collection at all events?**

Yes 77.5% (31) No 22.5% (9)

I confess I have some bias on this one, as do a number of other club members – when something bad happens and you are in serious trouble, the sound of the Air Ambulance Helicopter landing is all it

takes to make you realise that the charity funding of this organisation is money well spent and targeted. So that's my bias – just to be clear this isn't a compulsory for fully paid up members. All we are trying to do is regularise the charity bucket at all the summer fly ins and up the profile. The host can choose the charity but the bucket would always be there. Non members will be asked to contribute. The voting indicates no problem but we would be interested to understand the 9 no votes in more detail.

## **2. Would you support a regular minimum food charge for non-members at all events?**

Yes 82.5% (33) No 17.5% (7)

This perhaps wasn't a fully formed link to the charity question but as indicated above it's a sensible way to ensure that non-members contribute something to the event. Again voting indicates no major problem.

## **3. Would you support canvassing BBQ visitors with half-price social membership offer £10?**

Yes 65.0% (26) No 35.0% (14)

This question has clearly triggered more no votes – and on reflection we can see why. The full club membership is actually good value at £20 so why run the risk of full members reducing to social members to save money? Possibly there is a halfway position which encourages extended/family membership at maybe an additional £5 or £10? I have concerns more than views on this one – the club is really struggling to get membership fees paid at the moment so any change should not result in current full members dropping to associate. This needs careful consideration to avoid obvious conflicts.

## **4. Would you support specific events being advertised and becoming promotional nights?**

Yes 80.0% (32) No 20% (8)

Generally this seems to be well received. Let's face it we can test the approach on a couple of fly ins and see how it goes. The above suggested charging for non-member food ensures we don't burn club funds for no good reason and may deliver some extended interest in joining the club. I have canvassed the local Vintage Motor Cycle and Historic Car Clubs and we already have two possible drive/ride/fly events. As ever suggestions welcome and only the weather window and advanced notice will get in the way – we have this problem anyway. Need to be mindful of numbers, venue and parking so not all fly-in locations will work.

## **5. We are aware that summer Wednesday flying nights clash for some members. Would you be in favour of moving them to Thursday nights?**

Yes 70.0% (28) No 30.0% (12)

This was worth testing the water and it predictably splits opinion. Some would prefer Thursday and some don't have anything other than Wednesday available. Perhaps we try and formalise a shift when the Wednesday night gets weathered out. The danger is of course that any change may result in reduced numbers attending. Come and discuss at the April meeting.

So think about the above – if you feel strongly then come along to the final meeting at Innsworth and let your views be known. Also **if you still haven't paid your membership fees please either get on and do it or let Dave know why you have decided to leave the club**. Don't please let's get into a situation where we need to chase around during the coming months – none of us have the time, the inclination or the energy.

**Determination** by Andrew John

**T**wice in the last month I have had to remove the pictured Robin's nest from

my engine compartment despite taking protective measures to discourage the bird. As we all know 'nesting' can have a powerfully strong influence on our activities!



However, assuming Robin Redbreast was doing all the work for his partner this had me calculating some interesting statistics.

Both nests were virtually complete and each had been built within one week when found, consisting mainly of dry dead leaves, small twigs, moss and a few feathers. Total weight of a nest would have been no more than 5-6 ounces. Assuming the average 'load' consisted of one dead oak leaf and the number of items transported amounting to at least 100 this was some operation. Assuming he was ferrying his material from a radius of 25 yards, distance flown there and back amounts to 5000 yards, nearly three miles. However, by allowing one minute per return journey his construction time would have been relatively short at less than two hours at intervals during favourable daylight hours.

Altogether an impressive example to us all of determination and skill which I felt very sad having to remove and destroy, twice!

### **Woodspring Model Airshow**

Trevor Jackson thought that members might be interested in seeing some

large model aircraft being put through their paces and has sent in details - see page 4.

### **Wings and Wheels - Bidford**

Keith Vinning has moved his aircraft from Long Marston to Bidford and invites Club members to fly-in - see information on page 5. He has provided Pilot Notes for the event - contact the Editor if you require a copy.

### **Safety**

The better weather seems to have arrived apart from the odd heavy shower and thunderstorm! Hopefully members are making use of the opportunity to get airborne after the winter. Remind yourself of safety procedures and brush up on your RT technique before climbing into the cockpit and you will have a pleasant flight with no frights.

### **Dates for your Diary**

30th April - 1st May Microlight Trade Fair, Popham Airfield.

### **Acknowledgements**

Ed Wells for more "Thoughts". Andrew John for the robin's nest article and photo. Trevor Jackson for the Model Airshow information and Keith Vinning for the Wings and Wheels invitation.

# WOODSPRING 2016 MODEL AIR SHOW

**SATURDAY 2nd AND SUNDAY 3rd JULY**  
**CLAVERHAM DROVE, YATTON, NEAR BRISTOL**  
**(FOLLOW THE SIGNS)**

## **THE SOUTH WESTS PREMIER MODEL AIRSHOW**



**TRADE STANDS**  
**FOOD COURT AND BAR**

**ADULTS £9.00**

**CHILDREN UNDER 16 FREE**  
**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**  
**CAMPING AVAILABLE**

**[WWW.WOODSPRINGSHOW.CO.UK](http://WWW.WOODSPRINGSHOW.CO.UK)**



# 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY BANK HOLIDAY CLASSIC WINGS & WHEELS EVENT

Bidford Airfield is a delightful grass strip in the shadow of the Cotswolds and is home to the Bidford Gliding and Flying Club. This year on the 30th May Bank Holiday Monday, the club is holding its fourth Classic Wings and Wheels event in support of **hft** a local & national charity supporting people with learning disabilities. There will be a dedicated area of the Airfield for Classic Cars and a similar fenced off area for visiting and resident aircraft. Following previous year's successes, a number of car clubs have expressed interest, together with owners of classic aeroplanes.

At lunchtime the air park will be opened to the public so that people can have a close look at the planes and chat to the pilots. Hot and cold refreshments will be available all day and the licenced Bar from noon. Raffle prizes will include trial flights in a motor glider and a sailplane.



**Registered Charity  
313069**

**free** entry for all  
doors open at 10.00

refreshments  
available all day  
incl. bacon rolls +  
BBQ

**bar open from 12pm**

**raffle and tombola  
with great prizes**

**BIDFORD GLIDING &  
FLYING CLUB**

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