



# December 2016

## A Merry Christmas to all our readers

**This Month's Meeting - Wednesday  
21 December**

**The Christmas Party at Over Farm Barn starting at 8.00pm. Food, entertainment and convivial company. What more could you ask for so close to Christmas?**

**Quote of the Month**

"If we love to fly so much, how come we're always in such a hurry to get there?" — Louie Manyak



**FINAL XMAS PARTY REMINDER**

The date for this year's SVMC Xmas party is **21<sup>st</sup> December** which by coincidence is also the third Wednesday of the

month. This will be held as in previous years at **Over Farm Barn** starting at 8.00pm. **We have now committed to the food and entertainment.** Make an effort to fit this into your schedules if you can. The format is as normal – members and partners **however if you are not bringing a partner have a think about bringing a friend or colleague along**

as a guest who has some interest in aviation and may just possibly want to join the club next year. At the time of writing we have had a 70% response rate to the RSVP emails and calls – thanks to those of you who have responded but for the rest of you please be aware that an RSVP is required if you turn up and intend to eat!

**FLYER LIVE**

The show dates were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Telford International Centre so to avoid the scrum on Saturday we headed up on Friday. Most noticeable change for me was that they had put some heat into the place and I got so hot in my thermals that I had a slight giddy fit... But that was a good thing. Lots of things to see as usual with as ever a tendency for the main manufacturers and importers to display the top end three axis aircraft. The refreshing change comes as ever from Ben Ashman and FlyLight and I wonder what we will see next as manufacturing rights for the Sky Ranger has now been granted for Paul and the crew to produce the whole aircraft. That will perhaps avoid the imminent slow down on sales due to euro exchange rates. Anyway pictures of interest – to me anyway...

**Little Nellie was there** – the original Bond Film gyrocopter.



**And pedal power was there**



And in my view the neatest **EuroFox was there...** Very nice, very shiny, very red!



### **Chairman's Plea**

Having spent a good few hours chasing members on the phone to ascertain whether they would be attending the Christmas Party, the Chairman has asked for the final statistics to be included in the newsletter.

Club membership for 2016 stands at 79. Eventually 68 (86.1%) replies were

achieved with 11 (13.9%) members not replying at all. Adding in guests means that there will be 71 people at the party - a good turn out but only achieved after considerable time and effort.

In the course of doing this many errors and anomalies were discovered in the Club records of personal details. This comes directly back to individual members not keeping the Club informed of changes in their details - principally email addresses and telephone numbers. When renewing your membership for 2017 can I please ask members to check that the personal details held by the Club are correct. These details will only be used by the Club to communicate with you and will not be passed to third parties.

### **Refugee Robin** by Andrew John

**Y**ou may remember my account of a cheeky Robin nesting twice in my engine bay last spring. Well, a few days ago I was winter-maintaining Chocolat II, with my car parked nearby with the rear door open. All done, I then returned home the 'long way' to pick up some fuel and called in to see a pal of mine. Before leaving he happened to notice a small bird flying around inside my car, trying to escape! Sure enough it was indeed that cheeky little Robin which then bolted out of the rear door when opened! It will be interesting to see whether he finds his way home, now some 15 miles away across 'foreign territory'! Another example of a Robins inquisitive and determined nature – we could meet again! *(Editor's comment:- Was this a "Reliant" Robin?)*

### **Security** by Andrew John

**I**t seems that every month we read further reports of engines being stolen from aircraft, together with valuable ancillary equipment, even from securely hangered aircraft. Every incident is a disaster, causing both financial, practical and emotional distress to the owner/operator.

My aircraft is always left securely locked but is nevertheless still vulnerable in an insecure building, a risk I am prepared to take as I remove all portable equipment every time I lock it. For some nine years now I have subscribed to **Smartwater** to protect my property. This provided me with a unique indelible fluid with which to mark items with my personal i/d embedded in the product, a kind of DNA. This, together with a distinctive small sticker on the windscreen gives a warning that **Smartwater** has been used within the aircraft and on its contents. Maybe my engine may not be the most tempting power unit out there but I do not want it to be ticked off the wish list of some rogue thief.

I would recommend this system to all aircraft owners as a unique way of protecting your property from theft. It also has a proven record with the Police which gives 100% certainty of identity for prosecution. The annual subscription is very reasonable, currently £25 per annum for a 'vehicle' pack so if interested why not contact :- [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com)

### Safety

The season of good cheer (and probably a little more alcohol than usual) is with us. Just bear in mind that the more alcohol consumed the longer it is retained in the bloodstream. The proverbial eight hours between bottle and throttle will not apply. So although you **feel** fine your brain might not be fully "in gear" and you might regret your decision to take to the air.

### Acknowledgements

Andrew John for the Robin and Security articles

### Postscript

#### Editor Retiring

Your Editor feels that after 17 years in the job the time has come to retire gracefully and hand over to someone (younger?) and more involved with the

flying side of Club activities. The job has its highs and lows and can be very rewarding. It will be up to the new Editor to stamp his/her mark on the newsletter. Needless to say, **all** Club members play a part in what you read each month and, at times, the Editor has to be a bit proactive and "invent" some content. **The January newsletter will be my last.** Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles and photos over the years.

The newsletter is "the beating heart" of the Club - the glue that holds it together. So, at the AGM in January, will you be volunteering to take on the job?

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