



## A Merry Christmas to all our Readers

### This Month's Meeting - Wednesday 17th December

This month's meeting is our traditional Christmas gathering. Spouses and partners are invited. A buffet supper will be provided and the usual bar facilities will be available. May I draw your attention to the following points:-

**2. Please remember to bring your photographs for the competitions** - the only qualification is that they must have been taken by a Club member. There will be only two categories:- ground to air, air to ground - this is where the coloured dots come in useful!



***This was last year - you are coming this year, aren't you?***

**1. Everybody attending is requested to bring a present for the raffle.** On arrival please be sure to **give your prize** to the Treasurer who, in exchange for your prize, will give you a raffle ticket, some coloured dots to be used in judging the photos and entry forms for the other competitions.

**3.** The Editor has selected nine photographs from those sent to him during the year from which you will choose the "SVMC Photographer of the Year" - those coloured dots again!

**4.** John Hamer has been spotted out and about with Mon photographing various things/places around Gloucestershire.

The result is that there will be two photographic based competitions to challenge members this year! One will be places / buildings around the county and the other airstrips/ airfields around the county.

From all this you will gather that there will be plenty to challenge you and keep you well occupied during the evening.

### **Quote of the Month**

**"M**ore than anything else the sensation is one of perfect peace mingled with an excitement that strains every nerve to the utmost, if you can conceive of such a combination." — *Wilbur Wright*

### **BMAA AGM at the NEC Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November** by Andrew John

**I** always find that the AGM on a Sunday provides a good opportunity to relax and fill in the day at our annual trade fair. This year was no exception and at least two other SVMC members joined me there.

Chairman Keith Negal gave an upbeat report on the state of the BMAA and microlighting in general. Despite being rejected by the LAA , poor weather, and a further barrage of regulations either passed or in the pipeline, he reminded us of many achievements. Not least in the International Competitions where British pilots have 35% of all the medals and 40% of the gold medals. The BMAA is now President of the European Microlight Federation where we are much respected and great credit is due to Geoff Weighell for this.

Looking forward to 2009, the Centenary Celebration of the first 'Micro light' crossing of the channel by Bleriot promises to be a memorable event, as long as regulations do not jeopardise its success. Also the new regulations under EASA are due out in 2009 and are likely to cause serious headaches.

### **Treasurers Report**

Rick Goddin stated that despite being in a strong financial position, caution is required when looking ahead. Reserves provide a good cushion, up £27K in '08 to £558K. The BMAA bank with HSBC and are confident the safety of funds remain a priority. Membership income has dropped £3.5K and other costs are up. However by negotiating a new contract for the magazine, which becomes monthly next year, a significant saving has been made. Ways of encouraging syndicate membership are to be discussed together with the possibility of offering Flight Vouchers. It was agreed that the Membership fee should be raised by 5% to £62 less £5 for D/D payment.

### **CEO's Report**

Geoff Weighell referred to a busy year, welcomed the new CTO and highlighted the problems in dealing with modification applications. Many modifications submitted had actually been installed before approval had been obtained. This caused much extra work and frustration to both the applicant and the BMAA staff. He pointed out that the BMAA was the second largest contributor supporting GASCO, apart from the CAA. OFCOM's proposed increase in Radio Frequency licence fees for ATC units was potentially very dangerous in that, in some cases, services would cease to operate.

### **CTO's Report**

Ben Syson warned that although modification approvals had increased, there is still a need for a further engineer to cope with demand. He referred to possible changes in the Check Flying system to change to the LAA method whereby the suitably qualified owner-pilot himself carries out the test. Approval for such a change would need to be forthcoming from the CAA. Hopefully in 2009 approval for the BMAA to handle VLA work would be agreed. Improvements in project submissions are essential to cut down on wasted time.

### **CI/Safety Officers Report**

Rob Hill mentioned that the steady decline by 5-10% per annum in the number of Inspectors was becoming a concern. However, those who now qualify as inspectors come from one third of the applicants but more are needed for the future.

Reportable accidents were down by some 40%, largely due to the poor weather curtailing flying this year.

### **Environmental issues**

Rob Hill gave an enthusiastic presentation on how the membership could adopt a more environmental approach to all aspects of flying. We could then be seen to give a public expression of our responsibilities before we were accused and pilloried for not doing so. He was able to give many examples where simple changes in practice could reduce the Carbon Foot Print of our sport. (Copies of the Power Point presentation are available from the Editor by e-mail)

### **AOB**

Discussion on the introduction of Student membership was added to further thoughts on Syndicate membership, which will continue.

Steve Slade was warmly congratulated for his successful fund raising flight, in support of 'Help for Heroes', earlier this year by visiting a record number of airfields (114) in just one day's flying.

In summary, SPLASH was certainly not crowded on the Sunday but there were several eye catching exhibits. The new single seater SSSR, folding wing 'KID' caught my eye.

### **New Format Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts** - submitted by John Hamer

November 5th saw the introduction of new format TAFs (Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts) for the UK.

The main changes to the TAFs are:

- Introduction of 30 hour TAFs at some larger airports
- The addition of 'day of the month' information to time fields
- Inclusion of the 'FM' (for 'from') code
- Aerodromes will issue one type of TAF only, for either 9, 24 or 30 hour periods

The 30 hour TAFs are now available for Manchester, Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

The addition of the day of the month will make the combined 'date time' fields look unfamiliar for a while. For instance, 0521/0606 would indicate a 9-hour TAF from 2100 hours on the 5th of the month to 0600 the following morning (the 6th of the month).

Likewise, BECMG fields will have the new date and time formats, as will TEMPO fields. The newly introduced FM field will be able to give a full time: FM 051230 means 'FROM 1230 on the 5th of the month'. (The FM code has not been used in the UK in the past, but has been part of the official TAF format for some time, and has been used by other states.)

Irv Lee wrote a feature on the new format TAFs in the November 2008 issue of FLYER.

For full details, refer to AIC 47/2008 (Yellow 266) on the CAA website.

### **Safety**

It goes without saying that Christmas parties, flying and driving do not go together. However, it is worth a reminder that alcohol remains in the blood stream for a considerable time after you finish drinking. If you have imbibed a lot you may well be "over the limit" the following morning but you already knew that from your Human Performance exam, didn't you! We all know that one unit of alcohol takes one hour to pass through the system but if you continue to imbibe the

effect is cumulative i.e. having drunk three pints of beer or the equivalent in spirits, it will take **more** than three hours for your system to be completely free of alcohol. By all means enjoy your Christmas flying but keep a close watch on the amount you drink and when. Ideally, if you intend flying or driving then don't drink.

### For Sale

Trevor Cale has the following equipment for sale. Two Communica headsets, Communica transceiver, two Topflight helmets. £100 the lot. **Telephone 01684 564685** and ask for Pat or leave a message

**Elldis Caravan for sale** - 2 Berth. Ideal for a control point and over night stop on your favourite strip, c/w gas cooker, fridge, awning and ground sheet, folding table 4 Chairs, security lock, crockery, cutlery, glasses + a corkscrew and cooking pans, all hardly used. Road legal and travels well. Also a Gazebo with side panels available. Storage for caravan can be arranged locally.

To view contact **Andrew John on 07770 210642**

### Christmas Smiles

Lost student pilot: "Unknown airport with Cessna 150 circling overhead, identify yourself."

Why did the pilot land on the house roof?  
Because the landing light was on!

It only takes two things to fly, airspeed and money.

A checkride ought to be like a skirt; short enough to be interesting but still long enough to cover everything.

### Dates for your diary

**21st January 2009** – SVMC Annual General Meeting at the Farmers' Club.

**25th – 27th July 2009**– Bleriot 100. Mass microlight crossing of the English Channel to mark Louis Bleriot's 100th

anniversary. Contact: Frank Spiniello [frankspiniello@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:frankspiniello@hotmail.co.uk) At the moment appears to be well subscribed.

### Acknowledgements

Andrew John for the report of the BMAA AGM and John Hamer for the "food" photo and the TAFs article

### Editor's End Note:-

*Just to encourage you to bring your photos for the competition here are two of last year's winners*



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