



February 2011

This Month's Meeting - Wednesday 16th February

This month's meeting will be a presentation by Bruce Drake and friends about their European adventure last year. We will start at 8.00pm as usual.

Quote of the Month

"Instead of our drab slogging forth and back to the fishing boats, there's a reason to life! We can lift ourselves out of ignorance, we can find ourselves as creatures of excellence and intelligence and skill. We can be free! We can learn to fly!" — *Richard Bach*

Chairman's Report SVMC 2011

First and foremost, a belated Happy New Year to all, and the wish of a safe year's flying to everyone. Not wishing to dwell too much on the sad start last year, with the death of Martin Bromage, several Club members flew into Gloucester Airport to commemorate the event on the anniversary of Martin's attempt to fly to Australia. This fly-in is reported separately in this edition of Airscrew.

With no objections being raised from Club members, or any counter proposals, myself, John Hamer and Adrian Peatman were re-elected in the posts of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and are happy to represent the Club for a further year. Please remember however that it is your Club, and if you want to serve on the committee or have anything

that you wish to air (either positive or negative) then please make it known. New ideas regarding the way forward for the Club will be most welcome.

We owe both Bill Austin (Airscrew editor) and Adrian Peatman (Treasurer) a big vote of thanks for continuing because without their unselfish help the Club couldn't continue to function.

From a financial aspect, our Club is still healthily in the black. There is no need to increase the fees for Club membership and we have agreed to increase the Club's contribution given to those members hosting a fly-in from £50 to £75. This is a bit more realistic because price rises are rampant and I doubt that food prices will fall in the future. Our charities are still well supported with donations being £100 to Air Ambulance, Help for Heroes and MAF, and £50 to BMAA.

Well, what a year we had last year! Admittedly, the weather at the beginning of the year was better than towards the end but we achieved 11 fly-ins, including new venues of Windrush, Bowdown Farm and Kemble. Nick Heywood completed his Skyranger Swift and he has flown it into more than one venue – well done Nick. Fly UK was a great success due to the decent weather and Jim Taylor/Phil Hanman, Myron Burak/Steve Sykes, John and Monica Hamer and Jon Ingram (solo) all participated. We have all been regaled

with their war stories of derring-do! Seriously though, what they achieved was no mean feat and others like me can only aspire to their achievements. Well done to all.

The Over Farm Nationals were a great success and we had an additional fly-in to Monmouth Kite Festival which was the highlight of the show. We have been asked to participate again this year, so when I have further details, I will ask Bill to publish them.

The Wootton Bassett fly-past in aid of the Help for Heroes charity and as a salute to the people of Wootton Bassett who line the streets on every occasion when a fallen serviceman is repatriated to the UK, was attended by 135 microlight aircraft from all over the UK, and several SVMC Club members took part.

The Club annually awards two trophies on the night of the AGM. The Poser Award is given to a member who demonstrates their continued enthusiasm for Microlight flying. It has been decided to rename this award to the Chairman's Award (Two years ago, when I won it, it was aptly named because I swapped aircraft from my Shadow to a Eurostar and, as the cap fitted, I wore it)!



Chairman's Award Winner - Monica Hamer

This year, because of her dedication to Microlight flying (around 800 hours P2) and for recognition from the Club of the superb catering that she has done at fly-ins as well as the Christmas Party, the Chairman's Award went to Monica Hamer. Well done Monica, it is well deserved.

The Spitfire Award is presented to a Club member who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in Microlight flying. Back in 2009 when this person flew into over 100 airstrips in one day in order to raise money for the Help for Heroes charity he was not a Club member. Last year, however, Steve Slade (no further introduction needed) was involved in the Missing Man Formation above Wootton Bassett. In



addition to this, he has kept us entertained with his unique way of saying goodbye at fly-ins! He became a Club member last year and rightly deserves this award.

I couldn't present this award on the night of the AGM, because Steve was away overseas on business, but I hope to do so at our next Club meeting on 16 February 2011.

Well, that's all folks, except to say that I look forward to seeing all of you at our various functions during the year and, above all, **fly safe!**

Dick Osler - SVMC Chairman

Bembridge Airport closed

It appears that Bembridge airfield will remain closed to all visiting aircraft for the time being. Following what seems like a difference of opinion between the land owners of the airfield and the managers, the Britten-Norman Group. The airfield was NOTAMed as being closed on 31 December, 2010, to all aircraft, with the exception of resident aircraft and the Vectis Gliding Club. While William Hynett, the Chief Executive of the Britten Norman Group has expressed a desire to see the airfield open again, he explained that negotiations with the owners, the Taylor family, have reached something of a stalemate.

"It's all a great shame and, in truth, avoidable," explained Hynett. "Britten-Norman has been running for the airfield for some years now, including obligations to maintain the airfield, paying all the staff and covering all costs, with the owner receiving a monthly fee and 50% of the revenue. And I'm happy with this. "However, in other safety-related areas I felt that the agreement lacked clarity, and as such we sought to reach a new agreement with the owners, something we were working hard on right up until December 31. Unfortunately, so far this has been unsuccessful.

"We remain interested in managing the airfield and certainly look forward to GA traffic returning. However, to be honest I don't see this happening in the short term.

"I would like to make it clear though that we are committed to Bembridge. Fortunately the closure of the airfield doesn't greatly affect the vast majority of jobs on the site."

FLYER has seen a letter sent from the land owners to some flying schools at the end of December saying "From the 1st January 2011 BN Group will no longer be managing the airfield; however we are making arrangements for you to continue to use the airfield. There must be some changes as detailed below.

- 1) The airfield CAA license has been suspended thus all operations will be 'unlicensed.'
 - 2) There will be radio in operation and on initial radio contact you will be told 'not to land' but you may continue touch and go training. No further information will be given on the radio and the pilot will have to decide which runway. Landing is prohibited for the time being.
 - 3) BAL accept no responsibility or liability, howsoever, it may arise from your use of the airfield and we will only accept you for training purposes after you have signified your acceptance of these conditions by signing and returning a copy of this letter.
 - 4) The fees will be unchanged and we require that you pay for each month in arrears by cheque, on receipt of your payment we will issue a VAT receipt. The cheque should be made payable to Bembridge Airport Ltd. The amount payable will of course be dependent upon your usage and we are relying up your honesty to pay the correct amount."
- We'll continue to monitor the situation.

First Fly-in of 2011 by Dick Osler

It is a year to the day (18th January) when Martin Bromage was sadly killed during his attempt to fly to Australia in a flexwing microlight, to raise money for the Help for Heroes charity. To mark this occasion four aircraft were flown into Gloucestershire Airport by Club members

. Daren Lewington kindly waived the landing fees but we all contributed to the Help for Heroes fund. Aircraft taking part were: G-CCUT with Dick Osler/Andrew John; G-CECF with John Hamer/Monica Hamer; G-CFNO with Jim Taylor/Budge and G-BYFF with Alan Coulon/Andy Virgo. A sad occasion, but lightened by the joy of flying on a beautiful day.



(The two members missing from this photo arrived after it was taken by Andrew John - Ed)

Cheaper Flying

Cotswold Aero Club are promoting microlight flying by offering pilots the chance to pay a fixed sum and fly the Eurostar on a regular basis. Details of the scheme and contact numbers are detailed on page 5

Internet

Last month saw the Editor "testing" his new ISP by sending out Airscrew as one mailing. Hopefully this would replace the previous three separate lists and save him time and effort. As it turned out an upgrade of software plus a rather large resolution photo put paid to his dream. A number of members did not receive it (failed delivery), others received it but could not open it and one could only download pages two and three. A total disaster to put it mildly. However, with help from Mr Bumble and some analysis of the newsletter, the problem was eventually solved but only after spending the whole of one day

staring at the computer screen. Lesson learned. So, this month it will be all plain sailing - all you will have to do is read it!! *(Picture of the Editor with fingers and everything else crossed unavailable!)*

Chairman's Vulcan Talk

A reminder for those interested 25th February is the date - see poster on page 6

Dates for your Diary

16 - 17 April 2011 - Nationals Round, **Over Farm**. Contact Rob Keene **07831 237353**

21 - 22 May 2011 - Nationals Round, **Popham**. Contact Chris Wills 07857 831208

28 - 29 May 2011 - Round Wales Rally. Details not yet available.

10 - 13 June 2011 - British Open Paramotor Championships, **Kerswell Green**, Worcs.

25 - 26 June 2011 - Nationals Round, **St Michaels Airfield**, nr Blackpool. Contact Neil King 07757 299923

20-21 August 2011 - Nationals Round, **Plaitows Farm**, nr St Albans

BMAA President

By the time you receive the newsletter you may well have heard that the BMAA President, Keith Negal, passed away peacefully in hospital on the afternoon of Friday the 4th of February 2011.

Acknowledgements

Dick Osler for the Chairman's report and the Gloucester fly-in article. Andrew John for the photo. John Hamer for the Bembridge information

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Cheaper Flying?



You must be Joking!

NO, really – it's true - IF you join Cotswold Aero Club's new **Frequent Microlight Flyer Scheme!**

Here's The Deal – pay £40 per month standing order (minimum commitment 6 months) then you can fly G-SHMI or G-CEHL for £55 (incl. VAT) per hour!

This means if you fly only 1 hour per month, it's the same rate as normal hire, but if you fly any more than 1 hour per month, the rate gets cheaper & cheaper & cheaper ...



I Don't Believe it!

Conditions:

1. You must be a Cotswold Aero Club Flying member
2. You must hold a PPL or NPPL
3. You must be checked out on microlights (& specifically the Eurostar) by a Cotswold instructor & approved for the scheme.
4. You must commit to a Standing Order for at least 6 months
5. All rules regarding excess liability (£500), Flying Order book etc must be conformed with & signed up to date.
6. Book the aircraft in the usual way, but ensure it's noted as a frequent flyer booking (so you get charged the correct rate).

Contact Phil or Mike on 01452 713924 / 07721 404 823 for details & an application form



OPERATION BLACK BUCK

**Social event and talk
by Former Weapons
Systems Specialist
Richard Osler**

**Civil Service Club
Tewkesbury Road,
Uckington,
Cheltenham,
GL51 9SL**

**Friday 25th
February**

Free entry
(Donations in support of
Vulcan XH558 welcome)

**Bar opening at 7pm
Talk at 7.30pm**

**Raffle and
merchandise stall**

**Further information
from Damaris Tapp
07990 953604
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