



## June 2008

### **This Month's Meeting/Fly-in - Wednesday 18th June**

The Fly-in arranged for this particular evening is to Over Farm. This will take the format of the annual Club Treasure Hunt and Barbeque. A briefing meeting for pilots will take place at 1800 hours when the task will be explained. Non-flyers are also invited to come and watch and the BBQ will be available to all.

### **Quote of the Month**

"The magic of the craft has opened for me a world in which I shall confront, within two hours, the black dragons and the crowned crests of a coma of blue lightnings, and when night has fallen I, delivered, shall read my course in the stars."— *Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*,

### **Fly-in Reports**

**S.V.M.C. Fly-in at Eastbach 'Spence' Airfield 21st May.** By Bruce Morgan

After a little trepidation with regard to the weather, the Severn Valley boys and girls did us proud, with fourteen visiting aircraft and an Enstrom helicopter, more than a few aviation interested friends, with some aircraft owners unable to fly, arriving by road. Good to see them all.

We were too late ordering the food, so were forced to rustle a plump Aberdeen Angus from next door, and turned a

portion of it into juicy burgers! (The remainder of the beast is hanging in the hangar for the next bash). Also the 'Wild Pheasant' curry went down a treat!

Sorry about the lack of salad, it was delivered a week early, and despite talking to it and giving it copious amounts of water, it expired just the day before the event!

Mark Taylor arrived with tears in his eyes, we thought with emotion for the occasion, but it transpired that he had sliced up half a cwt. of onions for the burgers.

Altogether a fine evening with good food and many friends.

What else could you desire?

Best wishes to all.

From me up yonder.



**28th May - Fly-in cancelled due to weather**

**4th June - Defford, hosted by Dave and Sue Steade. Postponed due to weather.**

**11th June - Revised from Shobdon to Gary Ball's strip at Teddington Hands but cancelled due to weather.**

## **Safety**

The character of our weather seems to be changing - almost daily! The thing that most of us remark on is the amount of rain falling and the resulting floods. The impact on microlight flyers is noticeable in more ways than one.

Firstly, the rain obviously stops all aerial activity. Secondly, when the rain stops it does not necessarily mean that we can go flying. Most of us are hangared at places which have grass runways. Wet grass has a retarding effect on any wheeled vehicle and the longer the grass the more the retardation - in simple terms the longer your take-off run the more power required to get to rotation speed. Taking off from dry grass on firm soil (where the grass is up to 8" long) you need to add 20% to the normal take-off distance but if the same grass is wet then you have to add 30%. Landing distances are also affected. On dry grass add 15% but on wet grass add 35%. However, if the grass is short and wet it could be very slippery and then landing distances may be increased by up to 60%. To refresh your mind take a look at Safety Sense Leaflet 7 in LASORS (page 431 will take you straight to it)

## **Australia Challenge**

Ian Nuttall and Jon Ingram are now committed to their adventure. Ian sent the following comment and photo. Further details of their trip and lots more information can be found on their web site <[www.youvegotwings.com](http://www.youvegotwings.com)>



*The trikes leave Over enroute for Australia*

" *The Australia Challenge has finally got under way after 3 years of planning. The trikes were loaded into containers at Over Farm last Saturday (17th May) and are now on their way to Perth to reach Australia by 30th June. "*

This now leaves a temporary space at Over. (See following item)

## **Hangarage available short term at Over**

For rent - Hangerage at Over farm for semi-rigged flexwing, Available from 19th May to 30th October cost. £300. All proceeds going to Leukaemia research. The Hanger space is empty whilst Ian & Jon complete their trip round Australia this Summer. Contact Ian Nuttall - mobile 08708 720226 or home 01989 563117.

## **New Pilot**

Congratulations to Alan Coulon who has passed his GFT and also obtained his FRTO (*Radio Licence in everyday English!*) at the same time. Hopefully the delivery of the paperwork duly processed by the BMAA and the CAA will not take too long. Alan, up to the present, has been the flying partner of Adrian Burden while undertaking his licence training. Now he will be able to assume the P1 role. Alan and Adrian will be taking part in the 'Fly UK' event this month.

## **New Member**

Welcome to Barrie Towers who has joined us this month. Barrie has a Phantom and is coming back into flying

after a lapse of time. He has previously owned two GA aircraft.

### Over Nationals Results

Robbie's luck held this time and the weather was favourable for the whole of the weekend of 31st May/1st June. Six Club members flew in the competition and achieved very creditable results considering the opposition from "dyed in the wool" veterans from the National Team.

Particular congratulations must go to Rees Keene flying a single seat Chaser who finished fourth overall. No mean achievement considering that he is relatively inexperienced in solo competition flying. A measure of his achievement can be gained from the fact that at the end he was only 405 points behind the formidable solo Chaser pilot and former Club member Richard Rawes. In two of the tasks Rees actually came first.

Other Club members also put up sterling performances. Jim Taylor and Phil Hanman came 10th in Phil's Quantum, Myron Burak and Stephen Sykes came 11th in their Skyranger and Andy Lewis and Steve Virgin came 12th in another Skyranger. Well done to all of them!

The overall winners of the round were Rob Grimwood and Chris Saysell in a GT450 flexwing.

### Internet

Don't forget that you can access all the CAA publications - CAP 413, CAP 393, CAP 694 and LASORS on the CAA site. LASORS is particularly useful as it is a comprehensive publication. However, it does take a bit of time finding your way around it!

### Dates for your Diary

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

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**28th July - 3rd August** - Oshcosh, USA. EAA 56th Annual Fly-in Convention.  
[www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org)

### Photos from the Nationals at Over



### Acknowledgements

Ian Nuttall for the Australia Challenge information and photo. Robbie Keene for supplying the full results of the Nationals. (the basis of the article opposite) and Dick Osler for the Nationals photos.

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