



May 2008

This Month's Meeting - Wednesday 21st May

We are now into the regular Wednesday evening fly-ins and this month a fly-in will be arranged at a local venue. Details will be circulated by e-mail only, usually on the preceding Tuesday. Check your e-mail each week for details and pass them on to any member you know who is not on e-mail.

Quote of the Month

What is chiefly needed is skill rather than machinery." — Wilbur Wright, 1902.

BMAA and LAA to have merger talks

The following press release was made on 17th April by the BMAA and the LAA :-

The Councils of the British Microlight Aircraft Association (BMAA) and the Light Aircraft Association (LAA) have agreed to initiate joint discussions leading to amalgamation.

Keith Negal, BMAA Chairman and Roger Hopkinson, LAA Chairman said "During mid-April our respective Councils voted unanimously to work towards the amalgamation of our two successful associations. Our aim is to put this proposal to our members later this year and, with their support, enter 2009 as a single association of nearly 12,000 members. There is much work to be

done but, particularly at this time of great change in the regulation and structure of European light aviation, the advantages of pooling our strength, experience and resources for the benefit of all our members can no longer be ignored".

BMAA Check/Test Flights: Aircraft Hull Insurance.

Information received via the BMAA on 17th April:-

"All flights carried out by BMAA authorised check and test pilots are covered by a third party and hull liability insurance cover. The limit of the hull cover is £60,000. It is uneconomic for the BMAA to increase this limit to cover the very few microlight aircraft with a hull value in excess of this limit.

Owners of aircraft with a hull value of over £60,000 are strongly advised to arrange their own cover for any additional value they place on the aircraft."

Gloucester Airport Landing Fees

Members thinking of flying in to Staverton will be glad to hear that they have revised their landing fee for microlights to £7.50 from 1st April 2008.

Nationals at Over Farm

Fickle April weather caused Robbie Keene to cancel the opening round of

the Nationals at Over last month. However, not to be defeated, he soon rescheduled the event and it will now take place on the **weekend of 31st May - 1st June**. As with any event like this there can never be too many helpers. If you can spare some time Robbie would be happy to use your services on one or both days. Contact him to confirm your availability on 07831 237353 or by e-mail at <rob.keene@btinternet.com>.

Safety

The start of the flying season is always preceded with great expectations for the coming months. However, the start is probably the time when memory and routines are rusty (not surprising with all the wet weather we have had!)

Take a little time out to re-read the pilot's handbook for your aircraft and revise your checklists. If the latter are looking a bit dog eared take the opportunity to rewrite them - it's a good way of getting them into your mind.

Most importantly, before taking to the air for the first time in the season, take a little longer and be a bit more thorough than usual over your pre-flight inspection. If you find something that doesn't look right, check it and, if necessary, postpone the flight until it has been rectified. Better to be looking forward to a flight later than "undertake" the flight be an AAIB statistic!

Fly-in Reports

I hope to make this a regular monthly feature but its success or failure will depend on you. Please send me any words and/or photos which I can use in this space. Very few members get to every fly-in so don't think that someone else will write it up. I can cope with and will combine multiple accounts of the same event! Over to you! (*No pun intended on the following account of the first fly-in. Ed*)

Over Farm Fly-in 7th May - by John Hamer

Popham may have been cancelled, but the first SVMC Wednesday night fly-in of the year went ahead as scheduled on what turned out to be a glorious night. The "season's" opening event was held at Over and was attended by 16 aircraft from a variety of locations:- Chace Farm, Babdown Farm, Upfield Farm, Croft Farm, Norton, Hartpury, and a large contingent from Eastbach. Even some of the locals took to the air to qualify as arrivals! Many more came by road, swelling the numbers to around 40 people who gathered to consume a vast and excellent spread put on by Monica in the New Hanger. It must rank as one of the best supported events that the club has ever put on. Our thanks go to Monica for her hard work in making the event such a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Eastbach 14th May

Yes, you've guessed it, the weather interfered with the arrangements by being sunny but very windy. Not only that but the direction of the wind would have made Eastbach tricky to say the least. Common sense prevailed and the event was postponed (perhaps deferred is a better term) for a future occasion.

Internet

Thank you to all e-mail members who take the trouble to let me have a "read receipt" for my missives. I know it's a pain but it does let me know that the system is working. This is important since John Hamer relies on my e-mail list to keep you informed of the Wednesday fly-Ins and you wouldn't want to miss them, would you?

Dates for your Diary

12th 15th - June - Spamfield, Isle of Wight. Discount booking now open. Organiser; John Moore. Contact <john@cyberstitch.co.uk>

25th - 27th July - Bleriot 100. Mass microlight crossing of the English Channel

to mark Louis Bleriot's 100th anniversary. Contact: Frank Spiniello frankspiniello@hotmail.co.uk

28th July – 3rd August – Oshcosh, USA. EAA 56th Annual Fly-in Convention. www.eaa.org

For Sale

This section has fallen into disuse over the months but is still available for any Club member to advertise free of charge any item connected with flying. It will be for members to agree any sale between themselves. Let me set the ball rolling.

Two unused four litre cans of Silkoline Comp2 two-stroke oil going for half price at £16 a can. Contact the Editor.

Acknowledgements

Adrian Peatman for the BMAA/LAA merger talks news (almost before the ink was dry!). John Hamer for the hull insurance information and fly-in report. Andrew John for the photos.

Photos of the first fly-in at Over



Editor's Note

John Hamer has set the standard for reporting on the Wednesday Fly-Ins. It would be good if the host for each event in particular took responsibility for letting me have a short resumé of the evening's happenings. However, any member should feel free to contribute words or photos.

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