



**May 2009**

### **Monthly Meetings**

The regular monthly meetings of the Club are now suspended until September. Instead, **every** Wednesday of the month will be a fly-in to a local strip - weather permitting! Members should check their e-mail each Tuesday for details of the venue and any specific instructions regarding circuit procedures and "no fly" zones. Members not on e-mail should check with John Hamer on 01452 520679 or 07974 957522.

Please remember that on all occasions you are an invited guest at a member's home strip and adhere strictly to any circuit procedures. We are all aware that not all neighbours are "aircraft friendly" so do not give them the opportunity to lodge a complaint which might ultimately result in that strip being closed to aircraft movements. Many strip owners have worked hard to ensure good local relations - one unthinking or inconsiderate pilot could ruin it for everyone!

### **Quote of the Month**

*"If you can't afford to do something right, then be darn sure you can afford to do it wrong." Charlie Nelson*

### **Safety**

The all important element in everything we do - flying, driving and living. Don't neglect it or you may not live to regret it! Safety begins before you leave home -

the suitability of yourself to fly/drive, the suitability of the weather to achieve your flight. At the airfield make sure your aircraft is airworthy and is capable of carrying out your intended flight safely and with sufficient reserve fuel in case you have to divert.

### **Air Ambulance Donation**

As agreed at the April meeting the Treasurer sent a donation of £100 in memory of Rex Paddock and Mark Taylor.

### **Popham 2009**

The weather was kind this year and Saturday encouraged a lot of aircraft to fly in. It was noticeable that flexwings occupied most of the parking area despite the overall impression that the majority of pilots now fly fixed wing!

In general terms there was very little that was new on show. Perhaps the greatest change was the increase in autogyro training schools exhibiting. Included in this number was our friend Graham Slater from Clench Common who is currently training for his instructor's licence and hopes to be able to offer gyro training in the next few months. The fact that these aircraft are more weather tolerant than microlights might influence pilots to give them a try but capital outlay has to be factored in to ownership. Having said that, the fact that P & M are discontinuing production of the Blade and

Quantum because of lack of interest and the increasing number of 912 sales, things might just even themselves out in the long run.



**Escapade Kid**

Popham this year was better value for money in that there were many more exhibitors than last year plus other stalls (although the Cats Protection League seemed to be missing!). Now all we have to do is enjoy the summer flying and look forward to SPLASH in November! ( Is it increasing age or are the years really passing much quicker than in the past?!)

### Dates for your diary

In the hope that the weather will improve, here is a selection of events for you to consider.

**22nd - 25th May** - USSR Rally for deregulated single seaters, start and finish at Sywell. Contact David Bremner, dbremner@f2s.com 01706 824909, Mob 07801 142320

**6th - 7th June** - Icicle Melt 09, Halfpennygreen Organiser Roger Cornwell. Email <[jesa.usa@btinternet.com](mailto:jesa.usa@btinternet.com)>

**12th - 14th June** - Spamfield, Sandown Airport, Isle of Wight.

**13th - 14th June** - World Air Games, Turin, Italy. <[www.worldairgames.org](http://www.worldairgames.org)>

**19th - 28th June** - Fly-UK 2009. From the Midlands anticlockwise around the UK to a mystery destination. Registration mandatory on <[www.fly-uk.org](http://www.fly-uk.org)> Organiser Tom Dawson e-mail <[tom@fly-uk.org](mailto:tom@fly-uk.org)>

**20th - 21st June** - Kemble Air Day. Air displays on both days starting at 1100. The Red Arrows are on the display list for both days. Check for airspace restrictions.

**11th - 12th July** - Wiltshire's Wonderful Weekend of Wizardry. Fourth annual Fly-in at Craymarsh Farm, Melksham, Wilts. Register on BMAA website or with Charles Fuller on 01249-713270 or <[ccff@btopenworld.com](mailto:ccff@btopenworld.com)>

**18th July** - The Great Westonzoyland Scrumpy 'n Cheese Microlight Fly-in. Westonzoyland Airfield. Contact 07811 194640/07929 868866 for PPR or Mick Evans on <[mick.evansfly@my-postoffice.co.uk](mailto:mick.evansfly@my-postoffice.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](mailto:frankspiniello@hotmail.co.uk)

### Fly-in Reports

In previous years it has been the custom to include in Aircrew short reports of the Wednesday fly-Ins. As Editor I am happy to receive reports by post, phone, e-mail or any other means. Leave the finer detail of formatting to me and see your words in print!

### 6th and 13th May - Over Farm

What a start to the fly-in season - the first two cancelled due to high winds and the prospect of showers! However, all was not lost as the "Over hangar cafe" opened for drinks and nibbles for anyone who wanted to turn up and socialise. JH's communication with the weather gods does not seem to have improved despite years of trying!

### Acknowledgements

Myron Burak for the photo on this page

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