



November 2004

### **This month's meeting**

This month's meeting is "**Lloyd's impressions of America**". and the speaker will be Adrian Lloyd. He went to "Sun 'n Fun" in April and did a few other things as well. Knowing Adrian's enthusiasm for aviation and his observations on life in general this will be a meeting not to be missed! We will be starting at 8.15pm.

Apologies for the non-appearance of the speaker at the last meeting due to fog and thanks to everybody for being there for an 8.00pm start. The current position is that the Air Ambulance has apologised for not turning up and has offered 20th April next year as a date for their presentation.

### **Safety**

The winter is coming fast and recent rain has raised the thought of the effects of wet grass on take-off and landing performances. The effect on take-off will be to retard your run and thus increase the length and time required to reach rotation speed. Similarly on landing the wet grass will offer less resistance to braking and thus increase the length of the landing run. As we operate out of short fields we need to bear in mind our minimum take-off and landing distances and the height of the hedges and any other obstruction surrounding the field. Know your aircraft and the strip you fly from is the answer.

One of our members has reported a serious accident which he heard about concerning a Puma Sprint and which could also apply to

early models of XL trikes. Apparently a crack developed in the snoot where the front fork attachment goes through the tube. This was not easily visible but caused the front wheel to collapse on landing resulting in the trike somersaulting four times before coming to rest. No doubt a report will appear in due course but owners might take the opportunity to have a close look at this part of their aircraft before the next flight.

### **Space Travel**

On 4th October the first private spacecraft, SpaceShipOne, flew to an altitude of 377,590 feet (71 miles) and has won the \$10 million (£5.7 million) Ansari X prize for the first private craft to go into space. It was powered by Nitrous Oxide and rubber. The organisation behind the effort is Scaled Composites which was founded by Burt Rutan and financed by Paul Allen the Microsoft billionaire.

Richard Branson has committed 25 million pounds to putting people into space and expects to carry 3000 passengers over 5 years using this system.

### **Quote of the Month**

"The machine does not isolate man from the great problems of nature but plunges him more deeply into them". — *Antoine de Saint Exupéry*

### **Telford 2004**

No, it's not a mistake; the annual show and BMAA AGM has been brought forward a week this year. Start making your Christmas

list straight away and make sure the important people see it! Hopefully we will see some new things this year:- affordable, light weight transponders; new aircraft; gadgets to make flying easier? It will be interesting to see what the manufacturers produce to persuade us to open our wallets and part with our hard-earned cash.

### Internet

For almost two years now the Club has produced *Airscrew* in two formats each month- a PDF version which is sent by e-mail and a black and white copy which is posted to some 20 members. Some members do not possess a computer and therefore require a hard copy. There are others who do have a computer but are not taking advantage of the full colour e-mail version. The Editor would like those members who have access to a computer to re-consider their decision to receive the hard copy and to give the e-mail version a try. Not only would this reduce costs to the Club and the Editor's time in printing, enveloping and stamping but it gives the additional advantage that e-mail is used on other occasions to communicate with members and to pass on information which would arrive too late by "snail mail". Let the Editor know if you wish to be put on the e-mail list.

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### Single-seat deregulation

It appears that this is an issue that is going to drag on and on for some time to come and probably well into the year after next. In the last two issues of "Microlight Flying" the reports to Council on this subject indicate that nothing has progressed in almost four months. What a pity when it seems to offer such a lot of hope for the future. There is at least one manufacturer out there with new aircraft waiting for the introduction of the regulations. With the advent of compulsory passenger insurance there could be a rush of pilots wanting to transfer to single seat aircraft to keep their costs down while still being able to indulge their passion for flying. Not only is this an issue to be processed by the BMAA but it has then to run the gamut of the CAA which will, no doubt, mean further delay while the wheels grind slowly and thoroughly!



***Pterodactyl – flies faster than the progress of deregulation?***

### Wanted

Trike trailer in good condition. Contact Adrian Lloyd 07787 847064

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### Dates for your Diary

**27<sup>th</sup> – 28th November** *International Airsports Exhibition, and BMAA AGM, Telford*

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