

# Newsletter

December 2006



Editor Nick Neve.

Number 68

## NEWS FROM THE BMFA AGM.

Senior fees are up to £27, Family Partners to £17, Juniors £14 and Family Juniors £10. Membership is 36,000 which is just level with the previous year. Results of the "one man, one vote" election were announced. John French was re-elected as Records Officer, and Roger Bedford as Vice Chairman. The BMFA insurers said that from 1 January 2007, any club that does not have an adequate Children and Vulnerable Adults policy in place will not find that aspect of its liability covered. In the event of a claim the Club would have to produce evidence that a policy of compliance with the BMFA guidelines had been in place.

Our constitution states "All members must comply with the rules and "Code of Practice" of the Club, the BMFA Safety Code, the "BMFA Policy, Procedures and Guidelines Relating to the Care and Welfare of Children and Vulnerable Adults", the CAA regulations and the bylaws of the Malvern Hills Conservators. There was a total of 17 insurance claims in 2006, including six cars, one power cable and two people. Estimated flights p.a. is 5,000,000. BMFA were congratulated by the insurers for keeping the claim record so low, but implored us all to work on getting the numbers of claims even lower. Jo Halman (Comp Sec) and Keith Miller were made Fellows.

**MSA AGM JOTTINGS.** Our membership is slightly down at around 80-85 this year. This is still a healthy level for a silent flight club. Relations with the Malvern Hills Conservators and our Fish Meadow owner/farmer, Peter Surman, continue to be very good, but we do make a conscious effort to keep them that way. The new gate entry system for Fish Meadow, safeguarded by a combination lock, seems to have kept the 'Travellers' out.

**OFFICERS** There were no changes to our MSA elected officers, thus they remain as follows:

Chairman:	Nick Neve;
Secretary	Pev Attwood;
Treasurer	Tony Wright;
Competition Secretary	Mike Grantham;
General Member	Glyn Roberts.

Glyn is also our Child Welfare Officer and Steve Pearse is the auditor.

**WEBSITE UPDATE.** Our MSA website, is like a club notice board in cyberspace. It is a low cost and rapid means of communicating to the 79% of members (66/83) who have access to the internet.

Suggestions as to its development are always welcomed. Its content and use has again expanded during the year. Recent extensions include a 'Wanted and for sale' section. Next plan is a photographic album.

**ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING** Our 2006 prizewinners were:

Overall Champion: Steve Hannon;	2nd: Geoff Carter	3rd: Mike Grantham;
Slope Champion: Ralph Picton;	2nd: Steve Hannon	3rd: Steve Pearse;
Thermal Champion: Geoff Carter;	2nd: Steve Hannon	3rd: Mike Grantham.

Congratulations to all the above.

**SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2007.** Members are asked to complete and return the enclosed form in order to renew MSA membership for 2007. You must renew your BMFA membership to be covered by their insurance after 31 December 2006. You may renew both memberships at the same time by using the form if you wish. The subscriptions are:

Senior fees (aged 18+ on 1 Jan 2007): BMFA £27.00, MSA £10.00, total £37.00;  
Junior fees (under 18 on 1 Jan 2007): BMFA £14.00, MSA free, total £14.00;  
Family (Seniors): BMFA £27.00, MSA £10.00, total £37.00;  
Family (Partners): BMFA £17.00, MSA free, total £17.00;  
Family (Juniors): BMFA £10.00, MSA free, total £10.00.

If you have not done so already, please send off the enclosed form **NOW**.

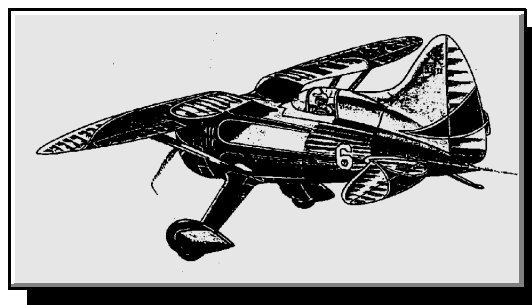
**RAFFLE RESULT.** The winner of the 2006 raffle was MSA Member Jim Andrews and the moulded slope soarer; an 'Alex Mini', was presented to him last week. John McWhirter was the runner up and he won two metal-g geared servos.

**2.4 Ghz TECHNOLOGY.** This is the frequency that has recently been licenced for use in the UK with a radiated power of up to 100 mWatts. The BMFA has done us all a service to negotiate this with the regulatory authorities. Advertisements are beginning to appear for this equipment. The first to be advertised is the Spektrum DX6 "Park Flyer System". Soon to appear will be the DX7, with a greater range and claimed to be a suitable replacement for the type of full range 35 MHz equipment in everyday use. Other major manufacturers will soon follow. I am inclined to wait and see how these systems perform before leaping in and parting with my money, but I have no reason to doubt that this is an exciting new technology which will allow more models to be airborne at once and frequency clashes will become a thing of the past.

**MOBILE PHONES.** A recent loss of control of a sailplane has been traced to have been caused by a mobile phone being carried in close proximity to a Multiplex synthesised transmitter. The corruption of the transmitters memory was demonstrated to be repeatable. Whilst it is a sensible safety measure to have mobiles on a flying site in case of an accident, they should preferably be kept away from the flight line, not in your pocket, and switched off.

**2007 CALENDAR.** This is enclosed with this newsletter and again contains a full schedule of soaring related activities. Sadly I hear that the Traplet show at Eastnor may not happen next year, but the Hereford MAC/LMA show at Much Marcle will again take place. We have moved the dates of our thermal soaring weekend at Fish Meadow to coincide with the Upton Blues Festival in late July.

**GORDON RAE'S BOOK.** Gordon's book titled "Aircraft Speed and Vintage Team Racing" [Traplet £24.95] has just been published. Those of us who have known Gordon a long time will know that this epic work has been many years in gestation and has been a mammoth undertaking. With 260 pages of nostalgia, hundreds of drawings, covering both the history of full size and model team racing, Gordon is to be congratulated on giving birth at last!



**WEBSITE** As the use of the internet grows, more of our members now have access to it and also have an e-mail facility. It was suggested at the AGM that we distribute this newsletter by electronic means to those who would like to receive it that way. This will cut the cost of printing and postage. Those members who would like to receive their newsletters in this way are asked to contact Nick Neve [ [nickneve@clara.co.uk](mailto:nickneve@clara.co.uk) ] and let him know. The file format of the electronic document is yet to be determined but will either be as a MSWord [ .doc ] or an Adobe [ .pdf ] document.

**MINI HELICOPTER.** Some of you will have seen Steve Hannon's mini-helicopter flying at the Elms School. These tiny machines are infra-red controlled, come with a lipo battery and transmitter. They cost £30. ready to fly and they really do just that. If you wonder where to get them try:  
[http://www.firebox.com/product/1420?src\\_t=t20](http://www.firebox.com/product/1420?src_t=t20)

**EMAIL AND TELEPHONE DIRECTORY.** Enclosed with this issue is an up-to-date telephone and email directory. Corrections to Nick Neve by phone or email please. This list is only distributed to members as a hard copy directory and is not placed on the website.

**WINTER SERIES.**

Position	Name	Round 1 Nov 5th	Round 2 Dec 17th	Total Points
<b>1st</b>	<b>Mike Grantham</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>Steve Hannon</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15.5</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Steve Pearse</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>Mike Hurley</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11.5</b>
<b>5th=</b>	<b>Nick Neve</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5th=</b>	<b>Barry O'Hara</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7th</b>	<b>Malcolm White</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>8th</b>	<b>John Freeman</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>9th</b>	<b>Geoff Carter</b>	<b>2.5</b>		<b>2.5</b>
<b>10th</b>	<b>David Toye</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**MSA OPEN.** We have decided to make some changes to our annual flat field soaring event at Fish Meadow. First we have moved the date to July 21/22 to coincide with the BMFA F3J League event on Fish Meadow and the Upton Blues Festival. Graham Wickes will be Contest Director of the F3J event. On the Saturday we are planning to stage a Discus Launched Glider event to F3K rules and a Rudder, Elevator, Spoiler event to BARCS RES rules. We will be approaching the BMFA Mid-West Area for a grant towards prizes. The cake auction will also take place as usual on the Sunday.

## MAGAZINE SECTION



Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA examiner arrived for the pre-Christmas flight check. In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order. He knew they would examine all his equipment and put his flying skills to the test.

The examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and Rudolf's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for sled's enormous payload. Finally, they were ready for the check flight. Santa got in and fastened his seatbelt and shoulder harness and checked

the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun.

"What's that for?" asked Santa incredulously.

The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this ahead of time," as he leaned over to whisper in Santa's ear, "but you're gonna lose an engine on takeoff."

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

Please fly safely at all times.

Nick Neve.