

# Newsletter

April 2007



Editor Nick Neve.

Number 69

## ROGER REFFELL.

It is with great sadness that I have to record the death on 20 March 2007 of Roger Reffell. He was 88 years old and had been an active member of the Malvern Soaring Association since he retired and moved to Malvern about 25 years ago. From 1988 to 2004 he was our Treasurer, a period that saw our finances well managed and our balances rising to the healthy level they are today.

His family would like to thank the all the members who supported Roger over the last year and for those who attended his funeral in Worcester where many tributes were paid by his family and others to his good humour, his courteous and gentlemanly manner, his skills as an engineer and model maker and his willingness to help everyone, young or old, who asked for advice and assistance. We will all miss him.

## RESULTS OF THE 2006/2007 WINTER SERIES

Place	Name	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Total best 3
1	Mike Grantham	10	8	7	9	27
2	Steve Hannon	5.5	10	7	9	26
3	Steve Pearse	8	4	5	6	19
4	John Freeman	-	3	10	5	18
5	Mike Hurley	5.5	6	-	2.5	14
6	Trevor Hughes	-	-	4	4	8
7	Barry O'Hara	-	5	-	2.5	7.5
8	Malcolm White	2.5	2	2	1	6.5
9	Geoff Carter	2.5	-	3	-	5.5
10	Nick Neve	4	1	-	-	5
11=	Bob Hutton	-	-	1	-	1
11=	Dave Tove	-	1	-	-	1

Both the first two events were timed speed events over a 10-lap course of about 100 metres a lap flown on Table Hill. The 3rd leg was a Mini X-Country up towards the Beacon and back. The 4th and final league was a distance event with competitors having to fly a triangular course. When the final places were calculated it was Mike Grantham who just won by a single point.

**QUIZ.** February Club Night featured the quiz, a MSA event of long standing that takes place every two years. Traditionally the previous winners set the questions which are supposed to have an aeronautical flavour with some general knowledge thrown in. The honour of being quizmaster fell to Barry O'Hara this year and five teams gathered on the night to have their collective knowledge challenged. If you knew the names of the three aircraft that defended Malta in WW2, who was the first man to break the sound barrier, what did he fly and what name was painted on the side you were off to a good start. But who first sailed single handed round the world?; who designed the Hawker Hurricane?; and what is the symbol for gold?. Get those right (answers at the bottom of the page<sup>1</sup>) and you were starting to clock up the marks. In the end the "High Flyers" [Brian (Brain) Cobb and Nick Neve] with a score of 54 finished ahead of "The Flatulators" [Pev Attwood and Paul Thorn] who scored 48½, with the "Kiwis" [Dave Laycock and Malcolm White], "The Treasury" [Tony Wright and Dave Toyne] and "The Novices" [John Cornes and Keith Lowe] not too far behind. At the end the winners and runners up shared some wine and everyone got a souvenir of the evening. Barry is congratulated on an excellent set of questions, we wonder what Nick and Brian will come up with in 2009.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS.** These are now due for 2007. The MSA rates were increased to £10.00 seniors, free for Juniors (18 and under). The BMFA rate, including insurance, is up by £1 to £27.00, making a total of £37.00. **If you have not yet paid then you are not insured.** If you are already a member of the BMFA via your membership of another affiliated club or as a Country Member and wish to apply for MSA membership only, then please enclose a photocopy of your current valid BMFA membership card. New for 2007 is a new class of MSA membership. If you just wish to be a non-flying member of the MSA then only enclose the MSA fee. You may attend all MSA events as a 'social' member and you will receive newsletters but you will not be a member of the BMFA, nor will you receive copies of the "BMFA News" All applications should include the correct fee as follows:

Senior fees (aged 18+): BMFA £27.00, MSA £10.00, total £37.00.  
Junior fees (under 18): BMFA £14.00, MSA free, total £14.00.  
Family (First Senior): BMFA £27.00, MSA £10.00, total £37.00.  
Family (Partner): BMFA £17.00, MSA free, total £17.00.  
Family (Juniors): BMFA £ 10.00, MSA free, total £ 10.00.  
Non-Flying member of the MSA £10.00.

Include your MSA membership card if you are renewing an existing membership, plus a stamped self-addressed envelope. Cheques should be made payable to: "**Malvern Soaring Association**". Send your renewal to:

**2007 AUCTION**

This was held on 8th March in Colwall Village Hall. We received 85 lots. A few remained unsold but the total paid by successful buyers was a record £1089.50.

The sellers were paid £972.50 and the MSA commission was 117.00. Some lots were donated to the club and these made £39.00 so the total MSA gain was £156.00. This too is a record amount and will go a long way to keeping our annual subscriptions low.

Our thanks to all who took part and donated lots and also to Pev Attwood and Tony Wright who recorded the sales and kept the books.

Tony Wright,  
29 Jasmine Road,  
Malvern Wells, Worcs, WR14 4XD.  
Tel: 01684 566192.

Please remember that if you do not renew, then this is the last MSA Newsletter you will receive, no further reminders will be sent out.

## 2.4 GHz Guidance

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<sup>1</sup> The Gloster Gladiators Faith, Hope and Charity; Chuck Yeager flying the Bell X1 named "Glamorous Glennis"; Robin Knox-Johnson; Sidney Camm, Au.

Changes to Government legislation allow the sale and use of approved equipment transmitting on the 2.4 GHz band at 100mw maximum radiating power. Equipment on this band is already selling in large numbers and will soon start to appear at the club field or flying event. At this early stage only one manufacturer is offering equipment on this frequency, however indications are that more will take advantage of this new technology in the near future. Below are a few points for your guidance on operation and integration within your normal flying activities, however always remember the final decision on any matter relating to the safety of a flight rests with the pilot.

- \* 2.4 GHz is a world-wide band that has many applications and users.
- \* The sets currently available are of the "spread spectrum" variety and hence need no frequency control.
- \* Current sets have the facility to reduce power in order to perform a range check, use this facility in line with the manufacturers' instructions.
- \* It is suggested that clubs utilising the "peg on" method of frequency control have a separate 2.4 GHz section for members to place a named peg.
- \* 2.4 GHz transmitter aerials should display a black ribbon.
- \* There is no evidence to suggest that 2.4 GHz transmitters will interfere with users of 35 MHz.
- \* Follow manufacturers' instructions and guidance on installation into your airframe.
- \* Follow guidance provided by the manufacturer of your specific set on it's operation.
- \* The effectiveness and safety of any equipment still relies on the care and vigilance of the user.

## **Calendar.**

### **April**

**Sunday 29th**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thermal Competition , Precision Duration**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Hand Launch Comp , 14:00

### **May**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>

Thermal Fly-in , Upton

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thermal Competition , BARCS RES rules**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Launch Comp , 14:00

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>

Thermal Fly-in , Upton

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Slope Competition , X-Country/Distance**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thermal Competition, 3 Flight Aggregate.**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Hand Launch Comp, 14:00

### **June**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>

Thermal Fly-in, Upton

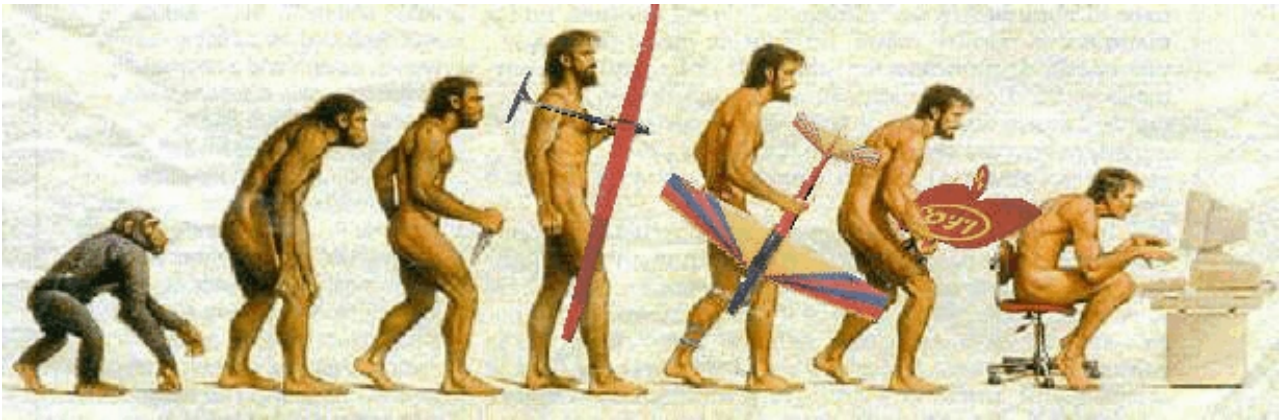
## **MSA RECORD BREAKERS.**

MSA members Dave Laycock and Malcolm White between them have been putting their indoor expertise and skills to setting or breaking existing British records for indoor free flight models in what is known as "Cat I", for ceiling heights of under 8.0 metres. The place they used is the Elms School Sports hall whose ceiling is just 6.7 metres high. Dave Laycock set a new hand launch record in November of 19.8 seconds which has already been ratified. In January he set a new rubber duration record with a flight of just under 5 minutes, yet to be ratified, and Malcolm White has recently beaten Dave's hand launch record by two seconds, which is now the subject of another claim. Steve Hannon's RC Thermal duration record of just over two and a half hours is still the current record, but sadly Nick Neve's height record of 2,540 feet for an electric model has now been beaten. There are a large number of outdoor and indoor records just waiting to be beaten, or in some cases established. Why not take a look on the BMFA website at the records section then contact Nick Neve if you are keen to have a go.

## MAGAZINE SECTION

Mahatma Gandhi walked barefoot most of the time which produced an nasty set of callouses on his feet. He ate very little which made him rather frail and, because of this odd diet, he also suffered from bad breath. This made him. a super calloused fragile mystic vexed by halitosis.

### EVOLUTION



An old Italian man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his tomato garden but it was difficult as the ground was very hard and stony. His only son, Vincenzo, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament thus: *"Dear Vincenzo, I am feeling pretty low because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato crop this year. I am getting too old to be digging the hard ground. If only you were here my son, you could dig the garden for me. Your loving Papa."*

A few days later he received a letter from his son on prison notepaper: *"Dear Papa, Please do not dig up that garden. That's where I buried the bodies. Your loving son, Vinny."*

At 4 am the next morning the local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. The same day the old man received another letter from his son. *"Dear Papa, Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Love , Vinny."*

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While taxiing at Gatwick Airport , the crew of a US Air flight departing for Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a recently landed United 727. An very irate female ground controller berated the US Air crew *"US Air 2771, where the hell are you going? I told you to turn left on to Charlie taxiway! You turned right on to Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between a C and a D, but get it right!"*

Continuing her rant to the embarrassed US Air crew, she continued: *"God! Now you've screwed everything up! It'll take me forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move until I tell you to! You can expect progressive taxi instructions in about half an hour, and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! You got that, US Air 2771?"* "Yes, roger ma'am," the humbled crew responded.

Naturally, the ground control frequency fell terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to chance engaging the irate ground controller in her mood. Tension in every cockpit around Gatwick was running high. Then an unknown pilot broke the silence and keyed his microphone, asking: *"Wasn't I married to you once?"*

Please fly safely at all times.

Nick Neve.