

# Newsletter

**JUNE 2007**



**Editor Nick Neve.**

**Number 70**

**A Personal Note.** I start with the reason why this newsletter has not been sent out earlier. As some of you will know already, my wife, Pat, has been seriously ill recently, having suffered a stroke, followed by a heart attack. Thankfully she is now out of hospital where she was for six weeks and is recovering in a 'stepping stone' nursing home in Malvern where she will be for a little while longer yet. This has meant that I have not been able to devote much time to aeromodelling in general, or the MSA in particular. This situation will continue for a while since when Pat gets home, hopefully in about two weeks time, it will not be easy for me to leave her alone for long periods, so my appearances at Fish Meadow or on the Hills may be fleeting for a month or two.

**MSA High Summer Weekend.** As a result of the above, I am not now able to be the CD of the RES event which was scheduled to take place at Fish Meadow on Saturday July 21st. I have been unable to find a replacement so the event is cancelled. As I write this there were no pre-entries anyway. The Hand Launch Glider event will take place as scheduled using the F3K rules, as will the MSA Open on Sunday 22nd, which will be run this year to F3J rules. See the calendar later in this newsletter for details on how to enter. Camping is available along the riverbank. On the same weekend the Upton Blues Festival will be taking place as well.

**Congratulations** to Martin and Dina Briggs on their recent marriage. Many members will know that Martin is the owner of Martin Briggs Models in Ledbury. Although the shop specialises in helicopters, there are many items in stock which are used by glider enthusiasts particularly radio equipment, batteries, chargers, glues and even a few glider kits. Martin has now opened a website, which whilst it still has some stock items waiting to be added, is now up and running for sales. Visit <http://www.rotorsport.co.uk> and take a look.

**Things To Do This Summer.** Here are some ideas for air-minded people thinking of an away day this summer (if it comes). The Shuttleworth Collection; visit <http://www.shuttleworth.org/> for details. Their Aeromodelling Weekend is on 21st/22nd July this year and the next big Air Display is on 5th August. In the same area is Duxford, part of the Imperial War Museum, look at <http://www.iwm.org.uk> There are five hangars full of historic aircraft including Concorde and the American Air Museum which includes a B-17, B52 and a U-2. Nearer to home you could experience a trial flying lesson at the Hereford Aero Club at Shobden, near Leominster, in a Cessna 2-seater aircraft for £54.50. Phone 01568 708369 for details or visit <http://www.aeroclub.co.uk> .

**Forthcoming Events.** Model events taking place in the next few months include:

7-8 July. "The Gathering of Rotary Eagles" Charlton Park, Near Malmsbury, Wilts, Only a few miles off the M4 Motor way. Featuring Scale and Electric helicopters, Autogyros, Unusual Rotary Wing Models. Camping facilities available from Friday until Monday (pre-booking only) Contact Robin Jones 01608 737919 (evenings).

14-15 July LMA Cosford 2 Day Air show. Signposted off M54, West Midlands. Contact Dave Johnson on 01925 811763 or [dave.johnson13@bopenworld.com](mailto:dave.johnson13@bopenworld.com) or see <http://www.LargeModelAssociation.com>

Jul 15 Wolves MAC Scale Glider Competition at The Long Mynd, Nr Church Stretton, Shropshire. Contact Mark Richards on 01785 712445.

Jul 21 (Sat) BARCS F3K/Miniglider League. Upton Upon Severn. MSA members wishing to enter

please contact Hayley Hawes via [h.hawes@teknets.co.uk](mailto:h.hawes@teknets.co.uk)

Jul 22 BARCS F3J Thermal Soaring League. Round 5. Fish Meadow, Upton-upon-Severn. MSA members wishing to enter please contact Mike Raybone via [mcmray@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mcmray@blueyonder.co.uk)

Aug 25-26-27 BMFA British National Championships. Biggest Model Flying Event in the WORLD. Scale - F4B, F4C, R/C Clubman, R/C Open, F/F Power, Rubber, CO2/Electric. Aerobatics, Pylon Racing, Helicopter (Team Trials Event), Fun Fly, MODEL AIR SHOW SATURDAY and SUNDAY. SUNDAY ONLY - Giant Swapmeet. MASSIVE TRADE PRESENCE. Barkston Heath, Nr Grantham. Contact BMFA on 0116 2440028 or [admin@bmfa.org](mailto:admin@bmfa.org)

Sep 1-2 LMA Three Counties Show. Much Marcle, Herefordshire. Contact Dave Johnson on 01925 811763 or [dave.johnson13@btopenworld.com](mailto:dave.johnson13@btopenworld.com)

### Recent Club Competition Results.

**SLOPE 1 - SLALOM** held on 18 March 2007. The weather was very similar to 2006 with a cold North Easterly wind, poor visibility and a considerable wind chill. However this was better than the previous weekend when we first tried to hold the event. The wind was perhaps a little stronger than ideal but the direction was perfect for the Northern extremity below the summit of North Hill. These chilly conditions probably cut the numbers down as the conditions were not for the elderly or faint hearted and judging by a few late arrivals, some had forgotten to put their clocks forward. This type of competition is flown between two pairs of gates, set at right angles to one another, in a pre-described pattern. The object being to complete (fly through) as many gates as possible in a given time.

'Foamies' were the model of choice except Mike Grantham who flew very well with a conventional model. A challenging course allowed everyone a chance and after two rounds, Steve Hannon was the winner from Steve Pearse.

Position	Name	Points
1st	Steve Hannon	100
2nd	Steve Pearse	90
3rd=	Mike Grantham	75
3rd=	Barry O'Hara	75
5th	Geoff Carter	65
6th	Malcolm White	60
7th	Trevor Hughes	55

**SLOPE 2 - LIMBO** held on 1 April 2007. The comp went well. With the wind in the NE, we set the poles up for a Limbo in the same place as for the Slalom event. 7 entered and, as you might have guessed with the wind steady at 20 and gusting to 35 mph, it turned out to be a

foamie event, although Trevor Hughes did attempt the first round with conventional layout model, which unfortunately proved too light for the conditions as it could not penetrate enough to fly the course.

In the event a well rested John Freeman, fresh from his Mexican holiday, ran out the winner.

Position	Name	Points
1st	John Freeman	100
2nd	Steve Hannon	90
3rd	Steve Pearse	80
4th	Mike Grantham	70
5th	Barry O'Hara	65
6th	David Toye	60
7th	Trevor Hughes	55

**SLOPE 3 - CROSS COUNTRY.** Held on Sunday 20th May. The weather was excellent and we started flying from Table Hill in a light westerly breeze. This was not to last however and by the time we reached our outward goal of The Sugar Loaf, we were faced with a light easterly flow.

Those of you who know the hills well will understand the problems that this posed for our return journey. In the event only the first two pilots managed a problem-free flight. Third place was achieved by just one landing out and the rest did not finish the course at all.

It proved to be a very enjoyable and challenging event with everyone having a good time. All the planes flown were lightweight rudder elevator planes; this not being a day for the bigger aileron equipped machines.

The only disappointment was the lack of interest shown in the event with only 6 pilots taking part.

Position	Name	Points
1st	Steve Hannon	100
2nd	Mike Grantham	90
3rd	Steve Pearse	75
4th	John Freeman	75
5th=	Malcolm White	62.5
5th=	David Toye	62.5

**THERMAL 1 - PRECISION DURATION**, held on 29 April 2007, was a very successful start to the thermal season, near ideal conditions with everyone finding lift at some time or other. Fish Meadow was in good condition, having dried out some weeks before from the winter flooding. The 'summer in springtime' weather continued, this April being the warmest and possibly sunniest since records began 300 years ago. We had some high cloud cover at times, but the sun shone through the gaps enough to trigger thermals, although with the wind direction being NE, they were perhaps not so strong and numerous had the wind been blowing from the town.

Malcolm White got it right only dropping 28 points/seconds out of the maximum attainable of 1640 and Tony Wright had his best result coming a very close second. All ten entries scored well with the final results being tightly bunched.

Position	Name	Points
1st	Malcolm White	100
2nd	Tony Wright	90
3rd	Geoff Carter	80
4th	Mike Grantham	70
5th	John Freeman	65
6th	Steve Hannon	60
7th	Mike Hurley	55
8th	Nick Neve	50
9th	Paul Stubley	45
10th	David Toye	40

**THERMAL 2 - RES** was held on 5 May 2007 with a gusting SW wind, in sharp contrast to the warm weather we had been enjoying for the last five weeks. Overcast conditions meant a reduced turnout and some interesting launches and relaunches. The task, RES rules, was a first for the MSA, and it produced an interesting range of models with John Stevens' 'Eliminator' designs probably being the most popular. Despite the conditions, the maximum 10 minute score was achieved in a couple of slots. The top three places were very close with Geoff Carter just ahead.

Position	Name	Points
1st	Geoff Carter	100
2nd	Mike Hurley	90
3rd	John Freeman	80
4th	Mike Grantham	70
5th	Malcolm White	65
6th	Nick Neve	60
7th	Tony Wright	55

**THERMAL 3 - THREE FLIGHT AGGREGATE** held on 3 June. The weather was excellent, warm with a gentle southerly breeze. Expectations of abundant lift were soon dispelled with pilots struggling at times to make any reasonable flights.

The comp consisted of an aggregate of the 3 longest flights attained, with a maximum of 30 minutes duration for any one flight. In the event only 3 pilots attained a single maximum with all other flights falling short. 'One eyed' Nick making a precision landing in the top canopy of a Fish Meadow oak tree. Again the only disappointment was the low turnout of club members.

Position	Name	Points
1st	Steve Hannon	100
2nd	Geoff Carter	90
3rd	Mike Grantham	80
4th	Mike Hurley	70
5th	John Freeman	65
6th	Malcolm White	60
7th	Tony Wright	55
8th	Nick Neve	50

**HLG Events.** There were seven entries for the first HLG contest which took place on Sunday afternoon following the 1st thermal event. All the fliers with the exception of Rob Macrostie, the winner, chose to use bungees. Rob achieving similar launch heights with discus launches. The wind was plenty strong enough and rather turbulent but did not detract from an exciting and challenging contest.

Position	Name	Points
1st	Rob Macrostie	100
2nd	Dave Toye	90
3rd	Mike Grantham	80
4th	Paul Stubley	70
5th	Geoff Carter	65
6th	Malcolm White	60
7th	Nick Neve	55

More reports will follow.

## Magazine Section.

Sunday morning in September last year, Bill was driving up from Somerset on the M5 going to the LMA Model Show at Much Marcle. He goes every year taking his mates, all getting on a bit now, but at least they will be spending their kids inheritance on useful things like model kits, radio gear, balsa wood and the like. His mobile phone rings, I know you shouldn't answer it, but it was his missus, she had heard on the news there was some nutter driving the wrong way up the M5 near Bristol and she was anxious to warn him. "Your telling me", he replied, "it's not just one - there are flipping hundreds of the maniacs."

A Pan Am 727 flight, waiting for start clearance in Munich, overheard the following:

Lufthansa (in German): "Ground, what is our start clearance time?"  
Ground (in English): "If you want an answer you must speak in English."  
Lufthansa (this time in English): "I am a German, flying a German airplane, in Germany. Why in English must I speak?"  
Unknown voice from another plane (in a beautifully polished English accent): "Because you lost the bloody war!"



## Some Useless facts.

In the 1400's a law was set forth that a man was not allowed to beat his wife with a stick thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb";

Many years ago in Scotland , a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden"...and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language;

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

Please fly safely at all times.

Nick Neve.