

In the Air

Fast Communication for Lasham Members

August 2001

Another World Champion for Lasham!!

Belated, but none-the-less heartfelt congratulations to Steve Jones. Along with his European 15m title he can now add a World Title to his repertoire, with a convincing win in the first 18m World Championships in Lillio, Spain during June this year.

Steve and fellow team-mate Dave Watt flew a classic contest and made light work of a fearsome opposition, beating such worthies as Leonardo Brigadori, Werner Danz and Janusz Centka. During 7 days they struggled with scorching temperatures, finally ending with Steve in the number one position and Dave a disappointing 7th due to an error at one of the turn-points on the last day.

Although tipped to win in the next World Championships in South Africa this winter, unfortunately Steve will not be competing due to other commitments. The UK will be sending a strong team but not, I fear, its strongest.

Steve's success precedes other UK victories abroad. Amongst them the Women's Worlds in Lithuania saw a double victory for Gill Spreckley and Sarah Steinberg (formerly Harland) in the 15m and Standard Class respectively. The Junior Worlds in France had Jay Rebeck in first place in the Standard class with Jeremy Hood second.

The rest of the gliding world does not know what has hit them. A member of the French team was heard to say at the Junior worlds: *"What is it with the British, they have no weather, no money and yet they are winning everything?"*

Well maybe it is because we have no major sponsors, and have to cope in our poor weather that make the UK pilots more determined and so invincible thus far in international competitions. Whatever the reason, success only comes through hard work and dedication; Lasham salutes that effort, long may we continue to reign supreme.

POUND FOR POUND

Max Dowding is pounding the towpath of the Kennet and Avon Canal from Bristol to Reading, a distance of 83 miles, hoping to raise pounds for two good causes - his local church and the Lasham Trust.

Many of you have already generously sponsored him. However, for those who have not done so, there is still time. Max can be contacted on 01635 867668 or mobile 07831 607895.

2002 Competitions

As the memories of gallant efforts and stunning daring do's of the 2001 competitions fade into the log-book of history, it is time already to start considering the 2002 programme. Lasham has successfully bid for the Club Class Nationals and the 18m Nationals, both to be held at the same time and, as a result of the Farnborough Airshow being planned in July next year, we managed to persuade the BGA to move these dates to August 10th.

These are two relatively new contests in the soaring calendar and are predicted to become very popular in the future. Although they have been run for the last few years, I am sure that Lasham will stamp its mark of quality on these two contests that will be hard to follow in the future.

Unfortunately, with fifty aircraft per nationals expected we cannot run a Regional competition at the same time. Because of the nature of the classes, however, I feel pretty certain that many Lasham members will want to fly one or other of these National events. You will of course need a Nationals rating although generally, because there are more places available than pilots wishing to fly, there have been places available for non-rated pilots. If you think you might want to enter you must make your initial entry through the BGA when Nationals applications are due, usually in Jan/Feb time (we will have application forms in the office).

2002 sees another Farnborough show. It really messes up our summer arrangements and it means that we are not in a position to run a Regionals at all next year. I know this will come as a disappointment to many but it will unfortunately prove just too difficult.

The timing dictates that any Regional contest would have to be either in June or very late August. Whilst I am sure that a few would want to fly a comp. in June, I don't think we would generate enough interest to make it worth-while. The same goes for late August, there is the added complication that we rely on a dedicated team of members and an over-worked staff to run our contests and, whilst they do a splendid job each year, we do not have any other volunteers coming forward to help that team. It would be very unfair to ask them to run an additional contest, outside the normal holiday period.

The decision to run the 18m & Club Class combined is a compromise, but a good compromise all the same. It potentially caters for a large section of the Lasham membership, may well allow non-rated pilots into their first National contest and keeps in a good weather window whilst still maintaining the volunteer help we desperately need.

For those that crave the competitive cross-country element, I am planning more Task Weeks next year. They are great fun and no where near as expensive as a full-blown contest; but I do need to know how many to expect so when you see them advertised, book it!

Graham McAndrew

Lasham Comps 2001

From the comments received from competitors, visitors and members alike, the 2001 comps were among the best we have ever run. Results such as these are only possible due to the efforts of a great many people and the generous support of our sponsors. The Society wishes to thank all those who played a part in making this year's comps such a success. A special thank you goes to the following companies that so generously donated prizes and sponsorship for the comps:-

- Joint Aviation Services
- Southern Sailplanes
- Southdown Aero Services
- RD Aviation
- White Planes Picture Co.

New Staff

We are pleased to welcome to Lasham the following new members of staff:-

Linda Woolnough - Linda has joined the office admin support team on a full time basis and will be assisting Maddy in dealing with course bookings, members' accounts, counter sales and general admin matters.

Bob Bickers - Bob has been appointed to carry out launch point controller duties for a trial period this summer. Although only three days a week for a short period, it is by way of an experiment.

We are still very dependent on member help and assistance at the launch-point and are very grateful for the continued assistance of Tony and Margaret Challans and Charlie Kovac.

Hemraj Nithianandarajah - Hemraj has been appointed as a seasonal instructor to assist in the delivery of midweek trial lessons and flying starts.

Winter Trailer Storage

To ensure that everyone has a fair chance of obtaining space in the hangar for their trailer this winter we will be taking names from Saturday 29th September 2001 and holding a ballot for places at 9am on Monday 22nd October.

Hopefully this advanced notice will ensure that you all have an equal chance of obtaining the space you require. Trailers may be placed in the hangar from Thursday 1st November, but not before please.

New Equipment

The following new equipment has recently been acquired for your use:-

- Launch point bus
- Seven new parachutes
- New Cobra trailer for 778

Diary Dates

Thrust SSC

A talk by Ron Ayers, Chief Designer of the World Land Speed Record holding supersonic car.

Saturday 6th October 5.30pm

Gliders at Arnham

A return by Alec Waldron to give his own account of the planning, execution and his survival of the WW2 airborne raid.

Saturday 20th October 5.30pm

Halloween Party!

Yet another excuse to dress up and party on down! Keep the spirits up during the drab winter months and join the Lasham DJs to bop the night away. Themed food.

Saturday 27th October 7.30pm

Plane Speaking

Bill Gunson, Flight International Technical Editor and RAF pilot. This famous aviation journalist gives an illustrated talk about post war British aviation development.

Saturday 10th November 5.30pm

Farmers Cheese & Wine

Come and host your farmer and do some PR for the gliding movement. A short talk will be followed by food and drink and a raffle in aid of the Lasham Trust.

Saturday 17th November 7.30pm

Aircraft Accident Investigation

Mr Ken Smart, Chief Inspector of Air Accidents from AAIB Farnborough talks about his experiences. Don't miss what is likely to prove to be a fascinating talk.

Saturday 1st December 5.00pm

Christmas Party

Lasham's annual Christmas do, with cabaret, traditional Christmas dinner, raffle and disco. Tickets available from the canteen nearer the time.

Saturday 15th December 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Al Nunn will shortly be looking for volunteers to help paint the bus this winter so why not give him a call; it could be fun!

The new parachutes have been purchased as part of a phased replacement plan. Please look after them by keeping them dry, placing them in their bags and returning them to the parachute store after use.

The excellent new trailer for 778 should make the task of towing much safer and less of a chore.

Press Officer

Some twelve months ago we made a plea for a volunteer to take on the challenge of acting as our press officer. At that time we had enjoyed some excellent press coverage from our Jubilee celebrations and comps, the value of which should not be underestimated.

The press officer is still out there waiting to be found! If you feel that you would like to help maintain Lasham in the public spotlight and work with local media to that end, please contact John Gilbert or the office

Site Security

In order to enhance site security and the safety of our members we will shortly be proceeding with the installation of a site

access control system, as described at the AGM earlier this year.

Vehicular access via the main entrance, Avenue Farm entrance and the Village entrance will be controlled using automatic traffic barriers with card readers and intercoms. Provision will be made for access by all authorised airfield users and visitors.

All members will be issued with cards and full details of their use prior to the system being commissioned.

Bunk Rooms

It is no longer necessary to suffer backache, or the perils of an unstable bed when using the Lasham bunkhouse.

Those of you who are regular users of our accommodation will already know that all of the old beds have been replaced and that new heaters and shaver outlets have been installed for your comfort and convenience.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

You will soon be able to carry out your field selection and navigation training in a nice new 100hp Rotax Falke. This excellent new aircraft will be jointly operated by LGS and its owners, Faulkes Flying Foundation.