



Newsletter June 2013

Open Weekend.

I am sure everyone will agree that the Open Weekend was very successful and has generated interest from potential new members as well as contributing to our club funds. Equally, as the weather was good it did not stop the members who wanted to fly their own gliders from doing so using the Pawnee and on the Sunday 5 club members flew 300K including Stuart who gained his Gold cross country badge. Thanks to the people who kept the launches going when the skylaunch failed by using the Supacat. The weekend was as before well organised by Cheryl and her team and I would like to thank her for doing such a sterling job once again.

K13 Purchase

As I am sure many of you are aware we negotiated to purchase another K13 back in March from the RAFGSA. At the time we expected the Aircraft and Trailer within a couple of weeks. Unfortunately the communication from the vendors has been very poor and it appears that the work which had to be completed was being done so by their volunteers in their own time, hence the reason why we still have no Aircraft. I have recently been able to ask Sir Christopher Coville to get involved and he has received communication stating that the Aircraft is very nearly ready, so dare I say, I would expect to see it within a couple of weeks!

VG Hangar

I am pleased to report that after many emails and meetings the Management Committee and the Syndicate have agreed on terms for their Hangar. The rent and rates will now be paid and when the Motor-glider is back from repairs she will be offered by the Syndicate to members for cross country endorsements and training at reduced rates, so a positive outcome for everyone.

Flying

Despite the bad weather at the beginning of the year I am pleased to learn from our Treasurer that the YTD is consistent with our long term average. Also the numbers of Aerotows are up on previous years to date. We have also been lucky to have the services of Peter Startup on non-club days for those who want to fly

solo either locally or for cross country expeditions, a great demonstration for this recently was when Liam Vile took an Aerotow on Monday 3rd June and achieved his 5 hours therefore completing his Silver Badge – Well done Liam and the ground crew for making it possible. There are some more task weeks planned in the future (weather depending of course) the next one being week commencing 17th June – All dates can be seen on the club website calendar.

General Maintenance.

I would like to thank Mark Courtney and his helpers (too many to name) for initiating a club tidy up. The lecture room and hangars have been sorted out and hopefully this will be a task which will be easier to manage from now on. Also thanks to Peter Smith for arranging a tidy up of the Airfield, the Area behind the trailers has been cleared and we have also, for little cost, been able to clear the old sheep pen to reinstate the footpath which was impassable before thus making a safer Airfield as the walkers will be further away from our flying activities. Thanks to Tom Sides and Malcolm Vest for arranging contractors to address the potholes in the lane, again an on-going task but well worth it. Also thanks to Adrian, William, Mike, and others for maintaining our vehicles and also for the speedy repair to the Skylaunch recently.

Competition Enterprise.

As you all know we are fast approaching Competition Enterprise and although Andrew Muggleston has been working tirelessly on this there are still jobs to be done. If anyone has some spare time it would be much appreciated if can they please contact Andrew to assist him. We have now managed to allocate a DLM for each of the flying days but in addition we need 4 members to assist them with launching the grid. I will put a notice on the club Notice board with spaces each day for those able to assist to put their name down.

This is a very prestigious event as it celebrates 40 years of Enterprise which started at North Hill, and therefore during that week I would like to ask the members on normal Club Days to please be patient whilst the grid is launched, they will only be aero towing and this should only take about an hour. There is no problem with Club flying continuing before and after this has happened and the only criteria is that when the Grid is Launching the cables must be pulled in. At the end of the week there will be a party with food and music provided in the Hangar at a cost of £10 each. There will also be a bar available.

Instructor Training.

Congratulations to Rowan Smith who has completed his Asst Cat course, Paul Summers and Clive Williams who have completed their BI courses. Also, good luck to James Hood and Mike Sloggett who are about to embark on their Asst Cat course at Dunstable. Many thanks to the Instructors who have assisted with the training process to prepare candidates for their relevant courses.

