



Cloudhopper News

Issue Number 103

February / March 2018

Hello folks and welcome to the 103rd Newsletter.

As you will all appreciate, this time of year isn't renowned for masses of things going on. The expectation for the Newsletter is diminished accordingly. This is the reason why we didn't have a February edition in its own right as there simply wasn't any content.

In this double month's edition, we do have a small amount of great information, so without further waiting let's get into it.

For your reading this month we have:

- Ramblings from a "Stir Crazy" editor.
- The new Icom A6E.
- An award for me from the BBAC.
- New Eco Duo Balloon for Mark Shemilt
- New Hopper for Patrick Smith
- The BBC Blue Peter Project update.
- What is currently about second hand?
- Car Stickers available at the BBML inflation day.
- Black Horse Balloon Club to replace the little and Large Meet in Missenden bucks.

Please send to me your items for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter to the email address below. Without any more waiting let's get into the newsletter

Steve Roake- Editor: Steve.roake33@gmail.com

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1, Ed Speak- Ramblings from a frustrated Editor

So what's up with your editor, I hear you say? Well in a nutshell, here we are into March and whilst the weather hasn't been great in the UK, I'm yet to fly this year and starting to get a bit stir crazy about the fact. The weather looked as though the spring was about to appear when wham, we get two dirty great dollops of snow and the country grinds to a halt And all possibility of flying evaporates. Coupled to this is an extended period of working big hours with a long commute and "Jack" really is a dull boy. I have finally bit the bullet and wandered down to deepest Kent and Purchased an Icom A6E from the lovely Glenn Everett (highly recommended), but even the lovely people of Lindstrand Technologies who in previous guise of LBL used to make lovely tailored covers for such items, tell me they are unable to help out in this case. There must be loads of us who need covers for our new radios, so who can step up to the mark and produce a radio jacket at a reasonable cost?

The hopper scene naturally goes quiet after xmas and February was no exception with what can be only described as some of the worst Alpine meets in years, even Chateau D'oex lacked snow. The only interest from any of them was the ex Linda Crossland- Clarke Um H-42 on a Swiss registration as shown in the last months photographs.

The upside of all of this is hopefully the worst is now over and we can start planning where we are all going this year, with one new event in the offing with Black Horse Balloon Club offering to make a replacement meet for the "Little an Large meet" specifically aimed at solo flying over the weekend the old event would have taken place. Details later in the edition.

Steve Roake



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2, Essential Extras – The Icom A6E

With the UK government in their wisdom changing all the frequencies nationally from point 25, 50 75 and 00 to three decimal places and my local airfield (Farnborough) being one of the first to adopt a silly frequency, I guess it was time for me to buy the inevitable New radio and so I contacted the very reasonable Glen Everett for his expertise on these matters and ended up buying what he describes as the “Balloonist Pack”.



The New Icom A6E

Whilst these items aren't cheap, it is reassuring to know you only need one for the balloon and can soldier on with the trusty A3 for the retrieve Vehicle for the foreseeable future. First impressions on the new product? It's a smaller chunkier radio with a whacking big aerial, that seems easy enough to use, but we balloonists don't get the full benefit of the functions available on the package such as a direction finding VOR setting, which will help our fixed wing friends.

In the specification I purchased, I have acquired both the Lithium battery package as well as the disposable battery offering which are inter changeable and it comes with a handy base station charging point.



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On the Plus point, I now have a surplus to requirements Icom A3E that comes with a natty LBL case, hand mike and fairly recent battery replacement item all available for the best offer over £100.

Like anything that represents a sizable investment, these things don't come cheaply, but the Icom brand is renowned as a decent manufacturer and I expect many years of solid service from my new .833 complaint radio even if it cost an arm and a leg initially. More on its performance as and when I get to use it fully.

Steve Roake

3, The Features Section.

Mark Shemilt introduces G-CKUK his Eco fabric Duo Annex 2 balloon.

Mark Shemilt may be a name familiar to some of you, as either an Ax2 record holder (in a craft he built himself), or more possibly as one of the countries most prolific Virgin Balloon Rides Pilots. However Mark has always had a passion for smaller balloons (attending the OMM last year with his Lindstrand G-CEGG). However, he has had for sometime a desire to get a duo chariot that he can use in some instances to teach his son to fly. Coupled to this Mark has followed the path of Annex 2 ballooning and researched a project to see if building a new envelope was the path for him. Having had many conversations with Mark, (as he is a close friend), we discussed his requirements for the new balloon and eventually steered him down the path of utilising a Paulo Bonnanno Duo bottom end with an envelope specifically designed for his requirements utilising the Pierrick Duvoisin Eco fabric technology to maximise his ability to eke out great Fuel savings . The result of all this came about with the purchase of a one-off Eco fabric envelope designed by Mark, manufactured by Ultramagic to Mark's specific requirements being able to be classified as Annex 2 complaint (i.e. nothing like a factory optioned similar sized craft), and to say he is delighted with the result is an understatement. G-CKUK is the result of all that work. So what we have next is Mark's unique perspective on what he has ended up with and his reasoning behind his decision making process.



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Father and Son at play in G-CKUK.

Annexe 2 Duo Chair Balloon

How many of us have spent time musing over their perfect balloon set up, I have grown to dread the usual dismantling and packing away of a large balloon. I think we all agree that lighter and smaller has a large appeal,

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and it's quite obvious that the traditional basket requires a trailer to lug it round. I have long hankered for a duo chair, they are reasonably rare at ballooning events and yet looked such fun and the big plus was that they don't require a trailer and it has the thrill of hopping but with a passenger. It was after a chat with Chris Dunkley, who by the way once built a duo chair from 2 airline seats, that I was hooked and my quest for the ultimate duo began. Historically Duo chairs have been around for a long time, but most were homebuilt in a time when horizontal tanks were approved, currently I would say there are 3 main options for duo chairs....

The Cameron Duo

This is probably the sturdiest of the lot, built as a chariot with flexi rigids, and the vertical tanks kept on either end, originally the void underneath the seats was for a horizontal tank, no more but incorporates a skid pan on the back for landings. A wealth of pockets and well thought out Cordura. The burner is an extra option and this chair requires turning vents on the envelope. Really neat addition of wheels so no need to carry out. Cameron reputedly working on a fuel gauge which works as an app on your phone. Obviously, this chair has a gimbling burner for the windy inflations.

The Ultramagic Duo

More of a robust double chair, tanks on the back and a bar on webbing to rest your feet. Comes with the Bonano powerplus, which means mega powerful but perhaps more prone to issues with grubby fuel. The hydraulic hand actuated valve is an extra option. This Option again requires turning vents on envelope. This system also gimbals, so theoretically you can still be strapped in and burn on a windy inflation without scorching the mouth

Bonnano

Again, a double chair with a Powerplus Burner, extras are LED contents gauge of last tank, the big bonus is that this chair SWIVELS! so no need to waste fuel when turning. Plus, it has a nifty brake lever on the rotation ring. Quite often, especially if you're pulling on a line, you turn unintentionally, so a brake is a big bonus. The drawback is that this system is Annex 2, which means you could have problems flying abroad, although I have never encountered this.

Annex 2

Like Mr D, I also harbored thoughts of building my own duo chair. But on further research, it became obvious that I would struggle to accomplish this without spending more than a ready built new model, and possibly ending up with something over engineered and heavy.

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With additional advice from our illustrious editor, who lauded the benefits of a swiveling chair over turning vents, I decided the annex 2 route was the clear winner and as I had once before commissioned an annex 2 hopper, I wasn't fazed by its mysteries. To qualify for Annex 2, an aircraft must be classified as historic, record breaking or prototype.... and as I knew I wanted the balloon to have good duration, Eco-fabrics was a clear winner. An eco-fabric topped balloon cost about £6k more than a standard lightweight 56, and as Ultramagic agreed make me a bespoke balloon with everything lighter, a plan was emerging. They made the balloon without issuing a form 52 (type certification) and I needed (for some reason) a statement from the Spanish CAA that the envelope would not appear on their registry before our CAA would issue a certificate of registration and G-CKUK was born.



G-CKUK Um Shemilt Eco 50 C/N 50/16

So, what's it like? Well I love it, it is very compact and assembles easily with a series of locking pins, the burner is stunning and has the 2-stage burner valve function and 2 pilot lights...the engineering is beautiful and comes with a flight manual and well thought out padding and upholstery (even has some detachable wheels kept in a pocket, and a clever fuel manifold/tank selection system. My only criticism would be the rather fiddly 5- point harness and locking pin, but actually it's quite nice to know you have a harness which can't undo unintentionally.

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Ok so it swivels which is an enormous bonus but it doesn't gimbal, so on a windy inflation, you have to get your passenger strapped in and then whilst it's on the tether...physically yank the burner to where you want it before burning and whilst standing beside the chair, before deftly jumping in and buckling up prior to take off...otherwise you risk burning the mouth. The Freedom Duo can take a range of different size tanks but is ideally suited to 2 x 40 litre tanks, either Worthies or SS tanks which clamp in and are strapped. I found that with myself and a mate (160kg) under the eco fabric topped balloon at 15c ambient at 300ft amsl, I have a duration of 4 hours without an inflation tank.....now that is a set up made for some serious adventures! I hope in a small way I have de mystified the whole annex 2 thing....it should in no way deter you from considering it, even Ian Chadwick (UK CAA Man), has a Russian annex 2 balloon (complete with nerve agent)! Either make your own, buy a Tim Wilkinson balloon or approach a manufacturer for a bespoke envelope. Now where's some half decent weather?

Mark Schemilt.

The BBAC recognises my efforts

At this year's Annual General Meeting, The BBAC (our UK governing body), decided to nominate myself for an award and graciously awarded me with a Diploma for "Services to One Man Ballooning". I am delighted that my efforts over the years have reached such dizzy heights and humbly accept their presentation. This vindicates all that we have tried to achieve over the years. It is always nice for the great and good to recognise what you have put into something, and my thanks to the committee for their praise.

The exact dissertation that was read out is shown below and nicely sums up everything that the award stands for. As you all know I'm not really into "bigging yourself up", but on this occasion I think it probably warrants an exception to the rule. My only thought on all of this really is that it is an award recognising how important this small sector of ballooning has become and how popular Cloudhoppers are now and that is purely thanks to you the reader. At least now it is no longer the best kept secret in ballooning.

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Steve Roake

Steve has been dedicated to one man ballooning for many years. After gaining his pilot's licence in 2003 he finally managed to buy his first one man balloon in 2005. Shortly afterwards, he produced the first newsletter (Cloudhoppers) and then a website dedicated to one-man ballooning. The milestone of the 100th newsletter has just been reached and cloudhoppers.org is the main website for one man ballooning. Steve is also currently supporting Aerostat with pages on hoppers in each issue.

Steve was responsible for an attempt to get a world record number of balloons up to 42,000 cu ft in the air at one time during the 2017 Mondial Air Balloons Festival. A total of 36 hoppers in the air at one time beat the unofficial previous record of 29. This would have been far higher if the Mondial organisers had not double booked the hopper mass ascent with their "big line" take off. Steve endured a lot of hassles and stress on behalf of the one man corps.

Steve is very hands on and offers advice and support to pilots new to one man ballooning. He's always there for the BBAC and as such is a worth recipient of a BBAC Diploma.



Your Editor with his award.

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Cameron Balloons / Blue Peter Project Updated.

Just a small update on this project. Lindsay Russell has successfully finished off her training and now has a balloon license thanks to the efforts of her mentor Goivanni Aimo.

This project (which has been three years in the making), will now enter the next phase and will utilise the brand new Colt 21A hopper (c/n 12169) which has been registered G-CKWU. By the time this goes to press, the team will be in Colder conditions with some specific goals in mind. The Results of the teams endeavours will be published soon once they have been completed.

4, Homebuilding Section



N805LB 36,000 cubic foot hopper



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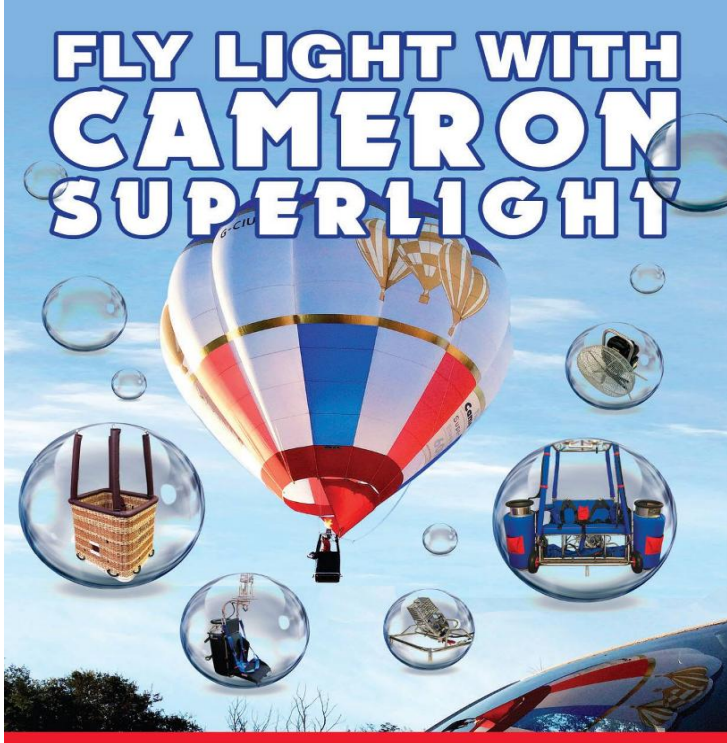
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Patrick Smith has an new hopper and im talking about it here as it was built for him by Bert Padelt at Best Aviation and is called Maryland One. This envelope (an MD 36), is 36,000 cubic feet, weighs about 38kgs and has custom inlaid artwork which represents the states flag. Registered N805LB, this is chosen because it is Patricks youngest daughters birthdate and initials from her names Lucie Blaire.

This is mated to a Cameron Millenium chair and has been free flown already. Naturally whilst fairly pricey due to the intricate inlaid artwork Patrick is happy with the results as it still came in as less than a Cameron / Lindstrand US quoted price.

Advertisement



**FLY LIGHT WITH
CAMERON
SUPERLIGHT**

Envelopes starting from 30kg
www.cameronballoons.co.uk
sales@cameronballoons.co.uk
+44 (0) 117 963 7216

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5 Interesting Photos

The first couple of interesting photos are from Giovanni Aimo from Mondovi Italy and feature Lindsay Russell the Blue Peter Presenter who has been gaining experience in G-CJOI the Cameron O-31 super lightweight Demonstrator Hopper.



G-CJOI Tethering in Mondovi



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Blue Peter Presenter Lindsay Russell

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Finally Giovanni Aimo has got around to reregistering G-OBLU the old Cameron H-34 hopper, now wearing I-C855.

6, New Allocations This Month / Changes of Ownership

The only two new registrations floating around at the moment are G-CKUK the UM Schemilt Eco 50 as featured earlier in this edition and G-CKUW the Blue Peter special Colt 21A. Both are active. The only other notable interest currently is the purchase by Martyn Turner of a bottom end to go with his recently acquired Graham Bell Colt 31A G-DNGR.

In the USA Patrick Smith is now also active with N805LB his new hopper (again featured in this edition).

I'm sure as the weather improves so this section of the newsletter will become more populated so if you are looking for something second hand, my advice is to sit tight and wait.

Anyone fancying an Ultramagic Bottom end, Graeme Houston has one for sale currently. Either get hold of him via facebook or telephone him on 01899 860334 or 07989 428536 for the price.

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Advertisement

O-31

1 of 1

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www.cameronballoons.co.uk
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V20.435

Artwork: -

December 2017

Designer: AB

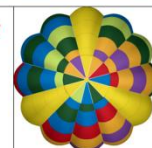
Fabric Colours Used:



Scoop / Nomex : ☒ Yellow

Load Tape Colour: ☒ White ☐ Black

ALL SUPERLIGHT



This visual is for guidance purposes only. Because of the limitations of graphic representation, colour scheme and artwork will be defined by the final order document.

New "Stock Hopper" for sale, exclusively to Cloudhoppers.org readers

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Following on from our success with selling G-CKTW, we have now a second "stock Hopper" offering for you our viewers. In this case the specially designed option is a creation of your editor who submitted the design for approval by Cameron Balloons.

This specific design retails at our unique price point of £8670 which includes the price of the scoop and VAT payment. Clearly this represents a decent percentage saving compared with the list prices which have just been revised for 2018.

To purchase the above offering please contact Cameron Balloons directly on +44(0)117 9637216 and ask to speak to either Craig or Simon.

Second Hand Movements

I was speaking to someone the other day about the second hand market and the great value there is in buying something second hand when you are trying to come into the sport and have no knowledge. Let's take an example.

G-ONCB lbl 31A



Take a moment to think outside of the box with this hopper envelope. Owned by Sandy and Martin Mitchell, this trusty hopper represents great second hand value in the used marketplace. Why? Firstly because whilst it has over 100 hours on the logbook, it represents great value at around £1000. It clearly is airworthy, as seen by being flown regularly

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around the UK circuit, perhaps the white isn't as vibrant as when it was new , but don't be put off and look to see what Martin has done .He used the balloon to cut his teeth in learning to fly a hopper before moving on to purchase a brand new envelope (probably for life)that is his forever balloon.

When you contemplate the possibilities of the above hopper, think of it in a different light. Sure it will cost you nigh on £1000 or whatever you can squeeze out of a deal, But work on the basis that you are buying something that you hope to fly 50 hours in before trading up. At this cost it's only £20 an hour and at the end of the day you will still have something that is flyable and will have some retail value left in it.

Now in anyone's eyes this is cheap flying and I can attest to this myself .The way I would advocate you enter the sport is by buying an envelope exactly like this , but go purchase a brand new bottom end for it , then you have the knowledge and comfort that you have great dependability on the hardware side of the balloon (i.e. a decent burner , great comfort , no reliability issues etc), and the envelope will do for now and suffice for the job in hand which is at the end of the day something you don't have to be too precious about. Now is this the way into the sport for you? For most people the answer is yes.

Same deal in the USA. There is currently on the Cloudbopper's Page on Facebook an envelope advertised that is 30,000cubic feet for around \$2250 .perfect for a beginner. Both of these balloons will last a number of years and give good service for what isn't substantial initial outlay. Clearly a cost effective way of entering what you will find to be the most rewarding form of ballooning known by all.

OE-SII Cameron Z-31 is currently for sale as a full kit. The balloon has only flown six hours according to the advert (this is an ex Landrover Advertising Balloon from 2007). The only thing I believe the envelope is quite heavy and yet at 9000Euros for the whole kit, represents a substantial saving against the cost of a new one. Oh Yeah, and the colour is an acquired taste lol.

If you are interested in buying contact Gunter Höfler via the phone number below.

Contact:

Günther Höfler ,Pöllau, Austria

+43 - (0) 664 - 1013110

[send message](#)

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7. Gallery Pages –

Your Editor's choice of new and interesting hoppers and duo's active in the world of ballooning right now.



As advertised on Cloudboppers@ Facebook , by Clayton William, this could be yours for \$2250.

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OE-SII Cameron Z-31 currently for sale on
www.Balloons4sale.eu

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8, Manufacturer / Event News/ Industry News

Black Horse Balloon Club restores the SOLO Meet

I was recently contacted by two active members of the Black Horse Balloon Club based in Great Missenden Bucks, who have decided that with the gap in the ballooning itinery, they could fill the void left by the demise of the Little and Large meet. Speaking to the organisers Stuart Skinner and Peter Gray, they would like to see a return to the Black Horse Pub of the Solo Meet that used to take place

over the Easter period but over the weekend of June 1st-3rd. Details of their ideas for the event are posted below.

Black Horse Ballooning Club Solo Meet 2017

1st – 3rd June 2018

Black Horse, Great Missenden, HP16 9AX



Blackhorseballooning.

Introduction

We are delighted to announce we have taken on the organization of this iconic event which will be held at the Black Horse. The meet as always remains informal, un-sponsored & open to all balloonists. We will be running the event on Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd June 2018.

This private meet will be run as a friendly, no pressure and enjoyable event.

Everyone is welcome but to fly your balloon and your envelope having a **MAXIMUM VOLUME 80,000 cu ft.**

We encourage all those who love solo ballooning – whether that be in a *Cloudhopper*, a *Sky Chariot* or in a *basket* – to attend, placing the emphasis on fun flying and socialising.

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Event Information

- The entrance fee is £15 per balloon (£10 bhbc members) with *free entry for overseas-based pilots*.
- Places are restricted to **25 balloons** so **please apply early to avoid disappointment**.
- Free flights proposed for Friday 1st (evening – for those arriving early enough), Saturday 2nd (morning and evening) and Sunday 3rd June (morning).
- **Please arrive with full cylinders. Refuelling will be available on site.** Propane cost will be announced at the first briefing. *Payment by cheque or cash only before you leave the event.*
- The Bar and Restaurant is open daily offering an extensive range of Food and Drink (alcoholic drinks are served from 12:00noon) and last food orders are taken at 9pm with the Bar closing at 11pm.
- Free camping and caravan (limited pitches) are available on the edge of the flying field

Conditions of Entry

All balloons taking part in this event must have been entered by completion of an **Entry Form** and paid the £15.00 entry fee (£10 bhbc members) - *unless you are an overseas-based pilot where your entry is free of charge.*

All pilots operating a balloon at the event must have completed an Entry Form. Pilots will be required to sign a **Pilot Declaration** to confirm that all paperwork in respect of the balloon and pilot are in order and that the balloon is properly maintained for the purpose of flying at the event, as well as confirming the balloon they are operating will be insured in accordance with current legal requirements at the time of operation.

Please note, the closing date for received entries is Friday 18th May 2018 with no exceptions and no entry fee refunds will be made.

Decision to Fly

The final decision as to whether to cancel or restrict flying will be made just before each briefing. Flying will only take place if the conditions are deemed suitable. Pilots are reminded that they are to fly within the limits of their experience and that the information offered at briefings is given in good faith and not as a permission to fly in a dangerous manner.

MAPS

The Black Horse is on OS map 165. Fully marked maps will be on display.

Location and Directions

Black Horse Pub Aylesbury Rd, Great Missenden HP16 9AX.
OS map 165 grid reference SP 8912 0205

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The postcode for your Sat Nav is **HP16 9AX**.

Other Issues

We will have refuelling facilities **Non-Members please bring a blank cheque made payable to The Thermal Group for propane. (Or cash on the day if you prefer)**

Tethering and balloon inspections will be allowed with the permission of the event organiser

After each flight we ask that to give a customary gift (typically a bottle of wine) to the landowner/farmer when you land.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Black Horse Solo Meet 2018 at The Black Horse Great Missenden in June

For further information, please contact Stuart Skinner, Email: stuart.skinner@live.co.uk

**Black Horse
Ballooning Club**

**SOLO MEET 2018
GREAT MISSENDEN
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

ENTRY FORM

(please complete in block capitals)

Pilots Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Mobile:

email:

Licence Details: PPL No:
PPL/CPL:

CPL No:

P1 hours -

Can you fly a Farmer? Yes / No If Yes how Many?

Are you interested in Camping? Yes / No If yes how Many?

Do you have a PUT that might be interested in 'Tether School'?

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BALLOON DETAILS:

Balloon Registration:

Colour / Shape:

Balloon / Sponsors Name (if any):

Name of Insurance Company:

Make, Size and Type:

Balloon Owners Name:

C of A Valid until

Policy Number:

Declaration

- I enclose a cheque for £10.00 (member) or £15.00 (non-member)* ☐
- made payable to 'Black Horse Ballooning Club' ☐
- I have paid online at bhbc.club via paypal ☐

* delete as appropriate

Signed by the Pilot:

Dated:

Please ensure you complete the attached PILOT DECLARATION and BALLOON ENTRANTS DECLARATION and return all three forms to:

Peter Gray, 41 Clare Gardens, Barking, Essex IG11

BHBC Solo Meet 2018

Pilot Declaration

Pilot Name

Balloon Registration:

Balloon Type and Volume

I solemnly declare that, for all of the dates on which I will pilot a balloon at the BHBC Solo Meet 2018, the following items will be in force and valid:

- A private or commercial pilot's licence valid for the class of balloon which will be flown by me
- A Landowner Relations Programme Certificate
- I agree to indemnify the organisers of the event and the Black Horse Ballooning Club against any claims made against them as a result of the operation of the above balloon(s) during the event.

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- I understand that all inflation, flying and other activity during operation of the balloon(s) during the event is subject to the permission of the organiser and their representatives and I accept their authority on all operational matters during the event

I undertake to bring the original documents listed above, together with my personal flying log book, to the event and to have them available for examination should this be request

Signed:

Date:

Pilot Name:

Address:

E-mail

Telephone:

Mobile Telephone during the event:

BHBC Solo Meet 2018 Balloon Entrant's Declaration **Balloon Registration:** **Balloon Type and Volume:**

I solemnly declare that, for all of the dates on which the balloon will fly at the BHBC Solo Meet 2018, the following items will be in force and valid:

- Airworthiness documents appropriate to the state of registry
- Insurance for at least the amounts required by EU law for third party and passenger liability
[MTOM less than 1000kg – SDR 1,500,000:]
[MTOM above 1000kg – SDR 3,000,000:]
[Passenger Liability SDR 1,000,000 per passenger]

[At January 2018 one SDR is approximately one GBP – check rates]

I further solemnly declare that each pilot who will fly in this balloon will sign a BHBC Solo Meet 2018 Pilot's Declaration and supply it to Event Registration before any flight is made and that he/she will satisfy the conditions thereon.

I undertake to bring the original documentary evidence of the items listed above to the event and to have them available for examination should this be requested

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Signed:

Date:

Entrant Name:

Company:

Entrant Status:

[Owner / Operator / Director etc]

Address:

E-mail:

Telephone:

Mobile Telephone during the event:

Names of pilots expected to fly the balloon *[Others may be added, if required, on completion of a Pilots Declaration Form]*

1

2.

So there you have it!
Maybe see you there.

BBML Inflation Day 28th April Lakeside Lodge Pidley

As you all know by now, this is the Bi-annual affair held by the BBML showing off some rare and old balloons .I have been asked to take along the Cloudbopper .org stickers and will have them on me for anyone who is interested .I'm not going to overtly advertise them on the day, so if you want some please just seek me out thanks .

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Facebook membership continues to rise with the current level of 1176 current and still rising. Let's hope this trend continues.

All articles for inclusion in future issues will be gratefully received by your Editor. Please forward them to steve.roake33@gmail.com and feedback good, bad or indifferent is always welcome.

Views aired by contributors may not be those of the Editor.
Safe and happy hopping! **Steve Roake.**

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