



## Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 104

April 2018

Hello folks and welcome to the latest Newsletter.

In this month's edition I have some interesting stuff for you all, with news of various things gleaned whilst attending Cameron Balloons to do a small bit of business. Three different subjects, all with various interesting points will be discussed.

For your reading this month we have:

- News of recent hopper purchases in the New Balloons section.
- One interesting tale from Australia.
- Cameron Balloons twentieth O-type since 2014.
- The very last LBL mark 3 Hopper base unit is sold.
- The BBC Blue Peter Project update.
- Martyn Turner takes delivery.
- Some first inflation photos from MJ Ballooning.
- Black Horse Balloon Club to replace the Little and Large Meet in Missingden bucks.
- Second hand sales continue.

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](mailto:Steve.roake33@gmail.com)

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*Simply busy*

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### **1, Ed Speak- Simply Busy.**

A different month and a different outlook to life in general sums me up currently. No longer am I ploughing the rigors of a daily 3 hour round trip commute, which means as a knock on I have more free time but dare I say it, it appears that the weather is also improving.

From the perspective of hopping, since the last Newsletter the world of Cloudhopping has exploded into life. There have been some notable sales both new and used and an influx into Australia of no less than three examples which bodes well for the forthcoming Alice Springs hopper meet with expectations of eight hoppers attending. My recent trip to Cameron Balloons in Bristol opened up new avenues of information for me, and from these items, some interesting stories have emerged.

On the event front, a replacement for the Little and large meet has arrived with the return of the Solo Meet from the Black Horse Balloon Club. More details later in the magazine with dates, venue and contact details.

There is a very interesting tale from Milton Kirkman on why he and wife Elly decided to purchase two hoppers. With an original thought of purchasing a Duo Chariot, the explanation of why they bought two hoppers made me laugh.

Networking with new enthusiastic owners really provides me with inspiration and this was seen in abundance at the recent BBML inflation day with Martyn Turner who was positively bursting to get his new Bottom end out of its bag and play with the envelope he purchased at the Icicle Meet reminding me of myself at the very same stage back in 2005.

From these conversations you get pumped up yourself and start looking forward to your next impending flight experience.

When you hear about something fresh and New that will transform an element of the way we portray our balloons. In this case I've included this information in the Essential extras part of the newsletter because without it you would struggle.

Well, that is my take on all things Cloud hoppy, see if you agree with me in the following content. Hope you enjoy this issue and please send me your content to bolster the size of each edition. Thanks.

**Steve Roake**

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### **2, Essential Extras – Tank Covers with a difference.**

One of the most fascinating new things I was recently shown during my visit to Cameron Balloons was a customer's brand-new Tank cover. However, the item in question utilised special new artwork which can be very useful on a cloudhopper for product placement. Unlike basketed balloons, Hopper tanks are exposed and are strategically placed with the opportunity to enhance the awareness for owners using the space available to the maximum. The Limitations for what is achievable are your own personal ability to see the best way to be effective with the advertising potential.



Cameron's Artworked Tank cover.

So, if you are in a position where you want to do something different, give them a call to see how you can personalise your very own Tank covers to maximise the potential and make the most of the potential area.





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### **3, The Features Section.**

#### **Elly and Milton Kirkman buy two hoppers**

Elly and Milton Kirkman are Commercial Pilots who live in Bagan but originate from Australia. Working for the Balloons over Bagan Company both fly commercially with big balloons and were looking into the possibility of purchasing a Duo Chariot for them to share. Trouble is according to Milton, that they would both want to be the pilot in charge of the balloon so the answer to their problem was to buy two his and hers hoppers and fly them together. Obviously being of different weights, Milton's hopper of choice was a Cameron O-31 type and for Elly (who has never flown a hopper), hers would be a Cameron O-26.



Elly Kirkman's Cameron O-26 VH-EKP c/n 12193  
caught on film by Matt Joyce of MJ Ballooning.

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Once you have decided what you want, you then have to decide what colour scheme you want your new toys to be made in. For Milton, the resulting scheme was easy. He used the theme from a previously owned 120 and adopted it for the 31. Sentimentality made him decide on his pattern and colours, but Elly took 30 seconds and said use these six colours and repeat the pattern.



VH-MKQ is Milton's O-31 c/n is 12194. Photo with  
Many thanks again to Matt Joyce of MJ Ballooning.

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I have to say Personally I prefer the smaller balloon scheme myself but as they say;" beauty is in the eye of the beholder". With both delivered to Australia, the couple are looking forward to their grand unveiling at the Australian Hopper meet in Alice Springs where Elly will have her first ever hop. Thanks To Milton for the additional information.

### **The Last ever Lindstrand Balloons Hopper bottom End**

Whilst wandering around Cameron Balloons factory in Bristol with the lovely Simon Askey, I spied lurking amongst the burner department what appeared to be a LBL Hopper bottom end. Having owned one myself I enquired as to why it was there? It transpired that it was in fact the last ever production example which was factory fresh and still brand spanking new. Naturally I enquired what it was doing there and had they tried to sell it, offering to advertise it for them.



The Last ever LBL Bottom End.

Less than 24 hours later armed with Photographs I put the item on the Cloudboppers page on Facebook to see what interest there would be in the item. My personal experience in owning one of



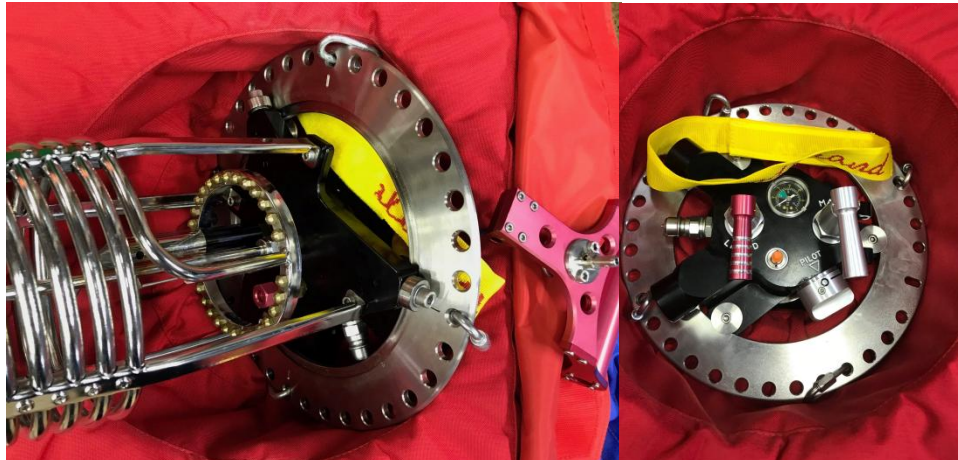


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these, and the fact that they are rocking horse poo rare, led me to believe that it was hot property and would garner plenty of interest and probably sell quickly.



As you can see, the condition is lovely.

How accurate I was. Within a day there were at least half a dozen serious enquiries and I am pleased to say the successful buyer is Greg Winker from the USA. Greg was trading up from a Mark 2 to the Mark 3 version and is delighted to snaffle up the last ever production unit which is a real piece of history.

### **Cameron Balloons / Blue Peter Project Updated(again).**

Reporting on the progress of the Blue Peter Hopper project, as stated last night the balloon has been built and Lindsay Russell has gained her Private Pilots license. However, there was an agenda to do more with the balloon but unfortunately the second phase of the plan wasn't as successful as planned. I am not at Liberty to discuss the nature of what happened and as we speak, Cameron Balloons are awaiting further instructions on what is planned for the hopper in the future. Hopefully a program where it will be seen by the public will follow but without any direct plans at this stage we await further developments.

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Another Matt Joyce inflation photo .G-CKUW Colt21A.

### **Cameron Balloons 20<sup>th</sup> O-type Hopper delivered since 2014.**

Continuing a remarkable run of popularity, Cameron Balloons recently delivered their 20<sup>th</sup> Superlightweight O type Hopper envelope since its inception in 2014. This very popular design has been received with great interest and continues to sell well. Besides the two recent deliveries to Australia detailed earlier in this newsletter, I have heard of another one due for delivery soon to France.

Interest in continuing the various versions also appears constant, with at least one potential client interested in an O-38 model.

This envelope set the standard for latest specifications when launched in 2014 with a typical example of the O-31 weighing in at 31 kilograms and rendering anything previous to it as heavy

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and over engineered. In a world where weight is the eternal opposition, this remarkable craft weight also allows the flight envelope to be expanded to well over 2 hours typically. Other manufacturers now have to push the limits to exceed this standard.

### **Martyn Turner takes delivery of his New Cameron Bottom end.**



Here is the moment of handover to Martyn Turner of his brand new Cameron Millenium Bottom end (pictured with Simon Askey). Martyn is going to fly the base unit with Colt 31A G-DNGR, and looks exceedingly excited at the prospect. Im delighted he took the

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opportunity to use our exclusive discount code CAM01SJR to get a decent discount off list price. Photo taken by Tim Turner (with thanks). In fact first flight took place with four other hoppers at Kelmarsh Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> May and the owner is delighted . fifty minutes on a worthington whilst remaining within the grounds of the site.



### **4, Homebuilding Section- Andy Marshall**

Andy Marshall has a small secret. On the quiet he has got on with building his own Hopper envelope. Andy, who doesn't really want to acknowledge the fact that he is well on the way to getting the job done , professes to not wanting any publicity because in

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his words,"it puts pressure on you to complete the task quickly". He would prefer to say that he is making "steady progress" and has agreed to write up his tale of the build once it is completed.

According to my sources at Sackville airfield,significant progress has been achieved so far , and we wish him continued success with the venture.

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### **5 Interesting Photos**

As discussed earlier in this magazine there is a third new allocation to the Australian register recently. VH-OPF is a LBL42A that was once G-CBLO with Dave Such, New owner Nathan Allen is naturally delighted with his purchase and will be joining the merry throng at Alice Springs for the Australian Hop fest.



VH-OPF is Nathan Allen's LBL 42A

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Martin Mitchell in his Cameron O-31 G-CKTW Photo by Sandy Mitchell.

Another significant first occurred on May 4th when Martin Mitchell flew his new Cameron O-31 for the first time. A fifty min flight saw G-CKTW grace the skies of Hertfordshire.

Many thanks to Sandy for the photo of the event.

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### **6, New Allocations This Month / Changes of Ownership**

Latest hopper to grace the UK registry is G-HEAL a Lindstrand Tech series 1-31 for Trinity Churches. Mark Warne the funding co-ordinator and pilot for the venture Confirmed that the balloon will most probably spend as much time on its side being touched as flown. Photo hopefully will follow soon. C/n is 073.

G-BVRL the ex- Tim /Marie Orchard LBL 21A has now been reregistered to Adam Barclay-Faulkner of Stafford on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Whilst talking LBL 21A's, the ex J&B hopper G-OJNB has found a new home in Albuquerque New Mexico USA where it is likely to go on the experimental route and thus not need re registering.

### **A May 1<sup>st</sup> story from wise old owl Robin Batchelor.**

Today is May Day. So of course, my mind turns to the only time I made a MAYDAY call from my aircraft as I had been taught during training. Picture the scene. 3 pilots preparing their aircraft on top of the Citibank skyscraper in Mexico City at night. All attached to each other with Kevlar cord and about to float off into the night sky as the special effects guy unwound the wire attaching us to said building.

Off goes Graham, I follow and Ian is right behind me. Only lit by the eerie red light from film set. Yes... we are filming 'Green Ice'. We are young and cocky and confident and flying away from the building into the dark night sky.

As I try and keep a straight line between the 3 balloons I notice upper balloon (Graham) has a couple of his Kevlar suspension cords hanging free.... And smouldering. I tug the buddy line and make a sort of 'are you OK?' sign. He gives me the thumbs up.

He doesn't realise that the bigger jets fitted just before take-off are spreading the flame too wide and burning through his cords. I have the only radio. So, I make the call...." MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY". Graham has suspension cord failure. Pull us back onto the building."

I cannot tell you the relief felt as the special effects guy started winding the wire back toward the building. I tugged the buddy line and pointed at my Kevlar cords hoping Graham would understand.

We were slowly wound back to the building. Ian landed. I landed.

Graham disappeared downwards beneath the roof level... out of fuel. I started pulling the thin Kevlar cord and calling for help.

We dragged him back up to safety.

After packing up the balloons we headed for Denny's

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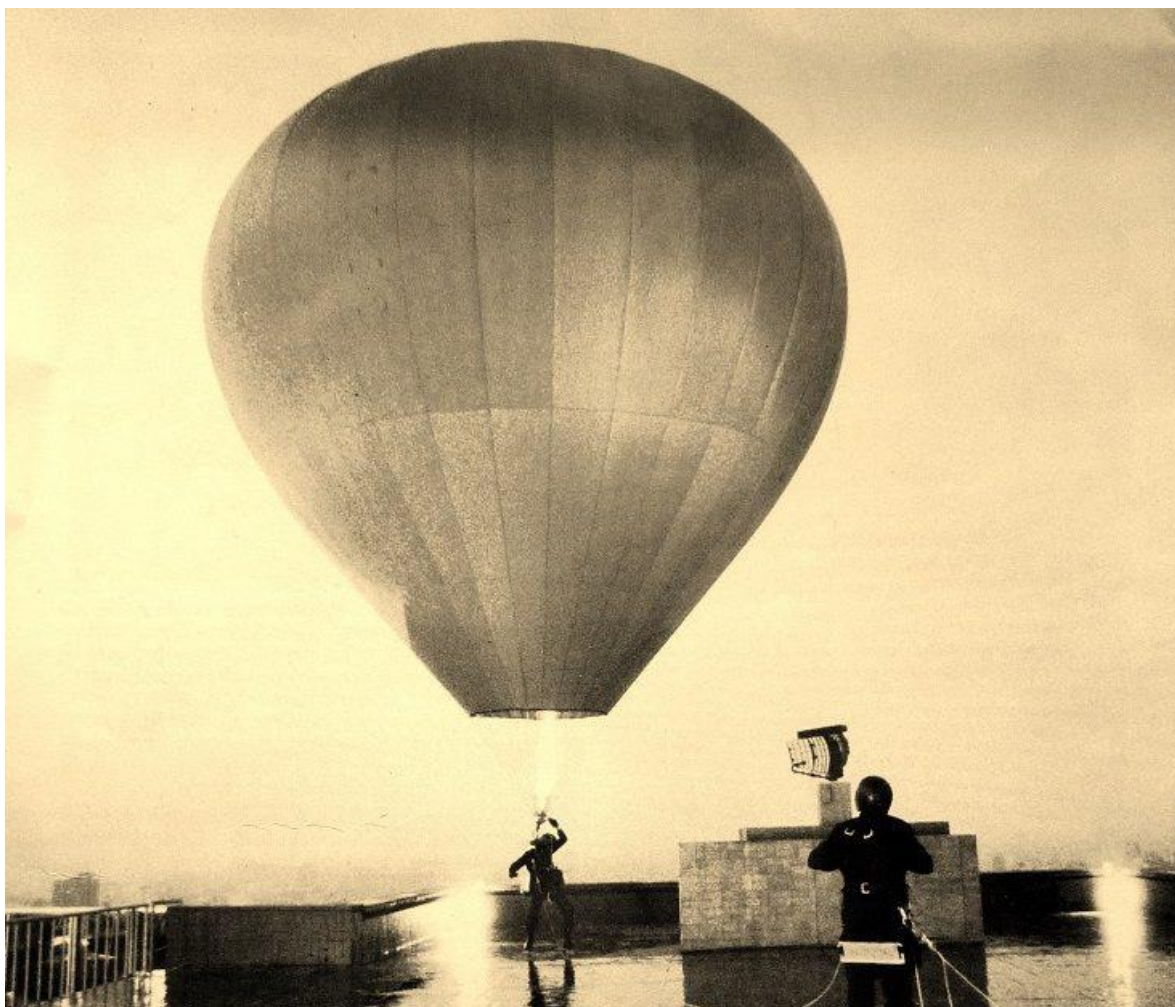


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bar for breakfast on the huge fire engine which was on station whenever we flew. Along with the ambulance and police car. We survived another night.



Taken from the film Green Ice.

Many thanks for the memory Robin, but for the grace of god and your alert eyesight who knows what may have happened- Ed.

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## Advertisement

O-31

1 of 1

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V20.435

Artwork: -

December 2017

Designer: AB

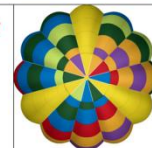
Fabric Colours Used:



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**

The latest second hand stock available for purchase is LBL35A complete Kit N56858 or ex G-CDIW. This 2007 kit represents great value for the money (£6500) and is currently in America with seller Greg Winker. The envelope has only 50 hours TT and the mark 2 bottom end alone has to be worth (£3000 -3500).



Flawless bottom end





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I'm told by previous owner Graham Bell that two of the top three colours are done in lightweight fabric. Obviously, transportation and import taxes would push the price higher for a sale in Europe but I think you won't find a better LBL35A for the money right now.

### **7. Gallery Pages –**

Your Editor's choice of new and interesting hoppers and duo's active in the world of ballooning right now. The interesting photos are kind of drying up right now and there are little that attract much interest currently, although over the bank holiday weekend there were plenty of hoppers out flying with a magnificent five flying at Kelmarsh hall at the same time. The pick of the crop has to be this brilliant photo of Martyn Turner enjoying his first flight with his new kit.





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Kelmarsh Hall with G-DNGR and G-RIME.  
photo with thanks Martyn Turner.

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### **8, Manufacturer / Event News/ Industry News**

#### **Black Horse Balloon Club – Solo Meet**

A quick reminder that this event is new for 2018 and is seen as a substitute for the Little and Large Meet over the weekend of June 1-3. More details from either Stuart Skinner or Peter Gray.

#### **BBML Inflation Day 28<sup>th</sup> April Lakeside Lodge Pidley**

This event was held in the rain and there was little of interest to hopper pilots. One Budweiser Hopper was put under the burners of a basket balloon and that was it. It appears that this could be the last ever BBML inflation day at Pidley as the owner David Hopkins has placed the business up for sale. We thank him for generously hosting this event a number of times in recent years.

#### **For Sale**



Two new additions to our range of mugs both with great slogans. Either is available to order at £9-00 plus Postage and packaging.

With any order I will also throw in one of each of the Cloudhoppers.org stickers until they have all gone.

Please contact me with your requirements at [steve.roake33@gmail.com](mailto:steve.roake33@gmail.com)

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Facebook membership continues to rise with the current level of 1183 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](mailto: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.**

For all previous newsletters visit [www.cloudhoppers.org/Newsletters](http://www.cloudhoppers.org/Newsletters).

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