

Issue Number 41

May 2010

Dear Readers,

What is it about going to an event that gets you excited? Interesting question, but surely it must be all the elements that make up the whole and not just the flying. Going to the Solo Meet held as part of the Black Horse May Fiesta, the excitement level was quite high even though the weather prospects seemed to be getting worse as the days approached. When finally it got to the time to go, the window of opportunity had pretty much reduced to a single day and yet I was still looking forward to getting there. Perhaps it has been the lack of flyable days so far this year and the idea of flying the hopper again after six months of not flying it.



G-BSGB Gaertner Skyranger (homebuilt hopper) seen at the BBML Inflation day-jpeg by Steve Roake

Perhaps it was also the idea of some fine banter in the pub with sociable flyers who I know well, and being fed pub food for a change. Either way I was up for it and I was going! Read about this year's event later in our newsletter.

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In this 41st edition I have for your reading the following choice subjects:

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 - G-EECO LBL 25A needs a new home.
- 9, **Last and not least.**

Personal Note

Prior to getting into this month's newsletter properly, can I just say on behalf of everyone here connected with cloudhoppers.org, we all pass on our collective condolences to Greg Winker who

recently lost his wife to Cancer. Michelle fought her corner valiantly but was cruelly taken away from us after a short fight. All our thoughts are with Greg and his family and hope Michelle is now in a better place at peace. - Thanks Ed.

1, Ed Speak by Steve Roake - Getting the "Fix" in!

Endorphins are Chemicals that are released from the brain when you have a good time. They put you into a pleasurable state of mind, such as when you have had a "fix" or flight. When you haven't flown for some time, you start to crave having the fix. When finally the moment comes and you launch yourself into the air once again, the feeling of elation is so strong you tend to wonder how you survived without it. Having not flown the hopper since the OMM back in October of last year, the urge to "get one in" was overwhelming and yet you always have to go back to basics to ensure that you are safety first orientated. It is so easy to overlook something and I always feel the need to return to training notes after a layoff. Couple all of the above with challenging weather conditions and when you manage to pull a flight out of a dodgy slot and you feel that you have beaten the system, even though we all know -you never out run the weather.

Thanks to fellow hopper exponent and experienced rides operator Ted Moore, whose advice was invaluable, we managed to achieve a hop on a slot that was deteriorating the longer the day progressed. To say I was made up having got one in is an understatement, and to have just pulled the cover over the envelope bag as the rain drops started , showed how tight the time scale was, but even now, a few days later, I'm still on the high from getting the flight in. Crazy but true!

Steve Roake

2, Essential Extra's-

Another month with no contributions to this section.

3, The Features Section

The Black Horse May Fiesta/Solo Meet by Steve Roake

I've been thinking about this and discovered why I love this event so much. Not only are the members of the Black Horse Balloon Club some of the nicest people you could care to meet, but the venue centred around an English Country pub themed in ballooning Stuff lends itself to a fun setting. Both of these elements help confirm the status of this event, but the single most important feature of this event is the fact that the flying is interesting due to the topography of the area. Over in Thame and to the North of the region is the Aylesbury Plain, a wide open flatland of arable farming land with picture book fields all hedge lined. When you approach Great Missenden (home of the pub), particularly from the Thame direction, you have to work to achieve the position of getting into the valley rift which then feeds you towards the pub location (easy to miss - but great if you get into the valley as it rolls down towards the target). When you fly from the Pub, either West or East puts you into rolling hills with valleys where you can run along the valley winds until you find that juicy landing spot. Even if prevailing winds are constant, directional variations are possible in these culverts of land. There are numerous sensitive areas but not to the point where you can't find places to land and this is a club that prides itself in reducing the number of sensitive areas each year by visiting farms and addressing the owners to see if they are happy receiving balloons on their land. So armed with these elements, how could we fail to have a good time?

Friday afternoon arrives and we convene at the Black Horse Pub for some socialising and catching up with regular Solo Meet attendees. All the regulars are in attendance. Team Hilditch/Ward have taken residence with their camp at the far end of the field, Tim Revell and Hilary are talking up the possibility of a flight in the morning. Kevin Tanner ensures that all the maps are up to date and folks have sufficient gas for their requirements and then we adjourn to the pub for sustenance and alcohol. Fine Food having passed all our lips and a small amount of Liquid entertainment oiling the parts, we all part for an early morning rendezvous with Thame showground for a 6-30 briefing on Saturday morning hoping for decent weather. The only fly in the ointment was a possibility of early morning mist and possible showers.

Saturday morning arrives at the ungodly time of 5-30am and having risen, I make a flask of tea for those camping at the pub. As I get into the car, the first drops of rain seem to put paid to any hope of flying. Upon arriving at the pub field, Tom Hilditch emerged from his tent visibly shaking, it transpires he had slept in his clothes and was freezing. Even the addition of a light weight summer coat made little impact and so the Tea proved a good move. I picked up Bernie Williams (my crew for the weekend), from his palatial motor home and set forth for Thame Show Ground (the venue of the proposed launch this morning). Now I'm not precious, but with the hopper bright yellow and under 9 hours in the logbook, the idea of getting it wet and potentially muddy held little desire for me, and yet as we neared Thame the weather generally improved and sunshine arrived. The launch window was seen to be suitable from the met forecast but like the other hopper exponents present -I just didn't fancy it! Some five or six balloons flew the morning slot including Ian Chadwick in Baby Shell the Cameron 42 with a basket bottom end. All seemed to enjoy their flight in the direction of RAF Halton

and stayed fairly closely grouped. I remained upbeat as the forecast for the afternoon looked better with reduced windspeed but a chance of rain showers - a case of could we bag one before it rained? With this in mind Lennie Vaughan had suggested an earlier afternoon briefing at 5-30pm

Many of the enthusiastic exponents returned to the Black Horse Pub to see Gavin Chadwick inflate G-CEWF his Annex 2 Jacobs hopper, having seen it myself previously I ventured to the Local cafe for a traditional cooked English breakfast.



G-UHOP sneaking one in!

By late afternoon, I decided to return to the Black Horse Pub earlier and be sociable and arrived around 4-15pm. Shortly afterwards, and in the company of Richard Penny and Kevin Tanner , we were joined by local rides operator and Hopper exponent Ted Moore, who suggested that in his opinion the weather wasn't going to change too much and should we think of flying , earlier was preferable rather than later as conditions would only deteriorate. All of us collectively agreed that this was a sound piece of advice, and therefore I took my decision to fly now. There were signs of weather on the horizon, and I know you never outrun the prevailing weather, but once inflated, I decided to go for it and at 4-50pm took off in a 2knot light breeze. As I climbed to about 1200 feet the wind increased to a maximum of about 7.3knots. The direction was towards Prestwood on a

westerly direction. Being cautious, I had my eyes firmly on the building cloudbase and decided that the flight would be shorter rather than long and after 30mins started a decent towards a culvert hoping to land as soon as a suitable field appeared. Naturally, when you want something it's not there and I had to continue noticing that my track was increasingly turning into a northerly. Now definitely focussed on landing I meandered along the valley into the village of Speen aiming for and missing a football pitch by a fair margin. Then just as I was giving up hope of landing in the village, I experienced a dramatic veer in the wind round to nearly 070 which indicated the cloud as very near and luckily for me took me over a pub and into the village park for a 3 knot landing. With a big crowd amassing I judged it just right and planted the hopper besides a football pitch goal, with the crew very close to me. We got the bags to the landing spot and did a rapid vent of the air in the envelope and fast packing away into the envelope bag. Literally as the draw-cord was being pulled on the bag so the first drops of rain appeared. I had got it spot on and had 45mins of fun against the odds. I had seen Kevin Tanner and Gavin Chadwick also in the air and both also succeeded in their endeavours even if Kevin got a muddy shirt on landing as the rain cloud sucked in.

To say I was grinning when we got back to a sociable pub is an understatement, all thanks to Ted's advice and knowledgebase and after six months of not flying the hopper - the feeling was so sweet! There is nothing better than flying the hopper and I love it. Apologies to those who didn't get to fly, but thanks to Bernie and Jack Reddall who helped with my retrieve, another BHBC meet was successful. Many thanks to all the organisers who selflessly gave up their time and helped organise the event for us the participants.

Steve Roake

The Black Horse May Day Fiesta/Hopper Meet- by John Hilditch

The Black Horse May Day Fiesta/Hopper Meet is now a firm date in the calendar for 'Team Pegasus' & 'Cloud Nine' Balloon Group. 'Cloud Nine' or sometimes 'Cloud Ninety Nine' is essentially my son, Tom and I, flying a Cameron Viva 90 G-BYNN, (and previously Cameron Viva 77 G-BNIN, which we last flew in 2008, from the Black Horse and then Lashenden Aerodrome in Kent; which now resides with Martin Freestone & Sandy Mitchell as part of their collection).

'Team Pegasus' was named thanks to Steve Roake and was born in October 2004, where I was booked for the One Man Meet at Bowness-on-Windermere, when an appeal for crew produced Nottingham (Forest)'s finest Tim Ward and his son Bryce.

We have in one form or other, with my Lindstrand Demo G-CBZJ, I believe, attended the 'One Man Meet' or the alternative, 'Not the One Man Meet' since 2004 and the May Day hopper event based around the Black Horse since 2006. In respect of the later, despite the temptation to find local B & B, we always set up camp in the corner of the flying field at the back of the pub.

This year was no exception and unlike last year where I had to leg it back to Brighton on Saturday afternoon, to watch the mighty Seagulls avoid relegation, and miss the evening slot, we were hoping (hopping!) for a lot of flying.

The weekend also fits in nicely with the Annual Airworthiness inspection of both balloons with Chris Dunkley which I have for the last few years arranged for the Friday, enabling time to pitch tents and if weather allows fly in the evening.

Both balloons required minimal work but John Yarrow noticed that the parachute pulley on the 'Cloudhopper' was devoid of the central pin and appeared to be crimped. Whilst it may have always

been in this condition, nevertheless concern was expressed that this would prevent the pulley to swivel and that there was a possibility that on deploying the parachute the line would detach rendering the parachute totally useless.

Considering the forecast was not brilliant, this was not of too much concern, however it was considered that the envelope should not be flown and I agreed that this should be left and await fitting of a new pulley.

As ever the always helpful, Chris Dunkley offered the use of his T & C 21A G-BSIG, which I happily accepted. Friday night, was not flyable at least not in mine and Tim's opinion and in any respect I needed to meet Tom at Great Missenden station, who was running two days late in returning from University, (something about getting course work in before the deadline!) Meal & a few beers in the Black Horse and a very social evening, an early night, lots of rain, in fact what seemed torrential rain and at 0600 we were up and driving to the Thame Showground. Much deliberation, the ground was pretty wet, so I did not want to get the 90 out and certainly did not want to fly Chris's hopper and get that packed away wet. A few flew; Ken Lowry in 'Blackpool Pleasure Beach', Tim Revell, Chadwick Senior and others, but no hoppers; no bacon sarnies either. What did happen to the bacon, then Hilary? ...and then back to the Deep Mill Diner and met up with Steve Roake.

In four years since flying at this meet, we have always driven passed the Chiltern Brewery, on the way back from flying, but since on Sunday's and Bank Holiday Monday, it is always closed, we have never been able to visit the shop This year we made it and brought several beers and cheese, the Porter is definitely worth checking out, in fact all the beers and the cheeses are worth trying, come to that!

Since the weather had improved, still pretty thermic but very little wind, Ian & Gavin Chadwick inflated, what I am told is a rare envelope for the anoraks. I am not an anorak; at least not of the registration spotter fraternity!

Accordingly we inflated and tethered G-BSIG as Sandy and Martin needed a photograph and we all had great fun on the end of the rope. It was then a decision to fly now or miss the slot and ahead of briefing, with very dark clouds over Wycombe, (well they did get relegated), some suggestion of distant Cu Nimbus and rain in Tring, we started to pull out our 90. .

Balloons inflated; it looked slow, amongst others Steve Roake, Kevin Tanner and Gavin Chadwick in hoppers or solo took to the air; it was very, very slow.

The dark clouds looked like they were transverse our intended track. Tom inflated and whether it was that I did not get into the basket, but the weight on several hands was not sufficient, the quick release line was too long and with maybe too much heat, false lift, Tom was at the end of the rope and burying himself in the bottom of the basket.



Team Pegasus at Play with G-BSIG Colt 21A-jpeg Sandy Mitchell

Panic over the basket, back on the deck a severe gust from 180 degrees to our intended track, virtually spinnakering the envelope and we put it down. And packed away quickly just before the rain. The tent we strike, planning to return to Brighton that evening after flying, what with the deteriorating weather, but had to be packed away wet!

Interesting landing report from Kevin Tanner- True Grit! Retired to the Black Horse for a meal and another great social evening, before heading home. The first of both the One Man & Black Horse Meets attended with G-CBZJ where neither Tim Ward nor I had free flown!

John Hilditch

The BBML Inflation day Pidley Cambridgeshire

The British Balloon Museum and Library is an active museum set up to preserve donated balloons for the public to see at airings. These events take the format of Inflation days which happen every two years.



Recently donated to the BBML, G-BKBO is a Colt 17A and is seen with G-BHKR Colt 14A

The organisers take care in choosing sites where the opportunity for local rare balloons can be inflated alongside some of the museums rarer beauties.

This year's event was held at the Lakeside Lodge Golf Course in Pidley Cambridgeshire following an offer by owner and Hopper exponent David Hopkins who provided great facilities including camping areas and the lush driving range for an inflation area. The day itself started with a briefing at 8 o'clock sharp and the good weather that had been over the UK continued for the duration of the event. Whilst some 70 odd balloons inflated during the course of the day, there were a few 42,000 cubic feet of smaller envelopes for us hopper fans to see and get excited over. The event was attended by a large enthusiastic crowd and whilst some envelopes could have been hoppers, all were displayed over basket bottom ends for the event. The morning inflations continued whilst the good weather continued and was only interrupted by a rather nice hog roast that attracted everyone's attention. This was only one of a choice range of refreshments on offer from the clubhouse. The activities then re-continued all the way up to a prize giving ceremony at 4pm.

I feel that I haven't done justice by this event in the way that it has been reported, with so many balloons present and stupendous efforts by the likes of Mark Stelling amongst others, this event is a really good day out and worth attending, but the hopper element was so small this time around, my report doesn't really encompass the passion that was shown by all who attended as most balloons were over our size criteria.

My Favourite Jpegs and why-choices by Michael Glenn

In this twelfth selection of my favourites and why, Michael Glenn selects his favourite four (not three) photographs with reason why he loves them.



This was a training flight I did in my first balloon Elevation. I was flying with my Father, Bill Glen, as my instructor. The other balloon my basket shadow is on is Graham Bell's Duo-chariot so we both flew together that day and had a wonderful flight. Unfortunately later that year this balloon was stolen from me and is still yet to be retrieved.



These 2 photos are my favourite because through this message group I read about this basket being sold in England. Well my friend Graham Bell went and bought the bottom end for me and I purchased the new balloon to mate with it to fly. Those that don't know I strictly fly the chariot style balloon because I am paralyzed from the waist down. So it works for me to fly with. The picture of the new balloon, Elevation II, is the balloons maiden flight in Roswell, NM, USA which is where I grew up and my passenger on that flight is no other the Graham Bell. Figured I owed it to him after the work he did for me to get the basket.



This picture is from one of my favourite events in Page, Arizona, USA. It was taken by another pilot when I was going in for the

splash and dash. Yes I did touch shortly after this photo was taken. It is a beautiful place to fly and if you ever get a chance you should do it.

Michael Glen, Maricopa, AZ, USA

www.rollingpilot.com



Many thanks to Michael for his selections; clearly he loves his duo chariot. Who will follow with their hopper or duo chariot favourites? Selections to me as ever please, care of steve.roake@ntlworld.com

G-BSDV finds a new home in Holland

As some of you are no doubt aware, G-BSDV was my first hopper. Following being advertised here, she was recently sold to Rik Kornet in Holland. To my delight, the Colt 31A has been delivered, inspected and approved by its new owners, with Rik inviting his friend Rupert Maud a share of the fun.



Rik and Rupert with their new acquisition

Both Guys accepted delivery of the envelope on the 4th of May and took the opportunity of inspecting the envelope having bought with an element of trust and acting blindly.

First thing to do was unpack the envelope which had been delivered by Lindstrand Balloons Uk Ltd as part of an order for more stuff, make an inspection and remove the UK registration Prior to completing the necessary paper work so that it could become PH-PPY on the Dutch register.

Having links to Peter Kooistra helped, (being a friend of Rik's and being Rupert's brother in Law), as Peter lent the lads a small light

weight basket with which they could inflate and test the balloon prior to getting their own bottom end .



What a nice room for an inspection



*PH-PPY is inflated for the First time in Holland before
Registration is applied.*

The new owners found themselves grounded on the evening of May 4th so took the opportunity to have a tether. There is some talk of the three lads returning to the UK for the 2011 Icicle balloon meet with the balloon so watch this space.

Jonathan Trappe sets a new Cluster Balloon Record

Late into May, word reached us that Jonathan Trappe was going to attempt a new world record with a cluster balloon flight across the English Channel.



Prelaunch- jpeg by Robin Bachelor

Having secured the necessary permissions from the UK CAA and the FAA, Jonathan found himself in Kent England preparing for his bid. Whilst I'm not going to cover all the aspects of this attempt now, it is sufficient to say Jonathan was successful and deserves great praise for his efforts.

Next Month I am going to cover this subject more fully with submissions from people who were there.

- Tim Ward will write about his experiences helping Jonathan
- Robin Bachelor is submitting how things went from his perspective as co-ordinator
- Jonathan Trappe himself (hopefully) will give us his own view and hopefully submit links to his video footage.

Coupled to the above I have been given unprecedented access to photographs and other material so hopefully we can do this topic justice but for now it's just sufficient to say, Congratulations to all involved in an outstanding job well done!

As a taster to the essence of the action click on the link below for what sky news reported.

<http://video.uk.msn.com/watch/video/american-adventurer-balloons-across-channel/10r68grpo>

4, Updates to the website / Newsletter/ Forum Topics

Work continues afresh on the new look website, with finalised sections now established and the only thing slowing down the progress towards launch is the desire to be able by myself to load pages of updates to the site without the need of technical help.

To this end we are establishing for each and every page, templates that I can modify by myself and up date, but I can tell you all, the concept of the new site excites me greatly and once submitted I hope you all think I have done you justice. It is monumentally a leap forward from the staid, bland non-interactive site that is currently out there and should engage and entertain you.

One section to be included (naturally) will be a forum where you can review current topics of interest. On our current forum,

there is a current thread started by Tim Dudman asking folks what makes up your hopper kit and gives a good indication of what is popular. This is exactly the type of material a forum is set up to cater for. Another hot topic open for discussion this month was the size of the mouth on your hopper. Being of a technical nature, I was left behind by the technicalities but I would say a larger mouth is so forgiving, and that was one of the reasons I loved the Colt design.

5, Homebuilt section

Homebuilding section received no submissions again this month!

6. Gallery Pages- This section is the Editor's choice of new jpegs, visuals and older balloons of interest or alterations.



Following last month's Marathon Picture, Glenn Everett sent in to me G-OINN the Holiday Inns UM H-31 seen here at their UK Head Quarters on its first Inflation- Many Thanks Glen.

www.flyingadverts.co.uk is his website and they used a basket to pin it to the ground but has got the hopper bottom end available

if it ever gets to fly! It is booked into Chatsworth as a second envelope just for fun so that might be the first time it ever gets airborne! It's got a bigger mouth than usual as it's probably going to be tethered mostly at Holiday Inns as they rebrand.



A Blast from Bristol Past, Derek Maltby and Andrew Holly, but what was the year?

7. Manufacturer News / Events / Updates

News in on a forthcoming event with Sackville Lodge news from Rob Cross.

GRASS ROOTS 2010 Sackville Lodge Airfield 10th - 12th September 2010

Introduction

The event will be held at Sackville Lodge airfield - this is a private strip just north of Bedford. The airfield is run by local farmer Tim Wilkinson who also runs Sackville Flying Club (www.sackvilleflyingclub.co.uk)

The event is being run in partnership with balloonists, local farmers and the flying club.

We'll be asking you to volunteer to fly a farmer and there will be the opportunity to do 'swaps' with the club pilots who operate gliders, microlights and light aircraft.

We would like as many pilots and balloons as possible to attend to create a stunning grass roots flyout over large cut fields on the following slots:

Friday 10th September - evening

Saturday 11th September - morning and evening.

Sunday 12th September - morning and evening.

We're also intending to hold a meal on the Saturday with the farmers and flying club members. We hope to have food available on Friday evening and bacon rolls etc will be served on the Saturday and Sunday mornings. Bar facilities will also be available.

Please encourage your fellow aeronauts to sign up - we want all types of balloons including hoppers and shapes - this is a rare opportunity to fly from a large, fun, grass roots event.

We also encourage PUT's to fly from this event and anticipate holding another 'tether school' so that an instructor can sign off the tether for their PPL(B).

The Competitions Club is meeting at nearby Alconbury on this weekend and depending on the right conditions we have invited them to Sackville for one slot. This is an opportunity for you to try competition flying, although you are under no obligation to do so.

Seize the moment!!

Further updates will be sent by email to those that have expressed their interest or registered for the event. Pilots must be registered using the attached Registration Form.

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.

Should the weather forecast imply that conditions are not suitable for flying on the weekend 10th - 12th September, we will roll the event to the next weekend(s) until suitable flying conditions permit the event to take place.

Insurance

All pilots must declare in writing that they carry insurance which meets current legal requirements.

Maps

Sackville Lodge is on OS map 153. Fully marked maps will be on display.

Entry Fee

We are charging a £20 entry fee to cover our costs.

Other Issues

- We will have refuelling facilities
- Tethering and balloon inspections may be allowed with the permission of the event organiser
- Overnight camping and caravans will be permitted, and we'll provide showers
- After each flight we ask that to give a customary gift (typically a bottle of wine) to the landowner/farmer when you land.

Location and Directions

Club House: N52 15.72 W000 28.75 GBOS TL 038637

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Site entrance: N52 15.60 W000 28.03 GBOS TL 047635

Sackville Farm is near the village of Riseley in Bedfordshire, 5 miles south east of Rushden.

Directions:

- From the A6 head towards Riseley Village, signposted Riseley Road.
- Once in the village, continue along the High Street passing the Fox and Hounds pub on your right.
- Eventually you will come to a school on your right and a garage on your left.
- Just after the garage you will see a tree lined private with a gate house.
- Turn left here and follow the road along until you see a sign on the left (approx 1/3 mile) marked "Wilkinson's".
- Turn here and follow the track along past the house called Sackville Lodge and through the farm yard.
- After a short distance you will see the airfield on your left.

GRASS ROOTS 2010 - Registration Form

Please complete the following:

Pilot details:

Name: _____
PPL/CPL No.: _____
Balloon owner: _____
Home Address: _____

Email address: _____
Mobile No.: _____

Balloon details:

Balloon registration(s): _____
Make(s) and size(s): _____
Name of insurers: _____
Insurance Policy No.: _____

Are you interested in the meal? Yes/No.
If Yes, how many people in your team? _____

Can you fly a farmer? Yes/No.
If yes, how many? _____

Are you interested in camping? Yes/No

Are you interested in competition flying? Yes/No

Do you have a PUT that might be interested in 'tether school'?

Declaration

- I certify that the above balloon(s) has a current insurance policy with Third Party cover to comply with the 2005 EU directive.
- I agree to indemnify the organisers of the flyout and Sackville Lodge Airfield against any claims made against them as a result of the operation of the above balloon(s) during the flyout.
- I understand that all inflation, flying and other activity during operation of the balloon(s) during the flyout is subject to the permission of the organiser and their representatives and I accept their authority on all operational matters during the flyout.
- I enclose a cheque for £20 made payable to "Grass Roots Ballooning"

Signed by the pilot: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form and payment to Rob Cross:

18 Alzey Gardens

Harpenden

Herts

AL5 5SZ

This is probably the festival of the year to be at and there will be a hopper presence at the event, so even if you are taking a regular balloon to the event, put the hopper in the trailer.

8, For Sale /Wanted section

The recent purchase of Nick culverts LBL 42A G-CBLO by Rob Clements proves that good items for sale still move quickly if priced right to sell, I hope Rob enjoys his new toy having spoken on many occasions about his desires to get involved in hopping-see you at the OMM Rob! This also means that very little of note remains on the marketplace and once again signals buyers to move quickly for these bargains to avoid disappointment.



Seen here in its new owner's hands recently is G-CBLO - thanks to Ken Scott for the jpeg.

I understand the John Rose Hopper was bought quickly and split down, with the envelope only now up for resale at about £1300. I have heard however, that if offered the right money, Tony Bubb may be tempted to part with G-EECO his LBL25A complete with titanium tank and mk2 Lindstrand bottom end. Suitable offers please to A.bubb@aol.com and for more details.

And Finally. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU READ THIS

I have this month had cause to ban someone from our community. The individual concerned was well aware of the nature of his

expulsion, choosing to personally attack another member of the list verbally even after a warning that his actions were not desired in our community. All of his allegations were without foundation and of a derogatory nature. We will not tolerate this type of activity, we are here to promote hopping to the wider audience and I hope this is the only time I have cause to do this.

Membership is currently a healthy 410 members and despite a small dip, numbers are generally still rising. All articles for inclusion in future issues will be gratefully received by your editor. Please forward them to steve.roake@ntlworld.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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