



Issue Number 40

April 2010

Dear Readers,

Just a short newsletter this month , designed to be with you prior to the Solo meet and the BBML inflation day with a smaller content than usual but never the less, some content all the same.

### **Contents**

In this 40th edition I have for your reading the following choice subjects;

- 1, **Ed Speak**- Flying season restarts
- 2, **Essential Extra's** - Nothing this month
- 3, **The Features Section**-featuring the following submissions:
  - Mike Scholes North Pole challenge
  - My three favourites and Why by Kevin McLaughlin
- 4, **Updates for the Newsletter/Website/ Forum talk**
- 5, **Homebuilt Section** -
- 6, **Gallery Pages**- Another mixed choice of hoppers, selected by your editor
- 7, **Manufacturer News / Events / Updates**
- 8, **For Sale /Wanted Section**
  - G-CBLO Lbl 42A is for sale
  - G-BVUI Lbl 25A is also available to buy
- 9, **Last and not least.**

## 1, Ed Speak by Steve Roake - Flying Season restarts.

Finally I found time and conditions suitable to get a flight in. It seemed incredible that nearly six months have passed since the OMM and my last flight. Was I really the only UK pilot who hadn't flown in the last few months? Luckily with all the annual checks carried out, ARCs renewed and ground conditions dry enough I managed to get a flight in. This suitably wetted the appetite for the solo meet which arrives over the first May bank holiday weekend, particularly having a hopper fly alongside me for most of the flight in Gary Madelin in G-CDAD has LBL 25A.



*Gary Madelin in G-CDAD his Lbl25A -photo by Amanda Arkinstall*

I also attended a recent Land Relations Day, and have a good feeling for the Solo meet as quite a few names have said they are

attending. Pity the forecast is deteriorating. Prior to this I was attending the London Marathon where I went to see the new hopper for Glenn Everett and his Sponsors Holiday Inns. (Picture in the gallery section). Then two weeks later we all travel to Pidley for the BBML inflation day and some hopper activity there. Finally I just want to wish Rik Kornet happy times with his new purchase, my old trusty Colt 31A.

Steve Roake

## 2, Essential Extra's-

### 3, The Features Section

#### Mike Scholes North Pole Challenge

Some of you may know of Mike Scholes, the flamboyant ex Rides balloon operator who cruelly had rare eyesight decease stop his commercial flying. Mike being a record breaker of note (including flying a rubbish bin to altitude under a hopper), decided to team up with David Hempleman-Adams the explorer, to undertake a charity walk to the North Pole for the Charity St Dunstans.



Unknown to most people is that both of our intrepid explorers have taken with them an Ax1 balloon where I believe Mike is going to fly it under David's Supervision. Weighing in at only 14kgs then envelope will only support Mike in sub zero temperatures.

The Balloon has been donated to the cause By Ultramagic.com and the material was supplied free by coatings applications. Mikes progress can be followed online via weblink

[http://www.mikescholes.dreamhosters.com/northpole2010/?page\\_id=7](http://www.mikescholes.dreamhosters.com/northpole2010/?page_id=7)

Having arrived (no mean feat in itself), we look forward to details of the flight. Thanks to Tim Revell for the jpeg and details of this remarkable challenge.

### **My Favourite Jpegs and why-choices by Kevin McLaughlin.**

In this eleventh selection of my favourites and why, Kevin McLaughlin selects his favourite three photographs with reason why he loves them.

OK, where to be begin? When Steve asked if I'd like to contribute to the "My three favourites, and why" section I jumped at the chance. An excuse to revisit some of my images from the many meets I've attended over the last 10 or so years. That'd help pass the evenings until the weather improves.

Wrong! Fate intervened (doesn't it always?), and the whole of February *was* spent looking at photo's, but they were of cars, not balloons. Weekends wasted driving around the UK trying to find something suitable. I got there in the end, and while driving the new car home, I bumped into our Editor while pursuing one of our other common interests. Fate again?



Anyway, I've digressed. The first image is fairly self explanatory. We all know that a hopper is just a small balloon, right? Well, it didn't really hit home until I took this image at the Bristol Fiesta. The RAF hopper is a LBL-31, and the carrier a Z-350. Even using the Father Ted quote of "Small but near, and big but very *very* far away" doesn't really cover it!

My second picture was taken at the One Man Meet at Husbands Bosworth in 2007. It's not the greatest shot I've ever taken, but it reminds me exactly of the day. The sky was just grey and heavy, and the visibility was poor, but everyone just bimbled for hours within the airfield perimeter. People flew the length of the runway, got dragged back by hand, and did it all over again. And again. And again!



My final shot shouldn't really be here I suppose, as it's of an LBL-90A. But, it does only have one man in the basket, so, on a technicality ...

It was taken at Metz in 2003, on a rare evening when I wasn't crewing. Long after the main launch from the airfield 2 balloons appeared on the horizon, heading straight for the airfield. A little bit of positioning, and voila! The balloon landed on the airfield, and the very happy PUT emerged from the basket, having just

completed his final training flight. The pilot; Mr Steve Roake (so I'm sure he'll allow the picture!!!).



Ed note- yes slightly dubious but it was late, and I mean very late and I was doing my solo flight. Thanks For the timely reminder Kevin!

Who will follow with their hopper or duo chariot favourites?  
Selections to me as ever please, care of  
[steve.roake@ntlworld.com](mailto:steve.roake@ntlworld.com)

#### **4, Updates to the website / Newsletter/ Forum Topics**

I've been struggling to think what subject matter got talked about this month on the forum. A couple of things hopper related

cropped up. The first was News from Sun 'N Fun sent in by Rick  
A Virginia Dentist Flies Hot Air Balloon by the Seat of his Pants.  
<http://www.theledger.com/article/20100417/NEWS/4185035/1410?Title=Virginia-Denti>

[st-Flies-Hot-Air-Balloon-by-the-Seat-of-his-Pants](#)

Then there was a link to a u-tube video sent in by Jim.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8Q5aRYM6qg>

Apart from these two instances, the chat was limited.

### **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. Starting with two newish UK based Ultramagic Hoppers.



*Seen over a basket, G-OINN is an Ultramagic H-31 C/N 31/10 taken at the London Marathon -jpeg by Steve Roake*





G-CGFO Ultramagic H-42 was registered to Jonathan Dyer back in December 2009, and apparently has still not free flown. C/N is 42/17. Thanks to Neil Ivison for the information on the jpeg and Ultramagic.com



G-CCKZ Custom Craft 25A is currently for sale on the Zebedee List.



*Rarely seen flying - G-BYCB Sky21 was photographed at Pidley by Neil Ivison recently.*

**7, Manufacturer News / Events / Updates**

News in on some forthcoming events starting with:

### **8, For Sale /Wanted section**

As you may have gathered, My old love of my life G-BSDV the Colt 31A has gone to pastures new in Joure Holland. The New owner is Rik Kornet who hopefully enjoys my Baby as much as I did. I have to say, I still believe that the Colts are the nicest shape and have a lovely wide mouth that helps when you are new to hopping. She will be reregistered PH-PPY. Looks like P-Happy!!

### **Nick Calvert offers for sale G-CBLO**

Envelope - Lindstrand 42A (formerly N Power, now reads Power) 85 Hours  
Cameron SkyHopper c/o chrome frame with seat, twist grip action with  
Worthington 40ltr tank mounted on back.

Klein fan, quick release, etc etc or in other words a complete kit.

Not prepared to split at the moment unless I have interest in the three main items

C of A October 2010

Package £4,500. Based in Bristol; email me [nick@calvertuk.com](mailto:nick@calvertuk.com) if you are genuinely interested.



I understand the John Rose Hopper was bought quickly and split down, with the envelope only now up for resale at about £1300.

### **And Finally.**

Membership is currently a healthy 409 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](mailto: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.