

Wye Valley Flyers Reveiw 2008 – by Spencer Harvey

I have customarily circulated my annual review during our AGM in January, but the fantastic revival of our newsletter has provided an alterative platform for me to review the year's events, achievements and memorable moments.

The year ended with another well attended Christmas dinner at the Grafton Inn. Unfortunately, this year there was no tipsy Val to provide entertainment due to abstinence during her pregnancy. However, she still kept everyone in order during the annual club Christmas raffle. Thanks to everyone who donated so generously. The two annual club awards were both one by John Hunt: The outstanding achievement was for his trip with Pete to The Northern Cape, while the Cock-Up Cup was won for his test flight in Brian and Peter's blade when he undertook an in-flight prop stress test. (*Look out for noticeable contenders in this article.*) The Christmas dinner, the raffle and these two awards have become a welcome end to the year, so let's work to keep it going.



Some photos from last year's fantastic Christmas party. Nev, that barmaid is still waiting your call.

This was followed by a bowling outing at TGS in Hereford which once again proved popular. Prior to starting bowling we undertook the AGM, which was well attended. During this meeting Roger stepped down as the WVF Chairman and I stepped down as the Secretary and Treasurer. Bill was press ganged into being the new Treasurer and I accepted the mantle of Chairman. Merv provided the best new of the meeting when he volunteered to revitalise the WVF monthly newsletter after no one had accepted the responsibility for the previous year. This publication had been truly missed and its revival has been one of my monthly highlights. A huge thank you must go to our editor and all those who have contributed. Please, please, please let's keep it going.



There's been limited flying activity throughout the year, and the poor weather has been the primary cause. Nev and Roger continue to bash out regular local flights, while there was a healthy numbers of further excursions to Haverfordwest, Carnarvon, Ince Blundell, The Scilly Isles and Blois, France. The main

protagonists from the flexwing bunch were Nev, Bob, Martyn, Mike, Stan, Mark and Steve. It was especially good to see new members like Steve, Mike and Mark who are in their first full year with a license, showing a propensity to travel far and wide.

Nev with & without his beard.



Roger on one of his evening jaunts.



A bunch of untrustworthy types encountered at Ince.



Bill asks another Chevron pilot if he has ever lost his plane. Cock-Up Cup?

This picture was taken by Nev on route to Ince Bludell somewhere near Liverpool.

Worthy of the Cock-Up Cup?



The stick wigglers were less active than normal although Merv, Judie, Graham and Brian managed a very wet trip to Ireland. Doughy, Bill and Jeremy are now well entrenched in this old man's form of flying although rumours abound about a flexwing purchase by Bill. John skipped around Europe for a couple of weeks with Alison and Jeremy made a trip to Blois with Martin Sims in the other seat, as did John and Merv.



Despite copious preparation, Merv's attempt to go even further than last year and conquer Iceland was thwarted by bad weather. Here is Merv after his last flight in his Eurostar and having just received the cheque from the purchaser.

The Popham Microlight Trade Fare in May was a washout and was subsequently rescheduled for later in the year. While not as bad, this weekend also proved to be far from ideal and the attendance suffered as a result. It was the first year for many that we failed to have a healthy club presence and our now famous club BBQ and booze-up was missed.

Spamfield (Isle of Wight) was much more of a success and the club marquee and BBQ were well used. Great Club hospitality was once again exercised and many more than just club members were fed and watered. A special thank you must go to Sean Hayes for driving the support vehicle and special congratulations to Stan for making the journey look effortless for a senior citizen. The event itself though, is pointless unless the organisers re-invent it somehow. Personally, I'd rather go to Skegness; anyone else fancy this.



During the flight to Isle of Wight, between Broadmeadow and Wing Farm, Bob was unaware that his prop and fuel cap were having a disagreement. At Wing Farm it became evident that the fuel cap had obtained a moral victory by inflicting a substantial wound to one of the prop's limbs. However this was at the expense of its fatal fall from 2000ft somewhere over the beautiful southern countryside. I pity the poor farmer who can't understand why there is a 3" hole in his prize bull.

Bob in a rage at Wing Farm. Cock-Up Cup?



Bob at Spamfield. Nuff said.



Breakfast at Spamfield.



Wing Farm, mid way to Spamfield.



Martyn on approach to Wing Far



Bob's plane having a jump at IOW



A couple of old fatties eating cakes again.

On the membership front; Haywood Flyers poached John Webb from Broadmeadow, and we also lost Mike Bond. However, we gained Mark Lewis and a nice looking 912 Quantum. We've also gained a hangar for Jeremy's Skyranger. There have been a few aircraft changes throughout the year: John Webb completed and is flying his Foxbat, Mark installed a 912 Quantum, Steve bought a 503 Quantum, Bob bought a 912 Blade (or was this last year?) and sold his Mercury to Mike, Mike then sold this and bought Martyn's dodgy 912 Quik . I sold my beautiful Quik to Martyn, Judy & Graham upgraded their Eurostar as usual and Merv has just sold his. We all wait with baited breath to see what exotica will grace Merv's empty hangar. *Go on Merv, join the true adventurers and get a Quik R.* The Haywood boys have a full accompaniment of aircraft at their field and it would be good to get them more involved during 2009.

The annual fly-in this year was once again a busy affair. Blessed with reasonable weather, around 70 visiting aircraft arrived. A fantastic food spread was once again the talk of the chat groups. The evening meal and breakfast for the campers were pretty special too. There are too many people to thank for making this a fantastic success every year. You know who you are, so thank you all.



Look no fence



Team work is the essence



Broadmeadow Restaurant. Open once a year



Three cuties



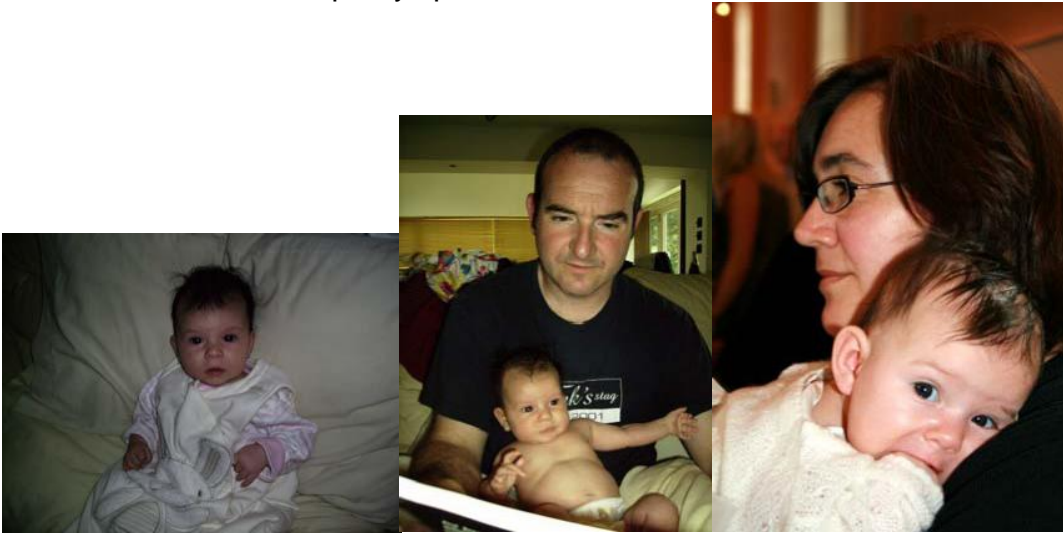
Val wanted to know why I was drinking beer in the morning at Spamfield



How well has that marquee served us?

Throughout the rest of the year there has been a steady stream of visiting aircraft at Broadmeadow and the surrounding club airfields, and hospitality continues to be exceptional. I can't think of a better club.

On a personal level; thank you to every member who has been extraordinarily generous with gifts and well wishes in 2008.
For Val and I 2008 was pretty special:



..... I have a feeling that 2009 will be very special too.

Lots and lots and lots of safe flying in 2009.