the Vintage Glider Club of Great Britain

NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 1973

This issue started off as a rag, tag, and bobtail effort to retrieve my dining room back from the VGC office for Christmas. But it is now the MOST IMPORTANT issue so far.

CAN YOU SPARE A DIME ...

Those of you who lived through the frozen wastes of Doncaster and Booker will endorse the following idea: it is that we need a TENT to be used on host sites as our own Clubhouse/control/equipment storage/possibly even dormitory/bar and refreshment room/ wind and bad weather shelter. We've gone into the question of Army surplus and the facts are that Army Surplus tents are in short supply (they're being sent to Distress Areas abroad), cost £1 per square foot new, leave the Service in bad condition at still comparatively high prices and weigh a ton. So we have taken the next step and find that a modern, lightweight collapsible structure, walk-in 15 ft. x 12 ft. would cost us £250/300, even allowing for the discount given us by a friend of the Club.

So, members, the following is the proposition:

1. That we ask you to lend interest-free for a period of five years any sum you can spare in these difficult days, in multiples of £5.
2. One-fifth of the amount you lend would be repaid each year from monies made by having the tent: part of Rally entry fees, use-of-the tent-fees from non-members, profits from bar and refreshments, and 'dormitory'.

We have already had three offers for the 'top' end: 'I'll make good any reasonable gap' (£30/50?): 'You can look to me for a capital contribution of £25 - £30' and 'an excellent idea and I would certainly contribute some money'. So what we're looking for is the bit up to about £180/200.

NOW PLEASE REFER TO THE MEMBERS' MEETING SLIP

SELF-ADHESIVE STICKERS

To remind you that Club Badge adhesive stickers are available at 12p each.

GREEN SHIELD AND CO-OP STAMPS

I'm curious. Do you all collect stamps? I don't, but I hate to see the companies concerned making an extra profit by stamps not being cashed in, and they do come my way sometimes. So far we have nearly two books of Green Shield, and one of Co-Op, and if and when we get the tent, there are a good many things we can get with stamps, IF YOU JUST ADDRESS AN ENVELOPE TO ME, stick the stamps in as they come your way, and use that envelope next time you are writing to the office here.

OUR MAN IN MALAYSIA

Ken Crack, our energetic Rally Secretary, is recovering from an attack of the lergy in Kuala Lumpur. Despite the distance, he's written six pages of news, views and instructions (Dear Ken, yes Sir, will do.F). He's doing a bit of power flying and likes the scenery: as he says 'permanent high summer so all the girls are in their holiday clothes'. Hum.

NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

The Vintage Glider Club, now six months old, now has over 60 members, in this country, and in Germany, Switzerland, U.S.A. and Holland. And among our Associate members in this country we have Philip and Kitty Wills, Ann Welch, Ray Stafford Allen and Doc Slater. We are grateful for their support and the confidence they give us that we are here to stay and internationally respectable.

THE USA

We have received three letters from Vintage Glider owners in the USA who have joined our Club. We extend a warm welcome to them. Dean MacMillian has a Baby Bowlus nearly ready to fly. He writes that there are still 17 Baby Bowlus and some Super Albatross in the U.S.A. Dale Busque has a Hutter H.28 and he has been sent the address of Eugen Aeberli who has another H.28 in Switzerland. A letter has also been received from Tom Smith, who has a Slingsby Gull 1. Ed Maloney, Director of the Planes of Fame Museum, 6900 Orangethorpe, Buens Park, California 90620, Box 5428, writes that he is the owner of the Horten IV. During 1945/46 this machine was in England.

THE U.S.S.R.

This year all contests and records have been dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of Soviet Gliding. Among Guests of Honour at this year's Soviet National Contest were many of Russia's first glider designers, test pilots and record pilots. Among them was Olga Klepikova, who still holds her 1939 World's Distance Record of 749 Kms., as a Women's Record.

Another celebration was later held at the famous pre-War gliding site in the Crimea, the mountain of Usun Sirt, which is now called Klementyev. Among the gliders flown was a replica of the A.1, Antonov's first glider.

The Guests of Honour included Sergei Anexin who was made Hero of the Soviet Union for conducting a flutter test during the 1930s in which he dived a glider from a great height and noted which parts fell off and when. Guests were warmly received by the inhabitants of Planyerskoye, formerly Koktyebyel, which is now a rest resort. The name of the town was changed to Planyerskoye (Russian for gliding) in 1937, in honour of Soviet Pilots' pre-War achievements. There is a Gliding Museum started about three years' ago by Vasili Shcherbakov, who was a member of the 1965 and 1968 Soviet gliding team in Britain and Poland. A monument, an obelisk upon which is an all metal A.13 sailplane now stands on the Klementyev mountain.

HOLLAND

A letter has been received from Albert Hengelaar whose Club at Saaland owns a Goevier and a Skylark 2. We hope he and members of the Club will join us.

HOME AGAIN

In the end the Petrel from Ireland was brought from Dublin to Preston by sea. Mike Russell made the 525 mile round journey using his old trailer kindly loaned by Ron Davidson, to whom Mike is eternally grateful for avoiding the necessity of some ghastly lash up. The aircraft seems to be even better than first thought.

FOR SALE

1936 BAC KRONFELD DRONE Motorglider with C. of A. Can be seen at Blackbush Airport. Price: - in excess of £1,000. Address: R.E. Ogden, 13 Western Avenue, Woodley, Nr. Reading, Berks.

LONG MYND AND WASSERKUPPE

Whether or not petrol is rationed, it is certainly going to be short and possibly even more expensive. After some weeks' uncertainty, we have thought it best to use the opportunity to get your views.

NOW PLEASE REFER TO THE MEMBERS' MEETING SLIP

CLUB MEMBERS (OWNERS) AND USEFUL ADDRESS LIST enclosed. Also list of GAs available from the Library. And a corrected list of entries to the FIRST INTERNATIONAL VINTAGE GLIDER RALLY at Hus. Bos this year (one Kite got quite shirty with us).

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL, and let's all hope for an end to our troubles early in 1974. CHRIS WILLS, KEN CRACK and FRANCES FURLONG