

MOTH CLUB AT WOBURN

The DH Moth Rally makes a much-anticipated return to Woburn

Words and pictures by Nigel Hitchman



The weekend of 17-18 August saw the de Havilland Moth Club's greatly anticipated return to Woburn for their annual Rally for the first time in five years.

Unfortunately we didn't have the best weather for Moth flying – the forecast for Saturday was particularly poor – although it turned out a bit better than outlook, with only a couple of small showers before the end of the afternoon and the quite strong and gusty wind down the runway. By mid-afternoon the wind was very strong but despite this there must have been 50 aircraft on the field!

Sunday was a lot better with lighter winds, although there were still some very strong gusts that caught out a few pilots, launching them back in the air when they thought they were safely on the ground at taxiing speed.

More arrivals on the Sunday meant a total of around 60 Moth types, ten Chipmunks and ten or so other aircraft for the event – this included some visitors flying in from Holland and Germany.

Highlight for many was the appearance of the DH.60 Racing Moth G-AAXG, on perhaps its first major public outing since arriving back in the UK from New Zealand five years ago. G-AAXG was built for DH director Alan Butler and took second place in the 1930 King's Cup. It was later sold to R.A. Kidson who had it shipped to New Zealand in 1935 where it remained for the next 70 plus years with various owners. It was purchased by Simon Kidson (son of R.A. Kidson) in 2008 and shipped back to the UK. Appropriately G-AAXG was flown into Woburn by New Zealander Jan Chisum, who together with her husband Jerry owns the only flying Gipsy Moth in New Zealand. Jerry flew in Torquil Norman's DH.90 Dragonfly, being familiar with the type as he flies the only other one in the world in New Zealand.

One other aircraft not seen in the UK for a long time was Hornet Moth G-ADKL. This had been based in France since 1989, only making a couple of brief maintenance visits to the UK. It was sold back to the UK at the

end of last year.

There were no new restorations appearing this year, a newly completed Gipsy Moth from Lee-on-Solent was hoped for but didn't appear, presumably because of the weather. Tiger Moth G-AIDS was I think the newest restoration although this was only taken out of the air a few years ago for restoration, not a ground-up rebuild from a basket case. It did look very good though in its familiar black paint scheme.

There was a small airshow on Sunday afternoon with mostly de Havilland types, but also included a superb display of slow flying by Peter Holloway in his Fieseler Storch and the Miles Hawk Speed Six flown by Roger Mills.

Altogether a great weekend, despite the weather and it was good to be back at Woburn. I'm looking forward to coming back again next year, hopefully with better weather! ■



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- 1 | DH Dragon and Dragonfly
- 2 | Miles Hawk Speed Six
- 3 | G-ADXL Hornet Moth
- 4 | G-AAXG DH.60 Racing Moth
- 5 | Colourful lineup, G-AIDS in foreground