

LAA RALLY 70

2/3/4 SEPTEMBER

Let's celebrate 70 glorious years of flying for fun at this year's LAA Rally.

Brian Hope previews this very special event



Seventy years is a long time, a lifetime in fact, and for our Association to reach that milestone in as rude a health as it has ever been is a magnificent achievement.

We will rightly celebrate that fact over the first weekend of September when we come together at Sywell for our Annual Rally. As befits such a celebration, this year we have added a number of features we hope will make it even more entertaining but at heart it will remain an opportunity for the camaraderie, friendship and passion that have long been the hallmarks of our Association.

EXHIBITION

The Exhibition area will be packed with everything to do with sport and recreational aircraft, from nuts and bolts to complete aircraft and from SSDRs to hi-tech, high speed tourers. To date there will be at least six new designs making their UK or world debuts, and at least one new engine will be on display. I'm not going to say more than that, you will have to come along and see for yourself but I promise they will make exciting additions to the LAA fleet as we move forward into our next decade.

Electronics play a major part in aviation and Garmin has recently announced a number of products which I expect potential purchasers will be delighted to see, touch and hear about.

Parts For Aircraft will also have their impressive new Talus Avionics EFIS that sells for just £559 including vat.

SkyDemon too will be showing their latest software, and they are currently endeavouring to add circuit patterns and noise abatement areas to their maps and airfield data. Gathering this data for smaller airfields which are not in the AIP is tricky, so SkyDemon is inviting airfield owners visiting the Rally to talk see Louise (the team member responsible for UK airfields) who will be dedicating time to digitise their airfield data so it's available to SkyDemon users. If you fly from a small airfield and the owner wants to help but is unable to attend the Rally, please ask them to give you permission to speak to SkyDemon on their behalf.

We are delighted that Exhibitor response has held up well and at time of writing, there are

only a handful spaces in the marquees and on the outside park. If you are a trader looking to book then contact penny.sharpe@laa.uk.com (Tel: 01280 846786) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Knowing how tiring it can be wandering around all day in the hot sunshine – of course it is going to be sunny – we have tables and chairs available in the exhibition areas so you can rest awhile and chat with friends. Plenty of food and beverage units will also be available to service your appetite.

LAA 70 MARQUEE

With a selection of milestone aircraft, plus some interesting period motorcycles, the LAA 70 Marquee is a new addition for this year. The marquee, and part of the area around it, will house a number of aircraft that have been significant in the Association's history.

The first type built was the Luton Minor for example, and the first approved two-seater was the Druine Turbi. And although not intrinsically linked to the LAA, the pre-war Mignet Flying Flea is rightly considered the aeroplane that signalled the re-birth of European homebuilding from which the post-war desire to form ULAA came. Amongst the aeroplanes will be a sprinkling, nice word, of period motorbikes that will no doubt remind many of us of our misspent youth.

SPEAKERS' CORNER

Speakers' Corner occupies one end of the LAA 70 Marquee and has been generously sponsored by Adams Aviation and Garmin. Throughout the weekend, keynote speakers will discuss a range of topics, from electric and hybrid aircraft to flying – or riding a motorbike – to Cape Town and back. Useful talks on looking after your Rotax 912 and selecting avionics equipment will also be included.

Please keep an eye on display notices around the site for the Speakers' Corner schedules and of course the Rally Programme, which will be available at the event.

LAS HOMEBUILDER CENTRE

Our gratitude goes to Light Aero Spares for once again sponsoring the Homebuilder

Centre, plus our thanks to Dudley Pattison and his team for gathering yet another interesting array of interesting parts-built projects and parts.

FLEAMARKET

Don't forget that the Flea Market too forms part of the Homebuilder Centre so please bring along all those unwanted parts, tools, books, plans or whatever that have been cluttering up your house and workshop. For a very reasonable fee you can sell them on to a new home. One man's clutter and all that...

SLING BUILD CHALLENGE

The Rally certainly sees a UK first with the challenge to build and fly a flat-pack, four-seat aircraft kit in seven days. The Airplane Factory have shipped a Sling 4 kit to the UK and a team of factory personnel and inexperienced UK volunteers will start building it on the Saturday prior to the start of the Rally. From the start of the Rally, attendees will be able to watch the build progress until on Sunday, if all goes to plan, the aircraft will make its maiden flight.

HOTELS AND CAMPING

With a well serviced campsite (hot showers and regularly cleaned WCs), a café, food stalls in the exhibition area and the Aviator Motel restaurant, plus plenty of local hotels, personal requirements are well looked after.

Campers can save £10 by pre-booking their plot online via the LAA Shop. Camping costs £20 in advance, £30 at the gate and covers a single unit (tent, caravan or motorhome) for the period Thursday 1 September to Monday 5 September or any part thereof. The last date pre-booking is available is Friday 26 August as the office has to mail out your campsite pass.

A list of hotels can be found on the LAA website under the Rally 2016 tab. Bear in mind that MotoGP is taking place at Silverstone on the same weekend so hotel accommodation may be problematic at this late stage.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

For those staying over, and I really do recommend that you do, there is ample to keep you entertained during the evening. Hangar



Gorgeous and impressive vintage Travelair at the Rally.



The Homebuilders' Centre is always popular. Here a Flitzer is under inspection.



The replica Percival Mew Gull racing aircraft of the 1930s will hopefully be one of the aircraft celebrating 70 years of the LAA at this year's Rally.

One's bar will be open for food and drink until late into the night, and on Friday evening will be relatively quiet, an opportunity to chat with friends old and new.

Saturday night is fun night and we have a Mariachi Band to keep you entertained with music, song and laughter.

RALLY OPENING TIMES

- Friday: 9.30am to 5.00pm
- Saturday: 9.30am to 5.00pm
- Sunday: 9.30am to 4pm

ARRIVALS BY ROAD

Sywell is not difficult to reach by road as it is within reasonable striking distance of the A45 between Northampton and Wellingborough. It is well signposted as 'Sywell Aerodrome' and the postcode NN6 0BN will take you there via your satnav. There are also plenty of directions on the Sywell Aerodrome website at www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk

Free car parking is available directly opposite the Aerodrome.

Disabled parking area available on the airfield side of the road.

ADMISSION CHARGES

Members of LAA, BMAA and BRA arriving by road: £6 covers all three days with airside access (please ensure you bring your current membership card as there is no facility to check whether you are a member at the pay desk).

Non Member: £12 covers all three days but NOT airside access.

Non Member: Airside access £10 per day. Accompanied children under 16 Free.

ARRIVALS BY AIR

A £10 landing fee covers all three days for the pilot and passengers. This gives pilots an ideal opportunity to bring a friend along rather than fly with empty seats.

Why not bring a buddy and introduce them to what the LAA is all about? You are welcome to camp beside your aircraft and use the facilities on the dedicated campsite. Further landings will be charged at £10 each.

FLYING INTO THE RALLY

The LAA and Sywell Aerodrome wish to encourage pilots to fly into the Rally but as you can imagine, with perhaps more than 1,000 aircraft arrivals over the three days of the event, the airspace can become very busy indeed. Such densities of traffic require strictly adhered to arrival and circuit procedures to maintain safe operation – you cannot simply call up from five miles out and ask for joining instructions!

Unfortunately despite the Rally being covered by a notam and there being a RA(T) in place, we have in the past experienced pilots bowling into the circuit unannounced and causing mayhem. Neither Sywell nor the LAA wish to spoil anybody's day, but safety has to be paramount and there comes a point where such a dreadful lack of preparation and airmanship cannot be excused.

The procedures are relatively simple and are designed to provide good flow and separation to the two runways – parallel hard and grass –

in operation. A good lookout and the ability to space yourself adequately from the aircraft in front of you is absolutely essential.

The first requirement is that you book an arrivals slot on the Sywell website www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk/bookings.php

The arrivals slots are spaced at one per minute local time, but note that it is not a strict or rigid system, its primary aim is to create a safe and steady flow of traffic.

Inevitably there are busy times, typically from mid-morning to early afternoon so if you want to arrive at a quieter time, avoid 11.00am till 2.00pm. Bear in mind also that from around 4.00pm, departures pick up pace so arrivals cannot be accepted between 1500 and 1730 local on the Friday and Saturday.

Pilots are requested to try and adhere to their slots but if weather or unserviceability on the day affects that slot and a new one is required, please telephone Sywell AFIS to re-arrange a new time. Having made your booking, download the AIC (Yellow 057/2016) from the same area of the Sywell website, or from the AIS website at www.nats-uk.ead-it.com or from the LAA website www.laa.uk.com (where we have a low resolution version if you experience download problems).

Please ensure that you understand the arrivals procedure before leaving home, and make sure **YOU HAVE THE AIC WITH YOU IN THE AIRCRAFT**. The procedures are not at all complex so we hope that as many pilots as possible will consider flying in to the event.

Have a safe and pleasant journey and a thoroughly enjoyable visit to the Rally. ■