



LAA Rally Briefing

Brian Hope with all the practical details of the 2017 International LAA Rally, which will take place at Sywell Aerodrome on 1-3 September

On behalf of the staff at LAA HQ, Sywell Aerodrome and all the volunteers who put the event together, I'd like to invite you to the 2017 LAA International Rally. We're all praying for three days of fine weather so that you'll be able to enjoy a day or a weekend of relaxation among friends both old and new, where you can live, breathe and savour aviation.

ARRIVING BY AIR

If you intend flying in to the Rally, you must book a slot and follow the instructions on the AIC.

Every year, we have a crop of totally unprofessional pilots who blunder in and call for joining instructions, causing havoc among those who are following the prescribed routing.

The Rally area is notammed as a RA(T) (Temporary Restricted Airspace) for the duration of the event and access is dependent upon pilots having booked their slot and downloaded the AIC from the Sywell website: www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk/bookings.php or the homepage of the LAA website, www.laa.uk.com

For the first time, you can book a slot to arrive on Thursday afternoon from 1400 to 1800 local. That allows us to have extra slots

(Above) The Gyro Village is a major new addition to the Rally, so hopefully we'll see an influx of gyroplanes at this year's event. (Photo: Nigel Hitchman)

available and will be a quieter arrival time for those who prefer it. Although the Rally doesn't officially open until 0930 on the Friday morning, camping, food and facilities will be available.

Please only book the slot that you're going to use – it sounds obvious but we know at least 25 per cent of bookings are made 'just in case' you can't make the earlier one. That robs another LAA member of making that booking so please don't do it. If you're going to be early or late for your booked slot by a serious amount of time, inform Sywell Tower by calling 01604 644917 and ask for another.

If we all play the game, nobody need be disappointed. But if we don't then, we may well have to introduce a pre-paid second-slot booking system in the future. Remember, there's a degree of flexibility with slot times so if you're acceptably late the carrier won't have sailed.

YOUTH IN AVIATION

This year we're somewhat focusing on Youth

and Education and will have a marquee dedicated to Build-a-Plane and other youth initiatives. Metal Seagulls will have its 'Pull-a-Rivet' Zenair project and has also promised some additional youth-inspired fun activities.

If you're involved in a youth aviation project, by all means get in touch by calling us on 01280 846786, as we want to encourage this vital activity. After all, today's youngsters will be tomorrow's pilots and aviation enthusiasts, so we must inspire them to take an interest in our sport.

HOMEBUILDER CENTRE

The LAS Aerospace-sponsored Homebuilder Centre will back onto the Youth marquee and continues the educational theme. The LAA will be launching a new range of courses later this year, but for now we'll be demonstrating aircraft woodwork, working in aluminium, composite construction, propeller-carving, fabric-covering and English-wheeling.

There will be numerous experts to chat to and plenty of projects on display, serving as examples of the different build techniques. In addition to providing a huge range of aviation products, LAS are specialists in end-of-line and bankrupt stock so the company is sure to offer its customary array of tempting bargains.

THE EXHIBITION

Pooleys are sponsoring the Exhibition archway at the door of Marquee A, as part of its sixtieth anniversary celebrations. LA will be publishing a feature relating the company's history in a future issue, as it has long enjoyed a special relationship with the LAA, and the PFA before it, founder Bob Pooley being a strong advocate of our Association, as is his son Sebastian.

Exhibition sales are going well and we're delighted to report that they're up on last year and include a number of new names. Air Courtage Assurances, which has recently launched its special LAA members' insurance scheme, will be on hand to answer all of your coverage queries.

The company offers a number of unique schemes, such as an owner's self-repair hull cover, which eliminates any access and cuts the premium significantly.

Have a chat with them to see how competitive its cover can be – that won't cost you anything and it could save you some money on your next renewal!

Lambert Aircraft will be showing its tailwheel variant of the Mission M108 for the first time. Taildraggers have long had a strong appeal with LAA members so a tailwheel version is a logical progression.

"Just like the nosewheel M108, the taildragger is state of the art," says Filip Lambert, "being equipped with a Rotax 912iS Sport, a 'glass' cockpit, airframe parachute system, adjustable seats, a huge baggage area and much more. Come and talk to us about our range of options – with Factory Assist, you could be flying an M108 next season!"

Placarding is something that the LAA Engineering department have a bit of a go about every now and again, and none of us want our aircraft looking tatty at the Rally, sporting makeshift labels. You need to speak with Fly Visuals, which offers all manner of solutions, including complete bespoke panels that are labelled and backlit.

At the other end of the scale, Fly Visuals can make you a personalised key ring with your aircraft registration engraved upon it. The company has years of experience and some pretty high-tech equipment to call upon, so whether you're upgrading or building new, it can help.

Aircraft Coverings will once be coming along, to demonstrate its Poly Fiber system, and TLAC will have its 'no paint required' Oratex system. Variety is the spice of life, and every individual owner has their specific requirements so, if fabric-covering an aircraft is on your agenda, having two entirely different systems to check out can only be a good thing.

THE GYRO VILLAGE

For the first time, we'll be having the Gyro Village in attendance. The Village is made up of the British Rotorcraft Association, the Gyro Experience training schools and the Magni and RotorSport UK agencies. The latter will no doubt be showing the latest, much-improved version of the Sport tandem two-seater which was announced at AERO Friedrichshafen.

There will certainly be plenty going on over the weekend in the Village, and we'd love to see plenty of gyro pilots bringing their aircraft into the event and joining in the fun.



(Left and below) The Rally attracts a huge range of aircraft, from the cute and classic, like this Aeronca C-3, to the new and SE-XXXy, such as the Lancair IV. (Photos: Nigel Hitchman)



(Above) The LAA Engineering team will be on hand throughout the weekend to answer your technical queries. (Photo: Ed Hicks)

SPEAKERS' CORNER

The Adams Aviation and Garmin-sponsored Speakers' Corner will be offering a full programme throughout the weekend.

The final timings have yet to be resolved, but among the keynote speakers are:

- **Garmin/Adams**, which has sponsored Manuel Queiroz' Night/IFR RV-6 panel upgrade. No doubt that project, and other avionics chat, will form the major part of Garmin/Adams' presentation.
- **Johan Wiklund** from Sweden, who will present a talk on his adventurous 2015 flight from Barkaby to Cape Town in a dH60 Moth, solo and without support. Naturally, Johan will be flying his Moth to the Rally.
- **Mark Manwaring**, who's planning a round-the-world-flight next year, in a Van's RV-7, to celebrate the Centenary of the RAF. A serving RAF officer, Mark will make an attempt on the world and British circumnavigation records, to raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund.
- **The CAA** is to host talks which will mainly concentrate on the subjects of infringement, 8.33kHz funding and Pilot Licensing.
- **PilotAware's Keith Vinning** will give everybody an opportunity to catch up with developments in this low-cost conspicuity and traffic awareness device, hopefully



(Above) Lambert Aircraft will be debuting the first M108 taildragger, a high-spec machine powered by the fuel-injected Rotax 912iS. (Photo: Filip Lambert)

being able to demonstrate the OGN uplink facility introduced earlier this year.

- **LAA Ambassadors Arthur Williams and Lauren Richardson** are scheduled to talk, the former on his epic *Flying to the Ends of the Earth* television series, and the latter about display aerobatics.

I hope that whets your appetite, look out for a schedule in the Speakers' Corner area at the Rally for talk timings.

RALLY TROPHIES

The Association has a number of superb trophies to award to aircraft attending our

EVENT PREVIEW

annual Rally. The broad categories are Plans-built, Kit-built, Vintage, Classic (factory and homebuilt), Gyros and Replicas, plus a number of type classes, such as Europa, Jodel, Moth, Auster, RV, fabric Piper, etc.

We rely on you, the builders and owners, to register your aircraft for judging, either online before arrival, or at the booking-in tent by the airside access gate.

You'll find further details on how to register at www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk/2017/rally/awards

The awards will be presented at this year's Annual General Meeting, which is to take place at Sywell on Sunday 22 November.

ARRIVING BY ROAD

Sywell Aerodrome is within reasonable striking distance of the A45, between Northampton and Wellingborough. It's well signposted as 'Sywell Aerodrome' and the postcode NN6 0BN will take you there via your GPS. There are also

directions on the Sywell Aerodrome website, www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk

Free car parking is available and there's a dedicated disabled area.

HOTELS & CAMPING

The good news is that this year's MotoGP isn't taking place the same weekend as the Rally so hotel availability in the Northampton area should be much better!

You'll find a downloadable PDF list of hotels under the 'Camping & Accommodation' section at www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk/2017/Rally/rally

There's a campsite at Sywell, with hot and cold water, showers and regularly serviced toilets. You can reserve space in advance via the LAA Online Shop for the discounted price of £25 (£35 if paying on the day), which covers a single unit from Thursday 31 August until Monday 4 September, or part thereof.

FOOD, DRINK AND ENTERTAINMENT

There's a restaurant in the Aviator Hotel, a café on the aerodrome, catering on the exhibition site, and food will be available in Hangar 1 during the evening – so you won't go hungry!

There are two bars on-site, one in the Aviator and another in Hangar 1 – so you won't go thirsty either! And you can sing and dance the night away in Hangar 1 on Saturday evening, to the West End Jersey Boys.

ADMISSION CHARGES

- **LAA, BMAA & BRA members:** £6 covers all three days and airside access. No matter which association you belong to, please ensure that you bring your current membership card as there's no facility to check whether you're a member at the pay desk.
- **Non-Members:** £12 covers all three days *but doesn't include airside access.*
- **Non-Members airside access:** £10 per day.
- **Visiting aircraft:** The landing fee is £10 (singles), which also gets the pilot and those on board into the event for the duration of the time that the aircraft is at Sywell.

OPENING TIMES

- Friday 0930-1700
- Saturday 0930-1700
- Sunday 0930-1600

All of the information you need to plan your visit to the Rally is available on the LAA website, at www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk/2017/Rally/rally, and we look forward to meeting you there. ■



There's no better place to be if you're thinking of building or buying. Advice is freely offered by owners and builders. (Photo: Ed Hicks)



Sywell Rally

1-2-3 Sept 2017

Britain's Biggest International Fly-In Event

- 1000+ aircraft, kit-built, home-built, vintage, classic, microlights, gyroplanes
- Trade Exhibition
- LAA Young Flyers marquee
- 'Speakers Corner' presentation theatre
- Evening entertainment
- Camping ● Air-side access

Fly in arrivals strictly PPR. Must pre-book landing slot and adhere to published AIC. www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk www.laa.uk.com