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January Newsletter 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the January newsletter. Happy New Year to you all, we trust you had a good Christmas. So here we are in 2025, and we are already adding dates to our official BRA calendar. You'll see in the Upcoming Events section that we just added a fly-in at Sherburn In Elmet, in the Leeds / York area. This will be a 3 day camping weekend, with a cafe, fuel, and camping onsite. Hopefully, with this event being more northerly, we can tempt a few more northern pilots to attend. We've also added a couple of other BRA associated events. These and all the other events can also be found on the BRA website:

<https://britishrotorcraftassociation.co.uk/events/>

In this month's newsletter...

We start with exciting news of the BRA Badge Awards Programme, to recognise the achievements, experience and development of members. Find out how to apply for yours!

We've got a couple of short articles from instructors:

- Kevin Robinson is back teaching in Portugal.
- Lloyd Carnie opens for business in Shoreham.

Clive Rose is back with his Rubber Side Down regular contribution with his own unique take on all things gyro from an instructors point of view. This month he reminds us of some simple checks, especially if you haven't flown for a while.

If you have any interesting gyro related stories, or photos, that you're happy for us to use in the newsletter, then please email them into me.

Chris Rose

ed@britishrotorcraftassociation.co.uk

Welcome to our new members

The BRA team would like to extend a warm welcome to the following member(s) who signed up in the previous calendar month:

- Keith Jamieson - "I live just outside Carlisle and started flying Gyros in Summer 2016 and started training with Chris Jones at Kirkbride in Cumbria. My father was a fast jet pilot in the RAF and did his national service in the early 1950's and his enthusiasm for aviation was passed on to me as a little boy. We used to go to various airshows in the 60's and 70's when we came home from Africa, where my father used to work. I wanted to be a pilot from a very young age but unfortunately my eyesight wasn't good enough and in those days that was the end of that. I subsequently had my eyes corrected through laser surgery later in life. I bought my first Gyro an MT03 in December 2016 and continued training with her until I passed my GFT in April. Fast forward to 2025 and I have now flown in excess of 500 hours all on Gyro's. This year I bought a lovely used low hours Calidus along with another Gyro pilot and we have just completed conversion training with Chris Jones. I plan to go touring around the UK and possibly further afield in the future."

If you have any fellow gyro friends who aren't yet a member, please encourage them to sign up. Spread the word!

BRA Badge Awards Programme

By John Truman, BRA Committee Member

The British Rotorcraft Association are pleased to announce a new awards scheme to recognise the achievements, experience and

development of members. The scheme has 3 levels with the Bronze award being issued automatically to all BRA members when their membership is next renewed.

Gold and Silver awards can be claimed by BRA members who have sufficient experience to achieve a number of criteria including such things as "Flying hours, Gyroplane types flown, airfields visited and length of flights" etc. In recognition of their commitment to the Gyro community members holding a full Gyro Instructors rating will be sent a Gold award badge automatically.



Details of the required criteria along with full instructions are available on the BRA website under the "About" tab. Please note that valid applications will trigger the release of the award badge upon your next Membership renewal.

Full details are available on the BRA website: <https://britishrotorcraftassociation.co.uk/bra-award-badges/>

Meet your instructor: Lloyd Carnie

By Lloyd Carnie

From a young age, I have been deeply interested in aviation. I consider myself fortunate to have achieved my childhood aspiration of flying an aircraft.

At seventeen I joined the Royal Naval Fleet Arm and went on to become an Air Traffic

Controller, finishing my career after 10 years as an ATC Tactical Instructor at Portland Naval Base. Whenever I could get airborne in one of the Royal Navy Helicopters I was there at the front of the queue (Lynx, Sea King and Gazelle and anything else they would let me fly). I even managed to get four days flying left hand seat with RNAS Culdrose Search and Rescue 771 squadron flying the old RN Wessex Helicopters - one of my most treasured memories from the Royal Navy.



Fast forward some 30 years and I am now a qualified Flight Instructor for Gyroplanes based in Shoreham (Brighton City Airport) and my website and booking portal is:

Flygyrocopter.co.uk. I am also part of the family of UK Instructors with GyrocopterExperience.co.uk and use the I.A.P.G.T syllabus of training, which is approved by the CAA, and so you can find my listing there also.

I can train you for PPL(G) and I'm also a ground school trainer and examiner for all the technical subjects (other than flight communications

(FRTOL)) but we have a trainer here at the airport that can get you that licence.

I love flying Gyroplanes, but more importantly, I enjoy teaching others to fly them and helping them achieve their goal of obtaining a PPL(G).

My past career history hasn't always involved aviation but there's been a common theme of training and instructing. I also instruct Microsoft IT Security and AI workshops when I'm not flying.

I'm also a Helicopter pilot flying the R44 and R66 so if you want to convert to Gyroplanes (which I highly recommend) then drop over to Shoreham for a chat.

I look forward to flying with you. Lloyd

Portugal reopens

By Kevin Robinson

He's back! After working in Qatar for the last 6 years as the Aviation advisor for the Qatari Coastguard Search and Rescue department, Kevin Robinson is back in Portugal. Kevin, an FI, FE and FIC, has reestablished his successful school in Lagos in the sunny Algarve and is offering full time training once again.

Kevin said, "Its great to be back in the Algarve. The school is back up and running offering full time training. We specialize in 5 day courses and, historically, every single student has achieved 10 hours of flying in 5 days. Portugal has 300 days of sunshine a year and is the perfect place to supplement your UK training during those cold cloudy days in UK in the winter months. Cheap flights and accommodation make it the perfect venue for training, revalidations and license renewals.

Kevin can be contacted at:
kevin@gyrocopteralgarve.com

Rubber side down

By Clive Rose, BRA Safety And Training

Not that I do any handwriting these days but it always takes a while to get used to writing (or even typing) a new year when you're writing the date. And, if you're lucky, making the first / 25 entry in your log book.

A couple of incidents spring to mind when I think of first flight(s) after an enforced lay-off. One is when a good friend (hello John!) got a surprise loss of power on his first take-off. The other, when another good friend (hello Lawrence!) and I lost a tyre pre- line-up. A queue of impatient GA pilotes behind us!

You know the rule of the 6 P's – Prior Preparation... etc. Even if the weather precludes flying, why not pop-up to the hangar and wish your aircraft a Happy New Year with a little bit of TLC thrown in?

Boyle's Law tells us our tyres need a bit of Winter inflation and your Gyro's diddy tyres are no exception. Even if you're running Slime/ Goop or some other concoction, they will likely need a few psi to bring them up to recommended pressure. Your aircraft will appreciate the extra inflation when you ask it to transport any remnants of the turkey/mince pie mountain your wife is bound to have over-provisioned. Eh? Is it only my wife that does that?

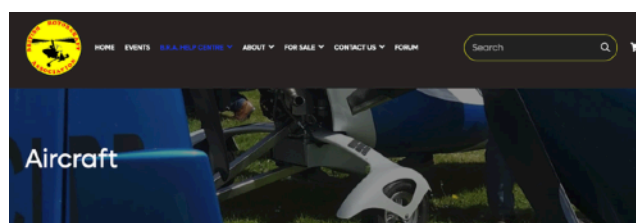
Loss of power on take-off can hit us any time, of course. But if you left the aircraft half-full of cheap supermarket unleaded and haven't flown since November, its 10% Ethanol has been supping water vapour from the air-filled other half of the tank all through Christmas. Any water should appear in the fuel sample you take pre-flight. What do you do if you find water in the sample? Yep – you drain the tank and throw the fuel away. Or feed it to your lawnmower which might cough and splutter but won't drop you in the trees.

Ideally, you're using super-unleaded with only 5% Ethanol and a reduced risk of contamination. But a pre-flight sample is a necessity. Just ask John! I'm not sure his underpants ever recovered but he flew a perfect aborted take-off to land ahead in a field ahead. Lots of practice and a pedantic instructor paying dividends.

Happy New Flying Year, chaps and chappesses. On your first flight back in the saddle be ready for all eventualities and, planned or (like John) unplanned, keep it Rubber Side Down!

Something gyro related to sell?

The BRA website has been undergoing many improvements recently, and we'd like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the new For Sale section. Got to the [BRA website](#) and click on the For Sale tab at the top of the page.



Rotaspot Calidus 914
£49,999.00
[VIEW LISTING](#)



Rotaspot MTD Sport
£27,500.00
[VIEW LISTING](#)

If you have a gyro or anything gyro related to sell, and you'd like us to advertise it on the website, then please contact: events@britishrotorcraftassociation.co.uk

As well as being added to our website, we'll also put it in this newsletter for one issue.

Upcoming events:

You can find the BRA calendar which details all our events, and many others you might be interested on our website. You can find in in the [Events](#) section of our website. Click on the Events Calendar button.

If you have any events you'd like added to our calendar, then please feel free to send an email to: events@britishrotorcraftassociation.co.uk

Keep checking back as we'll soon be adding new official BRA events for 2025!

Spring Fly-in And Camp, Deenethorpe

April 5 - 6

Fly-in and camp at this gyro friendly airfield with a huge runway. Toilets and cafe on site. The BRA sponsored event for members is Free. As many circuits as you like and camping are all free. Mogas is available in 20ltr cans at cost. We will also have exclusive use of the Marquee. Great venue and plenty of time to get it in your diary.



Popham Microlight Trade Fair And BRA AGM

May 3 - 4

Always a very popular event on the Gyro calendar, held at Popham Airfield, Winchester, Hants is the Microlight Trade Fair where annually, manufacturers and organisations present the new and the best in GA. This year it is Saturday 3rd May and Sunday 4th May 2025.

Last year was disappointing as the then new organiser was not aware of the Gyro community and our pitches were all over the place. We have been assured that was a one off and that all gyro related organisations will be in the same area.

As we have in previous years, the BRA will be holding its AGM at 13:00 on the Saturday 3rd May, so if you are interested in where we are, joining the committee or proposing change, then please come along and get involved.



Spamfield, Sandown Isle Of Wight**May 23 - 27**

One of the GA's most popular events held annually at Sandown Airport on the Isle of Wight. On the last Bank Holiday Weekend in May this really is an unmissable opportunity to Fly, Eat, Drink and be Merry. Camping, Showers, Great Food and Drink and only a short taxi ride to some of the best beaches in the South.

Free landing and camping for BRA members.

**Kirkbride Fly-in****May 24**

An open invitation to all to experience the beautiful Cumbrian location that is Kirkbride. The Airfield host this event annually and each year more things to see, do and experience are added. Chris Jones Gyroplanes is based there and I'm sure he would love to see on the day.

Free landing for BRA members.

**Mass Gyro Fly-in, Sherburn in Elmet****July 11 - 13**

The BRA are excited about at the opportunity of hosting an event further north. This Mass Gyro Fly-in is more accessible to members than any event we have ever held. Sherburn in Elmet are really looking forward to hopefully smashing the official gyro record of 71. This as many of you will know was set in 2022 at Old Warden in Bedfordshire, we are though well aware that that is far too far south for many of you to come.

Landing and Camping will be free to BRA paid up members so if you haven't joined us yet please do. We look forward to seeing you and enjoying North Yorkshires beautiful scenery and great hospitality.

Arrive Friday onwards. Event dates 11th - 13th July 2025



For Sale:

Got a gyro to sell? Or maybe a gyro related item? Please contact:

events@britishrotorcraftassociation.co.uk

They will put your items on the BRA website For Sale area until you tell us it's sold. It will also appear in this newsletter for one issue.

Advertise your gyro for sale here for free!

(Or any other gyro related items)