



Cloudbopper News

Issue Number 107

July / August 2018

Hello Folks and welcome to the latest Newsletter.

Bang into the middle of summer and low and behold we have a heatwave. Since the last newsletter we have had an explosion of hopper activity and therefore here is what we have for you in this issue.

- Todi turns into a hopper fest.
- John Hilditch compares old LBL verses Lindstrand Tech.
- A Kubicek Hopper, what a rarity!
- Four go out to play in Northants.
- G-HEAL spreading the word.
- The Omm 2018 – update.
- New Balloons
- Second hand balloons update including ex G-CESX.
- Interesting photos.
- EASA to ditch balloons under 42,000 sizes

Please send to me your items for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter to the email address below. Without any more waiting let's get into the newsletter

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1, Ed Speak- A round up

Since we last put "pen to paper" there have been some very interesting events from a hopper perspective. There have also been others that didn't. For example, he says biting his tongue, I was very under whelmed by the Big Bristol Fiesta 40th event. Loads of old tack displayed didn't impress me and considering the events stature I would have thought they could have attracted better shapes. Little cloudbopper content was visible with only a couple present and of those, mine was up for longest as I tried to support Cameron Balloons who had found themselves in a situation where they had little with their artwork available as they had recently had a selling spree. On the one flyable slot when over 110 flew I decided to remain in the arena for an hour and put G-CJWY on a 40 foot Tether.



Bristol action By Dan Leek.

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However, I was shortly joined by Derek Maltby who insisted I super soaked me from his Cameron O-31 G-CJRK. Elsewhere, we have witnessed an event in Northants where four pilots decided just to go fly together, and also in Todi Italy the Sagrantino event turned into a hopper fest with no less than 10 active during the fortnight.

Steve Roake

2, Essential Extras –

Nothing of any note this month for this section.

3, The Features Section. –

Todi turns into a hopper Fest

The Sagrantino Cup is a regular annual balloon festival that has been popular with Brits for years, with its format being that flying is only done in the mornings. This popular event has got to the size that this year the balloons were launched from two sites, one in Todi and one in Sagrantino. Supported by Lindstrand Technologies, the event is based in a beautiful part of Italy and whilst it is quite a long drive for teams, such is the popularity that in a lot of cases teams send their vehicles down to the event and half fly to join them later. The event for 2018 ran from 22nd July right through to August 5th and whilst most teams didn't do the whole event, as its free entry, you come and go as you please. A lot of teams enjoyed up to thirteen slots of flying and in many cases, where you have a team of five, you sometimes find they have more than one pilot and so take a hopper with them. This year was no exception and when you count up the total number of hoppers that were flown during the event it comes to 10. A few of our members had the opportunity to fly the Lindstrand Tech series 1-31 G-CJHV, and it makes an interesting comparison to hear their views (elsewhere in this edition), compared to their own LBL 25A.

With glorious weather in Umbria and picturesque vineyards to fly over, who can blame them for taking advantage of the condition

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Two of the eleven present -photo by Bob Garnett.

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Whilst no way suggesting this is the complete list the following hoppers were seen at Todi.

G-CJHV Lindstrand Technologies S1-31
G-CKHJ Ultramagic H-31
G-CISJ Ultramagic H-31
G-CJXK Cameron O-31
G-CJRK Cameron O-31
G-SIPP Lindstrand 35A
G-CEAY Ultramagic H-42
G-CBZJ Lindstrand 25A
G-BXXU Colt 31A
G-CIET Lindstrand 31A

Whilst some teams go forpart of the event it seems that the event is as popular as ever hence the need for two launch sites.



G-SIPP LBL 35A – photo by Bob Garnett.

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Many thanks to Bob Garnett who supplied the photos for this article.

Kubicek build a rare hopper

Whilst Kubicek have always had a 31,000 cubic foot balloon in their product listings, the idea of a kubicek hopper is a rarity. To my knowledge they have built two balloons of this size in the past (listed as a BB9E). Neither of these was particularly orientated to a hopper offering, so it came as a nice surprise when recently there was a posting on Cloudhoppers on Facebook about the registering of OY-NON.



OY-NON Kubicek on test inflation Type is a BB9E c/n 1465.
Photo by Kubicek.

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What is even better is the story behind this balloon and the fact that it is a wedding present for owners Nanna H Madsen and Neils Hvid. The envelope weighing in at a very respectable 35 kgs is designed utilising Nanna's favourite colours.



So if you are into something different , give your local kubicek dealer a call. And wishing the happy couple a great life together with their new toy. I would be very interested to see how this balloon lasts over the fullness of time in the knowledge that Polyester balloons are supposed to outlast their Nylon cousins. The weight is very good when you consider it is a totally different fabric utilised for production.



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John Hilditch- compares The Lindstrand Tech hopper verses his LBL25A

John Hilditch is a seasoned hopper pilot, who is in a unique position to cast his appraisal on the Lindstrand tech Series 1-31 G-CJHV having flown it in Todi, against the LBL 25A that he has owned for a number of years. I specifically asked him for his views as the Lindstrand Tech has as yet not been reviewed and I thought it would be appreciated if the first thoughts came from an independent voice.

So in his own words here is John's thoughts.

A few Statistics first

LBL 25A = G-CBZJ – 48 kg (Me 87kgs)

Lindstrand Tech 31A -30kgs (Me 87kgs)

It was my third visit to the Sargrantino Cup in Umbria Italy, centred in Todi and Guardo Cattaneo.

Whilst in 2016 we had taken our Airtour 31 G-BKVV, which as it turned out had its last flight there in 2016, in itself another story, this year Tom (Hilditch) and Put Matt Billings drove down our kit including our Lindstrand 25A G-CBZJ. Niall and Liz Rowan and I, flew out from Stansted to Perugia, courtesy of Ryan Air.

As a result, we had 3 pilots and Matt as Put was intent on obtaining his recommendation flights with Lee Hooper and GFT, which he passed with Crispin Williams later that week.

Weighing in at 87 kgs. is, we had calculated on the load charts that anything over 22 deg C, was very close to the limits and from experience, even with a 40 litres Cameron tank, I would be lucky with anything more than 45 minutes duration and that was pushing it, for those of you familiar our ex Lindstrand demo, is 48kg and has the appliqué artwork thus reducing the disposal lift.

Fortunately, Lee Hooper was kind enough to lend our group the Lindstrand Tech 31 G-CJHV, which is a light weight and benefit of the extra volume.

Duration was estimated at 90 minutes with my weight and 40 litre tank.

My only issue, as with many hopper pilots is the fact that as I wear varifocals, it is very difficult to view the stainless steel 'mirror' (even with a Tim Ward mod of mirror and compact mirror to act as a periscope) so I relay on temp calculation and always err on the side of caution.

I've been known to land, check gauge and fly on!

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G-CBJZ with its newer cousin G-CJHV.

Inflation is simple with a larger mouth than I'm used to and in very calm conditions, you can almost get away with no one on the crown. I was told like with our other hopper that the parachute can stall very quickly, but rarely do I need to use the parachute, until final landing.

I took off to the back of the pack of the other balloons and decided initially to stay low picking up a lot more right than anticipated. This was all very well but I seemed to be tracking perilously close to the Oil fuelled power station, associated wires and rising ground, forested area and then a busy valley.

The balloon was responding perfectly with very light and variable winds, but within 30 minutes having not really travelled at all far, I contemplated an early landing, rather than slow or becalmed over the wires, forest or into the valley.

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However, then I saw it, free range pigs on a small holding, boars and the old familiar semi-circular pig sty which, as I was about to find out held the weaners.

With whisper burner and keeping a close eye on the pigs I crossed a small ridge, cooled and descended into a very small field surrounded on three sides by trees, the curl over was pushing me, towards the trees, so cutting the fuel and a small tug on the parachute and the whole balloon came down. Yes, they do stall very, very easily.

Okay, rough idea where I was and I send a drop pin, when two guys arrive in a small Fiat car, drive up to the deflated envelope and speaking in Italian, they are the pig farmers – oh Shit!

Giovani and Brando and I shake hands, I make gestures, they talk and I don't understand.



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They help me pack up the balloon and load it into the back seat and boot of their vehicle, gesture for me to get in and Brando drives, while Giovanna follows on foot. We stop, we get out and he climbs a fence feeding and watering his pigs, back in the car, we stop at his farm, he shows me his cows, hens, a tractor with no tyres, the completely destroyed tyres, three large boars in the shade, had they escaped? scared by the balloon? we climb a fence and a dozen are so weaners are feeding on their mum, none have been trampled to death! He shows me a machine for grinding the chicken and pig feed and beckons me into his home, whereupon he produces a knife, and urges me to go down into the basement, he opens a huge fridge in which is hanging half a pig and another with sausages curing. He produces a bottle of water, Sagrantino (what turned out to be home-made) wine, bread and cuts the salami into thin slices. He disappears and comes back with a bap stuffed with Pork and a 50 cl beer bottle with Sagrantino.

There is talk of taking me to see Sonny who maybe speaks English, I offer him some Euros but he declines and back in his car we are on our way to Bastado Market to meet Sonny who has a Porcero Market Stall. I'm offered other pork meats and Sonny tells me he studied in Birmingham, and we exchange anecdotes.

Brando takes me back to Parco Aquarosso and right up to the refuelling point, we shake hands and I offer him money, he refuses again.

Needless to say, we returned to the market in Bastado and bought lots of his produce.

Why doesn't this happen in England.

Comparisons Like for Like

The LTL 31 envelope is made from a light weight material and the bag which seems tiny all comes in at 30kg, significantly less than the LBL 25A. The envelope is a 24-gore based on their Series 1 range and from talking to the factory they are working on a different envelope variant, although they have yet to release their bottom end yet.

Interestingly, whilst we'd all like to see it ASAP they have indicated they are trying different things and with the intention of building everything in, house with their new machines. I believe it is also being quite closely tied with their new composite cylinder.

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The first notable difference was the really big mouth, much better than the older LBL hoppers that had very narrow mouths and should save a lot on burn damages. Inflation with such a large mouth was uneventful and no crew required at the bottom end, other than the usual help with strapping in etc.



John Hilditch (centre) with his new best mates.

The parachute is also a generous size, the envelope also has full load tapes verses the older types that had the quarter tapes.

Overall, my existing LBL 25A weighs 50kg so flying a larger envelope which was lighter was a nice change. Difficult to compare fuel consumption as not like for like. Due to the lightness of the envelope if you put a big burn in, you do get a jolt as the envelope lifts, that take a bit of getting used to, but have experienced that with the 25A too.

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Overall a great flight but would like to fly an old LBL 31 to really be able to compare like for like. It will be interesting to see where they go with their hopper project.

John Hilditch
Many thanks, for those observations and your opinion of the latest Lindstrand Technology Hopper. We all await the bottom end innovations and look forward to seeing it in the near future-Ed.

Four go out to play

I got sent this photo back in July from Martyn Turner who had been flying on the 22nd. Nothing particularly strange about that I hear you say. But when was the last time you went for a local flight and three other hopper friends came along for the crack? This is exactly what occurred from Clipston Northants.

This beautiful photograph sums up the fun they had together taken by



Martyn's daughter Megan and features from left to right, Robert Lovell, Martyn Turner, Tim Wilkinson and Andy Austin.



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By all accounts they had a lovely flight and will probably repeat the experience with potentially others joining them at some stage in the Future. Many thanks to Martyn for sharing the experience.

G-HEAL – a hopper with a mission.

Well ive seen some things in my time, but I have to say even I think this one is a “curved ball”. Mark Warne, Commercial Pilot and friend, recently told me of a unique use for hos local churches recent acquisition G-HEAL which is a Lindstrand Technologies Series 1-31 (c/n 073).

Mark is Chairman and acting Chaplain to Trinity Balloons, a national, multi-denominational project to take Gods word to the skies. This isn't something new, they have very successfully been perusing their mission to put God's message in the skies; at events, in great landscapes, or captured for film and social media for 15 years. The team fly hot air balloons branded with the Christian message and use ballooning to innovate new ways of bringing communities together. In 2017 and 2018 they added a couple of bespoke 60,000 cubic feet Lindstrand Tech balloons with “Jesus Loves You” and “Faith, Hope, Love” emblazoned on their envelopes.



However, with the arrival of the hopper envelope they now

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have the ability to take their message into other environments. As Mark explained to me recently, Trinity Balloons CIC is a dedicated Christian volunteer ministry based on Dartmoor. Established in 2003 by Christian-hearted aerial work balloonists, it has used professional skills and equipment to support charities, communities and missions around the globe.

In 2015, it restructured to focus on its own pioneering ministry, putting gospel messages on bespoke balloons. The team has recently added two pioneering LTL-S2-60's active in the UK, branded 'Jesus Loves You' and 'Faith Hope Love'.



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In 2018, the project commissioned an LTL-S1-31 specifically for community use all year-round. Its purpose is to be cold inflated in small spaces or indoors for secular schools talks, church healing prayer space and as a stage for film/photography. With that in mind, it is made of white ripstop for diffused light and to provide a less slippery, harder wearing walking surface for children, elderly and special needs people to explore the inside space. With much of its outreach in Cornwall, the top has a St Pirran's Cross. It is matched with a Nomad bottom end to flat-pack down through church doorways.

To date, the team have not flown it – and might never do so. But, in the first couple of months, it has already recorded some 40 hours of cold inflation - and around 1,000 people have stepped inside to learn about ballooning and the Trinity Balloons mission work.

This is certainly an interesting and different way of using a hopper envelope, I would just like to thank Mark for his openness to discuss this project (as they weren't seeking publicity) and also his willingness to help ensure the accuracy of the article with me.

I am very hopeful that Mark will agree to bring G-HEAL to the forthcoming Longleat Safari event for an inflation as some stage during the weekend.

Steve Roake

40th Anniversary Bristol Balloon Festival

Celebrating an anniversary of note, Bristol Balloon Festival was a bit of a damp squib unless you are into old "past their sell by date" shaped museum pieces. Hopper content was scant with only two appearing on the Saturday morning. With a mass ascent taking place also in the knowledge that Cameron Balloons had little with their logo in place due to having sold the demo fleet, this left their own hopper on the trade stand, this left one flying lightweight 60 and my hopper. After most had flown out of the arena, I decided to have a prolonged tether to assist with promotion. Shortly after I had set up, inflated and put her on a 40 foot tether, I was joined by the water squirting Derek Maltby who was keen to utilise his super soaker whilst tethering in the BWS Cameron O-31 G-CJRK.

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So, nothing memorable to speak about and after the Saturday lift most people had seen the weather forecast and headed for home.

4, Homebuilding Section-

Alas, once again nothing to speak about other than current projects as previously discussed are still ongoing.

Advertisement

CAMERON BALLOONS

Fact 1
Easy to inflate and pack away, Cameron Hopper units are extremely simple to operate.

Fact 2
The Cameron Hopper Base Unit is a fun way to fly while having reliability, ease-of-use and comfort at its core.

Fact 3
Hoppers operate at a fraction of the running cost of a conventional hot air balloon.

Fact 4
Superb for those who want a striking visual impact for marketing campaigns and promotions.

Fact 5
Extra harness padding enhances comfort and suits all pilot heights.

THE HOPPER

Small but significant benefits make a world of difference to your flying experience.

Our design and build technology combines safety with ease-of-use and exceptional comfort.

A padded head-rest, enhanced cushioning, adjustable seat, and an adjustable light-weight, foot-rest ensures pilot comfort.

Stainless-steel hinges, on all Base Units, make transportation and storage even more convenient; the whole back-frame system folds and packs neatly, even if you prefer to leave the harness attached.

The larger "rear-view" mirrors with an independent rapid-cut-off fuel system allow the Pilot to control the Hopper effectively and safely. There is even a pocket, a perfect space for a coat or tasty snacks!

cameronballoons.co.uk sales@cameronballoons.co.uk +44(0)117 9637216

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5 Interesting Photos

Two absolute corkers to add to this section this month. The first was sent to me by Kevin Tanner but actually taken by Rob Cross.



Just one of those photos that remind you why you fly a hopper

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The Second is a stunning photo taken at Todi by Bob Garnett.

6. New Allocations This Month / Changes of Ownership

In the new allocations is actually quite an old LBL hopper. G-CKYU is an LBL 31A c/n 140 which was Belgium as OO-BXX. Now in new hands, it is all yellow in colour and is owned by Graham Dey from St Albans Herts. G-CIGA has now changed hands and is owned by Ian Chadwick who debuted "Calypso" at the recent Northampton Balloon festival. The most recent Ultramagic Balloons hopper, (c/n 31/19) is VH-IXW and is owned by Kevin Cooper who lives near Sydney in Australia.

I also got an email from Matthias Stroer from Erding in Bavaria who informed me that a group of four pilot friends have recently pitched together to buy the Cameron Z-31 c/n 11074. This as some of you may be aware, started life as a TV commercial star registered as G-CESX.

It was used in some famous Land Rover Freelander 2 advertising featuring both Ian Ashpole and Jo Bailey. Whilst the balloon

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now lives in Bavaria, its latest registration is Austrian as OE-SII.
For anyone nostalgic here is a link to its glory days.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soMZN_EArw8



OE-SII Cameron Z-31 in Bavaria

Many thanks to Matthius for the timely update and the stunning photograph.

Advertisement

Cameron O-26 "Stock Hopper" for sale exclusively to Cloudhoppers.org

This beautiful O-26 joins the O-31 we advertised for sale last month.

C/n 12248 is fully cut and in build right now so will be available for delivery within the month. Specification includes the Scoop and is priced at £7335 excluding VAT and delivery.

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To purchase the current offering please contact Cameron Balloons directly on +44(0)117 9637216, quoting the code "CAM01SJR" and ask to speak to either Craig or Simon about the Cameron O-26 that is on the Cloudboppers page.

O-26 : Stock

1 of 1



V20.954	Fabric Colours Used:	Envelope SUPERLIGHT	
Artwork: -			
August 2018	Scoop / Nomex : YELLOW	Load Tape Colour: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black	
Designer: WO	<small>This visual is for guidance purposes only. Because of the limitations of graphic representation, colour scheme and artwork will be defined by the final order document.</small>		

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Second Hand Movements

Proving that I'm not right every time and that this section is only my opinion, Andrew Gregory caught up with me at Bristol Balloon festival to delightfully tell me I was wrong and that G-OBAB his old LBL35A sold really quickly, proving his evaluation was correct. The new owner is Marcus Green from Birmingham.



First Flight with new owner Ian Chadwick, G-CIGA Um H-42
seen at the recent Northampton(Billing) Festival.



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7. Gallery Pages –

Your Editor's choice of new and interesting hoppers and duo's active in the world of ballooning right now. G-PIXE is a rare beast that is now for sale.



G-PIXE Colt 31A Manufactured 2000 35 hours only. Has rotation vents and "See Safe" Windows in parachute. 60kgs. ARC renewed 31/07/2018 Fabric in excellent condition throughout. Light scorch marks on nomex. £3500 ono.

Contact David McCutcheon 07946 376625
Email david@airborne.co.uk

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Lovely new Ultramagic H-31, VH-IXW c/n 31/19
Photo with thanks Joseph Llado.

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8, Manufacturer / Event News/ Industry News

One Man Meet 2018

Just a quick update from John Tyrrell about this year's One Man Meet. John Has confirmed that the launch site will be south of Chipping Norton in the Cotswolds just like last year.

The dates have already been confirmed as Friday 5th October from 3pm going right through until around lunchtime on 7th. The Meet will be held at The Wychwood Golf Club, Lyneham, near Chipping Norton and the postcode is OX7 6QQ.

One idea in recent years that John and Wendy have tried to push forward is the gathering of everyone for a social on the Friday evening, with a view of everyone getting together so for 2018 they have arranged with the golf course for a carvery style dinner (or vegetarian alternative), at a cost of £16-00 pre-booked in advance with your entrance fee. Cost for the event is a mere £15-00 per balloon and if at this stage you still don't have an entry form please contact them at onemanmeet@btinternet.com . I'll see you there.

Finally, I'm delighted to confirm prizes for the event are being donated by both Cameron Balloons Limited and by Cloudhoppers.org.

Late News

I may have the essence of the announcement wrong but it seems EASA wants to hand legislation of balloons below 42,000 cubic feet size to national authorities. The proposal will see UK balloons revert to the Civil Aviation Authority rulings which I think I'm right in saying means the UK will run in a very similar way to ANNEX 2.

I will try and get some definitive judgement on the statement but I think the less beaurocracy we have in private ballooning surely the better. Let's hope this leads to greater freedom of choice for pilots to choose between EASA or Annex 2 as their way to proceed and whilst this disclosure is an early indication of what will probably happen, it is by no means set in stone yet and the BBAC and CAA are in discussions as to which would be the best way forward for pilots in the UK.

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Personally, I would love to see legislation for hoppers to more mimic that of the microlight community and ultimately, I'd love the freedom that pilots in the USA get when flying at their own risk under an Experimental category.

Naturally when more substance appears on this very emotive subject I will endeavour to publish as soon as it becomes apparent.

Facebook membership continues to rise with the current level of 1219 (correct to 5th September), current and still rising. Let's hope this trend continues.

All articles for inclusion in future issues will be gratefully received by your Editor. Please forward them to steve.roake33@gmail.com

Feedback good, bad or indifferent is always welcome.

Views aired by contributors may not be those of the Editor.

Safe and happy hopping! **Steve Roake.**

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