



# Scottish Airsports Club

## Latest News

Issue 27, August 2005



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### Forthcoming Events

#### Scottish Aerotow Club Open Competition 19th - 21st August 2005

The Scottish Aerotow Club will be holding an Open Competition on the weekend of 20th-21st August 2005, with a practice/familiarisation day on Friday 19th August. For non aerotow rated pilots we may be flying from some of the local hills in addition to towing, and there may be basic aerotowing tuition available. Tows will be available from 1pm on Friday 19th.

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### New Tug Pilot on the Way?

Congratulations to Willie Russell who recently got his first solo microlight flight under his belt. Sue says "The picture below shows a very happy Willie Russell having just completed his first solo cross-country from Cumbernauld to Thornhill in microlight G-MWRN. He has been taught by our resident microlight instructor Richard Cook. When I asked Willie if he wanted to write anything to accompany this photo for the newsletter, his comment was, "Got there, got back, still alive"!

Just a few more hours solo, a couple of cross country flights and a GFT to go! Good luck with the rest of your training Willie!



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### Celtic Cup 2005 by Bob Dunthorn

This (usually) annual friendly flying comp is normally rotated between the Celtic nations: Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Iceland and the odd trip to Cornwall and Brittany. This year our hosts were Iceland and most of us went for a week to include the 3 day Celtic Cup and Nordic International.

Traditionally a hang glider event, paragliders have been welcomed in recent rounds, but other than the local Icelanders, there was only a lone US one. Bruce Goldsmith has done a lot to encourage the local paras the last few years.

Having pre-booked our gliders on Icelandair we arrive at Glasgow airport to be met by Miss Nasty Bitch Jobsworth who does her best to keep us grounded. Eventually after extensive security hassles we are on our way to point blank and only 3 turn up, sans gliders. Our 7-strong Scottish contingent (including the women) are met by friendly Icelanders and we are transported to a summer house log cabin in the country. The area is a cross between Scotland and Lanzarote. We do some tourist stuff in the cloud, wind and rain before heading to the competition base at Hella, an hour's 50km from Reykjavik.

The sun comes out to play so we head to a bloody great mountain 40 km away. It is multidirectional and the 4x4s take us up to the launch. The first task is a down-wind dash back to the campsite. The early pilots get away well but the wind then becomes light and variable (my favourite, especially with rocky take-off). After a 1½ hour wait I can brave the launch behind 2 Welsh pilots (on borrowed gliders). They bomb out but I take a broken climb to 5000' asl only to be met by an increasing sea breeze. I end up on the deck after about 10km along the course. There are no incidents and everyone enjoys some airtime, except the paras.

Day 2 is on the same hill, though different launch and another downwind dash. The take off is more intimidating, but Jamie the US para shows how to do it. There are some hairy hang glider launches and once again the earlier pilots get the best conditions. By the time I launch the wind has picked up which helps my take off, but not the task – another 10km on the clock. And this time I do a stand-up landing! The remaining paras do not fly so everyone is safe at the end of the day.

Day 3 was cloudy and windy so the task is cancelled. The 2005 Celtic Cup winners are Iceland, followed by Scotland then Wales; there was no Irish representation this year. We all had a great holiday with great company.

Unfortunately my camera broke during the trip so no photos, but there will be a DVD out by the time you read this.

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## Microlight News

Sue has kindly asked that all microlight pilots ensure that their aircraft are not only well away from the hangar when running the engine, but also that there are no other aircraft or hang gliders around that could be affected by the prop wash. Sue also sent in the following photographs. The first shows local resident Pod Buchanan from Buchclyvie having completed his first flight in a microlight with Richard Cook. The second picture is of Scott MacMillan's new Rans fixed wing aircraft - a new resident in the hangar, having sold his flexwing.



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