

FAI Microlight Commission

GBR Microlight Report 2010



Microlight activity

The general economic situation has affected sales and registration of new aircraft, but flying activity levels have not changed a great deal; a UK microlight flies on average 58 hours per year. BMAA membership is static at around 4000 members and 2250 aircraft in permit. The sub-115kg class continues to grow, with over 70 aircraft now sold and new types being brought to market.

Our annual fly-in, "Spamfield", was a great success with nearly 400 aircraft flying in. We also organised a fly-past over Wootton Bassett, where UK military casualties are repatriated, in honour of our service men and women. Over 135 aircraft took part and raised £2000 for charity.

Competitions

BMAA had the honour of organising the 2010 FAI European Microlight Championships in Sywell, Northamptonshire (see separate report). The event was considered by the jury report to be a success. British competitors flew very successfully, gaining 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medals in the three categories along with Gold in the Team prize.

The UK Nationals comprised 6 separate weekend competitions, which were well attended. There were some new competitors for 2010 who were welcomed and performed very respectably.

Representation

BMAA actively represents its members in many ways, engaging with the UK CAA as well as through the Royal Aero Club, European Microlight Federation, Europe Air Sports and, of course, FAI. We put a lot of effort into European regulation and remain very concerned about the direction EASA have taken so far.

BMAA was consulted during the recent EASA HAWK study into microlighting and we were pleased with the recommendations published to date.

We are currently discussing with UK CAA a change to the way in which UK microlights are regulated in the UK. This would involve a move towards the audit of manufacturers rather than exhaustive testing of individual aircraft (similar to the US LSA system).

Rob Hughes
BMAA Chairman
November 2010