



Jim Hambleton with Gordon Faulkner and Foxbat

it appears to suit the circumstances and enables the board to take easy but illegitimate options rather than to apply itself to doing things properly.

In the last few days before writing, there have been signs that the BMAA Council is now mindful of these issues but at the time of my submitting this letter no action has been announced.

I have suggested a December AGM at a popular aviation venue such as IWM Duxford, where I hope we would get a good group rate, but I now await further developments.

I have assured the BMAA Council that they can count on my full support for such a proposal and assistance with ensuring quorate attendance. I hope that a further announcement will put things right.

Best regards to all,

Rick Goddin

Rick, many thanks. As you'll see in our news section, Geoff Weighell has just secured council agreement to hold a 2017 AGM at Deddington on 16 December – Ed.

The man's a gent

DEAR EDITOR

What a delight to see a photograph of Gordon Faulkner in the magazine – a real gentleman if ever there was one.

I first met him when I flew to Shobdon in 1987 in my Flash 1 to talk to John Hollins, who ran the microlight school there.

He was also the Mainair agent, and the object of the visit was to talk about purchasing a new Flash 2 Alpha, which had just been put on the market.

After a discussion about the trade-in value of my Flash 1, a deal was struck pending a test flight, and John asked Gordon if he would care to take me up and check it out.

It was quite one of the most exciting flights that I have ever experienced, with one abiding memory of Gordon putting it into a spiral dive over some woodland which only finished when we were close enough to inspect the birds' nests at very close quarters.

Many years later, in 2002, I had my Streak Shadow hangared at Otherton, where Gordon was based, and I enquired about the Foxbat, which he was the agent for.

Needless to say, after he had again frightened me to death by showing me what the Foxbat was capable of, I was hooked and went home to talk to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, aka my wife, about a forthcoming debt.

The kit was duly delivered from the Ukraine just before Christmas 2004 – what a present from Santa! – and Gordon, generous-hearted soul that he is, said that I could use his hangar and workbench to put it all together, and he would put his Foxbat in my hangar until my aircraft was completed.

This was duly done and the aircraft test flown by Gordon with me as passenger – not again!

Shortly after, I moved to South Africa and took the Foxbat with me, where it never let me down and I enjoyed hundreds of hours looking at the wildlife from above – far safer!

Gordon, you are a star.

Jim Hambleton

Immortalised in oils

DEAR EDITOR

In March, as I was getting ready to go flying at Perth, there was a bloke wandering around taking photos of the various aircraft.