

RAANZ AGM2017 Technical Report

The environment for the maintenance of microlights has become increasingly more challenging in the last while. The changing of the guard at the regulator has indeed made this task more difficult and often the answers are not all that easy to understand nor relate to the current set of rules.

Your executive committee has worked tirelessly over a long period of time to try and educate the members of our organisation and to encourage and facilitate a club based safer environment for all our members. We have travelled up and down the country to keep abreast with the very latest ideas and encourage a solid safety culture.

Yes, the goal posts and requirements have moved. But have the goal posts of our sport and recreation also moved? I believe so. We now fly better, faster, fancier more advanced aircraft than most of us ever thought possible. So yes, you all want to change to the latest mobile phone and accept all the responsibilities associated with all its new features. So please be accepting of some of the more technical aspects of your aircraft. The maintenance of some of your aircraft may require some professional input to remain compliant and yes, it does cost money.

Spare a thought for our IAs who continuously have to up-skill in order to assess the airworthiness of your aircraft. The secret is in the admission that you are no longer able to easily do what the manufacturer of the aircraft requires you to do to maintain airworthiness.

There is however some confusion as to the interpretation of some rules and we are working very hard to obtain clarity on these issues.

We have requested the regulator to explore the option in some cases of "on condition" maintenance.

We are also exploring the option to be able to extend the maintenance latitude for annual flight permit revalidation.

I believe we will achieve these objectives over time including a general type approval for ADSB transponders and their installation.

I wish to thank the executive for their efforts and also really appreciate the work that is done by our IAs' around the country. I wish you all well for the forthcoming festive season and wish you all great flying weather.

Fly safe! Colin Alexander