

## **Tech Report 2012**

This year has certainly been a most challenging year.

The restructure of the CAA has had a serious impact on the way we conduct ourselves as we go about our business in the microlight community.

Firstly, the MTOW of a microlight has increased to 600kg. This does not imply that you may now re-placard your aircraft and increase the maximum take-off weight. In order to do this, the manufacturer must approve the increased weight and also have tested the aircraft at that weight. If you wish to increase the weight on your home built aircraft, you will have to put it back on a test program to prove the flight characteristics at the increased weight and a test pilot will have to endorse the logbook and the placards will have to change and all weight and balance implications will have to be considered.

The move of Rex Kenny from our area of CAA is indeed a tragedy and I am sure that we all extend our gratitude for all that Rex has achieved in our interest. Many of you don't have any idea how much time and effort goes into keeping everything on the straight and narrow.

As far as the certification of new aircraft is concerned, it is taking a while for the personnel in the certification unit to get their heads around Part 103 and the different sorts of microlights that fall in this category.

It is important to be well prepared when you are going through this progress as ill preparation will lead to a large additional cost being added onto your bill.

More attention is being paid to logbooks and although the inspectors would prefer to turn all our microlights into fully certified aircraft, we need to be familiar with the rules and make sure that we do what is required and are not forced to do things that are not required which then become the norm.

We are still able to address Airworthiness Directives in the back of our Airframe logbooks.

I think that we owe our inspection authorities a vote of thanks for the great duty they perform and we are all aware that the demands placed upon them have increased.

Although my opportunity to travel around and meet more IAs has been limited in the last twelve months, I hope that I will be able to catch up with the North Island IAs as soon as it can be organised.

I wish to place on record my gratitude to the executive council who have done an amazing job in extremely challenging circumstances in the last twelve months.

Colin Alexander  
Technical Officer