

ALL BRITAIN MODEL AIRCRAFT RALLY

SPONSORED BY ST. ALBANS MODEL AERO CLUB

Ref.: ABR/53/3.

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Release: IMMEDIATE.

St. Albans 5953.

BIGGEST MODEL 'PLANE SHOW.

As far as possible

Final Preparations.

Organisers of the ALL BRITAIN RALLY, with less than a week to go, are making last-minute preparations for the model flying "event of the year" at Radlett Aerodrome, Herts., next Sunday, 20th September. Should the weather be kind, it is firmly expected to be the biggest model flying meeting ever held in Great Britain.

No Outside Sponsorship.

It is not generally realised that the ALL BRITAIN RALLY (formerly the All Herts Model Aircraft Rally) has no commercial sponsorship whatsoever, neither has the St. Albans Model Aero Club any wealthy members or patrons to support the meeting. It is, in fact, by far the biggest unsponsored model flying meeting anywhere in the world, catering for 1,000 competitors in 16 contests, with extra attractions, in some of which they can take part, for the more than 15,000 spectators expected.

In order that the Rally may take place, the organising committee works continually throughout the year and no St. Albans club member is permitted to enter any contest, since each has a regular job on the aerodrome. Profits are not the aim (in fact, the club has donated £150 to the Rally since its 1946 inception); rather is it a desire to do something constructive for fellow model fliers and to demonstrate to the general public the intimate connection between aeromodelling and air-mindedness.

Message from Sir Frederick Handley Page.

It is, of course, only through the cooperation and great assistance of Sir Frederick Handley Page and his staff that the Rally takes place. In a message to the organisers, for publication in the Programme, Sir Frederick states (in part):

"The Wright brothers were among the earliest to make scientific use of models in solving the problem of flight. Since that time, models have become inseparable from progress as they help to give the answers to aeronautical problems in sonic wind tunnels such as is seen on the aerodrome where you meet. Today it is impossible to draw the line between the model and the real thing - for what are guided missiles but highly ingenious models brought to a pitch of near-diabolical perfection.

"I wish luck to the All Britain Model Aircraft Rally.....Radlett Aerodrome, used to the roar of jets and the poetry of great crescent wings, for one day will enjoy aeronautics on a smaller scale."

Cont.....

Many Novel Features.

The Rally caters for every kind of flying model and has been responsible for many innovations. Among these are the following:

Seaplanes. The only Seaplane Contest in Britain at a general Rally. Models may be powered by rubber, mechanical motors or jets, and take off from a twenty-foot-long portable "lake".

Radio Control. In 1952 (and probably in 1953) by far the best supported such event in Europe, with dozens of entries and many fine flights.

Team Racing. Four planes at a time in a circle, fighting for position at nearly 100 m.p.h. over heats of 5 miles (80 laps) and a Final of 10 miles. More than 100 entries are expected in the two classes for different sizes of models.

Jetex International Contest. Finals of the world-wide competition for "Jetex" jet-powered models. Most foreign entries will be flown by proxy.

"Spectator Participation". Most popular innovation of 1952 was a competition in which spectators were enabled to fly small gliders provided by the organisers, with prizes of nylons and whisky for the best attempts. In 1953 the idea has been greatly extended, with more prizes and delta-wing "arrowplanes" for flying. In addition, visitors will probably be able to try their hand at flying a powered control-line model.

Speed Record Attempts. Many records have been broken at Radlett since the All Herts Rally introduced Speed Flying to Britain. As always, full provision has been made for record attempts and several are expected.

Radio Recovery Service. Through facilities provided by Pye Telecommunications Ltd., the Recovery Service for models flying outside the aerodrome has been extended, and now makes use of radiotelephones, G.P.O. phones, cars and motorcycles, and observers at the highest point in the locality - by far the most complex such system ever seen.

ADMISSION.

Admission is by Programme, price 1/- at the Gate; car parking is free. Radlett is easily reached by road or rail, the Aerodrome Gates being on A.5.

PRESS FACILITIES.

In case of emergency landings, no vehicles are normally allowed on the airfield. The only exceptions are Official cars and Press cars bearing a SPECIAL label. Press labels for cars are unlikely to be available on the field, but may be obtained previously on application. N.B. The aerodrome is more than 2500 yards long.

Passes and car labels are obtainable on request from the Press Officer, K.J.A. Brookes. Programmes are also available.