

Motion before LAA AGM 19 Oct 2025

It is proposed that the Board actively considers reviewing the date of the annual LAA Rally from its current September timeslot to its "historical" slot which it has occupied in previous years ie July. The Board is requested to report back to members on its findings.

Proposed: Alan Lovejoy

Seconded: Bob Howarth

Background to Motion: (Alan Lovejoy).

The traditional date to hold the LAA, formerly PFA, Rally was on a date in July, often coinciding with the Wimbledon tennis final. However, after a number of wet years it was decided to move the rally to a September slot in the hope of achieving a more stable weather pattern. It has been held in the August/September slot for in excess of 10 years.

September is not the best month to hold a weekend event. Met Office records for the recent 10-year period show that on only 3 occasions could the weather be 'deemed' as being summer-like. One year showed that the maximum temperature was 14C and cloudy over the entire period. Weather patterns over the last 4 years show a more stable, settled pattern of weather in July than in September. Due to the unpredictable weather in September the SBAC show at Farnborough was moved to July.

Almost maximum daylight hours in July provide for a much-increased flying window for visitors, this could lead to an extended arrival/departure window reducing the pressure during the shorter daylight hours and providing the opportunity for evening activity.

The shorter days have precluded many visitors from both the north of the UK and from abroad. The unpredictability of the weather and shorter daylight hours often impose an extra night-stop in order to attend.

Many members still take advantage of the rally campsite. A July date would provide much improved climatic conditions for these visitors. They would be able to remain outside much later and not have to wrap-up against the cold. Last year the evening temperatures were approximately 12C with night-time lows of 6-7C. Temperatures hardly conducive to camping. The warmer and more clement weather of July could once again see an influx of families to the rally. This has been sadly lacking for several years

Rally traders could see an opportunity to extend trading hours and perhaps hold evening functions to promote their goods.

This proposal could be envisaged as a major change, but it isn't. The move has been done once so can easily be done twice.

I urge you all to consider the motion carefully and ask you to vote in favour of moving the rally back to a July Date.

Board Response:

The Board does not oppose the Motion. However it does not concur with all the arguments advanced for a change in date for the Rally. The Board welcomes the opportunity for a constructive discussion on the issue to ensure that the rally continues to meet the interests of members and promote the objectives of the LAA to future generations of sport and recreational aviators and enthusiasts whilst ensuring that it remains deliverable and viable. The board will continue to report to members on the plans and preparations for the annual rally through the magazine, website and social media in the normal manner.