



SHE FLIES!

Biggles' Biplane Returns To The Skies

Tuesday 10th May: A little before six in the evening, with a light breeze blowing right down the line of Runway 23 at Northampton's Sywell aerodrome. Tuesday evening provided perfect conditions for Biggles Biplane's first flight after a six year-long restoration.



Picture courtesy of Damien Burke

The flight which lasted just under 20 minutes, revealed excellent handling characteristics and the BE-2s legendary stability. A couple of minor snags such as an oil leak and a slightly over-rich mixture setting were noted, but the first flight is only the start of the flight test programme and we're looking forward to sorting these out.

For pilot Matthew Boddington, it was a particularly special moment. His late father Charles Boddington flew the aircraft on its maiden flight in March 1969 from the same airfield.

"Biggles Biplane" is a replica of a 1914 BE2c, Britain's first purpose-built military aeroplane. Built at Sywell in 1969 for a film featuring Capt W E John' fictional hero Biggles, the aircraft was also used in TV series such as BBC TV's 'Wings', but crashed in the USA in 1977.

The remains were 'lost' until discovered in 2005, in a barn in upstate New York. Owners Stephen Slater and Matthew Boddington acquired the remains and returned them to the Northamptonshire airfield which was its birthplace.

Once flight testing is completed, the aeroplane will appear at air shows across the UK. Its unique sight and sound will pay tribute to the earliest aviators of the First World War.

Note to editors: For further images or information please contact Stephen Slater at Kingpin Media Ltd. ss@kingpinmedia.co.uk 01494 77681 or check out www.biggles-biplane.com.

Further news, photography and interviews will be available at a "FIRST FLIGHT CELEBRATION EVENT" at Sywell on Tuesday 31st May, to which you are cordially invited. Please contact us for further details.