

CLANSMAN, formerly the British & Commonwealth Review, is the magazine of the B&C group, its associated companies, staff and pensioners.

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## COVERS

Front: top, Robinson Redwing aircraft at Gatwick in 1932, on a spot now occupied by B.Cal's transport yard. Bottom, one of the same Redwings, G-ABNX, in flight south of Gatwick in July this year. It is flown by its restorer, Capt. John Potheary of British Island Airways. With him in the cockpit is his wife, formerly Jenny Probin of BUA and Jersey Airlines. See notes, page 21. Back: children in the sack race at London staff sports day, Blackheath. See picture feature, pages 24-26.

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## Thanks for the reassurance

When Redwings first flew at Gatwick there was tea with cucumber sandwiches in front of the club marquee. Ladies in long tight dresses eased themselves into folding chairs and talked—they hoped, animatedly—to gentlemen flying enthusiasts who wore clip-under ties. In those times there were always real tablecloths and real flowers, even outdoors on draughty days.

When Redwings first flew at Gatwick those people hurrying out of the Southern Railway Company's trains at the nearby station were eager to catch the "off" for the two-thirty selling handicap, not the next long-distance flight for Lagos or Rio. Racehorses ran at Gatwick where jets now taxi; most aircraft were still biplanes with fixed-pitch propellers, and among them the Robinson Redwing looked a nifty little number.

Even if you don't care a bit about aeroplanes—noisy, oily things, eh?—you have to give at least one cheer that you can still see a Redwing fly, as witness the pictures on our covers. Because for every soccer hooligan throwing beer cans there is the compensating influence of a preserver or restorer, a constructor or modeller, quietly building his life's spare time into something he wants everyone to admire.

In the Redwing's case the painstaking restorer happens to be one of our own British Island Airways people, but that is not the point. Such work is the touchstone we need for reassurance sometimes when the vandal seems to be making all the noise and the news.