

GLIDING HERITAGE CENTRE

Aircraft Summary Sheet



TYPE	Crested Wren (the second one)
Manufacturer	Bill Manuel
Year of manufacture	Completed 1986 just in time for the 14 th International VGC rally held at Lasham in August where it was displayed.
Registration marks	None (The original Crested Wren was BGA 178)
Airworthy	No, display only – built quickly and not to full airworthy standards
History	Bill Manuel built the original Crested Wren in 1931 which was the first of his “Wren” series which were further developed to become his “Kestrel” gliders. He started building the second Crested Wren in 1985, this for Barbara Reed and Chris Duffy James. It was the last glider Bill Manuel built, he died in July 1987.
Notable flights	Never flown apart from one short hop at Lasham in 1986.
Restoration history	Restored for display by Gary Pullen and John Herring in the Lasham VGC workshop. The wings in particular needed a lot of repair work.
Other	Discovered in a barn near Strensham, Gloucestershire in May 2013 and for a moment we thought the impossible had happened and it was the original Crested Wren, which would have been a priceless discovery. However, inspection showed it was unquestionably the second one completed in 1986. Once the issue of the unpaid expenses for it being stored in the barn were resolved it was brought to Lasham in August 2014.



Crested Wren in the GHC hangar (Photo courtesy of Paul Haliday)

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At Brooklands, Bill Manuel standing next to cockpit, Barbara Reed holding starboard tip



As discovered in the Strensham barn



October 2014, restoration nearly completed

Date last updated

26/04/2016