

Waterbird, the only flying replica of a primordial seaplane

The Lakes Flying Company Limited – a registered charity – has been set up to celebrate and to inform the public concerning the importance of the innovative contributions made to the development of naval and civil marine aeroplanes by Captain Edward Wakefield (1862 - 1941) and by *Waterbird*.

On 25 November 1911, at Windermere, Great Britain, *Waterbird* became the first aeroplane to successfully take off from and alight on water outside of France and the USA.



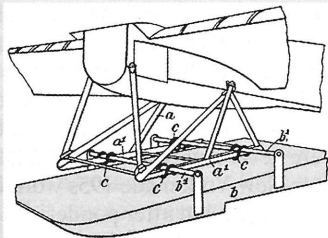
Captain Edward Wakefield

The replica has successfully flown as a seaplane at Windermere on September 23, 2022.

The original had a second-hand 7-cylinder 50hp Gnome rotary engine: the replica has a new 7-cylinder 110hp Rotec radial engine.

Anne Hughes and Ian Gee wrote on the subject the book *Waterbird - Wings over Windermere*

For more information visit the website www.waterbird.org.uk



The Wakefield's stepped float. The float and other parts have survived.

It was the world's first successful flight to use a 'stepped' float (b), which was patented by Wakefield after two years of considerable experiment so as to combine features of construction in a novel way.

The Lakes Flying Company constructed an airworthy replica of *Waterbird*. Computer modelling enabled the gathering of data and verification of the overall replica aeroplane's design. The approach was to adopt a package of measures which were mutually consistent and each beneficial, so as to maximise the likelihood of success.

