



## Chairman's Report

First of all I would like to wish all ESFC members a very happy Christmas and an excellent New Year!

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank you all for increasing the attendance at the various events which makes all the work and planning by the committee worthwhile. We plan to have some more interesting events throughout 2005 and would welcome any suggestions (or volunteers!). If you do have an idea for an event whether it is social, flying or something else (as long as it is legal) then please send me an email or catch me next time you see me at the airfield.  
[Flyer.tidmarsh@btinternet.com](mailto:Flyer.tidmarsh@btinternet.com)

There are a couple of exciting events planned for the first quarter of next year:

1. Chance to try your hand at Aeros in a Pitts under the guidance of a British Champion or if Aeros are not for you then just experience the thrill of flying this type of aircraft.
2. Trip in a Tiger Moth which will be open to family and friends.
3. Margaret's "Curry Night" at the clubhouse on 27<sup>th</sup> January for members and their partners, come along and make it a party!

For items 1 and 2 above please contact Rob Rowley and provide him with your details on either:

[rob.rowley2@btopenworld.com](mailto:rob.rowley2@btopenworld.com)

or 07710 905680

Finally, keep an eye on the club website as this should reflect all planned events: [www.esfc.org.uk](http://www.esfc.org.uk). Remember we now have Broadband installed in the clubhouse so no excuse for not obtaining the latest TAFs, METARs and NOTAMs! You can even use NavBox ProPlan to calculate your route and print out an A4 or A5 Plog.

Mike Tidmarsh



## Classic Bi-Plane Flying at the Club.

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Your committee has again strived to bring something of interest to the club. Avia Special is a company run by James Black, former British Aerobatic Team Member/Manager. Avia Special operates many interesting and classic aircraft at various fields around the U.K.

Amongst the inventory are several classic Tiger Moths. These are available for pilot experience, conversion to type or pure pleasure flights. The Tiger based at Leicester from Avia Special is piloted by our own Ed Terrell, who normally operates from Leicester alone. Avia are willing to bring the a/c to Tatenhill for a day(s) if sufficient interest is shown.

This is the more gentle form of aviation and the committee believe we could put together a good family day ranging from club pilot handling sorties to pure pleasure flights for the family/

Prices normally are circa £99 per hour although pleasure flights are shorter (cheaper) than that. The Tiger comes back on-line in April so please forward interested parties names/family groups etc to any committee member/notice board or Rob Rowley,

Once the list is completed the committee will organise the day.

The response to the Pitts S2A aerobatic flights with Alan Cassidy has been good, if we can organise a Tiger day then that is both ends of the Classic spectrum is it not?

Rob Rowley

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### Joke 1 of the Month - a true story

*Rob's colleague, Tim, was coming back to Manchester from business in Atlanta, this is what happened:*

*Delta Airlines Atlanta to Manchester Nov 16th 2004 cabin staff announcement on arrival, all done with a US Southern accent*

*"Ladies and Gentleman welcome to Manchester England, it's raining. Thank you for flying Delta. Once the aircraft has come to complete stop for disembarking could all wheelchair passengers remain seated until other passengers have left the aircraft"*

*All the Brits on board were rolling with laughter and the Yanks wondered 'why?'*

### Message from Margaret

"Just a reminder that I will not be open either Christmas or New Year weekend. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Margaret"

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### Joke 2

*O'Hare Approach Control to a 747: "United 329 heavy, your traffic is a Fokker, one o'clock, three miles, eastbound."*

*United 239: "Approach, I've always wanted to say this... I've got the little Fokker in sight."*



## **SAMPLING THE DELIGHTS OF THE ROTARY WING- OUR TRIAL FLIGHT IN A HELICOPTER**

There can be few PPL(A) pilots who have not been curious, or even enthusiastic, to try their hand at flying a helicopter. Certainly Michael and I had often talked about trying it ourselves.

The offer of a discount on a trial lesson in a helicopter was therefore too good to miss. On an overcast mid-October morning, six of us headed out to Tollerton Airfield, the home of Central Helicopters. Michael and I had hoped to arrive in G-YANK, but the cloud base at Tatenhill was well below 1,000 feet, and we reluctantly made our way over by car. Fortunately, on our arrival, the weather at Tollerton was slightly more favourable, with a cloud base at 1,200 feet and visibility improving.

We were welcomed by Phil Speechley and, because neither Michael nor I had been able to hear his talk to ESFC members, he gave us a briefing on the basic principles of flying a helicopter.

For those of you who have never had the opportunity to fly one, a helicopter can perform three things that an aeroplane cannot:

- It can fly backwards
- It can rotate in the air
- It can hover motionless

The main controls consist of:

- The cyclic-grasped by one hand-which controls direction laterally
- The collective-grasped by the other hand-which controls the vertical movements and the engine speed
- The rudder pedals-which control the tail rotor. The latter allows the craft to rotate in either direction on its axis.

A few minutes later, and after a brief walk round our Robinson R-22, G-PERE, I was strapping myself into the right hand seat, with Phil beside me. Pre-flight checks complete, and we were quickly airborne.

Immediately I began to appreciate the amazing access to three-dimensional space afforded to helicopter pilots. The ability to move laterally and backwards, and to hover, combined with the incredible all-round visibility from the cockpit, was exhilarating. The various controls are all very sensitive, but once you appreciate this, hovering becomes straightforward, and not nearly as difficult as I had always been led to believe.

We spent forty minutes in the local area, ascending and descending, moving laterally and backwards, pirouetting and hovering, and then carried out two landings on the top of a WW2 bunker, about eight feet square, on the edge of the airfield! This was followed by a practice engine failure and autorotation.

The excitement was, inevitably, over far too quickly. Phil is an excellent instructor, and Central Helicopters seem a friendly and efficient training organisation. I would certainly recommend them if any of you are considering trying your hand at flying a 'whirlybird'.

Jan Millar-Craig  
December 2004



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Joke of the Month

*A plane was taking off from Mascot Airport. After it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the captain made an announcement over the intercom, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight Number XYZ, non-stop from Sydney to Auckland. The weather ahead is good and, therefore, we should have smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax - SHIT! ARGHHH! OH, MY GOD!" Silence followed and after a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so sorry if I scared you earlier, but, while I was talking, the flight attendant brought me a cup of coffee and spilled the hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!" A passenger in Economy said, "That's nothing. He should see the back of mine!"*

You may have noticed a few more jokes have appeared in this month's issue. Joke 1 is c/o Rob Rowley the other two were supplied by Richard Bisiker. I thought, as it is the season to be jolly, why not.

On behalf of the ESFC committee and myself I'd just like to wish everyone at ESFC a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you all have a wonderful time, see you in 2005!

Alison x

### NEWSLETTER

If you have any articles for the newsletter or comments on the format, please contact Alison at [alie\\_todd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alie_todd@yahoo.co.uk).

### SOCIAL EVENTS

#### CLUB NIGHT - 30 December 2004

As it is Christmas and the party season there is no particular plan for this evening. However for those interested in getting together in the spirit of Xmas and New Year it is proposed to move this evening's gathering from the clubhouse to an alternative venue for example a pub.

#### CLUB NIGHT - 27 January 2005

**Hugh has arranged with Margaret for her to do a curry evening at the clubhouse for members and their partners.**

### OTHER EVENTS

If you have any suggestions for other events or would like to help, please contact Hugh Clarke on 01283 531556.

### NEXT MEDICAL DUE?

As a reminder Dr Hill, our local AME, continues to give a discretionary £5 discount on aviation medical examinations to East Staffs Flying club members. To receive the discount you must show your current ESFC membership card at the time of your medical.

Contact details for Dr Hill are as follows:

Dr J D Hill AME  
Burton upon Trent  
01283 730201