



Chairman's Report

Well at last it looks like the weather is starting to improve and with the longer light evenings the opportunity to fly is increasing. The recent club AGM was well attended, thanks to all those who turned out and also to Margaret for providing a splendid buffet afterwards. Copies of the Annual Report and Finances are posted on the clubhouse notice board as well as the ESFC website; you will also find a copy of the minutes there as well.

It is with regret that I have to inform you that John McLinden has had to take time off for a major operation and I know that on behalf of ESFC we all wish John a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him at the airfield in the not too distant future.

I would like to welcome Angus Stewart to the committee with responsibility for organising flying events. Angus has already had a number of good ideas and the plan is to publish a calendar of these events for the year so that members can schedule these in their diaries. If you have any suggestions please let Angus or any committee members know ASAP.

Can I make a plea to all members for articles to be included in the newsletter. Alison does a great job but needs some more material. I am sure that there are a number of you out there who have had interesting experiences and trips that we could include in future editions. Please email them to Alison whose details are at the end of this newsletter.

There are plans to hold a local CAA Safety evening in the second half of this year. These are very worthwhile so please give it your full support.

Finally, we are hoping to have hold a very interesting club night with a talk from the 'Antonov Boys' in the near future so keep an eye on the notice board for the date.

Mike Tidmarsh



Recent Achievements

At the end of March Richard Thomas completed the Night Rating course. For a while it was looking like we wouldn't finish the training prior to the start of BST. However, due largely to help from Rob Rowley (fire cover) we managed to complete on time.

I'm hoping that we will be resuming training for the Night Rating in the autumn. The plan will probably be to run courses on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from November through to the end of February. Please speak to one of our instructors for more details.

Grass Runways

Although a lot of our members are pretty adventurous I'm sure that there are an equal number who are a bit cautious with regards to visiting new airfields. From speaking to both experienced and newly qualified PPL holders I've learnt that one of the most limiting factors associated with venturing further a field is an apprehension of flying to airfields with grass runways.

If you've learnt to fly at either Tatenhill or any similarly large airfield then the chances are that you may not have used a grass runway before. This lack of experience may result in you missing out on trips to some of the nicest airfields in the country.

Therefore, if you would like to venture further a field this summer then I would suggest that you try to arrange a trip with one of our flying instructors. I've recently started to make a point of taking my students up to Netherthorpe Airfield. Netherthorpe is only a short distance away, it has runways that are short (but not too short), it has a lovely bar/restaurant, and for ESFC members there's no landing fee! If you would like to broaden your experience then please speak to one of our flying instructors.

NB: The flight time can be used towards the hours required to revalidate your licence.

Martin Handley (Flying Instructor)



FLYING EVENTS

There are currently no planned events for the immediate weeks, however with the lighter nights and hopefully more favourable weather conditions upon us we will have some flying events for you soon.

Events that are planned include the annual ESFC Rally, possibly a fly-in, evening fly-outs and trips to Europe/Ireland etc. Planning assistance will be provided to newcomers.

For those of you who are unaware, Liam Darcy has stepped down as the co-ordinator of flying events for the ESFC committee. Taking up this role on the committee will be Angus Stewart.

If you have any suggestions for flying events or would like to help, please contact Angus or a member of the ESFC committee.

NEWSLETTER

Over recent issues I have been desperately short of articles to go into the newsletter. I'd like to thank Tatenhill Instructor Martin Handley for his contributions to recent editions. If anyone has anything they'd like to put in the newsletter or has something they'd like someone to write about please feel free to email them to me at the address below.

If you have any comments on the content or format of the newsletter, please contact Alison at alie_todd@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you

SOCIAL EVENTS

CLUB NIGHT - 28 April 2005-04-21

This month is a normal social night at the clubhouse to get together and chat. The evening starts around 8.00pm. Drinks and snacks will be available.

CLUB NIGHT - 26 May 2005

To be confirmed. No formal arrangements at time of print.

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