

# East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

November 2004

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## Chairman's Report and sad news...

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It is with regret that I have to inform you that Roy Kirkland passed away on 19th June of this year. I am sure that you will all remember, with fondness, Roy and Angela from when they were running the canteen at Tatenhill for ESFC. Roy had two great passions in his life horses and aviation (albeit a nervous flyer!). I had the pleasure of taking both Roy and Angela flying whilst they were at the club and I can still recall the pleasure on Roy's face (along with the white knuckles) as we flew over the Peak District. All our thoughts are with Angela and her son Mark and I hope that they are able to visit us in the near future.

Don't forget to let Rob Rowley know if you are interested in having a go at aerobatics early in the New Year – he is collecting names and numbers to ensure that it will be viable.

Finally, have a look at the new ESFC website created by Mark Hoffmann – [www.esfc.org.uk](http://www.esfc.org.uk)

Mike Tidmarsh

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## Message From Margaret

During the last month you may have noted that the plants and baskets around the clubhouse have been replanted. I regret that they look a little bare at the moment but hopefully, come spring, bulbs will appear. The outdoor eating area has been much admired during the summer months though inclement weather precluded it being much used but I hope with some winter sunshine there will still be opportunities to enjoy coffee in the garden – in between flying of course!

The cost of the plants has been funded by the sale of books donated. My thanks to those who have provided their unwanted books to sell and to those who have bought them. All books are sold at the bargain price of 50p and further donations of unwanted books would be gratefully received.

We have a collection box on the counter in support of the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), and to boost the takings before sending them on I am holding a raffle. Tickets will be available at the café and the prize will be one of my homemade Christmas cakes; your support would be appreciated.

How is it I was employed by the flying club to provide the catering but my missive makes no mention of FLYING or CATERING???



## The Art of Flying - John McLinden

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### THE CAT AND DUCK METHOD OF FLYING

Today's flight age is an era highlighted with increasing emphasis on safety.

Instrumentation in the cockpit and in the traffic control tower has reached new peaks of electronic perfection to assist the pilot during take-offs, flight, and landings. For whimsical contrast to these and other marvels of scientific flight engineering, it is perhaps opportune to remind pilots of the basic rules concerning the so-called Cat-and-Duck Method of Flight, just in case something goes wrong with any of these new-fangled flying instruments you find in today's aircraft.

Place a live cat on the cockpit floor. Because a cat always remains upright, he or she can be used in lieu of a needle and ball. Merely watch to see which way the cat leans to determine if a wing is low and, if so, which one.

The duck is used for the instrument approach and landing. Because any sensible duck will refuse to fly under instrument conditions, it is only necessary to hurl your duck out of the plane and follow her to the ground.

There are some limitations to the Cat-and-Duck Method, but by rigidly adhering to the following check list, a degree of success will be achieved.

- Get a wide-awake cat. Most cats do not want to stand up at all, at any time. It may be necessary to get a large fierce dog in the cockpit to keep the cat at attention.
- Make sure your cat is clean. Dirty cats will spend all their time washing. Trying to follow a cat licking itself usually results in a tight snap roll, followed by an inverted (or flat) spin. You can see this is very unsanitary.
- Old cats are best. Young cats have nine lives, but an old used-up cat with only one life left has just as much to lose as you do and will therefore be more dependable.
- Beware of cowardly ducks. If the duck discovers that you are using the cat to stay upright, or straight and level, she will refuse to leave without the cat. Ducks are no better on instruments than you are.
- Be sure the duck has good eyesight. Nearsighted ducks sometimes will go flogging off into the nearest hill. Very short-sighted ducks will not realize they have been thrown out and will descend to the ground in a sitting position. This manoeuvre is quite difficult to follow in an airplane.
- Use land-loving ducks. It is very discouraging to break out and find yourself on final approach for some farm pond near Fenland. Also, the farmers there suffer from temporary insanity when chasing crows off their corn fields and will shoot anything that flies.
- Choose your duck carefully. It is easy to confuse ducks with geese because many water birds look alike. While they are very competent instrument flyers, geese seldom want to go in the same direction you do. If your duck heads off for Derby Swamp, you may be sure you have been given the goose.



## FLYING EVENTS

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No new flying events to report of at this time. Keep an eye on the website and club notice board for further developments.

If you have any suggestions for flying events or would like to help, please contact Liam Darcy on 01889 500676.

Please keep an eye on the club notice board and the website ([www.esfc.org.uk](http://www.esfc.org.uk)) for more regular updates on forthcoming events.

### Joke of the Month c/o Peter Curley

A student pilot was on a cross-country solo flight to Santa Barbara.

Eager to fly "heavy metal" he contacts approach at 5,500 feet for flight following...

N12345: ...approach, Cessna 12345 checking in at flight level 550.

Approach (after a long pause): Roger, Cessna 12345 ... you can contact NASA at 368.2 for further advisories!

### Margaret's Homemade Christmas Cakes and Puddings

Margaret is now accepting orders for her homemade Christmas cakes and puddings. For further details please see Margaret, you can find her in the clubhouse on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in all weather conditions. You don't need me to tell you how fantastic Margaret's baking is because the cakes speak for themselves.

## 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

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### CLUB NIGHT – 25 November 2004

A normal club night with nothing in particular planned at this time – just an opportunity to get together and talk about flying. Drinks and snacks will be available in the clubhouse.

### 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