



Chairman's Report

First of all apologies for the late delivery of this newsletter my fault entirely!

I hope that we see a good number of members and their partners at Margaret's "Curry & Quiz" night on Thursday 27th January, please see details in this newsletter. Margaret would also like to thank all members who made a donation or entered the Christmas raffle; as a result we made a £40 donation to MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship).

Please remember that this is the time of year for membership renewals, you should have been contacted by Piet Walton-Knight. Can I ask everyone to please renew in a timely manner as this clearly assists the funding of your club and future events.

Don't forget to contact Rob Rowley if you are interested in either the Pitts Aerobatics or the Tiger Moth experience. We are looking to make the Tiger Moth a '**family day**' experience, so why not treat your partner, children, granny and granddad to a very genteel way of flying. It is probable that it will be possible to do 20 minute flights making it more affordable.

Mike Tidmarsh

Recent Achievements:

Colin Rogers has completed the Night Rating Course this month. This took some doing as we had night after night of bad weather to contend with.

A belated congratulations to **Matt Robinson** and **Julian Webb** who both flew their first solo flights during the latter part of last year. Julian, who had never flown before, managed to get rid of me after a little over seven hours. He's now well into the navigation phase of the training and so should have a licence before too much longer (weather permitting).

That's about it. Hopefully as spring approaches everybody will get back into the habit of regular flying again. It would be nice if some more partners decided to try their hand at flying. We do have one lady, **Susan Collingwood**, who's currently learning to land the C152. With any luck we may get some more wannabee pilot's joining us in the near future.

Martin Handley – Tatenhill Instructor



Some Thoughts for the Day

How often do you do a FREDA Check in flight?

Can you remember what is involved in a FREDA Check and, more importantly, can you remember why you do it in the first place?

F Fuel.

How much fuel have you used? Have you enough left to reach your destination?

If the gauges can be trusted, have you checked them?

Have you changed tanks if you need to?

Have you changed to the correct tank?

R Radio.

Are you talking to the correct station and can you still hear them?

Are you still carrying out any mandatory ATC instructions?

Are there any flags on the NAV instruments? Are the idents all correct?

E Engine

Ps and Ts. Are they ALL in the green?

Are you still on climb power or have you set cruise conditions. (Flaps?)

Have you 'squared off', if necessary?

Is the auxiliary fuel pump on or off? Which should it be?

Are any warning lamps lit?

Is the ammeter showing a good battery/charge situation?

D Direction

Are the DI and compass still aligned?

Are you going in the right direction?

Are you aware of the nearest controlled airspace? Are you heading towards it?

Even if you are using an HSI, is the alignment still correct?

GPS is only a back-up. Do you REALLY know where you are?

A Altitude

Is the QNH (FL) properly set? Are you somewhere where a level bust matters?

Are you at the correct altitude?

Are you flying towards low pressure?

Do you know what your MSA is for this section of the flight?

Are you working with ATC or using the Regional QNH?

Do you know the Regional QNH (if you need it).

For those aircraft with normally aspirated engines, this is also a very good time to do a full Carb. Heat Check. This means pulling the Carb. Heat lever/knob fully and checking for any adverse effects over a minute or so.

Most people will remember all of this, although they may not do it as frequently as perhaps they should (who, Me? Surely not!)

Even if you do all this, and as frequently as you should, now ask yourself the question



An Appeal for North Weald Airfield

A campaign is now gathering pace as deadlines to consultancy periods come closer concerning the possible closure of North Weald Airfield to convert it into yet another "development project"/housing estate.

We have all seen what happened to places like Burneston and Ipswich, complete with their excellent 1920s terminal buildings, one grabbed for a Japanese car-maker and the other [allegedly] to line the pockets of local council officials with the building of a private housing estate on cheaply acquired land.

The pressure is now on for North Weald Airfield and they need to increase its profile and put up a proper fight. They are therefore asking for donations and/or publicity on a purely voluntary basis.

If you feel able to help financially, please send a cheque for any amount (whatever size) payable to "North Weald Airfield Users Group" and send to:-

North Weald Airfield Users Group
C/O Hangar 39
North Weald Airfield
North Weald
Essex
CM16 6AA

No receipt will be sent unless specifically requested (NB sending receipts costs!)

Alternatively, you can help by raising awareness by both flying in, and by verbal and written publicity

Important Notice

Unfortunately, we are finding the front gate to the airfield is being left open more and more often at the end of the day.

In view of the increased levels of security demanded by Special Branch this is an unacceptable state of affairs and the privilege will have to be withdrawn if matters do not improve rapidly. Very obviously, we don't want to have to do this, but we may be left with no choice and consequently have to set a curfew time.

If you think you are the last to leave:

CLOSE THE GATE and APPLY THE PADLOCK.

Please don't assume that someone else will do it.

If there is anyone else left on the airfield, they can still re-open the gate to get through and then re-lock it themselves.

M. R. Shelton
Airfield Operator



FLYING EVENTS

Classic Bi-plane

There is still plenty of time to put your name down for the Tiger Moth experience.

You don't need to be an experienced pilot to enjoy this opportunity. You don't even need to be a pilot. Avia Special is happy to bring the aircraft to Tatenhill so no major travelling is required.

There are currently no immediate flying events planned, if you have any suggestions for flying events or would like to help, please contact a member of the ESFC committee or Liam Darcy on 01889 500676.

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

Night Flying

With the dark nights still upon us don't forget you can still take your night ratings at Tatenhill Aviation. Speak to one of Tatenhill's instructors for more information.

CLUB WEBSITE

Don't forget that you can visit the ESFC website where you can purchase club merchandise, download membership forms and if you're an existing member renew online.

Also in the clubhouse we have broadband Internet access, which enables you to access and download weather information, NOTAMS etc.

NEWSLETTER

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

CLUB NIGHT - 27 January 2005

CURRY NIGHT & QUIZ for members and their partners kindly being catered by Margaret. If you wish to attend send an email to Hugh at hughclarke62@hotmail.com to confirm. The fun starts at 7.30pm at the clubhouse. There will be a price of £6.00 per person.

CLUB NIGHT - 24 February 2005

A talk by Charlie Brown comparing and contrasting the Spitfire and Messerschmitt. Venue will be the Kings Head, 21 Bird Street, LICHFIELD. There is free public car parking behind Woolworths

CLUB NIGHT - 31 March 2005

This will be the Club's A.G.M. Again the venue will be confirmed closer to the date. Food and refreshments available.

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