

East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

January/February 2010

Chairman's Report

As Martin mentions, the year has not got off to a brilliant start (weather wise) but hopefully with Spring around the corner it will start to improve.

I would like to remind everyone that the AGM will be held at the Albion on Thursday 25th March starting at 7.00pm. Please make every effort to attend so that we can collect feedback on the operation of the club and where we can improve facilities for the membership. As a means of encouraging you to attend we have been very lucky to get PABLO MASON to come along and give another of his entertaining talks!

We will be publishing the list of proposed fly outs for 2010 in the near future and would encourage students and new PPLs to take part. We are happy to offer up free seats and buddy pilots to make these both easy and enjoyable trips for everyone.

Please renew your membership if you have not already done so, the new membership year started on 1st February.

Mike Tidmarsh

Recent Achievements

As you may have noticed the weather at the beginning of the year wasn't exactly ideal for flying. Therefore there haven't been many noticeable achievements. I've managed to stay relatively sane by doing ground school and getting my students through some of their written exams. Dave's kept himself busy with computer Solitaire. I can only assume that he must now be up to world championship level. Hopefully the weather should start to perk up a bit from now on.

On Tuesday the 16th of February Rob Findlay was very surprised to find himself flying without me for the first time. Well done!

Roger Hawkes passed his IMC Flight Test on Sunday the 28th of February. Well done.

Howard Taylor passed his PPL Skills Test on Monday the 1st of March. His next challenge is to learn to fly a Cessna 152. Congratulations.

Martin Handley.



Have You Ever Seen Anything Like This?

I've recently come across this handy little visual aid. It's quite a good way of visualizing whether or not it's going to be a good idea to go flying. It's especially useful if you're fairly inexperienced and are thinking about going on a trip. Mark on a blank sheet lines to show you're own personal weather minima. This will vary depending on your level of experience. Then look at the weather forecast for the day ahead. Using the timeline now block out the graph to represent cloud bases and visibilities. This then quite clearly shows whether or not you should go flying.

Still thinking about navigation. When you go flying do you plan a Minimum Safe Altitude (MSA)? Possibly even more importantly do you plan a VFR Minimum Altitude? In other words, before you take-off have you decided how bad the weather has to get before you turn back/divert? I must admit that I haven't been emphasizing this, but I will be from now on.

If you have any questions about any navigation points then please feel free to come and talk to me. In fact if you're a student and are having any difficulties with your theoretical knowledge training then please come and talk to me about ground-school.

Do You Hold An NPPL?

If so, then are you aware of the change to the NPPL Revalidation process? This change took place in June 2009. The "One Hour With An Instructor" no longer needs to be continuous. It can now be a series of flights that add up to one hour. Not many people know this, instructors included.

EASA

Things are changing in 2012. The plan is to do away with National Licences. How will this affect you? If I can answer your questions then I will. Please come and talk to me.

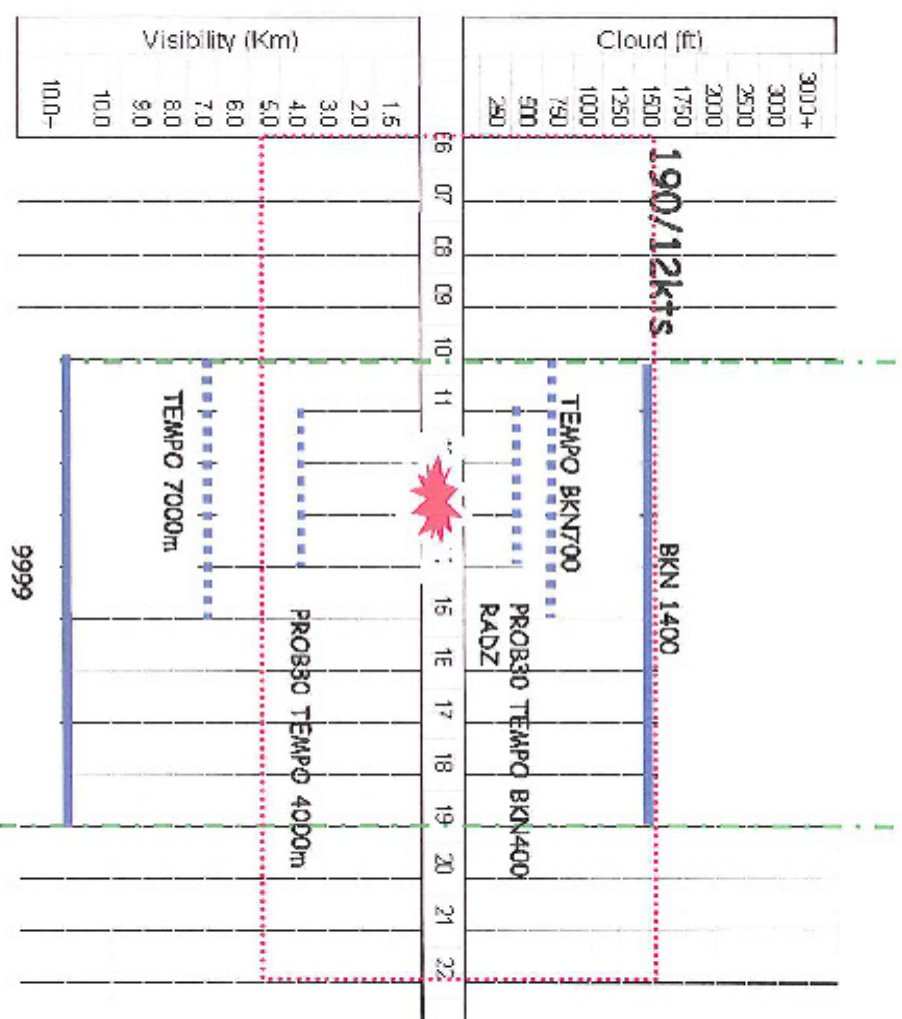
NB. IMC Rating/ What's going to happen to it? I don't know. The powers that be are still thinking about what they're going to do about the IMC Rating.

Martin Handley
Flying Instructor.



Example

EGXX 010500Z 011019 19012KT 9999 BKN014
TEMPO 1015 7000 BKN007
PROB30 TEMPO 1114 4000 RADZ BKN004



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



March 25th - ESFC AGM at the Albion to be followed by a buffet and a further talk from PABLO MASON (definitely worth attending - a life-size character!)

April 29th – ESFC Club Night, a talk on ferrying a Britten Norman Islander from Bembridge, IOW to Anguilla and the challenges faced along the way!

July 24th – ESFC Annual Fly-In, in aid of the two children who were left as orphans after the tragic death of their parents in the light aircraft that crashed near Stafford in January 2009.

December 4th – ESFC Christmas Party at Branston Golf & Country Club

NEWSLETTER

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

ESFC AGM 25th March 2010

ESFC AGM starting at 7.00pm, to be held at The Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road, Burton.

We will be looking for nominations for the committee roles so if you are interested in how to improve the club then now is the time to do something about it.

WANTED - NEWSLETTER EDITOR

After 5 years in the role I will be standing down as editor of the newsletter at this year's AGM so if any club members out there feel that they would like to take on the role you will be most welcome.

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