

# East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

January 2008

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## Chairman's Report

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A very belated Happy New Year to all our members!

With 'partial' thumbs up for the Airfield Planning being awarded we await the next steps with great interest and will keep members informed as the plans for development start to unfold.

Can I remind all members to renew your membership by 1<sup>st</sup> February and also to put the date of the AGM in your diaries (see following articles). We are looking for 'volunteers' to replace some of the current committee members. Please step forward as I believe that is vital that we inject some fresh ideas on how best to operate ESFC to the benefit all members. The membership as at the end of last year increased to 240+ which is a very healthy number.

We have identified a number of locations for 2008 Fly Outs and these will be published in due course - just need the good weather now!

Thanks must go to Margaret (+ helpers) for organising an excellent Burns Night Supper which was enjoyed by everyone who attended - although there were some complaints about the incessant bagpipes playing in the background!

Finally, congratulations to John Calverley for winning a national award from the British Aerobatic Association (see article).

Mike Tidmarsh

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## 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).

## 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



## **REMINDER - MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE by 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2008**

I'd like to draw members' attention to the fact it is that time of year again when we all need to renew our membership with ESFC. All members should note that for the first time in several years we have increased the fees, which are stated below.

**FULL MEMBERSHIP: £50.00**

**SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP: £20.00**

For those members who have joined ESFC in the last few months here is a reminder of what the membership fee provides:

- Discounted: Aircraft hire, Training, Medical examinations
- Free landings on a reciprocal basis with other flying clubs
- Clubhouse with social area, a briefing room, outside seating area
- Heating, lighting and rates
- Ongoing maintenance & repairs
- Catering equipment and supplies
- PC with laser printer
- Broadband
- Printer consumables
- Flight Planning software (PROPLAN)
- GPS download
- NOTAM Briefing
- Access to Wx - TAFs and METARS.
- Provision and funding of the Catering facility (i.e. retainer paid to Margaret)
- Monthly Newsletter
- Social events (including club night on the last Thursday of each month)
- Fly-outs and other flying events and competitions.
- ESFC Annual Fly-In
- Pooleys Guide, Farm Strip Guide
- A complete set of PPL training manuals (including IMC) plus sample test papers (Confusers)

## **BURNS NIGHT SUPPER**

Thanks to all who supported the Burns Night Supper; I think everyone enjoyed the event such that I am being asked to repeat the event next year!

I would particularly like to thank all those who helped with the last minute food preparation, serving and clearing up afterwards. Also to Baron Ollier for production of the "order of service" and Mark Storr and Susan Collingwood for preparing a quiz with a 'Scottish' flavour which was very keenly contested! Thanks also to Jock (Susan Collingwood's father) who produced the 'Cloutie Dumpling' which everyone enjoyed with coffee to round off a super evening.

MARGARET SANDIFORD



## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The weather has not been at all kind to us so far this year. Wind, rain, low cloud, more wind, more rain and so on and so forth. There has been the odd nice day here and there, but they've been few and far between.

**Over the Christmas period Dave Ebrey passed his PPL Skills Test. Congratulations**

## LOOKOUT

I'm sure that by now everyone will have heard about the mid-air collision that occurred in the Blithfield Reservoir area just before Christmas. Having such a sad accident so close to our own airfield really highlights the importance of a good lookout.

I know from both my own flying and from observing other pilots that more often than not our lookout is nowhere near as good as it should be. Working as an instructor I have a lot of free time to watch where students and licence holders alike are looking. Nine times out of ten they're looking outside through an arc approximately sixty degrees either side of the nose. This leaves two hundred and forty degrees of the air around them unobserved. An important thing to consider while flying light aircraft is that due to our speed, or lack of it, we're just as likely to get hit from behind or the side as from ahead. Also lookout in the circuit is often not what it could be. This is especially true when flying in a high wing aircraft. I'm forever badgering my own students to raise each wing in turn and lookout before making any turn, whether it is in the circuit or out and about.

Hopefully if we all keep a good lookout we can avoid the possibility of a similar accident.

## SKY DREAMER (BARNARDOS)

The remaining copies of my international (one copy was sent to France) best seller are still available from the Operations Office. Rather than let them sit and fester for the next hundred years I've decided to sell them for charity. Donations to go to Barnardos. Please put whatever you think is reasonable in the charity box on Helen's desk. Thank you.

## ADVANCED WARNING/ APOLOGY

Just one last note to anyone booked in to fly with me between the end of February and the beginning of March. At some point during this time I'm going to have to suddenly disappear for a week. This will be because my wife is expecting our third daughter at the beginning of March. As we all know babies can be unreliable and so I'll be taking bookings as per normal throughout this period. When she decides to pop out, either Paula or Helen will give everyone a phone call to let him or her know that I will not be available. Hopefully this will not put anyone out too badly.

MARTIN HANDLEY.



## BRITISH AEROBATIC ASSOCIATION NEWS!

Saturday 26th of January was the AGM and Annual trophy awards for the British Aerobatic Association held at Sywell.

The great news is that we have succeeded in our bid to host the 2009 World Aerobatic Championships (WAC). It has been 22 years since it was last held in the UK. The 10 day event will be held at Silverston race circuit in August 2009.

Now for the good news, one of our ESFC members (+ instructor) and a well known aviator **JOHN CALVERLEY** ended the season in overall 3rd place at Standard class and won the 'SHAGGY COW TROPHY' for the best Yakovlev aircraft pilot in the UK.

Why 'SHAGGY COW TROPHY' - well a YAK is a shaggy cow isn't it !

Well done to John for a fantastic achievement!

John receiving his trophy from four times British National Aerobatic Champion Alan Cassidy.



## ESFC AGM

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The ESFC AGM is being held this year on **Thursday 27th March (7.15pm start)** at the Albion Hotel in Burton.

Members are urged to come along to provide their comments/suggestions on how the club performs.

At the last committee meeting, and bearing in mind that most committee members have served for over 3 years, it was felt that new blood was required to generate some fresh ideas and enthusiasm on how best to operate the club. To that end some committee members will be standing down at the end of March.

The AGM will be followed by a buffet and then a presentation given by that very well known character **Flt Lt Charlie Brown** and the talk will be entitled '**Impressions of Flying the Russian Spitfire**'.

If you have not been to one of Charlie's talks before make sure you put this in your diary - an event well worth attending!

Flt Lt Charlie Brown has been Historic Aircraft Company's Chief Pilot since 1996. Charlie has displayed many aircraft but is probably best known for his Spitfire and Me 109 displays. When not flying for HAC, Charlie is a flying instructor in the RAF based at Cranwell.



## SOCIAL EVENTS

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### CLUB NIGHT - 28 February 2008

**FLYING: THE PASSION AND THE PAIN**  
This will be a talk by Steven Ollier who is always entertaining. To be held in the Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road, Burton on Trent. Start 7.30pm.

### CLUB NIGHT - 27 March 2008

#### The ESFC A.G.M and Charlie Brown

The AGM will be held at the Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road, Burton on Trent commencing at 7.15pm. A buffet intermission will be provided before a talk on Flying the Russian Spitfire by Charlie Brown.

## OTHER EVENTS

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

## FLYING EVENTS

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No events planned for the immediate months.

If you have any suggestions for flying events or would like to help, please contact Mike Dillon on 07818 004188.

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

## MESSAGE FROM TATENHILL AVIATION

In February G-BELP will be away having a re-spray to match the other Tatenhill aircraft. It will be away about 3 weeks. Once the re-spray is complete it will be registered as G-TALG!