

East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

April 2008

Chairman's Report

A couple of things to report this month. Firstly we have just made available a Wireless Access Point (WAP) in the club house so that those who wish to use their laptop for flight planning, weather, NOTAMS etc are free to do so. Secondly we have launched the 'ESFC Forum' this month on the website. The primary purpose of the forum is to improve communication between members. In particular if people are looking for advice or spare seats then post your requirements here and you will almost certainly receive a reply. Similarly if you have suggestions on how to improve ESFC then please post these on the forum for general discussion. You will need to register to gain full access to the Forum and I would urge you to do so.

At the last committee meeting and following approval from Tatenhill Aviation it has been decided to hold the Annual ESFC Fly-In on Saturday 9th August. As per usual we will be looking for volunteers to get involved nearer the date.

Talking about volunteers, now that spring has arrived Brian Hall will be looking for volunteers to help in the painting of the outside furniture and fencing.

The first club Fly Out of the year to Oban will take place at the end of May - are you planning to go (do you have a spare seat)?

Finally we have created a Calendar of Events for 2008 on the forum, including a regular BBQ, keep on checking this for an update on what is going on.

Mike Tidmarsh

Message From Tatenhill Aviation

A new method of filing Flight Plans (to fly abroad or over remote terrain) is being introduced. The ability to fax in flight plans from the Tatenhill office will cease eventually. If you intend to fly abroad please would you refer to S7/2008 supplement in the UK AIP (Air Pilot). You can file your flight plans from home to save waiting for a computer to be available at the Airfield.

Thanks

Paula



Recent Achievements

I begin with a couple of apologies. Firstly I mistakenly referred to Andrew Cockersole as Paul in last month's newsletter. This error may have had something to do with the fact that I was at home, surrounded by screaming girls as I wrote the report. Secondly, belated congratulations to Keith Mitchell who flew solo for the first time last month.

Both Mike Brown and Thomas Maddox flew solo for the first time on Friday the 4th of April.

David Cresswell completed his first solo flight on Tuesday the 8th of April. He made a lovely approach and landing.

Both Amged Hawrani and John Cooper flew solo for the first time on Wednesday the 9th of April. Well done to both of them.

Phil Houckham completed his first solo flight on Monday the 28th of April. What made the flight particularly memorable was that we had to wait for a gap in a series of thunderstorms and heavy showers that were passing around the airfield before Phil could get airborne by himself. Well done.

Martin Handley.

In Recognition

Once again we all gathered at the Albion for our AGM to hear about how we had spent money on new garden umbrellas, access ramps and tea bags etc. New committee members were elected, the buffet duly attacked and demolished.

The second half of the evening then proceeded, something of a ritual here I think. Once again, for the eighth year in succession Flt Lt Charlie Brown RAF gave the members and guests one of his brilliant addresses. For those of you who have attended before must realise that this is an occasion not to be missed. Charlie's quiet, gentlemanly yet engaging style, full of wit and facts is superb.

Over the past eight years we have heard about testing and flying Spitfires, M.E.109, Hurricane, Bouchon, and Hawker Nimrod, also selecting and training pilots to fly war birds and last year the "Merlins over Malta" project.



This year Charlie turned to yet another avenue of his extensive experience by telling us about flying the "Russian Spitfire", the Yak 3, which seemed to be a bit of a handful to say the least but was by all accounts a superb performer. Again we were all, I'm sure, mightily impressed by this superb pilot's application.

Eight years is a long time to keep coming back for punishment, and Charlie always does this free of charge, his only payment is that we all enjoy and that he is imparting his immense enthusiasm for flying to others.

How could we show our appreciation for this long-time supporter of our club? Well, we gave him a small gift of quality glassware for him and his wife, Kaye, to enjoy a glass of wine in the back garden sometime, but we also gave a small additional gift, which meant a huge amount to ESFC.

The small gift was a crystal paperweight for his office, so heavy was it that it would be very useful for throwing at his wayward students at RAF College Cranwell where he still is a senior instructor.

Ah! But that paperweight bears an inscription and below the crest of the Staffordshire Knot it reads: -

**Flt. Lt. Charlie Brown RAF
For Services to East Staffs Flying Club
Honorary Life Membership.**

Mere words? Yes maybe to some, but to the committee and members it means an awful lot.

It also means very much to Charlie, he said so and was very touched and honoured.

I have known Charlie since we met at the Jersey Air show in 1998 and we have become firm friends but I think, for the first time, I did detect a slight emotional quiver in the voice when he proudly showed this gift to my wife Val when we returned home. He really was very pleased, that is all the thanks we needed I believe.

The club is very honoured to have this super-star of aviation as one of it's own

Rob Rowley



FLYING EVENTS

OBAN TRIP – Planning Evening Tuesday 20th May 2008 7.30pm

An informal gathering in the clubhouse to help those wishing to fly out to Oban plan their trip.

Helicopter Trial Flights (R22) Saturday 26th July 2008

Flights operated throughout the day. A special rate of £60 for circa 15-20 mins has been negotiated for ESFC members. Anyone wishing to have a go should contact Terry Watts at dwatts756@aol.com

Fly-outs

Fly Out to OBAN Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th May 2008

Fly Out to Isle of Man (Ronaldsway)
Saturday 14th June

ESFC Annual Fly-in Saturday 9th August

The 2008 ESFC Fly-in is presently in the planning stages. Events will be confirmed closer to the date

Contact

If you have any other questions relating to any of the proposed events please contact Mike Dillon on 07818 004188.

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

CLUB NIGHT - 29th May 2008

Surviving Mont Blanc

By Olivier Balland and John Calverley

Starting at 7:30pm
Upstairs at the Albion Hotel, Shobnall Street,
Burton upon Trent, DE14 2BE

So, why not climb Mont Blanc and ski back down? A perfectly reasonable suggestion, especially during the winter months! ESFC members, John and Olivier did just that, taking in the Haute Route and an **avalanche** along the way.

OTHER EVENTS

If you have any suggestions for other events or would like to help, please contact Jon Faulkner on

Wednesday 25th June - Gliding **Evening at Needwood Gliding Club** **commences at 5.30pm**

Once again ESFC have managed to organise a gliding evening at the local gliding club for members wishing to try this alternative to motor powered flight.

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