

East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

July 2008

Chairman's Report

All plans have now been finalised for the ESFC Annual Fly-In, make sure it is in your diary and encourage other pilots to fly-in as well as bringing along your family and friends for a great day out. We plan to hold an informal BBQ after the event so bring along some food and join the party.

The recent 'Helicopter Trial Flights' was well supported (approx 20 members took part) so a big thank you to Terry Watts (organiser) and to Andy Collett and his instructors for a very enjoyable and well planned experience. Amazing how manoeuvrable a Robinson R22 can be but they still seem to defy the laws of physics! Great fun though and could be very addictive.

The plans for the airfield are still under discussion but taking longer than expected. Updates will be released when there is something definite to report.

The forum that has been set up on ESFC website (www.esfc.org.uk) has been well used. I would like to encourage people to offer/request spare seats if going on a trip. This especially applies to students and low hour pilots who can use this to build on their skills in navigation and also their confidence in planning a longer trip. This can also apply to low hour pilots who want to plan a longer trip but lack confidence and would welcome a more experienced pilot to sit along side to help with the planning and navigation. A message placed on the Forum would help in putting both parties together.

If you have items to sell/want you can also use the forum for this purpose as well, remember you have to be signed in as a registered user to access this facility. So time to clear out your flying bag and have another look at those gadgets you bought from Transair as a 'must have' but never got used. There is bound to be someone out there who might find a use for it!

Finally, we have had some good weather recently (last weekend we had an excellent trip to Lands End & Bodmin) so hopefully everyone is managing to spend more time in the air. As an aside we met a family from Stafford who were on holiday and had called into Lands End airfield - their trip time 6½ hours our trip time 1½ hours!

Mike Tidmarsh



Recent Achievements

Chris Brown flew solo for the first time on Tuesday the 8th of July. Chris achieved the standard required to fly solo weeks ago, but being only 15 years old meant that we had to wait until his birthday before I could launch him off by himself. Well done.

David Millward completed his first solo flight on Saturday the 12th of July.

Joanne Snook completed her first solo flight on Tuesday the 22nd of July. Later on in the day she flew solo again twice. Joanne was actually ready a few days before, but strong crosswinds prevented her from going up by herself. If the weather is kind to us during August I should be able to announce in the next newsletter that she's passed her Skills Test. Well done...so far so good!

Fuel Management

Recently I've noticed that it's becoming increasingly common to find a considerable imbalance in the fuel tanks of the company's low wing aircraft. On one occasion I found one wing tank to be almost full while the other was only about one third full. Good airmanship dictates that we attempt to keep the tanks in balance. I don't believe that it really matters whether you change over the tanks every twenty minutes, every half an hour, or as required. It's just important to try to keep the fuel contents balanced. While I'm thinking about it I'll mention that it is perfectly normal to change over the fuel tanks in the air, just as long as you put the electric fuel pump on first. This may seem a bit of a silly thing to have to say, but I have flown with at least one PPL who was under the impression that you could only change over the tanks on the ground.

While I'm thinking about fuel management I've two more comments:

- 1) The reason that we start up with the fuel selected to the lowest tank and then change over to the fullest tank during our power checks is to make sure that we are getting fuel flow from both tanks (and all three tanks in the Robin) prior to take-off.
- 2) As a general airmanship point always turn on the electric fuel pump when operating at or below 1000' AGL. In other words...
 - i) Keep in on in the circuit.
 - ii) When departing the airfield, don't turn it off prior to reaching 1000' AGL (1450' AMSL at Tatenhill).
 - iii) When making an overhead rejoin I suggest the following checks:
 - a) Altimeter Set (QNH or QFE).
 - b) Fuel Pump On.



- c) Mixture Rich.
- d) Fuel Selected To The Fullest Tank.

Martin Handley.

FLIGHT PLANS

All Manchester PAFTN users are reminded that the Manchester PAFTN unit is permanently closing at 0001 Local on the 1st of July 2008.

If any operator, unit or airfield requires PAFTN services after this date, including the filing, cancelling and delaying of Flight Plans please use the online Assisted Flight Planning Exchange (AFPEX) or contact Heathrow PAFTN.

Heathrow PAFTN:

Tel: 0208 750 2615 or 2516

Fax: 0208 750 2617 or 2618

CLUB EVENT - Saturday 9th August

ESFC Annual Fly-in

The 2008 ESFC Fly-in is in the final stages. This year's event will again see two magnificent flying displays by Gennady Elfimov in the Red Yak-52 and John Calverley/ Dave Holland in the AN-2 (Baltic Bear) - will we get another chance to see this aircraft perform a vertical climb? We will also have the ever-obliging Charlie Brown flying in with the MK V Spitfire, scheduled to arrive around 14.00 and the Spit will be parked up for the remainder of the afternoon, with Charlie available to answer any questions you may have.

Volunteers are required to help with setting up the marquee on Friday 8th August as well as volunteers to help with the marshalling and bucket rattling amongst other things on the Saturday.

Once again the buckets will be rattling and pockets will be patted down for donations to our two nominated charities, the County Air Ambulance now based at Tatenhill the monies also being shared with the BDFa, which also operates out of Tatenhill.



FLYING EVENTS

Fly-outs

FLY OUT TO ALDERNEY - 16th July

It is intended to hold Pre-planning meetings in the run-up to the event.

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

Conspiracy Theory?

Results of the ESFC Annual Rally held on the 28th June.

Unusually, this year a team flying N84VK won the ESFC's Annual rally. Congratulations to student Stuart Perron for being a super spotter for the winning team comprising Captain Tiptanks and Irish Mike.

Congratulations also to Laura Challinor (now Pritchard) who helped Alistair achieve his second place. Third place went to Kevin Arblaster and Charlie McIlroy who is part of the BDFa - congratulations and don't worry, hopefully you'll beat them next year!

SOCIAL EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

If you have any suggestions for other events or would like to help, please contact Jon Faulkner at esfc2007@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 9th August - Airfield Barbecue.

Another month, another chance to 'throw a couple more shrimps on the Barbie'. The next barbecue will follow the Annual ESFC Fly-in and Display on the 9th August. Bring your own food, however utensils and disposable plates can be provided by ESFC.

NEWSLETTER

If you have any articles for the newsletter or comments on the format, please contact Alison at 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