

East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

October 2008

Chairman's Report

Having counted all the pennies and looked down the backs of our sofas we were able to present a cheque for £300 to the British Disabled Flying Association and will shortly be presenting a further cheque to the County Air Ambulance for £1,330, both on behalf of ESFC. This was a result of monies collected at this years Fly-In and also assisted by generous donations from Rugeley Power Station and the HSBC.

We have a new webmaster, Kevin Arblaster, so look out for changes to our website over the next couple of months. If you have any suggestions for improvement to the website either speak to Kevin or let one of the committee members know.

As you will all be well aware there has been a distinct lack of any progress on the airfield development front which means that we will have to make some further improvements to the existing club house. Brian Hall will be leading a team to refurbish the kitchen area and this will be followed by improvements to the Briefing room. Let Brian have your details if you are able to assist with this work.

Just a reminder that we hope to have an excellent talk on Thursday 30th October given by Timothy Nathan on his solo flight over the North Pole. Everyone is welcome to attend, including partners and friends (see Social Events in this newsletter for further information).

As the winter months are now with us don't forget that as well as serving hot soup in the club house, Margaret also sells a very nice line of ESFC merchandise including those toasty warm sweatshirts. Go on you know you need one - make it an early Xmas present for your partner. Think of the look of joy in their face as they unwrap it on Xmas morning!

Something to look forward to in the New Year will be a talk by one of our members, John Calverley, on his recent trip ferrying an Antonov AN2 from Eastern Europe to Uganda! There were plenty of adventures along the way, including engine failure over the mountains!

Finally, fingers crossed for some good flying weather for the remainder of this year.

Mike Tidmarsh



Recent Achievements

Irina Johansson completed her first solo flight (for the second time) on Tuesday the 21st of October. I think that I am justified in calling it a first solo, as there was a little under a two and a half year gap between her first and second solo flights. Well done. We shall have to see if my nerves can cope with a third solo.

Michael Lewis flew solo for the first time on Wednesday the 22nd of October. Michael has been ready for a while now, but we've been waiting for the wind to behave. He flew a lovely circuit and made a really good landing. Congratulations.

Please note...

I'm pleased to be able to say that we are continuing to see a healthy intake of new students. At the beginning of the year I was a little bit worried that the much talked about "credit crunch" was really going to affect our student numbers. So far we've been lucky enough to be able to continually fill our training slots. In order to be able to train on the day and at the time that you want I can't recommend strongly enough that you try to book as far in advance as possible. This is especially true at weekends. Looking at my own bookings for Sunday's, I can see that I'm almost fully booked up until the beginning of February. There are a few spaces left here and there. So my message is "book now to avoid disappointment."

Martin Handley.

Joke of the Month

A passenger approaches the Check-In desk at Heathrow's Terminal 5 and says to the clerk, "Good Morning, I am going to Madrid but I would like you to send my luggage to Istanbul"

The check-in clerk replies, "I'm sorry but we cannot do that sir"

To which the passenger replies, "Well you did last week".



Thursday 27th November - Flying the Hawk for the RAF & Flying the F86A Sabre

November's social event will be a talk by Dave Harvey (Harvs) who is still a serving RAF Officer and is currently posted to RAF Leeming as a senior instructor on the Hawk. He is a Tactical Weapons Instructor, Instrument Rating Examiner and Authorising Officer for the Hawk.



Harvs has served tours on the F4 Phantom, (111 Sqn) Tornado F3 (25 Sqn) and Hawk. For three years he was Strike Command Hawk Display Pilot and has 5,000 hours alone on the Hawk.

He also displays the only airworthy F-86A Sabre in the world for the Golden Apple Team...and in his spare time flies his own Vans RV4.

And another one...

When a BA clerk answered the telephone the woman at the other end asked "How long is the Concorde flight from London to New York?"

"Just a minute" he said, turning to look up the information.

"Thank you" replied the woman as she hung up.



SOCIAL EVENTS

CLUB EVENT - Thursday 30th October
7.30pm start

Flying to the North Pole

A talk by Timothy Nathan

Timothy has a flying background that many of us can only dream of. He started flying at the age of 14 at Sibson. Having gained his PPL at 17, he then flew with the Cambridge UAS and over the next few years of private flying added Night, IMC and IR ratings. Realising that there was more to life than being a Management Consultant he took the plunge and gained a commercial license leading to time spent flying mail flights, Medevac and finally the command of an executive jet, flying VIPs around.

Looking for a challenge, Timothy flew his Piper Aztec, G-LIZZ, solo over the North Pole

OTHER EVENTS

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

NEWSLETTER

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

FLYING EVENTS

Fly-outs

Due to a lack of interest in the further a field fly-outs the club is proposing to have two over water/ foreign fly-outs in 2009 and have more regular local fly-outs which will better accommodate those members who wish to fly-out but lack the time, confidence, skills or money to partake in the bigger trips.

If anyone has any suggestions for a place they feel they would particularly like a fly-out to be organised to please make contact with any of the ESFC committee members or contact Mike Dillon as per the details below

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

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