

# East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

February 2009

## Chairman's Report

Apologies for the late delivery of this newsletter, nothing to do with Alison just a lack of effort on my part!

I note that the February social (ATSOCAS) will have happened by the time that you receive this newsletter. Thanks to everyone for making the effort to attend (some 60-70 people) but I gather that the presentation was not particularly positive in its proposed service offerings for GA pilots. There has been a lot in the press about these new services and from what I can gather it has been something of a cover your \*\*\*\* exercise by the CAA (personal opinion).

We are getting a lot of interest in the planned fly outs for this year and will now start keeping a close watch on the weather. Jon Faulkner has done an excellent job in selecting a good mix of destinations.

Can I take this opportunity to remind those members who have not yet renewed their 2009 membership to do so as soon as possible please (£50). There are three options for payment, 1) Online using your credit/debit card via PayPal on the ESFC website [www.esfc.org.uk](http://www.esfc.org.uk), 2) Transfer online from your bank directly to the ESFC bank account (Sort Code: 40-19-15, Account No: 12029405) but please include your name in the reference field, 3) Pay Margaret by cheque or cash at the club house (Fri-Sun).

Finally, please put a date in your diary to attend the ESFC AGM on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7.15pm at the Albion. We will be having a buffet followed by what should be a very interesting talk by the "Vulcan to the Sky Trust".

Mike Tidmarsh

## JOKES OF THE MONTH

Every time I fly and am forced to remove my shoes, I'm grateful Richard Reid is not known as the Underwear Bomber.

— Douglas Manuel, aerospace executive regards airport security.  
*Reported in USA Today, 13 March 2003.*

A military aircraft had gear problems on landing, and as the plane was skidding down the tarmac the tower controller asked if they needed assistance. From the plane came a laconic southern voice:

"Dunno - we ain't done crashin' yet."



## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

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February hasn't been the best of months. A combination of snow, ice, fog and general gloom hasn't made the airfield the best of places to be. The days that have been nice have almost made up for the bad weather. Recently there have been some magnificent views of the snow-covered Peak District.

Maurice Allden flew solo for the first time on Thursday the 12th of February. It was a lovely clear day and the wind was right down the runway. Perfect conditions. Well done.

Sixteen-year-old Adon Nicholls completed his first solo flight on Wednesday the 18th of February. Calm conditions made it the perfect day for a first solo. The only thing that wasn't calm was Adon's poor mum. I've never seen a parent so distraught. I'm glad to say that she soon cheered up after he landed. Congratulations.

### Lookout

Following the publication of the AAIB report regarding the mid-air over Blithfield Reservoir I thought that I would mention the importance of lookout. When flying is your lookout as good as it could be? I know that mine isn't. I'll be amazed if anybody can honestly answer yes. We're all guilty of being a bit lazy when it comes to keeping a 360° lookout. Many of the pilots that I fly with rarely look more than 60° either side of the nose.

To try to rectify the above:

- 1) If there's a window then you need to be looking out of it. This includes rear-facing windows.
- 2) At the speeds that we are travelling at we are just as likely to get hit from behind as from the front/ side. I believe that the aircraft that hit the Abbots Bromley based aircraft was cruising at 160 knots.
- 3) The best way to scan for other aircraft is to use a series of short, regularly spaced eye movements in 10° sectors. Systematically focusing on different segments of the sky for short intervals is a better technique than continuously sweeping the sky. Bear in mind that when searching for an aircraft in an empty sky there is a tendency for the eye to focus at a distance of 1 to 2 metres, and not infinity. To avoid this try to focus on clouds or distant landmarks. This will lengthen your focus.

Let's help to make 2009 an accident free year.

Martin Handley

## FLYING EVENTS

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### Sunday 5th April - Elvington, Yorkshire.

Home of the 'Yorkshire Air Museum'. 5 miles SE of the City of York, Elvington boasts a 3000m runway and was considered as a diversion airfield for the Space Shuttle. 5th April is advertised as 'Thunder Day!' Suggested departure time from Tatenhill is 10.00.

### Sunday 10th May - Leicester & Bruntingthorpe

Depart Tatenhill 09.00 (then Leicester to Bruntingthorpe at 10.45). Bacon butty and a coffee at Leicester followed by cold war jets and hopefully the Vulcan at Bruntingthorpe.

### Sat/Sun 6th & 7th June - France.

Overnight trip to northern France, destination to be confirmed but likely to be Deauville. Suggested departure from Tatenhill 12.00 with an overnight stay in France at Honfleur.

**NOTE** - many of the above trips, especially those later in the year, are at the planning stage only at present. More details will be issued as dates are confirmed, however you are more than welcome to register your interest in any of the above with Jon Faulkner at

[ESFC2007@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ESFC2007@hotmail.co.uk)

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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).



## SOCIAL EVENTS

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### CLUB NIGHT - 26 February 2009

**"Everything you need to know about ATSOCAS"**  
(Air Traffic Services Outside Controlled Air Space)

A presentation by Pete Garrard, ATC training and Operations, East Midlands Airport.

From Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March aircraft flying outside of controlled airspace but wanting air traffic services will no longer be able to request flight/radar information or radar advisory services. Pete Garrard will be giving a talk on the new services that will be replacing them. As he is currently tasked with training the ATC staff at East Midlands he is ideally qualified to give this talk.

The talk will be held upstairs at The Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent. The evening will start at 7.30pm prompt.

### ESFC AGM 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009

ESFC AGM starting at 7.15pm, to be held at The Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road, Burton. 8pm. 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.

### 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