

East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

March 2009

Chairman's Report

A good turnout for the club's AGM, followed by an excellent talk on the Vulcan to the Sky project. Make a note in your diary to attend the April club night (30th April) to hear the talk to be given by Pablo Mason ('Biggles of Birmingham').

Squadron Leader Paul "Pablo" Mason became a national hero during the Gulf War when he spearheaded the hazardous series of Tornado bombing missions deep into Iraqi territory. He then became a favourite of the public when flying for My Travel. Normally, at 37,000 feet over the Med, the pilot's voice over the PA system is a perfect mimic of a BT recorded announcement. Cool and precise, telling passengers about weather conditions or reminding them to move their watches on two hours. But not this guy. "It's good to be back at the controls," he says. "I've just had a week off to tile the bathroom and fit a new toilet. And I'm pleased to say that I've almost finished." When he flew the same passengers back after their holiday, he announced over the PA: "In case you have been worrying all your holiday how I got on with the tiling - I've finished. But I still have a bit of grouting to do." He recently lost his tribunal against Thomas Cook (My Travel) following dismissal over the "Robbie Savage" incident.

It is good to see John McLinden is back in the office after a bout of serious illness, he would like to thank all those who sent their kind thoughts and messages.

The first Fly-Out to Elvington is well subscribed, contact Jon Faulkner if you either have or are looking for a spare seat for this trip.

Mike Tidmarsh

JOKES OF THE MONTH

It was 1977 and we were on an old DC8 Air Ceylon coming in to Colombo, Ceylon from Bangkok. The landing approach was pretty bumpy, but the biggest bump was saved for when we hit the tarmac - a massive shudder and shake - at least I hoped it was the runway.. We were soon however airborne again and climbing steeply when a voice with a heavy Indian accent came over the PA as follows:

I am sorry about the landing ladies and gentlemen, the pilot will now take over.

— Tim Stuart, Great Aviation Quotes.



Recent Achievements

Throughout March the weather has been a lot kinder to us. It's not exactly been tropical, but there have been a lot of nice clear days. I took my camera with me on a couple of navigation trips. I've included my favourite from one of these flights. It's of Dowlow Quarry, which is just to the south of Buxton in the Peak District.



James Clark flew solo for the first time, in something with an engine tied to the front of it, on Wednesday the 4th of March. James already has a lot of experience of flying in gliders and so it was by far the easiest/ stress free solo that I've ever sent off. He should have an NPPL before too much longer.

Chris Hartland completed his first solo flight on Sunday the 15th of March. It was also his sixteenth birthday. Chris did well to cope with a very busy lunchtime circuit.

Lee Lines passed his Skills Test on Sunday the 15th of March. Well done.

Martin Handley

FLYING EVENTS

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

NEWSLETTER

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



SOCIAL EVENTS

ESFC AGM 26th March 2009

ESFC AGM starting at 7.30pm, 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.

CLUB NIGHT 30th APRIL 2009

An Evening with Pablo Mason - details of this event are to be confirmed and date is subject to alteration.

Other Events

Now that spring is officially here and summer is hopefully not far behind we will soon be holding monthly barbecue evenings at Tatenhill Airfield for ESFC members and their families.

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