

# East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

September 2007

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## Chairman's Report

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For once the weather gods were smiling on us and we managed to complete the ESFC Fly Out to Ostende! Four aircraft and 11 people took off from Tatenhill and routing via DVR, KONAN, KOK landed on the 3000+ metre runway at Ostende. A couple of taxis to the harbour and an excellent lunch by the seafront with a walk along the beach and around the town in the sun. The usual incriminating photos are displayed on the notice board - a very good day out!

We currently have about 225 members in the club and have recently seen a number joining us from Derby. On behalf of ESFC I would like to welcome these new members and would encourage them to take part in the club activities as well as purchasing the ESFC sweatshirt from Margaret before the colder weather arrives.

I hope that everyone will agree that the Annual Fly In & Display was an excellent event in support of a very worthwhile cause (County Air Ambulance). The cost of organising and arranging the Fly-In & Displays was £10K but we managed to cover £9.6K with sponsorship. The presentation of the ESFC cheque, for approx £3,600, to the County Air Ambulance is scheduled for 13 October at East Midlands airport with hopefully some good press coverage.

The meetings to discuss and finalise future plans for the airfield are still continuing with the Duchy of Lancaster. The planning appeal date has been moved to 7-9 November and will be held in Burton. Further details will be announced nearer to this date and we would like to encourage people to attend and support the plans.

Mike Tidmarsh

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## Recent Achievements

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On Sunday the 9th of September Colin Pratt passed his IMC Flight Test. Sunday mornings won't seem the same without seeing Colin pre-flighting G-TALC first thing. Later on the same day Scott Cameron flew solo for the first time. Congratulations to both of them.

Pippa Dobson passed her PPL Skills Test on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> of September. We managed to get her through the course just before she heads down to Cambridge University: well-done and good luck with your degree course. Hopefully we'll see Pippa back with us in December.



## Safety/ Good Airmanship

As the autumn/ winter approaches I would like to remind our pilots of how rapidly the weather conditions can change throughout the day. The majority of people flying out of Tatenhill do tend to be very aware/ cautious of both the actual and forecast weather conditions. However, a minority appears to embark on flights with little regard for what the weather will be like upon their return. Please make a point of looking at the TAFs before you fly, especially if you're landing away and then returning to the airfield later in the day. The TAFs aren't always right, but they do give a good indication of the weather trends throughout the day. Don't get caught out by strong crosswinds or lowering cloud bases this winter.

## Request

I have one request this month. Of late we've had a slight increase in the number of students either not turning up for or cancelling lessons at very short notice (less than an hour occasionally). If you can't make it to a lesson then can you please give us as much notice as possible? We're all in from 0830 onwards and therefore if you're sick or have a personal problem then can you please give us a call before 0900. This will hopefully enable us to give another student the opportunity to fly. Plus, please bear in mind that an empty training slot equals a substantial loss in earnings for your instructor. Thank you.

Martin Handley.

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## ESFC Christmas Dinner



The East Staffs Flying Club are changing the venue for where they hold their Christmas Dinner last year. The Christmas Dinner will be on Friday 7th December and will be at the Branston Golf and Country Club.

It is not too late to book your tickets for this event, for further information please contact Liam Darcy on 07900 220880 or email him at [liam@bradgatebuilders.com](mailto:liam@bradgatebuilders.com)



## Journey Home

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They coasted out to Konan  
where the steel grey gods  
destroyed the dusk horizon.

But soon the white of Dover beckoned;  
turbulent and striking skies,  
hailed the pilots home.

Half a mile bellow their track, the  
broad lands and the flatlands flowed;  
settlements ignored them, as they will.

And all together singing,  
"home is where the hanger is", they  
floated down and gently kissed the  
ground.

MHH 09/07

If you have any suggestions for flying events or  
would like to help, please contact Mike Dillon on  
07818 004188.

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

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## FOR SALE & WANTED

Don't forget you can advertise any items you wish  
to sell or purchase free in the newsletter. Just  
send the details to me at the address below.

Alison

## 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 - 27 September 2007

Due to the lack of interest in the Wine Tasting  
Evening this month's social will be an informal  
gathering in the clubhouse for members who  
want to meet up and chat with nibbles and drinks  
available. The evening's event will start at  
7.30pm.

### CLUB NIGHT - 25 October 2007

A presentation by Roy Noble on the proposed  
rebuild of a Hurricane. Venue details and  
further information are to be confirmed closer  
to the event.

### CLUB NIGHT - 29 November 2007

A presentation by John Calverley on aerobatics  
and flying the Baltic Bear. John's talk will also  
include details on his and Dave's trips to and  
from Lithuania, which I am assured contains  
helpful information for anyone considering flying  
outside UK airspace. Venue and start time to be  
confirmed.

## OTHER EVENTS

If you have any suggestions for other events or  
would like to help, please contact Hugh Clarke on  
01283 531556.

## 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