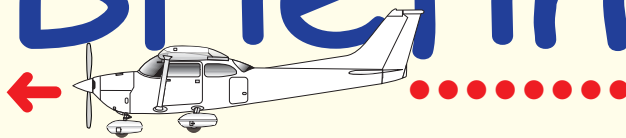


Briefings



Jersey's new website

Jersey Aero Club in the Channel Islands has just launched a new 'state of the art' website, www.jerseyaeroclub.com, which includes full details of the famous Jersey International Air Rally, to be run this year from June 27th to June 29th. Jersey features low landing fees, seven days free parking, very low priced duty- and tax-free aviation fuel and great hospitality.

Oxford banks on bizjets



Oxford Airport has started work on a new business aviation terminal to cater for private jet crew and passengers. Scheduled for completion in June, the facility will be three times the size of the existing GA terminal and is the first step towards Oxford offering a full executive handling operation.

The management swears blind that 'little planes' will always be welcome at Oxford, and indeed the airport has ample room to fit in the lighter end of GA. A few years ago Oxford was butting up against the 160,000-movement ceiling agreed with the local authority. Now, with flight training having largely moved abroad or onto simulators, it's down to about 50,000 movements a year.

The airport was bought last year by property developers David and Simon Reuben for a reputed £40 million. They plan to capitalise on the burgeoning business jet market and seek to rival Farnborough, which is beset by traffic limitation problems. Oxford's head of marketing James Dillon-Godfray says: "Business aviation is the most buoyant sector in the market. We have a far lower cost base compared with the London airports which cater for business aviation, we are an hour's drive from the west end of London, and we have slot availability.

"My main aim is to bring in a handful more business jets a day, which goes a long way towards covering the overheads without clogging up the airspace. We see about 10 jets a day now and just a few more makes a world of difference to us in fuel sales, parking and landing fees. We are categorically not talking about another Farnborough or Biggin Hill – our market is limited by geography and runway size. That said, we have no slot or capacity constraints, and we've strengthened and widened the runway and put in ILS."

The airport has completed the construction of a new large aircraft apron, capable of bearing aircraft up to 77 tonnes. Runway and apron can now handle aircraft as large as the BBJ, the A318 bizjet, the Avro RJ and the Gulfstream V. Business jets now regularly cross the Atlantic direct from Oxford. The airport is now recruiting staff to run the new facility and plans to recruit a new airport manager when



Doug Roberts retires later this year.

Opening hours as a fully licensed airfield have been increased from 0630hrs to 2230 hrs, and weekend access has been expanded by two hours a day. Oxford Airport serves an area with a preponderance of technology companies, particularly biotech, motor racing, and science research and exploitation, but it also has the M40, a (relatively) low-traffic

motorway which puts London an hour away.

All this and all of GA is welcome, too! Dillon-Godfray says Oxford-based singles pay £120 a month for parking and unlimited landings, and new hangars are being sought. A landing fee for an aircraft under 6,000 lbs is £10 at weekends, £12.77 during the week. Plenty of room, plenty of slots, outside the TMA – time for a visit, no? – Pat Malone ■

Robinson smashes records

Robinson Helicopters once again smashed all sales records in 2007, having shifted 823 new machines, the most civil helicopters ever produced in a single year by one company. The previous record was 806, set by Robinson in 2005.

Robinson also broke the record for production of a single helicopter model in one year with the R44, of which 664 were manufactured. The R22 maintains a solid market niche, finishing the year with 159 helicopters produced. During 2008 the company expects to be building 18 helicopters a week.

But is the pace of expansion catching up with Robinson? Writing in the latest issue of *Rotor Torque*, the magazine of the Helicopter Club of Great Britain, chairman John Allwright bemoans the list of ADs and service bulletins coming out of Robinsons. He writes: "Is it possible we might be suffering the consequences of increased production of the successful R44 using greater numbers of less experienced staff, or use of components of less reliable source?"



Duxford Safety Bonus

For the third year, Duxford is offering special discounts for general aviation visitors on 'Duxford Bonus Days.' Qualifying aircraft get a half-price landing fee of £7 and discounted admission to the museums, while the Briefing Room and balcony on the first floor of the historic Control Tower is freely available for Bonus pilots and passengers.

On 12th April, to kick-off the flying season, they're having an informal Safety Bonus Day when Steve McKie of NATS will talk about airspace infringements, and will show some thought-provoking radar replays. Farnborough ATC will explain how the London LARS works, timed to coincide with the extension to the north – come and talk to a controller face to face. Irv Lee, who runs the 'Fly on Track' website, will be giving some of his popular and easy-to-understand weather tips. David Cockburn of CAA will explain their friendly policy towards use of GPS, and AOPA will be there to promote the Wings Award scheme for

developing the skills of private pilots.

Other Bonus Days planned for 2008 are:

May 3rd Pilot magazine Bonus Day – meet the Pilot folk – in any light aircraft.

May 31st Cessna Bonus Day – arrive in any Cessna

June 14th Flight Training Organisations Bonus Day – any aircraft, special for FTOs

July 26th Piper Bonus Day – any Piper

August 9th Taildragger or any Jodel/Robin Bonus Day

Dec 13th Christmas Dinner Bonus Day

Duxford is the home of Europe's premier aviation museum, part of the Imperial War Museum, and if you haven't seen it lately, you're missing a treat. There are no guarantees, but most weekend days and some weekdays in the flying season will see Spitfires, Hurricanes, military jets, the Catalina, B17 and other rare aircraft taking to the skies.

Information for fly-in visitors can be found on the website <http://duxford.iwm.org.uk/>. Call 01223 833376 for PPR and briefing



Martin Claydon



Martin Claydon

A prince among pilots

While his brother Harry basks in the glow of public acceptance for his sterling service in Afghanistan, Prince William is doing his bit to paint general aviation in a positive light. 'Flying Office Wales' was widely featured in the media as he undertook ab initio training with the RAF's 1 Sqn Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS) in the Grob G115E Tutor

The G115E and slightly larger G120 have been very successful military trainers, with about 400 in service around the world, flying 60,000 hours a year. The RAF has 94 of them, owned and maintained by VT Aerospace.

Grobs run in the family – William's father Prince Charles took the controls of a G103 glider in 1984. ■

William with his instructor, Sqn Ldr Roger Bousfield, and Grob Tutor



Moth bursary

The de Havilland Educational Trust is again offering two Fiona McKay Flying Bursaries, each to fund ten hours' flying in a Tiger Moth. The purpose of the bursaries is to enable licensed pilots to convert onto the Tiger Moth with the aim of providing a continuing stream of pilots for the operation of vintage aeroplanes.

To be eligible, you need to be a current UK licence holder for a powered aircraft and have a minimum of 75 hours PIC. If you're selected for interview you'll get a 40 minute trial flight in a Tiger with Cambridge Flying Group, probably in May, and on the basis of their assessment two interviewees will be offered the bursaries. The ten hours will be flown at CFG, or an alternative location subject to agreement.

The aims of the de Havilland Educational Trust are to encourage and promote the continued operation of historic aeroplanes by facilitating flying training through the award of bursaries, and facilitating training of aircraft engineers through the award of bursaries. It also aims to enable people of all backgrounds and ages to experience flights in historic de Havilland planes. Get your application form from the de Havilland Educational Trust, Staggers, 23 Hall Park Hill, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2NH, email dhet@dhmothclub.co.uk

ATPL scholarship

GAPAN, the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, is once again offering a range of scholarships to benefit pilots of all stripes. Chief among them is the JN Somers ATPL Scholarship, a fully-funded course of training for a complete Air Transport Pilots Licence. This is a very valuable award, and GAPAN is keen to publicise it as widely as possible in order to reach the best candidates. Could this be your ticket to the flight deck?

There are other opportunities in GAPAN's 2008 programme. There are complete PPLs (fixed-wing) and Instructor Ratings (fixed-wing and rotary), and bursaries for further instructor qualifications. There's also a GAPAN Jet Orientation Course.

Have a look at www.gapan.org, and click on 'career and scholarships' for information on how to apply. But get weaving – the closing date for PPL and instructor applications is April 9th. ■

Pied à terre

Here it is – just what you've been looking for. Your own private 1,000m by 50m airstrip with hangar and workshop. Oh, and there's a seven-bedroom French manor house alongside it, with stables and separate banqueting hall which already has 30 weddings booked for 2008 – with outside catering, of course. It's in Normandy, on the Greenwich meridian, and landing and viewing is by appointment. The owner is getting offers from locals who are interested in the land and buildings but not the airstrip. Since he has built the airstrip from scratch and got all the necessary permits for international use, he is reluctant to see such a wonderful facility disappear. Full details are on <http://www.parmafrance.com/info.htm>. If you want to visit, contact AOPA's Channel Islands chairman Charles Strasser on strasser@propilots.net



Air racing calendar

Fancy a stab at air racing? There's a full calendar of events this year, starting with the Airborne Trophy at Leicester on April 26th and 27th. Each event has its trophy, and they all count towards the British Air Racing Championship, a European Air Racing Championship and a Saturday Non-Championship Trophy.

Spectators are welcome. Information on the venues is available on www.airraceuk.co.uk.

After the Airborne Trophy on April 26th and 27th the next race is the Bill Entress Trophy in Abbeville, France, on May 17th and 18th. Then there's the Battle of Britain Trophy and the Strongbow Trophy at Compton Abbas on June 7th and 8th. The action moves to Shobdon for the City Livery Trophy and the Beverley Snook Trophy on June 28th and 29th, to Sywell on August 9th and 10th, to Bembridge on August 30th and September 1st, and to Alderney on September 27th and 28th.

And if you're considering competing, buttonhole AOPA's Geoffrey Boot at any of these events and he'll mark your card.

Somewhere different

A large-scale fly-in is being planned for the Cayman Islands as the Caribbean resort attempts to win more general aviation pilots away from the manifest attractions of Florida.

The Cayman Islands tourist authorities are keen to stress that private pilots from the UK and Europe can easily rent aircraft in south Florida for the exotic trip across Cuban airspace to Cayman. To make it simple, the operator behind the fly-in, Caribbean Flying Adventures, provides an escort pilot, documents, charts, Cuban overflight permits,

safety gear, and negotiated hotel rates in Key West and Grand Cayman. The cost to register is \$350 per plane.

The fly-in runs from June 6th to June 10th, and follows a smaller-scale dummy run in February. The flight from Key West to the Caymans takes two and a half hours. Enquiries should be sent to jim@caribbeanflyingadventures.com – see www.caribbeanflyingadventures.com for details.

Fly Navy!

RNAS Yeovilton's International Air Day is on Saturday July 5th. It aims to showcase current and future Navy aircraft and underline the enduring importance of maritime air power to our island nation. There will be extensive flying and static aircraft displays and an exhibition of equipment. They're expecting 40,000 visitors on the day.

Fast jets from around the world will be strutting their stuff, along with Yeovilton-based Commando Sea King and Lynx helicopters. The Royal Navy Historic Flight, run by AOPA member John Beattie, will provide an airborne

CAA Safety Awards

The CAA has decided to postpone the General Aviation Safety Awards for 2007 because so few suitable nominations have been received. The awards for 2007 will now be rolled up into those for 2008. The GA Safety Awards are designed to recognise good airmanship among GA pilots, controllers, or indeed anyone involved in GA whose skill contributes to the safe resolution of a situation that could have ended in an accident. Looking on the bright side, it's possible that the lack of suitable nominations for 2007 indicates there was no need for the services of heroes during the year; if such a need arises this year, you can submit your nominations via the CAA's website www.caa.co.uk/ga_award, or you can get a printed nomination sheet from the Authority by calling 020 7453 6030.

Lydd Airshow cancelled

Lydd Airshow, which was to have run on June 28th and 29th, has been cancelled. The airport's managing director Zaher Deir said he was disappointed to have to cancel, but added: "Staging such a large-scale public event has been a huge organisational challenge and has been very costly. Despite our best efforts, we have been unable to attract a suitable sponsor." The airport hopes to stage the show next year if sponsorship can be found.

representation of Britain's impressive aviation heritage. The finale to the show will be the traditional Commando Assault Demonstration.

A Future Navy hangar, created in conjunction with defence manufacturers, will showcase new technology. It is expected to include models and interactive displays featuring the Joint Strike Fighter, Future Lynx Helicopter, CVF Future Carrier and Type 45 Destroyer.

Fly-in opportunities are there but limited; probably only five or six slots. You can download an application form from their website www.yeoviltonairday.co.uk

Perth Airshow

Perth Aerodrome is having a fly-in weekend and open day from June 20th to 22nd, and wants you to know you'll be welcome. They've got half price landing fees, cheap camping, nearby hotel or B & B accommodation, and they're putting on an air display on the Saturday, which is the Open Day. Every type of aircraft is welcome. For updates, keep an eye on www.perth-airshow.co.uk. ■

Fifth Transair shop

Transair has opened its fifth pilot shop, at Coventry. Operating in conjunction with Almat Flying Club, the shop carries a similar comprehensive range of aviation essentials to Transair's other shops at Shoreham, Fair Oaks, Gloucester, and beneath the AOPA offices London's Victoria.

The company is also adding another vehicle to its mobile trade delivery system, launched last April, to cope with demand from flying clubs and airfield-based aviation businesses.

Transair continues to employ at all its outlets a large number of pilots who are working their way towards an airliner flight deck, and who can give advice and help on choices.

