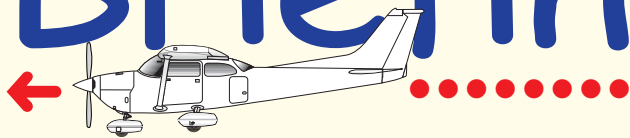


Briefings



GAPAN ATPL scholarship

Just two weeks left to apply for one of the most valuable flying scholarships available, the JN Somers ATPL Scholarship, which provides funding all the way through to a frozen ATPL.

The scholarship is offered through the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators along with a selection of lesser scholarships, all aimed at giving a leg up to those who have a burning ambition to fly but are challenged for the readies. Have a look at www.gapan.org, click on 'career matters' and then 'scholarships'.

It was announced earlier this year that the JN Somers ATPL Scholarship had been cancelled for 2009, but arrangements have now been made to ensure its continuation. Worth an estimated £70,000, the scholarship is not only one of the most valuable around, but one of the most prestigious. Previous winners have had little difficulty obtaining



good positions.

As a first step you need to have a Class 1 medical, which must be valid on July 16th. You need five GCSEs and two A levels, and must show 'evidence of strong motivation towards a career in aviation'. Evidence of a progression towards a PPL will enhance a candidate's application, says GAPAN.

The selection process begins in July and includes psychometric tests, aptitude tests and interview. Last year's winner, Philip Macgregor from Maidstone, is now at Flight Training Europe in Spain.

The closing date for applications is June 15th – you can download the application form from the GAPAN website.

The JN Somers Scholarship was instigated in memory of the Nat Somers, the former air racer and owner of Southampton and Panshanger airfields. ■



New honour for Jock

Biggin Hill Air Show founder Jock Maitland MBE has been accorded a signal honour by having a local road named after him.

'Maitland View,' which provides some of the finest viewing points at Biggin Hill Airport, was officially named by the Mayor of Bromley, Denise Reddin, at a special ceremony attended by Jock and his family.

Jock's name has been synonymous with Biggin Hill since it was handed over for civil use by the RAF 50 years ago this year. Squadron Leader Maitland had had a successful career in the RAF during which he became the only Briton to shoot down two MiG 15s, a feat he accomplished while flying F86 Sabres in Korea on a USAF exchange programme. He also saw action at Suez flying the DH Vampire and Venom.

In 1959 Jock became the first airport manager at Biggin Hill, and he remained in charge until 1988.

He introduced the Biggin Hill Air Fair in 1963, and backed by his energy and enthusiasm it became a global phenomenon, attracting an unrivalled international cast of civil and military aircraft. Today it remains one of the largest events in what is the most popular spectator sport in Britain after football.

Jock was awarded the MBE in 2007 for services to aviation.

*Biggin Hill Air Fair is on June 28th and 29th this year. ■

Oxford clamps down

Relations between GA users and Oxford Airport have deteriorated further following the hiring of a private car clamping company to enforce a new parking regime.

Many users have been clamped, including students at Oxford Aviation Academy who had parking passes but "put them in the wrong place." Such is the zealotry of the clampers that at least one car owned by the airport itself has been clamped.

Oxford's new parking restrictions and costs have been discussed in previous issues of this magazine; owners who had to pay to park while they fly have threatened to take their aircraft elsewhere. The airport management has made some concessions to owners after an outcry against new parking policies. Now, users have urged the airport management to rein in the clampers before irreparable damage is done to relations between the airport and its customers; the airport management, however, says the clampers have been engaged by the owners and they have no control over them.

Although parking is free over the weekend, there is no provision for delays caused by weather, and aircraft owners' cars will be clamped first thing on Monday morning if they're not back in time. According to users, the airport management accepts that the situation is a customer-relations disaster but claims to have no jurisdiction.



Belgian fly-in

The Schaffen-Diest old-timers rally will be held this year on August 14th, 15th and 16th and promises once again to be an event well worth visiting. Last year the weather was quite good and the Belgian airfield had more than 300 fly-in visitors from all over Europe. Vintage aircraft are particularly prized, but anything that flies is welcome. The airfield, about halfway between Brussels and Maastricht, is relatively easy to get to from the UK.

The Belgian organisers are extremely welcoming and provide a free lunch and guided tour of the ancient citadel of Diest. You can camp on the airfield, but they've also arranged transport to nearby hotels.

Once again the event aims to stage the largest gathering outside Italy of Stelio Frati's designs, including the Falco (right), Pichhio, Nibbio and SF260. For details see www.dac.be

