



Contents

OCTOBER 2005



26

- 4** Chairman's message
George Done
- 5** AOPA Working for You
Independent report savages CAA charges case; Parliament joins the fray; flawed DfT reasoning on foreign registry; avoiding bird strikes; MoD invents new charge; insurance for flying instructors
- 12** Up, up and away
Fuel prices soar ever upwards with no sign of relief. **Pat Malone** reports
- 14** Airshow picture special
As the season draws to a close we showcase a few pictures by **Damien Burke** of this year's charity shows
- 16** Young Pilots' Tour of France
AOPA's entrant **Edd Shields** reports on his experiences as the only Briton in the field



14



40

- 18** Dangerous knowledge
AOPA seeks a review of the requirement to teach instrument flying to PPL(H) students; CAA proposals on visibility minima for helicopters opposed; dirty pool at the World Helicopter Championships
- Cover story**
- 22** Flying the Plastic Duck
With the Diamond DA42 Twin Star now in service, **Ian Sturgess** gives his appraisal
- 26** How to buy an aircraft
Some tips on what to look for and what to avoid, from an expert. By **Derrick Ings**
- 29** What's going on at Sywell?
Pat Malone talks to owner Michael Bletsoe Brown



12



16

- 30** Two-time losers
Flying instructors are caught between two employment stools as the government has it both ways. By **David Clutterbuck**
- 33** Briefings
Free flying for women; Canberra bows out; winter dates for CAA safety evenings
- 35** Letters to the editor
That Newcastle diversion; CAA charges; flying the Percival Prentice; hard questions for the CAA chairman
- 36** Corporate member profile
A relatively remote location hasn't stopped Lovat Fraser turning Tayside Aviation into the envy of the industry, as **Pat Malone** reports
- 39** Bader Day
Disabled youngsters take to the skies from White Waltham, as pilot **Sarah Brodie** reports
- 40** The way we were
Flight instruction in the fifties remembered by **David Ogilvy**



22