

HAMPSHIRE HEDGEHOPPER



April 2022

The Official Newsletter of the LAA Andover Strut

This is YOUR newsletter. If you would like to sign up to receiving future newsletters, or know someone who might be interested in receiving these - please do join our Google Group by sending an email message to: LaaAndover@Gmail.com with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.



Alan Lovejoy has provided this photo of CAF Beaver

Steve Forward from CHIRP – Human factors in GA

Monday 11th April 20hrs

Popham Club House

From the Editor....

Greeting from Australia!

Its slightly surreal to be writing this editorial from Melbourne but after two and a half years we have finally managed to fly to Australia to see our son who ventured back out here in November 2019 then COVID intervened.....It was touch and go as to whether we would make it, firstly waiting for Australia to open up to tourist visitors only for my wife to go down with COVID two weeks before we were due to travel. Thankfully she tested negative with two days to go before departing and I didn't catch it!

I've hooked up with the New South Wales chapter of the Sport Aircraft Association of Australia and will be spending a day with members of the NSW Sport Aircraft Club at Wedderburn Airfield over the Easter weekend. Apart from having their own airfield the set up looks very similar to our Strut activity at Popham. The airfield appears to have a very large collection of hangars and I have the promise of meeting a cross section of members, their aircraft and hopefully some local flying. As you may have read the NSW region has suffered torrential storms and flooding, though the worst effects have been felt further up the Gold Coast so fingers crossed the weather improves for next weekend! In the meantime the weather is looking good for the Australian Grand prix this weekend and we are off to soak up some of the atmosphere of the qualifying sessions before the main event! Anyway a full report and pictures next month!

Last month's meeting saw Tony Fendall and Gary Pullen from Glider Heritage at Lasham providing an informative update on the glider museum which now houses over 50 aircraft, many still in airworthy condition, others under renovation. We have an open invitation to visit and will be arranging a combined fly-in and road visit during the summer. This month's meeting sees Steve Forward from CHIRP who will be talking to us about the work of CHIRP and Human factors in GA. It promises to be an informative and very relevant evening's talk.

By now you will have read the news that we are not able to hold the LAA Rally at Sywell this year. Despite ongoing discussions Sywell has confirmed that it is not in a position to host the Rally this year. Whilst it will not be possible to hold an event on the scale of our normal Rally discussions are ongoing to hold an LAA event on the traditional first weekend of September dates.

The start of the summer flying season is just round the corner and already there is a good list of events to attend. The bank holiday weekend at the end of April sees the return of the Microlight Trade Fair to its usual start of season slot, followed by the classic car show, aerojumble and VAC fly-in on the bank holiday Monday. Hopefully the weather will be kind and the Strut will have a presence across the three days. Help required to erect the marquee and dismantle it on the Friday/Sunday..

In the meantime stay safe and enjoy the flying.

Eryl

Strut Meetings

Strut meeting take place in the Club House at Popham on the second Monday of each month unless otherwise notified. The Cafe will be open from 7pm until the start of the meeting for teas, coffees and light snacks – an opportunity for a pre-meeting natter!

Monday 11th April: Steve Forward from CHIRP GA

Steve will join us to provide a brief on CHIRP The aim of CHIRP is to contribute to the enhancement of aviation safety in the UK and maritime safety worldwide by providing a totally independent confidential (not anonymous) reporting system for all individuals employed in or associated with these industries.

Monday 9th May: Homebuilders Evening – Alan Lovejoy has penned the following

Looking forward to our May meeting, one good thing to come out of COVID is that we have had to move the AGM to an alternative month! 'Not sure which month though! I annotated May as 'Members Evening'. It's been awhile since we had one of our fairly regular Home Builders nights.

I would like to expand on that and invite members to think about putting together a 15 minute presentation on any suitably relevant aspect of interest to Strut members, be it a memorable flying weekend, a current building or restoration project, a notable flying event even an ILAFFT (I Learnt About Flying From That!). We all have a few tales to tell I know I've already heard a few! We have the Strut laptop and drop down screen so we can cater for Visual as well as audio. I should think we could cater for 4 or 5 mini presentations. Give the idea some thought and let me know. (alan.lovejoy18@gmail.com. 07831 606075)

Monday 13th June: Bums on Seats Flying Evening & Fish & Chips Supper

Once again, and weather permitting we will be holding our annual Bums on Seats evening to provide an opportunity for non-flying members of the Strut to get airborne for a short flight around the Hampshire countryside. As usual the evening will kick off from around 5.30 and conclude around 8pm with a fish & chip supper.

Strut Membership and Subs

We are resuming Strut membership subs with effect from January 2022, The annual subs of £10 can either be paid to Hon Treasurer, Eryl Smith or paid directly into the Club Account, details below.

Please don't forget to put your name as payment reference & ideally let Eryl know!

Bank: Barclays
Account Name: Andover Strut
Bank Sort Code: 20-59-14
Account No: 93409597
Eryl@smithwinchester.net

Tony Gibbon

It is with great sadness that I pass on the news of the death of Tony Gibbon who died peacefully in a care home in Dorchester after a long battle with cancer. Whilst not an aircraft owner or pilot Tony was an enthusiastic supporter of the Strut, for many years attending speaker meetings and supporting our fly-in events at Popham and Barton Ashes. His daughter Eleanor remarked that the Strut meetings were 'a highlight of Tony's calendar' and wished to thank the Strut for the welcome we had provided over the years. Although he moved to Dorchester a couple of years ago and could no longer attend meetings he continued to keep in touch via the newsletter. He will be sadly missed and I have sent my condolences on behalf of the Strut to Eleanor.

Otter Stories –Labrador '68

Following on from his talk at the January meeting and George Bacon's anecdotes about flying Otters in Canada Alan Lovejoy sent in the cover photograph and the following recollections.....

Summer '68, Labrador, Canada. During my 3 years at Goose during the summer we had 2 Otters detached to us ostensibly for S&R duties but also conveniently suitable to fly Canadian AF and RAF personnel out to one of the 3 fish camps. This was not a jolly by any means as it was 'Expedition Training' and therefore not eating into ones leave entitlement. The following year the Otters were replaced by the Sea Knight helicopter, a mini Chinook. This was even better as the crews would happily drop us off for a few hours salmon fishing picking us up 'on the way back'. Happy Days!

If anyone else has some light hearted tales, old or new please send them in!

Strut Library – Theme “Cold War”

To mark the 86th anniversary of the first flight of the Spitfire on March 5th 1936 has pulled together this excellent selection of books on all things Spitfire!

Spitfire- A test pilots story – Jeffrey Quill (Hard Back)
The Silver Spitfire – Tom Neil
Sholto Douglas – Years of Command - Robert White
That Eternal Summer – Ralph Baker
Spitfire- rebuilding & flying in the 90s
Spitfire – John Nicol
Spitfire Ace – Gordon Olive
Malta Spitfire – George Beurling
Sigh for a Merlin –Alex Henshaw
Spitfire- A test pilots story – Jeffrey Quill (paper back)
The Spitfire Story – Jacky Hyams
First Light – Geoffrey Wellum
School days to Spitfire – Gordon Mitchell
Spitfire- Autobiography-Jon E Lewis
Spies in the Sky – Taylor Downing
Spitfire- Biography-Jonathon Glancey

Dave is particularly grateful to everyone who continues to donate books to the Strut library so please take the opportunity to sign out a book AND don't forget to return copies so that others can enjoy them.

Free/Reduced Landings

The following free or reduced price landings are available during February and March Members of the Flyer Club can also take advantage of the following reduced/free landings.

April

Flyer Club: Audley End, Easter, Fenland, Fife

Light Aviation: Bodmin (From 3 April), Leicester, Netherthorpe

Out and About

With the flying season now rearing up for Summer 22 here are a small selection of upcoming events which may be of interest. Events are still subject to last minute cancellation so please check before you fly....

Sat 9 Apr: Turweston, VAC Members Fly-In

Sat 23 Apr: Duxford, IWM GA Flying Day

Sun 24 Apr: Henstridge, Wessex Strut Fly-In

Sat 30 Apr-Sun 1 May: Popham Microlight Trade Fair

Mon 2 May: Popham: Classic Car Show, Aerojumble and VAC Fly-In

Sat 7 May: Compton Abbas, Vintage Fly-in

Sat 7 May: Fenland, VAC Tulip Fly-in

Sat 14 May: Goodwood, VPAC Vintage Piper Fly-in

Sun 15 May: Popham, Vintage Cessna Fly-in

LAA Tour of Scotland 22-29th May

Neil Wilson has put together a programme for the LAA Scottish Tour from 22-29th May with the aim of enabling members to tour Scotland, mostly based from Perth, as this will give us options for weather, places to fly to and if all fails and we cannot fly for a day, a train can be caught into Edinburgh. The aim of the tour is flexibility. Designed so that you can do the whole trip, one weekend, join up as we fly past, or duck in and out as time allows. Each individual pilot is responsible for their own flight, as well as food, accommodation fuel and landing fees. The intention is also for you to do your own pace. Camping allowed at all venues. Full details of the programme see Light Aviation, LAA website or previous editions of the Newsletter. Whilst I wont be flying to Scotland I will be in Perth for the Meet the LAA event at the end of the Scottish tour week which is being held in conjunction with the Scottish Aero Club Fly-in event. So hope I might see one or two Strut members north of the Boarder!

Microlight Trade Fair & Aerojumble & VAC Fly-in – Popham 30 Apr – 2 May

The Bank holiday weekend sees the return of the Microlight Trade Fair on the Saturday & Sunday return to its familiar start of season slot, followed by the Classic Car Show, Aerojumble and VAC Fly-In on the bank holiday Monday. The LAA will have the usual attendance at the Microlight Trade Fair and Strut members are asked to help with the erection of the marquee on the Friday, manning the stall on the Sat & Sun followed by dismantling the marquee at the end of the day. We are looking at having a small presence on the Monday, possibly with a gazebo but plenty of opportunity to soak up the atmosphere of the classic cars, aerojumble and VAC fly-in. Please let Bob know if you can help with the set up and manning the marquee over the weekend.

Why You Should Join Our Club...

If you have an interest in light (or possibly heavy) aviation, be a home builder (or considering a project), a PPL holder, a LAA member or a plane spotter and you live not a million miles from Popham Airfield in Hampshire joining the LAA Andover Strut will give you access to like-minded people, interesting aviation related talks and the opportunity to take part in the various events we hold throughout the year. Annual membership is £10 a year – please speak to Eryl Smith.

How to find us...

2nd Monday of the month start at 7:30pm till we finish

Spitfire Flying Club, Coxford Down, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 3BD



The Strut Committee

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Martin Dovey
Mgd618@outlook.com

Subs

Strut Membership subs are due at the beginning of the year (January). The annual subs of £10 can either be paid to Hon Treasurer, Eryl Smith or paid directly into the Club Account, details below.

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