



Fife Flying Club



Issue 8 Nov/Dec 2006

New FFC Committee Elected

Welcome to the latest issue of the Fife Flying Club Newsletter. Many of you will have attended the recent AGM where the new

committee was elected. Following this I was rather humbled to be elected as Chairman. Picking up the reins (or should it be yoke?) from our retiring Chairman will be a very hard act to follow. Stewart Webb has been instrumental in reigniting the Flying Club over the past few years and I would thank Stewart for his unbounded enthusiasm and commitment. The good news is that Stewart remains actively involved in the Flying Club as Instructor Representative on the Committee.

We now have an extremely active club with over 260 members. Just a few notable highlights of what currently going on include Night Training, the CPL Group, several new syndicates and IMC and RNAV training on the horizon. Going forward my aim is to build on Stewart's good work with a focus on involving as many of the members as possible. With this in mind the committee has started planning a very busy calendar of events for the coming year. The Eshott Flyout and Christmas Dinner are already in the final planning stages however keep your eyes peeled for lots more to come.

Finally please remember this is your Club and the Committee are here to represent everyone. If you have any ideas, suggestions, comments etc then please share these with one of the Committee Members.

Good Flying – Andy Reid

Chairman's Opening Message:

What's On Guide:

Night Flying: Starts 27th November

Chipmunk Days: 2nd and 3rd December.

Christmas Dance: 15th December.

Eshott Fly-Out: 17th December.

IMC Course: started

Night Classes: Already started, but repeating in January

Next Committee Meetings: 5th December and 9th January.

Burns Supper: Late January

Quiz night, Treasure Hunt, Easter Fly-in, etc – dates to be announced.

Club Night – January, date tba.

AGM Report

The AGM was well attended this year with 49 members braving the elements to be there.

The Club business from last year was concluded and the new Committee elected. Colin Rodger, ATCO at Edinburgh Airport, was the guest speaker. Colin, as usual, put the friendly face on Edinburgh ATC and let us in on a few of the shortcuts and secrets to getting the best service from the Edinburgh Zone – like making a point of phoning ahead to tell them you're going to ask for a zone transit – this helps the ATCOs set up a flight strip for you, and tell you of any likely hold-ups before you get off the ground.

The new committee:

Chairman:	Andy Reid
Student Rep:	Kate Grant
Ordinary Member:	Richard Street
Newsletter Editor:	Alan Laing
Ordinary Member:	Andrew Brown
Tayside Rep:	Jim Watt
Ordinary Member:	Ian Thorogood
Instructor Rep:	Stewart Webb
Secretary/Treasurer:	Julia
Ordinary Member:	Fraser Scott

In the next issue of **Out of the Blue...**

More from Dave's Diary, and a tantalising invite to attend Oshkosh 2007 from Richard Street...

Eshott Fly-Out – 17th December

This annual event is fast becoming one of the “must-do” events of the year. Whatever level you’re at – a student with a few hours or a veteran WWII bomber pilot, nothing beats the grub at Eshott on a Fife Flying Club fly-out. Muster at the Airfield at 11am on the morning of the 17th December, with a blast-off time of 1130. Food will be served at Eshott at 1230 or thereabouts, and we all intend to be back at Fife by 1430. The two 172’s are booked, and if you’re a student with a navigation exercise to do, why don’t you see if your instructor will take you to Eshott? The trip down the east coast to Eshott is very picturesque, and easy to navigate – if you can follow the A1 south, you’ll find Eshott. The TB9 syndicate and the Cessna 152 syndicate will be participating – so if you’re not flying yourself, why don’t you see if you can get a seat in one of the planes that are going?



Fourth of November a Roaring Success

Many of you will have attended the excellent Fireworks Party at the airfield on the 4th of November. Thanks to Purvis Plant Hire we had several tons of scrap wood and other odds and assortments to make a huge bonfire. Andy Reid, in his first task as Chair of the Committee, oversaw the construction of the bonfire. Thankfully many of his wilder notions were not supported by the saner members of the bonfire building crew, and as a result several lives were probably saved.

The howling gale blowing that evening meant that the flames from the bonfire were licking the outskirts of Glenrothes, but thankfully nothing other than the bushes at the north side of the 25 threshold caught fire.

The fireworks were, like last year, superb, and set off by the now experienced and able team of Stewart Webb, Fraser Scott and company.

The Topsy Nipper came up trumps as usual with hot soup before the fireworks and superb Stovies to follow. The raffle went down well, with umpteen prizes, many generously donated by members.

IMC Training Class

The IMC Training class started on Wednesday 15th November. Three candidates have enrolled for the class, which includes 15 hours of flight time (on the Warrior or 172) and an additional 30 hours of classroom work. Cost for the course is £2796. To do the course you need a PPL plus 25 hours of post-qualification flying experience. If you’d like more details, speak to Stewart Webb. If you’ve missed this class, maybe if you ask Stewart nicely he’ll organise another.....

Club Membership at an All-Time High.

Fife Flying Club has around 260 members at the moment. New members are joining weekly as they embark on their PPL and CPL training, and we’re seeing some folk who are moving down from Perth as a result of the changes up there. The club has never been healthier, and this year’s Christmas Dinner will see over 35 people get their “wings”. **The big question is, though – where are you all?** We seem to have a small band who turn up regularly at events. It would be good to see more of you – so why not make the effort this coming year to come along to a Club event. One suggestion is that we have regular Club nights, starting in January and running on every second Thursday of the month. Watch the Noticeboard for more details.

Update your Details

Your Club subscription will be coming due at the end of the year. Take the opportunity to help the Club to help you – make sure your email address, home address, and phone numbers are all up to date. This helps us to get information to you quickly and effectively.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Committee meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month in future (except for January, when the meeting will be on the second Tuesday). Members will be kept up-to-date on Committee discussions through this column, and please remember to bring matters to the committee's attention for discussion at the meetings.

Your Ideas Wanted:

If you have an idea about what the Club should be doing, and want to share that idea, contact a member of the Committee or leave a note explaining what you want at the desk in the Topsy Nipper. This is your Club – get involved and have a say in the events that are organised.

AWARDS



PPL PASSES

MARK MERIGOT
DAVE McKAY
PAUL LAING
ALEX VESCO

FIRST SOLO

TREVOR HARVEY
DUNCAN BROWN
CAROLINE CURRIE
RODDY WEBSTER
ANDREW McCALL

Well done to all the above, and remember that names of all the PPL, CPL and NPPL passes for the past year will be added to the roll of honour board in the Topsy Nipper in due course.

Christmas Dance – 15th December

There are still tickets left for the Christmas Dance on Friday, 15th December. This will be a superb night out, with good food from the Topsy Nipper, a disco on the new dance floor due to be laid in the Topsy shortly, and a raffle or tombola – or both!

The dance this year is a black tie affair – a chance to get dolled up and look your best. The womenfolk can do the same, so dust off your dickie-bows and dinner suits – or dig the kilt out, there's never enough excuses to get yer kilt on.....Speak to Julia or June at t tickets.

They are going fast!



Merry Christmas

Chipmunk Day a Great Success

Seven of you will now know what it's like to drag your tail and get into the air in a classic British flying machine. FFC and Tayside Aviation arranged for a Chipmunk to be available at the airfield for two days, with flights available on a first-come first-served basis. Unfortunately, the Scottish weather was a bit uncooperative on the first day but was fair enough for some flying to take place on the Sunday. The Chipmunk still carrying it's RAF registration of WP860, flown by Stewart Clari was kept busy on seven sorties during the day. Prices were £75 for 30 minutes and £150 for a full hour, and all those who flew the aircraft agreed that the flying was well worth the price, and having that magic type "DH Chipmunk" in the logbook would be something to look back on in years to come.

The good news is that the Chipmunk will be back at Fife on the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of December – if you want to book a slot contact the desk at the Topsy Nipper.

Rumour Mill.... Could it be Twins?

Rumours abound that Tayside Aviation may be looking for a twin-engined aircraft to complement the single-engined fleet.

Watch this space for more information....



CPL Improver's Group

The CPL Improver's Group met for the first time recently. The group is a support group for those of you working towards your CPL. The first meeting was attended by 13 people, and John Stewart, Tayside's Chief Commercial Flying Instructor was on hand to give advice.

Designer Club Merchandise.

What all the best dressed Fife Flying Club members are being seen out in these days..... A reminder that FFC polo shirts and mugs are available from the shop – at £9.99 for a polo shirt, and £2.50 for a mug, they are excellent value and maybe just what you need as that last minute Christmas present for a loved one – or even your wife, husband partner or fellow syndicate member!

News in Brief

With the addition of Brian Gayle, AFI, (a former Fife PPL student), there are now five full-time instructors based at Fife. The flying training programme is extremely busy. If you want to book a training slot you need to think ahead – the board is usually busy for a couple of weeks ahead.

All the Fife Instructors can now do conversions onto the Grob. The Grob is proving very popular – go on, give it a go and add this aerobatic type to your logbook.

Early Risers. With the change of the clocks, the afternoons end fairly early now. As a result, Stewart Webb has suggested that he can be available from 7am at the airfield over the winter months – by arrangement – to allow for an early slot, taking off at 8am. Call Stewart for more information.

Tayside Aviation have a new windsock which will, we are told, be put up as soon as the recent gales die down enough to allow them to do it safely!

The Fife Airport Fire Engine – the wee red landrover – has had a new engine and gearbox, and various other repairs have been carried out.

You may have noticed that the airfield is busier these days. On one Sunday recently, there were 109 movements – busier than on the day of the VE Day celebration. Watch this space in the next Newsletter, when we'll tell you a bit more about movements at the airfield.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You All!

Night Flying Rating Available



There are currently 21 people signed up to do the Night Rating. The flying for this will start at Dundee during the week commencing 27th November. There is no test for the Night Rating – just a sign-off from your instructor. If you do the 5-hours of flying during your PPL training, the hours will count towards your PPL, and the cost will be within your PPL flying charges. If you do the rating separately, it will cost £645. So if you're up to navigating about the skies yourself as a PPL student, (and are competent in the circuit) you can join in on the NR course. Flying will be on 152's or Grobs (as there are no 172's based at Dundee). And if you're a CPL candidate, remember you need the night rating before you can embark on the CPL course...

Burns Night – Volunteers Needed.

It's been suggested that the Club run a Burns' Night, towards the end of January. What we need are volunteers who can address a Haggis, the ladies and can reel off an Immortal Memory. There must be a few fans of the Bard out there who'd be willing to join in and make the night a success. Let Andy Reid know asap.

Radio Navigation Course.

Stewart Webb is offering to run a RNAV course. If you've got your PPL you will have dabbled with VOR's and NDB's, but probably never fully mastered them. This informal course will involve 2 – 3 hours in the classroom followed by an hour's practice in flight, and will help you use the VOR and NDB kit more effectively.

NO BOYS ALLOWED

Kate Grant, Student Rep on the Committee, has suggested that we might organise a "Girls" Night at the Club. We have a lot of female members, and Kate is currently working up an extensive agenda for a night of informative fun for the female fliers amongst us, date to be announced. Talk to Kate for more information.

(Whether having a girls-only night is politically correct these days we're not sure, but it doesn't matter as all us blokes will probably be washing our hair that night anyway)..

Get Tanked Up for Christmas

The airfield will be closed on 25th and 26th December and 1st and 2nd January. If you're planning to fly on any of these days, remember to get your fuel beforehand.

Changes to the Topsy Nipper

Watch out for changes in the Topsy, coming soon. A proper, permanent, dance floor is to be laid, and a new, and very professional, PA system will also be installed. A bit of rearranging of the walls will open the restaurant out a bit more, making the venue even more attractive for that special "do".

A word from the Editor

This Newsletter is here to express the views of the members of the Flying Club – so if you have something to say, let me know. Articles, letters, even small ads welcome. Next date for copy: January 4th.... Any articles, photographs, etc, gratefully received and please send them to the Tayside email address and I'll collect them. Alan Laing.