



Fife Flying Club

Out of the blue

Issue 11 May 2007

Chairmans Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the club newsletter. There been a lot going on a quite a bit of change over the past couple of months.

Just when we have finished saying our farewells to Bryan and Stewart, another instructor has secured employment with one of the big boys - congratulations Simon. At the other end of the ladder we have seen our first PPL passes of the year, well done Scott, Richard and Jonathan. Also there's quite a few more very close to their skills test.

The last month has been fairly hectic for me personally. Andrew Brown and I finally purchased our 182RG G-WIFE. We're expecting lots of jokes on the registration but we didn't choose it ! There's also lots happening on the events front in May with the Treasure Hunt, Mull Fly Out and May Social Evening all just around the corner.

Hopefully there's something for everyone there - lets just hope the sun keeps shining!

Onwards and Upwards! – Andy Reid

What's On Guide.

The What's On guide is now a separate flyer which you should receive with this Newsletter. Watch the Club noticeboard for information about upcoming events.

2007 Membership Cards

The next batch of membership cards are 'at the printers'. If you've already submitted a photograph then it should be with you soon.

If you would like a membership card please send a photograph to membership@fifeflyingclub.co.uk

Easter Egg Fly-in

The Easter Egg Fly-in went well with over 20 visiting aircraft, some from as far afield as Biggin Hill coming in on the day (although they weren't just there for the fly-in!). Over 70 eggs were donated, some by visiting pilots and some from generous club members.

Kate Grant made sure the eggs were all safely delivered to Rachel House Hospice in Kinross before the instructors got their hands on them

....

Future Fly-Outs

Various fly-outs are planned – see your Calendar of events for full details and dates. Carlisle and the mini flyout on the 6th May didn't happen due to. The Spring fly-out to Glenforsa is on the 19th and 20th of May, with another mini fly-out on the 9th of June. To take advantage of the long days, a midsummer fly-out to Kirkwall in Orkney is planned for the 23rd and 24th of June. For more detail on all of these events talk to a Committee member and watch the noticeboard.



News In Brief

Open Day – 7th July – following the success of last year's Open Day, another is planned for July this year. Volunteers needed to help plan and run the day – speak to the Committee.

We are still updating the Club's emailing list – please let Julia know your up to date email address.

Sergio Toribio has left Fife to take up a post with Ryanair, flying 737s.

Dave Turnbull has got a job with Ryanair, flying 737s.

Fraser Scott, recently seen dispatching planes at Edinburgh Airport, has now got a job with Globespan – flying 737s.

Gorm Moltke has gone to Ryanair.... To fly 737s!!

Brian Gale is now with Scot Airways – flying Dorniers.

....And as reported last Newsletter, **Stewart Webb** is away to Citystar, flying Dorniers.

– all in all, good news for all the instructors who've had all their hard work rewarded by landing jobs with airlines.

STOP PRESS.....

Latest news is that Simon will also soon fly the coop and will be joining Globespan to fly 737s... We're looking forward to a formation fly-past of Boeings at Fife shortly.....

CAA Safety Evening

The CAA safety evening on the evening of 13th March, was well attended with over 60 folk crowding into the Topsy Nipper. A straw poll showed we had glider pilots, microlighters, an ATCO (to a chorus of boo's!), a couple of multi-engine pilots as well as the usual FFC suspects in attendance. Interestingly, according to David Cockburn of the CAA, we had no helicopter pilots and no hang-glider types – both being common attendees at other similar events around the country. He also commented on how few instrument-rated pilots there were in the audience.

David is well known for his Safety Evenings (indeed, if you read the AOPA magazine "General Aviation" you'll see he's just received an award for his contribution to aviation safety) and he was due to deliver another one in Inverness the following evening.

There was too much in the talk to summarise here – you really do need to attend one of these evenings to get the full benefit of them.

Just being there, and putting aside time to think about flying safety, is a major step forward for any pilot, said David. He then went on to give us all some timely reminders about some of the basics – everything from remembering to unstick the wing before lifting it in a stall, to making sure that we know the basic drills to follow when the engine goes silent in flight.

He also let us know about various initiatives being promoted by the CAA, such as research into carb icing, and reminded us that this is still one of the big causes of engine failure – when doing your carb heat check in flight, check your revs first, give it time to work, then check your revs again. If you get more revs after carb heat, you had icing – so repeat the process to make sure it has really cleared. You need to keep carb heat on for at least 30 seconds for it to have a significant effect.

If you get lost up there, David was reminding us that we are not alone – talk to the Air Traffic Service you are on, or dial up 121.50 and speak to them. Making a Pan call is never a bad thing if you need to do it. If you are a student, talk to your instructor and make sure you get a few practice pans in during your training. If you are a PPL, get a practice pan call in to 121.50 sometime – if you are familiar with the service you'll use it all the more effectively in a real emergency situation.

David was joined by his CAA colleague Ian Chapman who spoke about the impending changes in maintenance requirements (see last Newsletter). If you are interested in learning more, you can leave your contact details on **01786 478802** as the CAA will be arranging workshops to help aircraft owners understand what is coming.

Hopefully it won't be too long before we have another CAA Safety Evening – make sure you get along to the next one.

Dundee 1 – Prestwick 0

About a dozen brave souls pitched up for the Prestwick fly out. The weather forecast running up to the day was not looking good and, thanks to a couple of very weak fronts, was marginal on the day itself. However, after some early mist and rain had cleared, blue patches appeared and the general consensus was 'let's give it a go'.

Tango Fox was the first to depart, but quickly radioed to advise he was at Kelty and it was not looking good further west, so he was coming back. As a result, several others got as far as holding point Echo before deciding that perhaps discretion is the better part of valour. However after a quick bit of weather spotting from JW, it was decided that it was clearer to the North and perhaps quit hop over to Dundee to sample some of Penny's cake was called for.

So about 50% of the original contingent started up again and made the quick trip across. Cake was indeed consumed, however the author can't comment on the quality due to yet another attempt to lose a few pounds.

So it wasn't quite Prestwick but at least we went somewhere (and got free cake in to the bargain). What I found interesting was to see just how different the weather looks even at couple of hundred feet. It was also a good opportunity to have a go at flying in less than perfect conditions with the comfort of good local knowledge.

Meantime Prestwick will need to wait for another (CAVOK) day.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Next Committee Meeting will be on 5th June at the Topsy Nipper.

AWARDS



PPL PASSES

**Scott Nicol
Richard Street
Jonathan Lake**

FIRST SOLO

None recently – the weather's been too bad!

Well done to those above.

Unpleasant Pheasant

Shona has a word of warning – a male Pheasant has taken up residence at the golf course end of the runway along with his harem of hens. They have a nasty tendency for wandering about on the runway and vertical take-offs when startled....

New Instructors at Fife

Welcome to Adrian Baxendale and Omar Durkin-Gharib, two new instructors on the team at Fife.

Aircraft Shares

Two Fife Flying Club members have established a small group around a Cessna 182 and are seeking further interested members. If you are interested please contact Andy Reid or Andrew Brown.

One share is available in the TB9 G-BKUE. If you are interested, contact the gentlemen above.

Volunteers wanted:

Following the success of last year's Open Day, another is planned for July this year. If you'd like to help out, tell a Committee Member.

Phlying and Photography

At a Club Evening on March 8th, club member Robbie West kept us all agog with his amazing collection of aerial photographs of Scotland. Robbie flies the Cessna 182 G-EIWT, based at Fife, and combines his love of flying with a talent for photography. He has made a significant investment in some very nice camera gear – all of the Hasselblad make – and uses it to good effect to get some spectacular photographs of the Highlands and Islands.

Amongst the tips Robbie had for budding aerial photographers; he suggests making sure you use the best camera kit you can afford, along with the fastest shutter speeds you can get out of them. Vibration in aeroplanes means that slower shutter speeds can lead to blurry images.

In addition Robbie makes the best use of the good light at the beginning and end of the day – low sun angles and the warmer, redder light make for superb photographic effects. Getting off the ground early is a sure way to get the better light, and a low sun angle means that the contours of the land are enhanced.

Robbie converts his medium format slide images into digital files (typically 90 megabyte TIFF files!) before meticulously cleaning up the images and sending them off to calendar manufacturers and book publishers for publication. Robbie reckons his photography pays for his flying – easy to see why when you see the range of material he showed us.

AL

FFC Quiz Night

It was with some trepidation on a dark, cold March night that pilots and students made their way to the Club. It was quiz night. Could it be worse than the Air Law exam, will there be many questions on air law, aircraft tech etc, etc, etc?

Three teams: "Les Trio Musketeers" (Capt. Andy Reid); "Roger Roger" (Capt. Kate Grant); and "The Team With No Name" (Capt. Colin Rodger) battled it out over 8 rounds. Two on General Knowledge, two on Aviation, and one each on TV & Films, Geography, Sport and Music. There was a wide range of questions, some easy, some required a bit more thought. A few raised some oohs and aahs but there were not too many air law/aviation specific questions. It was a close battle all the way with a winner by a few points emerging in the last round. Congratulations to team "Roger Roger" (aka Sound of Music fanatic), commiserations to "Les Trio Musketeers" and "The Team With No Name"

I would like to thank everyone for coming along and making it an enjoyable evening. The next quiz night will be announced in the newsletter and 2 of those who took part have expressed an interest in being quiz master. If you would like to be quiz master for a night please contact a committee member.

Ian Thorogood

Editor's Note

Some of you may have been disappointed with the lack of Newsletter last month – we did try, but if we have no material to fill the pages, it's difficult to put out a Newsletter. There must be tons of aviation stories out there amongst the membership of Fife Flying Club, and tons of good photos taken while you're flying. Please get those stories down on paper, and send them and some photos to me via June or Julia at the desk in the Topsy.

Alan Laing

SALE SALE SALE Fife Flying Club Mugs and Polo Shirts still available – watch out for the 25% off sale at the Open Day!!!!

Book Review

Richard Bach was a USAF jet-jockey for many years and flew such fast-and-furious stuff as the F-100 Super Sabre. In his later years he was well known in aviation circles for flying around the US in his Seabee pusher-prop seaplane. Over the years he has obviously explored his love of flying in some depth, and from this has come this quirky, fascinating and insightful wee book of only 30 pages or so. The main character, Jonathan Livingston Seagull, is someone who is simply fascinated by his flying, and, despite the protestations of those around him spends every possible available moment trying to be that bit better an aviator (does this sound familiar?). The book follows his progress as he learns and improves, and moves on to higher things. The book's wanderings into the supernatural and semi-religious may not be to the taste of all the hardened-aviator types out there. However, if you get a kick out of the pure satisfaction of turning finals with all the dials and needles in the right place, knowing that you are about to execute a perfect, spot-on landing, and only you are there, making it happen, you will understand exactly what Bach means by 'perfect speed'. If you love flying you will probably love this book. If you don't, someone you know will love it anyway, whether they fly or not. At about a fiver, it's worth buying a copy.

AL



This month's caption competition features the handsome, debonair, and always highly accommodating (to Fife aircraft) Edinburgh ATCO Colin Rodger, on one of his part-time stints in the tower at Fife. Just what might he have to say to someone lined up out there on 25? Answers to the editor via the desk in the Topsy.....

Treasure Hunt Time Again.....

Saturday 12th May is time for the annual FFC treasure hunt. Unfortunately Stewart Webb is unable to defend his fiercely won title but the successful format enjoyed in the past two years is to be used again.

Teams of two will first have to solve eight clues which will reveal eight waypoints. This is against the clock, which then stops to allow flight planning. The clock then starts again for the flying part which runs from wheels off to wheels on. A digital camera is required to prove that the waypoints have been overflowed.

As in previous years it is hoped that students might take part in booked sorties with their instructors. A 152 is available between 10.30 and 16.00 for PPLs and slots should be booked with Julia/June. Teams are also expected from Fife-based aircraft. Also, students/instructors with existing bookings for the 12th are encouraged to consider swapping their planned lesson to take part.

A handicap system will operate to allow for speed differences (aircraft - not brains).

The hunt starts at 9.30 and all competitors must be landed by 16.00. The result will be announced and the trophy presented by 16.15

This year the clues are being set by Andrew Brown who helpfully advises that the points are probably to be found within the area running from Elie to Stirling to Crieff to Cupar and back to Elie. Flying time should be no more than an hour at 90 knots and a little local knowledge, a little aviation history (not Balado Bridge again), and a good road map might help!

Andrew Brown

Get (Your Own) Met!

The Instructors have asked that we remind students and PPL's that there is a computer for them to use to get the weather, etc, but if they don't want to use it they can at least ask the desk. There have been a few instances lately that students have been waiting for instructors to return from a flight to get the weather!! There are a lot of good websites about for weather – the Met Office being the best, probably – www.met-office.gov.uk is good – you can register for the free service which includes the F214s and F215s. Another good general site is www.metcheck.com - handy 3-hour predictions for any postcode or town you care to put in, plus the synoptic charts for the week ahead.

Lifejackets and Emergency Beacon

A reminder – the Flying Club has a supply of lifejackets and an Emergency Locator Beacon which members can hire at the very reasonable rate of a pound per item. Worth remembering the next time you're planning a trip. Ask at the desk.

Polly Vacher, an intrepid aviatrix who has flown round the world pole-to-pole, will be dropping in to Fife on 2nd June as part of a promotional Round-Britain trip.

Club Night – 10th May, 7pm for 7.30pm – Bring your best Aviation Photographs and let the rest of us see them. The evening will be a social night, so come and meet some of the other members of FFC!