



March 2002

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This month's meeting: Thursday 14th March 2002

Way back in March two years ago, the Strut was invited to the Cameron balloon factory in Bristol for a tour of their facilities. This month, we will be treated to an update as we welcome Dave Boxall who is a member of the current production team to come along and talk about their latest developments. This will certainly be an evening not to be missed, and an opportunity to keep up to date with Bristol's most famous industry.

Last month's meeting:

In February we held another of our Strut 'curio evenings', and, although not quite as well supported as last time, we had a most pleasant evening of nostalgia and discussion. John Shufflebottom gave a fascinating overview of how to build a Mini-Max in your garage, and brought along one of his beautifully crafted wing ribs with a workshop drawing as an illustration. Chris Turner and Ian Leader both chose to bring one of their old half-mil charts for comparison, and it was interesting to discover just how airspace restrictions have developed over the years. Most intriguing of all, Dave Hall had a small plastic bag containing some fragments of twisted metal, which had evidently been presented to his Father many years ago by a powerplant engineer. One of these fragments was clearly a turbine blade of some vintage, and had a Rolls Royce serial number engraved on it; much discussion followed this discovery, and speculation that perhaps a bird-strike had caused the demise of this once fine engine.

News from the Wessex Strut

We have just received an invitation from John Porter to join the Wessex Strut for a talk on the Royal Naval Historic Flight, by Lt. Commander Merton, RN. The talk will take place at the Brook House Inn, Castle Cary (on the A371) on Monday 18th March, and a 'donation' of just £3.00 each will be gratefully received. Any Bristol Strutters are welcome to attend, to help swell the numbers. Please give John a call if you are going, so he has an idea of numbers attending. (01963 31251).

We had a good attendance in November when Brian Jones talked about his trip around the world in the Breitling Balloon, and this featured in a BBC programme recently on local television. You may have seen it.

Biennial Flight Reviews

Don't forget to get your re-validation done in good time! If you fly a PFA type, you can check-out with one of the PFA's team of Assistant Coaches who are now authorised to sign off the paperwork directly.

We are fortunate to have Ron Perry in the Bristol Strut membership, who is well qualified to

fly in a wide range of PFA types, and will be happy to offer coaching in your own aircraft.

Why hire from the Flying School?

Call Ron on 01275 544597 to make an appointment.

Places to go in March / April			
23rd March	Shoreham	Aero-Mart	01424 440644
23rd/24th	Northrepps	Mad March Fly-in	01263 513015
29th	Rochester	Easter Fly-in and competition	01634 8816132
1st April	Middle Wallop	PFA Andover Strut & MAF Fly-in	PPR 01980 674421
1st - 7th	Northrepps	Spring Microlight and SLA week	01263 513015
7th	North Coates	Spring Fly-in	PPR 01472 388850
7th	Popham	Jodel Club Fly-in (provisional)	01256 397733

The Royal Aeronautical Society:

Wednesday 20th March, BAWA

Presidents Evening: "*Concorde Operations and Re-Introduction to Service*"

Captain Jock Lowe, British Airways



Young Eagles at Bristol

SATURDAY 27th APRIL 2002 (Bad WX alternate - SUNDAY 28th)

As we announced last month, the Green Light has been given for Young Eagles 2002 to go ahead.

Once again, the operations staff at Filton will be our hosts, landing fees will be waived for YE flights and we are advised that fuel (100LL) will be available on the field at the normal rates.

All we need now are some aeroplanes! Please reserve this date if you are a pilot and can book some time on your aircraft during that day. We don't expect everyone to fly all day - just one flight each from a lot of aeroplanes is better than just a handful bashing the circuit. And you don't have to be a Strut member to join us, just a PFA member. If you were able to participate in any of our previous events, you will remember the many happy faces that resulted from each flight.



Bristol Strut has never broken any records for the most Eagles flown; instead, we prefer to look for quality, and the sort of one-to-one attention that our young passengers deserve. Participants have completed a short (sometimes longer!) project on the subject of aviation, and these always make interesting reading. Each pilot is introduced to his new Eagle, and time is taken to discuss the project and the forthcoming flight. In this way, the experience is that bit more meaningful, and the potential of producing a future pilot that much greater.

Apart from aircrew, ground support from the rest of the Strut is essential. We will need:

- marshallers to escort Eagles and their families to and from the aircraft,
- at least one photographer to record the event,

- someone to handle publicity, talk to press, etc.
- someone to provide a non-flying aircraft for static display,
- someone to take charge of the static display aircraft, and show visitors around it,
- a safety officer to oversee the event and anticipate problems before they occur.

Please let us know soon if you can fit any of the above descriptions. If you can fly, please try to make a commitment early so that we know numbers, and can prepare a list of registrations for Filton.

Contact Ian & Mary on 01275 541572, or e-mail YE@pfabristol.flyer.co.uk

