



**May 2005**

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Strut Coordinator:	Alan George	( 0117 373 9945 e-mail: <a href="mailto:alan.george@trussler.co.uk">alan.george@trussler.co.uk</a>
Treasurer/Membership Sec:	Gordon Pritt	( 01934 511908 e-mail: <a href="mailto:gordon.pritt@virgin.net">gordon.pritt@virgin.net</a>
Newsletter distribution:	Ian & Mary Leader	( 01275 541572 e-mail: <a href="mailto:ian@pfabristol.flyer.co.uk">ian@pfabristol.flyer.co.uk</a>

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**Last month - 14th April**

Last month our guest speaker, Andy Davis of the Bristol & Gloucester Gliding Club, gave us an insight into his many adventures as world champion. He told us about the development of the glider, originating from Germany, through to the very refined aircraft used in competitions today. His talk concluded with an interesting, animated plotted route of his 'dream' day. On that day everything came together enabling him, together with his team, to beat the opposition using tactics gained over many years of experience and steal the Standard Class cup in Lazlo, Poland in 2003.



**Next meeting. 12th May**

Still to be confirmed, but we hope to be wowed by a member of the Ultimate High aerobatic team based at Kemble.

**Where to go in May & June**

*Flyer's Free Landings:* Beccles, Gigha Island, Killkenny and Lands End

*Pilot's Free Landings:* Enstone, Eshott, Fair Isle, Full Sutton, Newtownards and Panshanger

**15th May** Devon Strut Fly in at Bodmin 01208-821419/01752-851821

**20-22 May** Hullavington G-VFWE 01747-838165 (Peter Campbell)

**29th May** Truro 01872-560488

**28- 29th May** Shobdon PFA Strut Fly-in Tel 01584 881205 for PPR

**5th June** Bolt Head 01548-842057/07790-989647

**19th June** Fathers' Day Fly-in at Priory Farm organised by the PFA Breckland Strut 01379 677334

**Members News**

Congratulations to Dave Hall for a successful completion of his Qualifying Cross Country exercise today! He has been held back for several weeks by poor weather, but it has finally all come together. He flew solo from Filton to Coventry, on to Shobdon and back to base at Filton, finishing with a fully signed-up sheet to prove it! We now await the news that his GFT has been completed, and we will have another Pilot on the membership. Well done Dave!

**A day at the seaside**

- with Ian & Mary Leader

It was one of those 'spur of the moment' decisions, where to go? The Bank holiday was upon us, and the weather looked flyable, so the PF listing was consulted. We noticed that Bembridge had advertised a fly-in to celebrate the opening of a new grass strip, so, as a visit to the Island was well overdue in our logbook, the decision was made. Asking around, we established that a few friends were of like mind, so we agreed to meet up at the fly-in for lunch.

The weather on Sunday started a bit misty around the Farm, but well within limits, so we headed South in the Smaragd just before mid-day. Visibility improved as the flight progressed, and passing Salisbury we could already see the Needles off the



south coast. However, the rest of the Island appeared to be shrouded in fog, so we prepared for the possibility of modifying the plan and dropping into Old Sarum or Popham instead.

While crossing the Southampton CTA below 2000ft it became clear that only the western side of the Island was affected by cloud, and the bit where Bembridge was located was in bright sunshine, so the future looked good. Indeed, having crossed the Solent and now over the IOW, a picture opportunity presented itself; the sea fog draped over the landscape like a giant table-cloth, filling the valleys but allowing the two masts to pierce through into clear air.



Our approach to Bembridge airfield was standard, as we had established from ATC before departing that the new grass runway was unfortunately out of action due to sogginess following the recent rain storm, so all arrivals were using 30 hard. Because the gliders were operating south side, we descended into the downwind leg right-hand, and drifted around the coast just seaward of the villages of Bembridge and St. Helens, with a good view of the little harbour midway along. A low approach over the cliff takes us neatly onto finals into a gentle 10 Knot wind.

Members of the local flying club were just firing up the BBQ when we strolled up to the Tower to book in, so it was burgers and hot dogs for lunch. A half price landing fee also

gave us vouchers for a future visit, including sandwiches at the café, and we settled down to watch for the others arriving. We had already met up with Dave, a friend from the model club of many years ago, and were reminiscing those days when Ron & Lynn appeared on finals in 'VE. Being a local now, Dave gave us directions to the track which leads down to Whitecliff Bay, so the four of us took an easy 15 minute stroll to explore this remarkably unspoilt corner of the Island. Totally un-commercialised by comparison to Shanklin, the little beach boasts two cafe/hops, one of which was closed, so we called into the Tuppenny Café. We had a splendid cream-tea here, after making our way along the sand with a paddle in the sea for good measure.

On arrival back at the airport, it was nearly time for a walk around the aircraft and preparation for departure. The fuel bows er was on the field, and at our request the driver was happy to drive around the aircraft topping up the tanks. Other friends from Wessex and Devon struts had arrived in our absence, so further discussions inevitably took place concerning future plans and flying in general, before booking out and saying goodbye.

For a short break, we can thoroughly recommend Bembridge, Isle of Wight. The airfield is very GA friendly and facilities are improving all the time; look up their website on [www.eghj.com](http://www.eghj.com) for further information. If you want to stay longer, the Whitecliff Bay holiday park is just next door, where you can rent a chalet or caravan or just pitch your tent. For current info on accommodation, prices and on-line booking, their website [www.whitecliff-bay.com](http://www.whitecliff-bay.com) is an excellent source. We shall certainly be going to the IOW again, perhaps Sandown next time?



The above narrative was knocked up in haste because no one has given us anything else. If you happen to go somewhere interesting, if only for a day trip, we would be glad to hear about it. Who knows, what might be 'routine' to you may well inspire someone else to try something more adventurous; we are all at different levels in our flying skills and it can be immensely rewarding to be 'stretched' just a little once in a while.

So, why not use your newsletter to share your Flying for Fun with others?

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