



# THE BRISSELE STRUTTER



*Newsletter of the PFA Bristol Strut*

**November 1999**

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**November's Meeting: 11th Nov 1999.**  
**My photo flying year.**

In what I hope will be an interesting evening, I'll be presenting images to illustrate my recent trip to the States to cover the Van's Aircraft Homecoming fly-in, as well as including a variety of pics from my other photographic flying activities this year, such as the PFA Rally. Be warned, there will be a definite Van's Aircraft bias to the proceedings, and will hopefully include some real bits of RV on show thanks to Strut member and RV-6A builder Barry Clifford.

**Last Strut Meeting: 14th October 1999.**  
**The AGM.**

This was a very productive meeting and was well attended. Main points to come from the discussions are that we will be making some cost savings thanks to the offer of financial sponsorship for our next Young Eagles event (thank you Ian Bentley of Innovation Ballooning, if you fancy a balloon flight call him on 01225 448700; also thanks to Pete Turner for assistance in the following year), and we will hold collections at meetings to help cover guest speaker costs. The net result of these will help us to keep the subscriptions at the current level.

Ian Wakeling suggested sending the newsletter by e-mail to those members who are on-line, so that we might make some savings on printing and mailing. If you are interested in receiving your newsletter this way then please e-mail myself or Mary and Ian, and we will compile a mailing list. Ian is also working to publish the newsletter on the internet, and this will eventually be incorporated into our planned Strut web-site.

Otherwise, there were no hostile take-over bids (!) for the position of Co-Ordinator or Treasurer, so myself and Gordon Pritt will continue.

**Next Strut Meeting: 9th December 1999.**  
**Christmas Quiz and American-style supper.**

The tried and trusted formula that seems to have become popular will be back again. I'll see what I can do to accommodate those of you who asked for easier questions. The American-style supper works by everyone attending bringing along some food. This always creates a good spread that you can munch through during the quiz.

### **Swindon Strut update.**

Co-Ordinator Dudley Pattison writes " We had our second meeting last night (third Tuesday of month) at the Harrow Inn, Wanborough, purveyors of fine ales and at least one mile from my house! We have 24 paid up members with quite a few still to come home to roost." If you are interested in attending, call Dudley on 01793 791517.

### **Also... How about a skittles night versus the Swindon Strut?**

I have spoken with Dudley Pattison to see if his Strut would be interested in taking part in a skittles match to be held at our home venue at BAWA. It would be likely to be held during the first part of 2000, on a Thursday that didn't clash with one of our meetings. I will investigate the likely costs of such an event and provide an update in the next newsletter.

### **Other news....**

#### ***From AVWeb comes the following-***

##### ***GOODYEAR BLIMP BLOOPER:***

The 205-foot-long Goodyear blimp "Spirit of Akron" went down in woods south of Akron, Ohio, last week in what company officials called a "controlled descent," and the two crew aboard escaped with minor cuts and bruises. Some people would call it a crash, but a Goodyear spokesman said blimps move so slowly that even an unplanned landing can hardly be called a "crash." The pilot reported computer (?!) problems and dumped fuel before he guided the blimp nose-down into the woods. (*Sounds like a crash to me!-Ed*)

##### ***AIR BOTSWANA SUICIDE CRASH:***

An Air Botswana pilot grounded because of an undisclosed medical problem last week killed himself and destroyed most of the airline's fleet. Captain Chris Phatswe, 35, took an ATR42 from the airline's hangars at Sir Seretse Khama Airport in Gaborone, circled the city twice, then did loops over the airport before diving into two parked planes. Phatswe gave airport controllers enough notice to clear the area of people but not of the planes, which were sitting on the tarmac awaiting passenger boarding.

##### ***VIPERJET MAKES FIRST FLIGHT:***

Viper Aircraft of Pasco, Wash., announced the successful first flight of its kit-built Viperjet prototype on October 22 from Pasco airport. The Viperjet is a two-place tandem-seat aircraft with dual controls, advanced composite structure, and a Turbomeca Marbore 6 jet engine rated at 1,170 pounds of thrust. More details on the Viperjet can be found at <<http://www.viper-aircraft.com>>.

##### ***FROM THE "DUMB CROOK" FILES:***

A bungling burglar broke into a Mooney at the Knox County, Ohio, airport recently and removed all of its avionics, including the ELT. Yep, you guessed it: The ham-handed crook apparently jarred the ELT enough to activate it, and the authorities had little trouble following the signal to nab the perpetrator.

## **SHORT FINAL...**

*Another gem from the Swift Association newsletter, with apologies to any Texan members in the Strut!*

The National Transportation Safety Board recently divulged a highly secret plan they funded with the U.S. auto makers for the past five years. The NTSB covertly funded a project whereby the auto makers were installing black boxes in four wheel drive pick-up trucks in an effort to determine, in fatal accidents, the circumstances in the last 15 seconds before the crash.

They were surprised to find that in 49 of the 50 of the American states the last words of drivers in 61.2% of fatal crashes were, "Oh \*\*\*\*!"

Only the state of Texas was different, where 89.3% of the final words were, "Hey y'all, watch this!"

- Don't forget that all newsletter contributions, great or small, are gratefully received.

Bye for now. **Ed.**

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We have received a couple of commercials at the editorial office this month:

### **FOR SALE**

#### ***BARGAIN OF THE MILLENIUM!***

Cessna F150G - 1967. Red/black livery.

Immaculate condition, TTAF 4360, TTE 1760. New private Cof A. New paint, new upholstery, hangared. COM/ADF/DME/ModeC, child's seat in the rear (probably the only one in the country). Lovingly looked after.

Complete with Cambrai covers - £16,000 (no VAT).

Telephone Ian Wakeling on 01934 515375



(Click on the picture above for a larger version)

### **WANTED:**

Anyone interested in being part of a group based upon a four-seat tourer (C172 or similar) in the Bristol/Bath area. Most likely sixth-shares on a £30,000 aircraft. Telephone Dick Beath on 01225 833767 (home), 01179 002525 (office).

## **BRISSELE ON THE WEB!**

In a brave attempt to drag the Strut screaming into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are currently in the process of creating our very own Web Site.

Tom Kinsley announced the idea at the AGM last month, but in the event has found the time required for such a project to be far in excess of the time he has available between studies and exams. His idea, however, has been taken up by the newsletter editors, who would be keen to hear from anyone with interesting contributions to be included on the Site. If anything is forthcoming, please supply it on floppy disc if possible, or simply e-mail an attachment direct to us on:

[ian@ianleader.flyer.co.uk](mailto:ian@ianleader.flyer.co.uk)

On a similar vein, we are once again going to publish the Strutter by e-mail to those who have the technology to receive it. If you got this issue by snail-mail you are not yet on our e-mail list; send us a line or two on the aforementioned link and we will do the rest!

## **PROJECT NEWS**

It is now official that John Shuffbottom has after all abandoned his plan to build a Taylor Monoplane. It seems that weight and balance calculations have proved it to be an unsuitable project, and he is now considering an alternative. We await further announcements with interest, John!

On a more positive note, Roger Holman is forging ahead with the Type 2000 project. Still a little soon to say if it will actually fly in Y2K, but design problems are steadily being overcome and Roger reports that the build schedule is very much on track. This should be a remarkable little aircraft when it rolls out, and it's all happening in Bristol.

If other home-builders in the Strut can send us a few words about their project, we are always interested to hear from you. That, after all, is what the PFA is all about!