

Members' Newsletter

The Newsletter of Coventry Aeroplane Club

Issue 3. Summer 2018

Summer is here!

Summer is finally upon us and there has been a few weeks of fabulous flying weather with the promise of more to come.

Why not book a club aircraft and take advantage of the midweek (Mon-Thurs) members' PPL hire rate of £121 per hour? (That's a reduction of £20 per hour over the usual rate.)

Do you want to go somewhere? Why not mention it on the Members' Facebook or WhatsApp chat lists and see if someone else wants to go and share the flying and the cost? Alternatively put a notice on the noticeboard in the club. In the past few weeks we have had enjoyable fly-outs to Lee-on-Solent and to Leicester for one of their pie nights. There is always room for more, after all, we're a flying club.

It's what we do....



A view from our WebCam - use it to check the weather here

<https://www.covaero.com/webcam>

GDPR is here.....

We want every member to have their personal copy of this Newsletter – either by post or e-mail.

If you haven't completed a GDPR Data Consent Form, we can't send you a copy of the Newsletter or anything else except membership and AGM material.

Any questions or problems in this regard please contact Rowan via secretary@covaero.com or 07974 601351

Club News

As well as working hard to comply with GDPR and the usual legal burdens of running the club, the committee have been working on plans to improve our facilities for visitors, students and most importantly our members. In conjunction with Coventry Airport's relaunch plans, we have been looking into the possibility of extending the café opening times. Unfortunately we have concluded this is currently uneconomical, but we will be monitoring visitor numbers and we will continue to review the situation as circumstances change.

As an intermediate solution we are proposing to open the upstairs café area for members and visitors to use 7 days per-week and encourage all members to utilise this space for pre and post-flight social activities. Renata will continue to offer a selection of food and drinks Fri-Sun and we hope to install a coin operated, bean-to-cup coffee machine offering a variety of high-quality fresh coffees for around £1 per cup to use over the remainder of the week. We also hope to add a selection of classic board games, aviation themed magazines and newspapers along with the honesty charity snack-box which we hope will help like-minded club members to meet up and plan those all important fly-outs.

As Claire mentioned in her presentation at the AGM, plans are afoot for a significant refresh of the ground floor club room, which will focus on flight-orientated planning, preparation and training activities. This will include a full re-paint, clear-out and tidy-up together with a refresh of the lighting which is currently very tired. Not to be ignored the hangar and surrounding flight-side areas will undergo a 'Kaizen' style tidy-up to remove the accumulation of detritus and old aircraft parts which has built up over the years. All that takes a lot of manpower, so we are making a call for volunteers, their paintbrushes and brooms to help make it happen over the weekend of the 4th and 5th August. Of course all that manpower needs fuelling so we'll be laying on drinks and food for everyone helping out. If you're planning on joining in, please drop an email to ideas@covaero.com with a note of when and how you're able to help and any equipment you can provide, this will also help us to ensure no one goes hungry. Until then, there are some large sacks strategically located around the club and hanger into which any unwanted items currently floating around the club can be placed for disposal. Please note that anything not securely locked away by the 4th August is going to be removed and disposed of, so please make sure you've tidied up anything, or marked anything large (such as tugs) with an aircraft reg and contact phone number before then.

Of course all these plans are focussed on what we think our membership want from the club; we don't want to be wasting our efforts or club resources, so if you've got other ideas or suggestions, or if you think our plans are flawed then we welcome constructive feedback and comments to ideas@covaero.com or feel free to talk to any of the members of the committee.

Coventry Airport News

Air Traffic Service & NavAids

The airport now provides a full AFISO service (Callsign "Coventry Information" (123.825MHz) during all opening hours (recently increased to **0900-1800L 7 days a week**) although there may be short periods of A/G service to cover breaks.

There are no longer any instrument approaches and the ILS is switched off. The DME remains but is now calibrated to the centre of the airfield as opposed to the threshold of the active runway. It remains on 109.75MHz but has a new identifier of "COV". The "CT" NDB has recently been permanently withdrawn from service.

Landing fees

Landing fees have been significantly reduced to £10.00 per tonne (pro rata) inc VAT. Similar reductions have been applied to the club's charges for club aircraft. Touch & Goes are 50% of the above rate.

****STOP PRESS** The airport management have recently removed the Out of Hours Scheme, meaning that all movements must take place during normal airport opening hours**

Help your club

"Hangar clear out & flight office redecoration"

If you are able to give us a helping hand during the weekend of 4th/5th August then we would really appreciate your assistance. Family and friends also welcome! Jobs will range from sanding, painting, rubbish removal, sweeping, moving aircraft and lots more!

The BBQ will run at the end of Sunday for those who have given their time and energy to make our club a better place to be.

Many thanks

Airport passes for Airside Access

The security requirements for airside access to the airport have been revised to reflect its GA focus. The emphasis is now to keep the site secure to protect planes and equipment, not meet government security requirements and this means that airport businesses can issue their own airside passes so long as they have a tracking system in place that is acceptable to the airport.

The club can now issue airside passes to members and these passes will work the club keypad security system as before.

The club will issue passes to members free of charge – a saving of £80 per pass for everyone!!

Instructions for applications are on the club website, and the level of ID documentation is reduced to a photo for the new pass, a matching photo ID and a matching proof of address.

The only restriction on the club issued pass is that it will not provide access through other airport gates, including the Western Access gate. Members who require this facility will need to contact the airport directly.

If you need to obtain or renew your security pass please contact security@covaero.com

Review of Coventry Aeroplane Club Rules

Coventry Aeroplane Club was born through the setting up of a company, Coventry (Civil Aviation) Ltd, on 30th March 1932 and since that time, the club has been operated under a set of "Club Rules". The rules have changed over time to give the current 7 pages, but there is little doubt that they now need a review to help bring them up to date and fit for the future – including the reflection of current company legislation.

As declared at the AGM, we intend to do this over the next year and as we are a members' club, the committee would like to do this with support from a cross-section of members to ensure we preserve the good, learn from the past and ensure adjustments are effective.

We would like to hear from anyone willing to help with any part of this task, reviewing a section, digging out historical amendments that may sit a box in a loft, or spending an hour reviewing drafts of changes, more hands make for lighter work!

I look forward to hearing from you!!

Rowan Smith – secretary@covaero.com

Could you be a future Coventry Flying School instructor?

Most of you, particularly our students, will be aware that we are currently suffering from a shortage of instructor availability. Without going into too much detail, Alistair's medical has been temporarily suspended and Claire is currently taking some time off to support her partner, who is seriously ill. On a more positive note, Spencer has just returned from holiday, and will shortly return fully recharged, in tip-top physical condition, ready to fly his socks off!

Your Committee and CFI are doing what they can to address the instructor situation in the short term. Medium term we hope to see our current instructors overcome their current difficulties and resume flying. However, there is a national shortage of qualified Flight Instructors and, to make our operation more resilient in the long term, we are considering how we might support members who wish to become a Flight Instructor (FI).

We will soon invite those who may be interested to come along and learn about the FI course. Mark, our CFI and a qualified Flight Instructor Course (FIC) instructor, will explain what is involved, the experience you need, pre-course requirements, etc. We would also like to support you if you undertake a course and commit to instruct within Coventry Flying School. We anticipate that the nature of that support, and the degree of commitment possible, will vary from person to person. So, if you harbour the ambition to take your flying further, **and** think you could pass on the skill and delight of learning to fly, this may be the opportunity you have been waiting for. Send us an email, committee@covaero.com, to express your interest. Then come along, listen to what Mark has to say, and talk to us about it!

New Duty Members

The club would like to have additional duty members available to cover weekends and holidays. The role is ideal for club members who would like to be more involved in the running of the club, or for anyone interested in becoming a pilot or a career in aviation. Applicants must be over 14 (and have parental permission if under 18).

If you or anyone you know might be interested please email committee@covaero.com

Club Social Events

It's the time of year when we start thinking about Autumn & Winter social events. We've had some successful talks in the past about a variety of subjects, but what would you want to hear about this year? Do you know someone with an interesting aviation related story to tell? If so let us know at committee@covaero.com

PS the Christmas dinner is booked for Friday 30th November. Add it to your diaries

Flying Successes....

Congratulations to Jas Pannu, Lauren Tilsley & Andrew Carey, all of whom have recently passed their PPL skills tests.



Your Committee

Coventry Aeroplane Club is owned by its members and run by a General Committee elected at each AGM. The committee members are also directors of the two limited companies owned by the club.

Officers

Chair : Claire Leadbetter
Vice Chair : Mike Guppy
Secretary : Rowan Smith
Treasurer : Neil Hedges

General Committee members

Paul Baker, Peter Gibson, Kevin Lee, Stuart Robottom-Scott, Lauren Tilsley, Stefan Winkvist.

Want to Join us? email committee@covaero.com

Head of Training/CFI : Mark Rawlings

Safety

....is at the heart of everything that we do. If you want to discuss or report a safety issue, email safety@covaero.com

.... And finally

We aim to produce these newsletters for Club Members quarterly.

What else would you like to see?

Do you have a flying story that you would like to contribute? If so we would love to hear from you!

Get in touch with any committee member or email committee@covaero.com

Do you use Social Media? Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

There is also a [Facebook Group for Club Members](#) and a WhatsApp group (email the committee for information)– do join in the conversation!

