

Cov Aero

The Newsletter for Coventry Aeroplane Club Members

Issue 13 • Winter 2022

... News From The Field ...

Club Christmas Dinner

Most of you will now be aware that, unfortunately, the club's Christmas 2022 annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony has had to be postponed for reasons outside our control.



However, fear not, please save the date of **Friday 27th January 2023** for our re-scheduled celebration. Don't forget that we are **celebrating the club's 90th year** of operation so if you have any ideas for making the event all the more special please let us know; either talk to the ops desk, one of the committee members or send an email to committee@covaero.com

The **cost per person is £35** and partners are welcome – the more the merrier!

To book your place please add the names in your party to the seating plan which is on the club notice board – if you can't make it then call the ops desk and the duty member will add your names.

Don't forget that the evening finishes with our hugely hilarious **paper aeroplane throwing competition**. Last year's winner, Vaughan, will no doubt be seeking to vigorously defend his title!

Your committee will be there too so please do come along and say hello...it would be great to see as many of you as possible.

Earlybird Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again when we hope you'll rejoin us for another year. During 2022 it's been fabulous to see our club aeroplanes, COVA and COVC, being

flown far more hours than in previous years and plenty of that is down to members making use of the airport's **out-of-hours** flying scheme when the airport is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Perhaps 2023 can be the year where you join in with this activity if you haven't already being doing so – they're your aircraft!

Your membership gets you access to our superbly equipped PA-28 Warrior III aircraft complete with dual Garmin G5s and WAAS GPS – not many like them in the UK!

As per the previous FIVE years, we've managed to keep the membership rates unchanged at £225 for the year...**reduced to £200** if paid in full before 31st December. Pay in person at the club or securely online at <https://www.covaero.com/shop>

We Flew To. . .Blackpool

In search of a quick day out, a few club



members decided to strike out on an ad-hoc flyout to Blackpool during October. Simon, Anthony and Julie along with FI Spencer took club aircraft G-COVA and group-owned Arrow G-JSCA to stretch their legs.



Climbing out from Blackpool's runway 28

Simon used the trip to familiarise himself with the **dual Garmin G5 ADI and HSI** screens. Like all of our FIs, Spencer is an expert in their features and was soon showing Simon round the oh-so-useful track pointer, wind vector and other goodies which are crammed into the G5s (have a word with any of our FIs if you're interested in having a similar familiarisation flight).

The flight time is typically around 45 minutes depending on the wind. You can zip up the (in)famous Manchester low-level corridor or negotiate a class D zone transit with Liverpool. Both routes exercise your flying chops in different ways but, either way, you're there in next to no time.

Blackpool itself is a great destination which has full ATC and both ILS and RNP instrument approaches if you're into that sort of flying. The handling staff are great and a short walk gets you to the tram which runs all the way along the sea front. Fish and Chips...*check*; stick of rock...*check*; Tower...*check* and it's time to head home.



... News From The Field ...

Wouldn't it be great if we could get more of these member group flyouts organised? Which segues us rather well into...

CovAero WhatsApp Groups

As we hope that the Covid pandemic is well and truly behind us, we want to try to fire up that 'Club' atmosphere once again. The club is only as vibrant as its members – no more, no less. What we'd like to do is try to make it easier for members to let other members know about each other's flights, with the aim of promoting more member-organised group flyouts. So if you're flying to, say, the Isle of Wight then this WhatsApp group would be a great way of adding more club or group-owned aircraft to your flyout if desired.



The committee feels it's an important part of club life and interaction but want it to be unobtrusive and the discussions on-topic. We're proposing the creation of 3 groups for the following topics:

- 1: Cov Aero News
- 2: Cov Aero Flyouts
- 3: Cov Aero Groundschool

Watch out for confirmation details and a **CovAero WhatsApp phone number** in the new year.

Return of Student Groundschool

PPL students might be interested to know that our groundschool mentoring sessions have restarted and will be running throughout 2023. These are offered **free-of-charge** to students working towards their PPL or LAPL exams.

The sessions normally take place at the club on Wednesdays and Thursdays

each week. Each subject runs for between 4 and 6 sessions and allows students to go through topics which can't always be covered in-depth during flight lessons. The list of 2022/2023 dates can be seen on the club notice board. **Please add your name to the list in order to join the sessions.**

In addition, each subject mentor may* choose to make use of the **WhatsApp Q&A group** which exists for the groundschool (*see the 'CovAero WhatsApp Groups' news item on the left*). Mentors will add students to the WA group for the duration of the sessions and remove them once complete.

*Note that use of a WA group is at the discretion of each mentor; our mentors are all volunteers and may not be able to support the additional workload of curating the WA group.

Anyone for "How-To" Tech Evenings?

You may remember, before the pandemic, we began hosting some social evenings based around various flight-related topics. The time is right to get these sessions going again so we'd like to start the ball rolling with **How-To** tech evenings in the Spring of 2023. Three topics which have come up are how to get the most out of the **Garmin G430W** units fitted to the club aircraft (and many of the private and group-owned aircraft at the club); how to get the most out of **SkyDemon** which is fast becoming a go-to resource for both planning and in-flight situational awareness along with how-to get the most out of the **PilotAware** traffic awareness system now installed in both club aircraft.

Please let us know when you would like these sessions to run so that we

can choose dates which suit the majority. In addition, feel free suggest other topics you'd like to see. They don't have to be technical; anything flight-related is good!

You can drop your proposed dates and ideas in an email to committee@covaero.com or talk to the ops desk or a committee member next time you're at the club.

Supercar Sunday

Many thanks to club member **Simon Logan** who arranged for the **Supercars Of Birmingham** group to visit the club for one of their regular photoshoots.



The group is a loose collective of supercar owners and enthusiasts who were as excited to see our machinery as we were to see theirs. Although the rain poured, spirits certainly weren't dampened as drivers and pilots enthusiastically swapped stories and showed each other around. Seeing a spectacular array of Porsches, Ferraris and Lamborghinis carefully taxiing down to the club apron was a rare sight indeed!

The owners seemed genuinely excited to have been the opportunity of having their cars pictured with our aircraft; many of them also had tours around the club aircraft and – yes – some trial flights were sold!



... News From The Field ...



On top of all that, our club **Treasurer Neil** organised much appreciated, quality catering through our friends Lorna and Jonathon at **The Homemade Buffet Company**, highly recommended! See what they have to offer at www.homemadebuffetcompany.co.uk

Thanks to everyone who took part or helped out in some way. If you missed the whole thing, don't worry – there are plans to run a similar event again so keep your eyes peeled for dates.



Have a look at some of the groups pictures on their Instagram page at https://www.instagram.com/Supercars_of_Birmingham/

and on our own Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CovAeroClub>

New Format RT Practical Exam

The CAA has introduced tweaks to its FRTOL practical exam. If you're currently studying towards your PPL or LAPL then

you can get an idea of what to expect in the practical exam here: <https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=11&mode=detail&id=11161>

Fly Safe

It never hurts to revisit topics which we looked at during our flight training that are, perhaps, now lurking at the back of our minds gathering dust... Here's a selection of three thought-provokers that caught our collective eye:

1. What a real-life engine failure might feel like: <https://www.astralaviationconsulting.com/resources/emergency-handling-steve-slater>

2. CO poisoning: <https://caa-on-general-aviation.captivate.fm/episode/airworthiness-carbon-monoxide-stem> (the CO item begins at about 11:00 into the podcast)

3. The importance of ensuring seats are locked before departure: <https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=11&mode=detail&id=11156>

Safeguarding

Following the interruptions to our operation during the pandemic, we are now fortunate to be gaining a good number of new PPL or LAPL students. As you may recall(!) trainee pilots can log hours towards their training from the age of 14, go solo at 16, and hold a licence from the age of 17. We are very pleased that some of the new students are young people to whom these age restrictions apply.

It now seems an appropriate time to review the club's safeguarding arrangements and make sure that we

have a policy which meets legal requirements and best practice for organisations such as ours. Whilst safeguarding policies are intended to provide protection to all vulnerable groups, young people are the majority to whom our safeguarding policy would apply. Thus they are our main concern.

Accordingly we are enlisting the relevant experience of some of our Committee members to update our policy. We would also like to ask **any club member who has such expertise**, and would be prepared to assist us, to get in touch. If this is you, please contact us by email to committee@covaero.com

Gigafactory Update

Following the high profile collapse of gigafactory proposals in the North-East, the government seems to have gone low-profile on gigafactories.

The Coventry project has yet to find a commercial partner (essentially a car manufacturer) and until such time as they are able to find one, the development is "treading water" with little movement. The Club continues to meet the developers, user groups, national industry bodies and local authorities finding strong support in some areas and frustrating stonewalling in others. On a positive note, from what we have learned about the planning process and the legal planning process, we expect to fly undisrupted through 2023.

More good news; it appears Wellesbourne now has a long term future. Funding has been found to build a new runway and redevelop the west side of the airfield for GA while the east side, 65% of the current airfield footprint, goes over to commercial use.



... News From The Field ...

ID Badges/Door Access

If you are already an ID badge holder and renew your membership for 2023 then your badge will be updated and sent to you automatically. If you don't yet have an ID badge but would like one then you can bag yourself a badge, along with a smart club-branded lanyard by submitting a passport-style photo and showing two forms of ID to the ops desk staff.

From a practical point of view, the ID badge shows all club and airport personnel that you have approval to access the club and associated airport land.

Similarly, if you do not have door access (via the door entry keypad system) let us know so that we can set that up for you too.



For any more information about door passes and ID badges please have a chat with the ops desk staff or contact us at security@covaero.com

If you are reading one of the printed copies of this newsletter at the club did you know that they are also available online from the club website?

This is issue 13 and the other 12 contain various snippets of information as well as several trip reports from club members. Have a look at the "Club News and Info" section at <https://www.covaero.com/downloads>

Up, Up and Away!



Huge congratulations to club member Rich Gaston (*top left*) for passing his PPL skills test on 14th July...back when the sun used to shine during the day! From a "first solo" picture in the previous newsletter to a skills test picture in this one – that's got to be some sort of record! Well done Rich from all of us; the sky's the limit!

The much coveted Exercise 14 **First Solo** was achieved in style by member **Mike Alder** on 2nd September. Mike, so sorry we didn't get a photo of you but your Silver Wings are richly deserved nonetheless! Best of luck with the remainder of your course...we're all with you!

MIKE ALDER



Similarly, well done to Rourke (*bottom left*) who has completed his night rating In just over one week during November.



No more waiting for Thursday to come around - Coventry is open until 1800L weekday evenings until Friday 10th February 2023. If you have a night rating and would like a refresher or you fancy some night flying experience Colin has good availability throughout. (The bookings shown on FSP are simply placeholders to reserve them for night training)

WWW?

Where - Why - What?

In the spirit of getting to know other club members, we've started this feature which will ask just three questions to a random club member each time:

1. Where Did You Learn to Fly?
2. Why Did You Learn to Fly?
3. What Did You Learn to Fly?

The answers can be as brief or as long as you wish. To kick things off, we've "randomly" chosen our club Chair and FI Claire. Next time, it might be you!



1. Where did you learn to fly?

"I did my trial lesson at 08:30 on 5th November 2000 from Elstree Aerodrome with a lovely instructor named David Harrisberg, lousy weather, London City Airport was closed that day so we had a fabulous transit over the Millennium Dome and surrounding sights. The weather was a bit dreary with grey leaden skies, the odd drop of rain and it certainly wasn't smooth but I loved it!

It took me two years to save up the money to take lessons and I started my training on 18th August 2002, completing the course with a successful skills test on 13th June 2004. The shine of my newly acquired qualification was soon tarnished when I went to work the next day to be told by my boss that the company was broke and we might all lose our jobs... flying had to stop for a while...but only for a while. A good helping of luck and a fair wind and I was on my way. The rest is history as they say!"

2. Why did you learn to fly?

"Was it the many family trips to air shows and air museums as a child? Was it the fact that I lived very close to London Heathrow and RAF Northolt as a child and spent many a happy hour watching various aircraft battling crosswinds and bad weather (747s were particularly spectacular when Heathrow

still had its crosswind runway and the final approach track seemed to take them within arm's reach!)? It certainly wasn't something that ran in the family (I am the only pilot), nor the advice given to me by my school careers adviser that I should be a psychologist or psychiatrist!"

3. What did you learn to fly?

"It was in Grumman AA5 G-DAVO. Nowadays I'll fly whatever is offered to me! My favourite aircraft to fly? Well the answer to that isn't a particular airframe. For me, my favourite flights are those where I have great company; fantastic views and a story to tell at the end of it. It's the whole package. To encounter an incredible sunset, with someone who appreciates the moment or to have had a great trip out to somewhere, see the sights and then have a great trip home again... Yep, that'll do. Aircraft are great, but it's the memories they help embed that are the jewel in the crown."

Thanks Claire!



“A I F O A”

Aviation Is Full of Acronyms!

...so just for fun, and to help out those who may not have seen some of these before, here is a list of every acronym we could find in this edition of the newsletter.

ADI	Attitude Direction Indicator	ID	Identification
ATC	Air Traffic Control	ILS	Instrument Landing System
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority	LAPL	Light Aircraft Pilot Licence
CO	Carbon Monoxide	PPL	Private Pilot Licence
FI	Flight Instructor	Q&A	Question(s) And Answer(s)
FRTOL	Flight Radio Telephony Operator's Licence	RAF	Royal Air Force
G430W	Garmin GNS 430 WAAS	RNP	Required Navigation Performance
GA	General Aviation	RT	Radio Telephony
GPS	Global Positioning System	UK	United Kingdom
HSI	Horizontal Situation Indicator	WA	WhatsApp
		WAAS	Wide Area Augmentation System

It's 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
Vicechair: Stuart Robottom-Scott
Secretary: Rowan Smith
Treasurer: Neil Hedges

General Committee Members:

Darren Cheshire, Peter Gibson, Richard Holland, Anthony Ryan, Lauren Tilsley, Stefan Winkvist

Head of Training/Chief Flight Instructor:

Colin Moore

Want to Join us?

Email us at committee@covaero.com

Safety...

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

...and it's Your Newsletter

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter – our aim is to produce them for Club members quarterly. What else would you like to see?

Warm thanks go to all of the contributors of this newsletter; if you enjoy reading the features then remember that all of them are written by club members just like you.

Do you have a flying experience 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?

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