

# Cov Aero

The Newsletter for Coventry Aeroplane Club Members

Issue 14 • Spring 2023





## ... News From The Field ...

### Ian Haddon

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Ian Haddon, 747 captain, former Club Secretary, life member and a friend to all finally succumbed to his Alzheimer's on 20<sup>th</sup> May. His funeral details will be available from the Club Ops Desk in due course. He was a great friend to the club and will be missed by all who knew him.

### All Good Things...

...as the saying goes. Many of you will know that the ever-ebullient **Claire Leadbetter** has decided to step down after 6 years as the Chair of Coventry Aeroplane Club. She'll be staying at Coventry airport but moving over to Almat Flying School to serve as their Chief Flight Instructor. We're hoping that she'll still find the time to pop in, say hello and even teach with us from time to time. We all wish her well and thank her many times over for all the hard work she put in during the club rebuild after the flood of January 2019 and during the dark times of the Covid lockdowns, not mention all those PPL licences, night ratings, IR(R)'s, biennial flight reviews and complex aircraft sign-offs that she's had a hand in! Thank you Claire!

### 2023 AGM

Where do we start? Thanks to all of you who were able to come along to the 2023 AGM and make it a great success. It was refreshing to see a packed club house for a change, something we hope to see repeated with our up-coming tech evenings (which are listed elsewhere in this newsletter).

Down to business: our current Treasurer **Neil Hedges** generously offered to temporarily step in to fill the role of Chair whilst continuing his work as Treasurer; his offer was unanimously accepted at the AGM. Thank you Neil! Don't forget though, the hunt is on for a new permanent Chair – please do contact a

committee member if you would like to put yourself forward (the committee members and contact details are listed at the end of the newsletter).

**Graham Ladlow** has stepped down from his role as a Vice-President whereas **Geoff Manning** as Club President. While Lauren Tilsley has stepped down after 6 years' sterling service on Committee, the rest have volunteered to serve another year, including Bob Weaver who joined us part way through 2022. It was noted that some of the committee members have now been in their roles for more than the maximum five-year period set out in the club rules. We need new blood! Please consider putting yourself forward to become a committee member – have a hand at steering the club towards its future!

The membership fees – as per the previous SIX years – remain unchanged at £225 for the full year (reduced to £200 for early bird payment made in December)

Finally, our friends Lorna and Jonathon at **The Homemade Buffet Company** did a wonderful at feeding us all again. See what they have to offer at [www.homemadebuffetcompany.co.uk](http://www.homemadebuffetcompany.co.uk)

The minutes from the 2023 AGM will appear on our website in due course where they can be reviewed ahead of the 2024 AGM when we'll do it all again. See you there!

### New Aircraft Arriving Soon!

There has been much feedback post-Covid that the availability of our aircraft has been poor – particularly for qualified PPLs who are seeking to build their flight hours. Well, say hello to **G-BOFY** a completely refurbished PA-28-150 which will be joining our fleet from

1<sup>st</sup> July. It will soon appear on FSP so you can book your slot early.

The instrumentation will be very similar to COVA and COVC and it will arrive with a brand new leather interior to boot. Sounds like a great excuse for a flyout! For now, feast your eyes...



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### Save £50 on G-BOFY bookings!

In order to welcome G-BOFY to our fleet we're giving it away for **£10/hour off the list price** when booked in a 5 hour block...that's a saving of £50. What's not to like?!

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## ... News From The Field ...

### CovAero WhatsApp Groups

You may remember from the last newsletter that one of our aims was to set up some club WhatsApp groups. We've set those up now and they are starting to attract members.

The aim of the groups is threefold: firstly to easily disseminate pertinent club news, secondly to provide mentoring for student pilots and thirdly 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.

The committee feels these WhatsApp groups will help form an important part of club life and interaction but **want it to be unobtrusive and the discussions on-topic**. The three WhatsApp groups are:

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

GDPR rules mean that each club member must actively ask to be added to these groups. The **CovAero WhatsApp phone number** is **07928 159 035**.

Alternatively you can email your name, phone number and the group(s) you wish to join to [webmaster@covaero.com](mailto:webmaster@covaero.com)

We want the groups to be as useful as possible yet unobtrusive so we're asking everyone to keep the conversations on-topic and to the point!

### Events Past...

Big thanks to all who attended the **GASCo "How Safe AreYou?"** evening at the club on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

The talk was attended by about 40 from both our Club and 'outside' - since we were obliged to



open the event to all local aviators. As it turned out we had a really good mix of pilots and other aviation related personnel attending including one of our very own FISOs from Coventry and two from Birmingham ATC.

Obviously the content was aviation related safety topics stimulated by current statistics relating to aviation accidents and concerns. Our speaker, Alec Trevett, is the Regional Safety Officer for the GASCo South Midlands Region and he provided a stimulating, thought-provoking talk and offered some practical advice and tips. He was particularly enthusiastic regarding conspicuity devices (FLARM, SkyEcho, PilotAware etc) together with the likes of SkyDemon and EasyVFR for situational awareness.

A really well organised and presented evening – many thanks to our very own Bob Weaver for taking the time to set it up and Neil Hedges who pulled the proverbial rabbit from the hat by organising a free cold buffet during the interval. If you have a few minutes it's worth looking at the GASCo website to pick up more ideas:

<https://www.gasco.org.uk>

### ...and Events Future

As an aside, Alec Trevett commented on how stylish and well-appointed our club building is; it's such a great asset to us all so let's aim to use it to full potential. With that in mind, we're working hard to bring you some interesting events over the coming months. All events will be held at the clubhouse – it would be great to see you all there! **Please book in using the clipboard at the Ops Desk** so we know how many to expect and cater for!

### Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> June:

#### **"SkyDemon, SkyEcho"**

#### **Meet at 19:00 for a 19:15 start**

Club member Bruce Dean hosts a Q&A evening about how best to use the SkyDemon navigation app with the SkyEcho electronic conspicuity device to help you 'see' other aircraft and 'be seen' by other aircraft.

### July (date TBC):

#### **"The IR(R) ('IMC') Rating"**

Club member Bob Weaver talks and answers questions about how best to gain an IR(R) – formerly known as the 'IMC' rating – and the benefits of having it.

With firm dates yet to be fixed we are also hoping to host:

### August:

#### **"GAR's, Flight Plans and Trips to the Continent"**

Taking that short hop over the channel or down to the Channel Islands is probably easier than you think!

### September:

#### **"Aircraft Maintenance"**

Aerotech talk about all things maintenance.

### October:

#### **"Night Rating"**

Cov Aero Instructors talk about how to achieve a night rating and considerations when using it.

### November:

#### **"Winter Flying"**

Cov Aero instructors talk about how to safely get the most out of flying during the winter months.

### Gigafactory Update

At the 2023 AGM we promised to provide an update from our meeting with Rigby Group and Coventry





## ... News From The Field ...

Council held on 27th April, noting that there had been little information forthcoming on the project since the previous AGM.

Again, there was little new information but it was disclosed that should the plan to make automotive batteries not come to fruition then the joint venture would focus on other initiatives to manufacture new non-automotive batteries and equipment on the site.

We suggested that this was not within the scope of the OPA as was agreed at the February 2021 Planning Meeting but we were left under no misunderstanding that the new direction was definitely in their plans.

We were left with a clear message that the site was not financially viable as an airport and the joint venture had a clear objective to find other activity that would make better use of the site. They believed the Club would be unwise if it didn't put every effort into finding alternative accommodation.

We obviously don't know how much of the new message was hopeful posturing or absolute fact, so our strategy remains twofold in dealing with this issue. On the one hand, to fight with other airport users to retain a GA facility at Coventry, while on the other searching for alternative locations from which the Club could operate should the airport close.

### 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** and aimed primarily at students working towards their PPL or LAPL exams but are open to all club members should you wish to come along as a refresher.

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 2023 dates can be seen on the club notice board.

**Please add your name to the list in order to join the sessions.**

\*Note that use of a WA group for each groundschool subject 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.

### Newsletter back issues...

are available on the club website:  
<https://www.covaero.com/downloads>

## Up, Up and Away!

Huge congratulations to **Hari Patel** (right) who completed his once in a lifetime, one-and-only **Exercise 14: First Solo** on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

There's no feeling quite like it, is there?

Well done Hari from all of us and good luck as you continue your training.

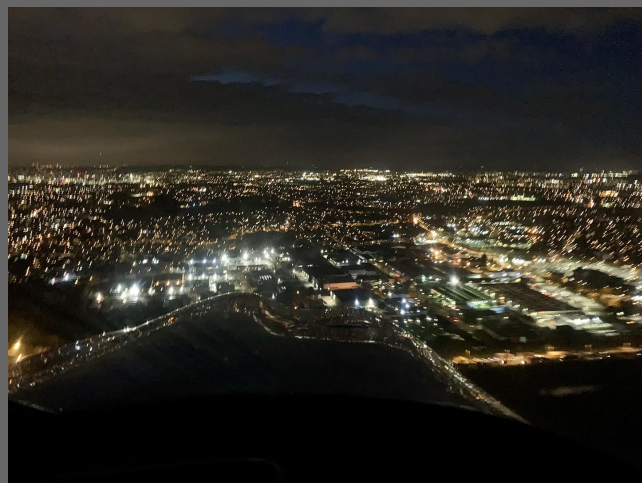


Hats off too to **Mark Dunderdale** who completed his night rating on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

Mark's rating was somewhat unintended as he only set out to get some experience!

Impressed by the beauty of our world at night he found himself wanting more and completed his training with a week of the night flying season to spare.

Well done Mark and Hari!





# Somewhere New...

**Club member Simon strikes out on a bitterly cold winter's day to find somewhere new to fly.**

Those of a certain vintage might remember the TV catchphrase “And now, from Norwich, it's the Quiz of the Week!” This exciting silver-screen patter naturally elevated the city of Norwich to mythical status in the eyes of a youngster so when recently looking for somewhere ‘new’ to fly Norwich caught my eye on the map and I thought, “Why not!”

The weather was VMC but it definitely wasn't CAVOK; it was a chilly December day with poor visibility so we checked carefully that we'd be able to get there and back without hitting any cloud and before sunset! The forecast indicated that it would clear up as the day wore on so all looked well. One of the other big considerations with winter flying of course is icing. No issues today though; the 0° isotherm was well above us and we weren't planning on being near cloud anyway.

I grabbed a flying buddy and jumped into the aeroplane and off we went. From Coventry's runway 23 we flew downwind and departed the circuit towards Norwich. Anyone who's flown to Peterborough Conington – perhaps on their qualifying

cross country flight – will know that the airspace becomes pretty sparse as you track eastwards; we kept a good eye out for gliders as we passed Husbands Bosworth but, to be honest, it wasn't a gliding day and there was no one to be seen.

## **Then the GPS lock on our Garmin also failed...**

We trundled on, peering out into the murk as our PilotAware unit struggled to give us a decent GPS lock...but there was Pitsford water and Sywell's runway beyond it beyond it; we were on track nicely. And then the GPS lock on one of our two aircraft Garmin units also failed and we were glad we had our trusty paper map with us too! Sometimes these things just happen so having some notional form of backup plan will generally see you right.

The GPS eventually sorted itself out and confirmed that we were indeed near Oundle; its distinctive church spire clearly visible. We were absolutely rocketing along; we had a tailwind on this outbound leg which propelled us

along at a stonking 153 knot groundspeed – 175 statute miles per hour! Whilst we reveled in the outbound speed of our mighty chariot, these things do work on the pleasure/pain principle when the homebound leg becomes a bit of a slog!

The Fens' drainage network is fascinating to see from above and some of the larger ones make for good navigation features; the parallel trio of Old Bedford, Delph and New Bedford rivers are good ones and impressive demonstrations of the ongoing battle between humans and nature to keep the land dry.

Today, though, many of the drains and rivers were frozen solid; not something you see every day I should imagine!

The Pooleys' plate for Norwich requests that inbound aircraft make RT contact at least 10 minutes prior

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**Top:** *Two reds, two whites. Landing back at Coventry in time for sunset.*





to ETA. Thus we tuned into Norwich Approach who asked us to report the airfield in sight which we did after a further few minutes. We were cleared to enter the Norwich CTR and join the circuit left hand downwind for runway 27. It was a little bit bumpy as we descended; that huge tailwind starting to generate some mechanical turbulence closer to the ground. Left turn on to base, two stages of flap, left turn on to final aiming for 80 knots in our Arrow. Over the numbers, ease the power back and onto the centreline, nice!

One of the hardest things at a new airport can be taxiing around on the ground; always have a taxi chart handy. GA handling is compulsory at Norwich and SaxonAir is the preferred GA handling agent. ATC had us vacate onto taxiway Charlie then route via Delta and Echo to the SaxonAir apron. The marshaller was waiting for us and they could not have been more accommodating (mind you, you are paying for it!) We parked up and they led us across the bitterly cold apron into their warm and inviting lounge area. The facilities here are really nice; there are seating and planning areas, self-service drinks and snacks machines along with the requisite restrooms.

Norwich services many North Sea oil rig helicopter flights and we chatted to a heli pilot as we warmed up with a welcome coffee. On this particular occasion the heli pilot was taking some friends up for a sightseeing flight – had to wait for them to finish munching on their waiting-room crisps so as not to cover his helicopter floor in crumbs...don't you just hate that!

**Words & Pictures:** Simon Logan



**Top:** Simon uses SkyDemon to augment his aircraft equipment.

**Middle:** Frozen solid – crossing the New Bedford River.

**Bottom:** Relaxing in the nicely appointed SaxonAir lounge.

# “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.

<b>ADI</b>	Attitude Direction Indicator
<b>ATC</b>	Air Traffic Control
<b>CAA</b>	Civil Aviation Authority
<b>CO</b>	Carbon Monoxide
<b>FI</b>	Flight Instructor
<b>FRTOL</b>	Flight Radio Telephony Operator's Licence
<b>G430W</b>	Garmin GNS 430 WAAS
<b>GA</b>	General Aviation
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>HSI</b>	Horizontal Situation Indicator

<b>ID</b>	Identification
<b>ILS</b>	Instrument Landing System
<b>LAPL</b>	Light Aircraft Pilot Licence
<b>PPL</b>	Private Pilot Licence
<b>Q&amp;A</b>	Question(s) And Answer(s)
<b>RAF</b>	Royal Air Force
<b>RNP</b>	Required Navigation Performance
<b>RT</b>	Radio Telephony
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>WA</b>	WhatsApp
<b>WAAS</b>	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: Neil Hedges  
Vicechair: Stuart Robottom-Scott  
Secretary: Rowan Smith  
Treasurer: Neil Hedges

### General Committee Members:

Darren Cheshire, Bruce Dean, Peter Gibson, Richard Holland, John Read, Anthony Ryan, Bob Weaver, Stefan Winkvist

### Head of Training/Chief Flight Instructor:

Colin Moore

### Want to Join us?

Email us at [committee@covaero.com](mailto: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](mailto:safety@covaero.com)

## ...and 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](mailto:committee@covaero.com)

### Do you use Social Media?

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