

# Members' Newsletter

The News Letter of Coventry Aeroplane Club

Issue 1. Autumn 2017

## Club News

### Declared Training Organisation (DTO) Status

One of the most pressing things that the club needs to do is convert from RTF (Registered training facility) status to DTO status. The CAA has mandated that RTF status will cease to exist from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and that all current RTFs must convert or cease flight-training activities. We have formed a sub committee to ensure that the process is completed and we are happy to announce that **Mark Rawlings** has agreed to return as Chief Flight Instructor and Head of Training to help us meet this deadline.

### Financial re-negotiations

The committee has re-negotiated our electricity, waste recycling & insurance contracts saving the club more than £500 per year. We are currently looking into the G4S door pass contract. Hopefully any door passes that failed while the system was faulty are now working again.

### Database of Club Members

We have made substantial progress in updating the Member's database, combining information from multiple sources into one single database. This will enable us to communicate with members by email and post more easily.



## Sad News

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of long time club member Walter Northorpe, aged 93. Walter will have been known to many of you. He was a former Club President and Trustee. His funeral was well attended. A memorial has been placed in the club car park by Walter's daughter.

More recently, Mary Simpson, the wife of long term club member and former CFI Wesley Simpson also passed away.

We're sure that everyone would wish to pass on their condolences to their families.

More inside!

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## Members' meetings



Thanks to **Marc Eberhard** for organizing the Members' Friday social meetings and to **Renata** for the fabulous food. These take place on the second Friday of

each month in **The Village Café**. Do come along and meet fellow fliers.

## Fence repairs

You may have noticed that the perimeter fence was damaged (twice) by vehicles. The damage has been repaired with the drivers' insurers meeting the claims in full.

## Airport Lease

In addition to engaging with the airport on practical operations matters, we have also been examining the Club's own rights and obligations under various leases, and through a Freedom of Information request, secured a copy of the lease between the airport operators (The Rigby Group) and Coventry City Council, who own the freehold to the airport site.



## EASA / CAA News

### 8.33 kHz Radios

From 1 January 2018 all aircraft operating in airspace that requires the carriage of a radio must have 8.33 kHz-compatible equipment fitted and operational. This law change will be unaffected by Brexit.

Both G-COVA & G-COVC are already suitably equipped

### The "Skyway Code"

The CAA has launched the Skyway code which aims to bring together EASA and National rules and guidance into one place. It's available as a free download and to purchase as a hard copy. Further information [here](#)

### New EASA Transponder rules

From 17 October 2017 it will be compulsory to switch on your transponder (if you have one) with Mode C at all times during flight (Ref SERA.13001)



## Your Committee Needs You

Due to recent resignations there are three vacancies on the general committee. These vacancies are for a fixed period, until the next AGM in April 2018.

The committee meets monthly and oversees the running of the club and flying school. If you're interested speak to one of us or email the secretary at [secretary@covaero.com](mailto:secretary@covaero.com) by **10<sup>th</sup> November 2017**.

Please note that Anthony Willis (who was elected as secretary at the AGM in April) has been forced to resign as secretary due to continuing ill health. Rowan Smith, has agreed to take over until the next AGM. I'm sure that we all wish Anthony (who will remain on the general committee) well.

# Coventry Airport News

## Airport Changes

There have been a number of changes at the airport over the last few months. The most noticeable changes are that opening hours have reduced, “circuits” are (for the time being) not allowed, a lack of provision of ‘out of hours’ operations and changes to ATC. “Air traffic Control” has been replaced with an Air/Ground Communication service (call sign Coventry Radio on 123.825 MHz) and all the navids (with the exception of the NDB[1]) have been switched off. There are also no TAF / METAR / ATIS services available.



We are acutely aware that these changes have severely restricted flying this summer and we have been working hard on your behalf. Committee members have represented the club and provided input at a number of meetings between airport users and managers. The recent Out of Hours Indemnity arrangements - under which aircraft can use the runway when the airport is closed - is a positive response from the airport to pressure applied by ourselves and other users.

## The future

Looking to the future, The Rigby Group appointed **Andy Hixon** as Operations Director to manage the transition to a general aviation airport with an AFISO service. A Senior AFISO (**Paul Brown** who is currently at Cotswold Airport (Kemble) and is Chairman of the UK AFISO Association) and a number of other AFISOs have been appointed. Paul started at Coventry on 9<sup>th</sup> October and it’s hoped that the full AFISO service will be established in December. We look forward to FISO operations and hopefully the opportunity for some night flying and the potential development of new instrument (GNSS) procedures in due course.

[1] The NDB (CT) is currently NOTAM’d unavailable till mid October



## Flying Successes....

Despite the sometimes poor weather and having to conduct circuit training at Wellesbourne, we've had a number of first solos, QXCs and Skills test successes.

**Lauren Tilsley, Ben Jeyes, Simon Logan & Greg Burns** all completed their first solo flights at Wellesbourne in recent weeks. Earlier in the year **David Ramirez** and **Jas Pannu** also completed their first solo flights and **Colin Sowerby** completed his QXC. Congratulations to them all!



## Your Committee

Coventry Aeroclub 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. Current members of the committee are

### Officers

Claire Leadbetter ([chair@covaero.com](mailto:chair@covaero.com))

Anthony Ryan ([vicechair@covaero.com](mailto:vicechair@covaero.com))

Rowan Smith ([Secretary@covaero.com](mailto:Secretary@covaero.com))

Nicki Badman ([treasurer@covaero.com](mailto:treasurer@covaero.com))

### General Committee members

Paul Baker ([Paulbaker@covaero.com](mailto:Paulbaker@covaero.com))

Peter Gibson ([Petegibson@covaero.com](mailto:Petegibson@covaero.com))

Kevin Lee ([kevee@covaero.com](mailto:kevee@covaero.com))

Stuart Robottom-Scott ([Stuartrs@covaero.com](mailto:Stuartrs@covaero.com))

Anthony Willis ([AnthonyWillis@covaero.com](mailto:AnthonyWillis@covaero.com))

### Safety

....is at the heart of everything that we do. If you want to discuss a report a safety issue, email [safety@covaero.com](mailto: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](mailto:committee@covaero.com)

Do you use Social Media? Follow us here



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

