



March 2003

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This month's meeting - 13th March

We are looking forward to an illustrated talk entitled "Small Aeroplanes can Bite, and Why?" by CAA Test pilot, Dr Darrol Stinton MBE. He started with Blackburn and De Havilland before joining the RAF and becoming an experimental test pilot at Farnborough. Darrol was then a certification test pilot for the CAA on light aeroplanes and seaplanes before going freelance with his own company specialising in aircraft, and marine craft design and operation. He lectures at the Empire Test Pilot's School and Royal Aeronautical Society, and now the PFA Bristol Strut about the design and test flying of PFA types!

Last Month's meeting - The Mini Max

John Hamer started originally in the Air Force and his aviation story originated with flex wing aircraft from a 250 yard strip. He progressed on to the Team Max but felt that he wanted to adapt the design to suit his requirement and so the Mini Max was born. This success story is evident in the 51 now flying in the UK and when John went to the USA he was told that he had probably seen more Mini Max aircraft than most Americans! John gave a very interesting talk to a large audience, illustrated with detailed slides showing the construction and ultimately the completion of his own aircraft. Those present should now all be able to build their own Mini Max! Questions afterwards led on to many tales of his experiences of first flights.

Next meeting - CAA Safety Evening

We are pleased to announce that the Bristol Strut will be hosting a CAA GA Safety Evening on **Thursday 10th April** starting at **7.30 pm** at **BAWA**, Southmead Road, Bristol. The evening will be presented by David Cockburn and will take place in Conference Room 1 (front entrance, new building). These safety evenings are usually very popular and well attended so we hope that all our members will be able to come along and join together with like-minded aviation visitors for this very informative evening. Pilots - bring your logbook for stamp of attendance!

Young Eagles are Go!

By December this year, the Young Eagles log book has to contain a million names if the target is to be achieved. So far, there are 884,299 on the register, and we in Bristol are going to do our bit for the centenary year.

Bristol Strut Young Eagles day will be Saturday 5th April 2003 at Filton, with Sunday 6th in reserve in case of bad weather.

If you are willing to help out as before please put this day in your diary and let us know. If you are a pilot with wings available please contact us so we can build up a register of aircraft to pass on to Filton. The procedures will be as in past years, further briefings at



the March Meeting.

As this could possibly be the last one we do, let's all try to make it the best ever!

Visit To Yeovilton - 22 February 2003

This was a very successful day out, attended by 25 enthusiasts who were treated to a unique opportunity to get close to the aircraft of the Royal Naval History Flight. Bryan Wood hosted the morning visit and gave a very informative and entertaining insight into the background and maintenance of these wonderful machines, which he reminded us belong to us all - they are our national heritage. Many of the party then moved on the Museum to finish off a great day out. Many thanks to Graham Clarke who initiated and co-ordinated the visit, held this year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of powered flight. Dave Hall was one of the Bristol party, and took many fine photos during our visit. We have assembled them on the website for you to see - [click this link](#) - and some of these are reproduced below to give a flavour of the event. Thanks Dave!



The party are greeted by Bryan Wood



Alongside the Sea Hawk



Swordfish over the wing of the Sea Fury



The Fairey Firefly in maintenance





Up close to the Sea Hawk



*The Firefly's Merlin
previously used on a Shackleton*

Where to go in March/April

Free Landings in March with:

Pilot Magazine: Bodmin, Brighton, Cambridge, Little Gransden, Popham, and Sherburn-in-Elmet

Flyer Magazine: Andrewsfield, Old Sarum, Sandtoft, and Turweston

Bristol Aviation Enthusiasts' Fair

Sunday March 23rd 10:00 - 16:00 BAWA Concorde Room - Admission £1.50 - Children/OAP £1.00

The event will feature stalls selling, buying, and exchanging any aviation related items; models, books, magazines, postcards, photos, tickets videos and memorabilia, etc.

Royal Aeronautical Society

Wednesday 19th March 2003

Bristol Before Rolls-Royce: Aero - Engine Development in Bristol 1915 - 1966, Mr Pat Hassell, Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust, Room 1, BAWA Leisure Centre, Southmead Rd, Filton

Wednesday 26th March 2003

Structures and Materials for Light Aircraft

Dr Bill Brooks, PhD, BA(Hons), MRAeS, Chief Engineer & Test Pilot, Cyclone Airports Ltd.

BAWA Lecture Theatre commencing 18:00 hours.

5th April - Bristol Strut Young Eagles Day - Filton Airfield

10th April - Bristol Strut CAA GA Safety Evening at BAWA - Conference Room 1

12th April - VAC Daffodil Fly In - Turweston - Contact: 01280 705400

More News:

Future Places to Go.

Are you thinking of going to the Great Vintage Flying Weekend? This will be taking place at Kemble on 9th - 11th May. If you are flying in then don't forget to pre-register with Peter Campbell on 01747 838165.

Aircraft 4 Sale at the PFA Rally

Once again the Bristol Strut will be manning the Aircraft 4 Sales Park. If you are able to join John, Matthew, Ian & Mary and help out for an hour or so over the weekend of 11th to 13th July please let John know.

Aircraft For Sale

Spike Parker has told us that he is thinking of selling his beautiful Luscombe 8A Silhouette G-BRDJ. If you would like the opportunity to own this superb aircraft please contact Spike on 01761-470281



Aircraft Wanted

John Shufflebottom, whilst building his Mini Max, is investigating the economics of buying a small aircraft and would like to speak to others who may be thinking of forming a group. If you are interested please speak to John at the March meeting.

Dawn to Dusk flight

Richard Ward, a new strut member, is hoping to organise a Dawn to Dusk flight around airstrips in the south west of England. He is looking for sponsors, ie money for each airfield visited, information about strips to visit, and any news about pilots who may be interested in undertaking this enterprising venture. Obviously it will be a mid summer flight and all money raised will be donated to charities.

If you can help in any way please contact Richard on 07787 947099.

Last month's Newsletter

Click [HERE](#) to open the February "Strutter".

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