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Brissle Strut



Newsletter of the LAA Bristol Strut

October 2026

Message from the Chair

Dear Strut members,

It may well be the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', but in general the weather has remained remarkably good (i.e. flyable) – definitely an Indian summer, and I hope many of you have been able to take advantage of that.

I'd like to start by thanking all of you who turned out for our AGM last month – I think it was our best attended AGM for a number of years. I'd also like to pay tribute again to the hard-working members of the Committee who give up their time and energy to keep things running, and have now been re-elected for another year – Alan George as Treasurer/Membership and Safety Officer, John Leather as Web Manager, Trevor Wilcock as Newsletter Editor, and Mary Leader as Secretary – a great team!

I recently followed up on a suggestion from John to see if we could get any benefits for Strut members – so I wrote to a number of airfields asking (possibly a little cheekily) if they would be willing to provide any form of a discount. I had a note from Kemble saying that they were about to roll-out a loyalty card for landings – I'll let you know when we see something in writing on that. However, I also received a very heartfelt note from an airfield owner (no names, no pack drill), pointing out the challenges that they are facing at the moment – particularly around fuel costs and the problems this causes with cashflow, when this is their major source of revenue. Their plea was for people to continue to visit during the winter months ... basically use it or lose it (and we have seen a lot of losses this year, albeit mostly for other reasons).

Our next meeting on 8th October sees a presentation on the work of the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance team, who we have supported via money raised from our fly-in at Oaksey Park. Do come along to find out how that money is used, and the great service that they provide. And don't forget that our annual Skittles match is on Saturday 10th October – with the sign-up date of 1st October!

Safe landings

Neville



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Last month's meeting - was a well-attended AGM. Draft minutes of the meeting will be distributed to members.

This month's Meetings - yes, two, as mentioned by Neville on Page 1. For starters, Ian Watson will tell us about the work of the Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance team. Thursday 8 October, BAWA Room 4, 19:30 for 19:45 as usual. Poster attached at the end of this Newsletter;; feel free to spread the word.

The second event is our annual skittles match against the Bristol Aero Club in the BAWA skittles room on Saturday 10 October at 19:30. As normal, we are planning a sumptuous finger buffet. So we can order this in advance, please let Neville (chairman@bristolstrut.uk) and Alan (treasurer@bristolstrut.uk) know that you plan to attend, and transfer £10 per head to the Strut bank account (LAA Bristol Strut, sort code 30-99-51 a/c no. 00608107) by 1st October, giving your name as reference. Also let Neville know if anyone needs gluten-free food or has any other dietary requirements. Bring your partner or a friend - particularly one with appropriate skills!

News from the CAA and elsewhere

CHIRP GA Feedback for September is available [here](#)..

The CAA will be holding a webinar on Thursday 15 October 2026 from 19:00 - 20:00 to discuss the National Private Pilot's Licence and highlight the publication of [CAP3181 – NPPL Licensing](#), associated ratings and the IMC Rating. The webinar is aimed at student pilots, current licence holders and training organisations or flying schools. Register for the webinar at: [Webinar - National Private Pilot's Licence \(NPPL\) - Requirements and guidance](#).. However you should really all be at the Strut meeting, so perhaps there will be a recording.

Don't forget that the RAF Fairford TMZ is now active until further notice, rather than activated by NOTAM.

The next **Bristol Aero Talks** talk will be on Tuesday October 13th when Paul Shepherd, a retired RAF navigator, will give a talk entitled "Operating at Range". This is based on his involvement in the 1982 Falklands conflict. He will consider the operational and logistic impact of deploying a large scale force at extreme range with minimal third party support. He will examine the Vulcan Black Buck sorties; the longest range bombing operations achieved at that time.

This talk will be held at 7:15 pm at Aerospace Bristol in The Making Studio (in the main museum building).

Two AIRAC updates this month - October 1st and 29th: don't forget to keep your electronic databases current.

Where to go in October

As covered by Neville, airfields do need our support, so please keep visiting in the autumn/winter months. A special mention to Swansea, now run by volunteers.

Flyer vouchers:

Holmbeck Farm, Thruxton, Sherburn, Beccles.

Tailpiece

Following on from the mention in last month's newsletter of CAP3296, issued to help people understand what to expect from a flight in a GA aircraft, there is a useful panel caption available from the usual suppliers.





Light Aircraft Associati



BRISTOL STRUT

**Ian Watson will describe the work of
the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance team**



**7.45pm, Thursday 8 October, Room 4
BAWA Club, 589 Southmead Rd, Filton BS34 7RG**

*Visitors welcomed, please contact Neville Parton
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