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Brissle Strutter



Newsletter of the LAA Bristol Strut

FEBRUARY 2026

Message from the Chair

Dear Strut Member,

Our Chairman has deserted us for the more acceptable climate of New Zealand this month—and who can blame him! Though we do have a few words from him: *Actually it's pretty wet and windy here too – we were hoping to do a big hike today, but the weather is so bad that the company that do the pick-up and drop-off service have cancelled all their services for today!*

We've had more than our fair share of rain and gales already, but there is still the occasional good day if you are operating off hard runways or Garston Farm's well-drained grass.

On to our usual articles in a somewhat shorter Newsletter this month.

This month's meeting

..... is at 19:45 on Thursday 19th February, BAWA Room 4.

We are pleased to welcome Wesley Massam to talk about his award-winning Jodel D140 Mousquetaire — Best Plans-built Aircraft and Best Jodel at the 2024 LAA Rally. You will have seen the Flight Test in last May's Light Aviation; now you can hear about its construction on a barge in Bristol harbour.



Last month's meeting

We had our usual January look back at our individual activities in 2024, including:

- airfields and events visited, including Oshkosh;
- progress on John's RV6 build now that it approaches completion and has moved from his garage to its hangar home;
- an engine overhaul saga;
- a visit to an interesting collection of aircraft;
- competition flights—TopNav and aerobatics.

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Information from the CAA and elsewhere

The UK Airprox Board's latest *Insight* newsletter is [here](#).

The next meeting of the Bristol Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society is a lecture at 18:30 on 18th February at Aerospace Bristol. Prof Richard Parker CBE, FREng, FRAeS will share insights into the development of supersonic passenger flight, charting the path from Concorde to the Boom Supersonic Overture. Full details, including a link for registering for the meeting, are [here](#).

And the next in the [Bristol Aero Talks series](#), also at Aerospace Bristol, will on 24th February when former Concorde Chief Engineer John Britton will give a talk entitled "Breaking the Chain" covering the investigation into the Concorde crash at Paris in July 2000 and the steps taken to restore the Concorde fleet to service.

Previous Newsletters from October on have given references to changes to pilot licensing; details of the changes are given [here](#). *Flyer* held a webinar this week with the CAA lead, Ed Bellamy, who gave a clear run through the changes, eg no new LAPL(A)s, alignment of revalidation requirements across licences, SSEA and SLMG ratings now replaced by SEP and TMG. The CAA has now issued [CAP3212](#) – the Consultation response document for the next phase of licensing and training simplification, including the proposed way ahead. One or two points emerging:

- the 90-day rule (3 ldg & t/o) to allow passenger-carrying applies across all licences. The ANO licences (NPPL, old UK PPL) have an exemption to the rule allowing carriage of a single passenger who is also qualified to act as PIC on that flight. I had not realised until recently that this exemption does not apply to the FCL PPL and LAPL licences; its extension to do so is being pursued in CAP3212 proposals.
- CAP 3212 also proposes wording that the revalidation refresher training flight (not a test!) shall be conducted to the satisfaction of the instructor.
- the 1 hr minimum refresher training shall normally be conducted in a single flight, though extension to two flights can be allowed where weather or aircraft limitations make it necessary.
- there is a keen CAA interest in addressing partial power loss. While not specifically required, guidance to instructors will encourage this being addressed in refresher training flights. A useful document [here](#).

The next AIRAC update is on February 19th; don't forget to keep your electronic databases current.

Where to go in February

Hardly the season for events, but note that [Swansea Airport](#) have their 1st Annual St David's Day fly-in on 1 March.

Landing vouchers:

Flyer: Cromer, Netherthorpe, Holbeck Farm, Sherburn

Light Aviation: Brighton

Tailpiece - Structural test #1 of several

Luscombe structural test of wing spar, strut and undercarriage!

