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Brissle Strutter



Newsletter of the LAA Bristol Strut **JUNE 2025**

Message from the Chair

Dear Strut Colleagues,

Well, the weather has certainly changed over the last week, back to something more seasonal – but still with some definite flying windows around. One of those coincided with the May Popham BBO last week, and it was great to see a few Strut members (6 in fact) who all enjoyed the great food that the Popham catering team had put on. Which leads me on to our own fly-in – now less than 2 weeks away!

As of today, we've got 6 aircraft that have PPR'd, and around 24 aviation enthusiasts who have committed to coming. Whilst I expect a number of PPRs next week, when the weather is a bit more certain (although it looks promising at the moment) - do continue to spread the word amongst your flying friends – the more attendees the better! We could also still do with a few more volunteers to make sure that no-one gets overloaded on the day (especially as I think we're now going to be running the BBQ as well!) – although you'll probably have received an email from me on that subject before this newsletter gets out to you.

In the meanwhile – hope you're able to make the most of the fabulous weather at the moment*, and stay safe!

Happy landings,

Neville

** It didn't last! Ed*

Royal Institute of Navigation TopNav

TopNav is a competition using traditional navigation methods (no GPS, no magenta line to follow) run at 5 UK airfields on different days and involves a flight of around 90 minutes. Marks are allocated, determined mainly on planning, accuracy (time/position), appropriate changes to plan (as long as satisfactorily explained).

Neville (pilot) and I (scribe) flew in DENS from Compton Abbas at the end of April. Neville has taken part twice before (winning once) so knows the ropes; we had a practice beforehand to work out procedures for photographing turning points, logging, etc. On the day we were given a set of eight grid locations in a grand tour surrounding the Salisbury Plain danger areas.

Preparing the route and timing took longer than expected, but once underway, in bright sunlight with a fair amount of thermal activity

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making writing the log difficult, the flight worked as planned, the waypoints behaved themselves and turned up on time, the only diversion off route (justified in our log) being to avoid paragliders.

We reached the end point within 1 minute of our predicted time – though the final arbiters will be the RIN dataloggers that we carried. We're still waiting to hear results following completion at all locations. One lesson learned – don't leave the iPhone on the coaming in full sun; when wanting to take a photo at the first turning point it displayed 'temperature warning—emergency calls only'. Fortunately Neville's was OK.

Why not try TopNav sometime - good practice. One day your navigation display may disappear!

Trevor

This month's meeting

... is of course the Strut fly-in on Saturday 7 June; see you there!

Last month's meeting

No formal meeting, but it was suggested that members fly out to the first Popham evening BBQ of the year. The weather was cooperative; Neville & Sarah in 'BJBO, Fiona and Angus in 'RDCO and Nigel P and Trevor in 'DENS joined a good crowd. There are further such events on 19 June, 24 July and 21 August.



Information from the CAA and elsewhere

A bit outside our area, but the BGA has reported on discussions about flying in the busy Lakenheath/Mildenhall CMATZ area in East Anglia, with a number of VRPs agreed for use with the USAF ATC, particularly in view of two high-risk mil/glider airproxes in the last year. If you plan to fly in that area you may benefit from reading [this](#).

A significant collection of historic Rolls-Royce engines will soon have a new home at Aerospace Bristol. The museum is working in partnership with Rolls-Royce and Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust to develop a historic aircraft hangar on the Aerospace Bristol site into a new museum store. Hangar 16R will house engines from the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust collection alongside museum objects on show to visitors for the first time. The partnership will also provide a space for Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust volunteers to work on conserving the engines. More [here](#).

The January newsletter mentioned an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) from the National Police Air Service for a TRA and TMZ over the Bristol Channel for the purposes of a Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) trial of a surveillance drone. [The proposal](#) is now being reworked in two parts, the first for a TDA for the 90-day nighttime portion, the second to follow for a TRA and TMZ for the remaining 90 days. Some changes have been made to the trial area, particularly lowering the upper limit from 1700' to 1400' and no longer quite butting directly onto the corridor under the 1500' Class D to the west of Bristol Airport.

The [May issue of CHIRP](#) deals with distraction and interruption—well worth a read.

A warning from the BGA: *There has been a recent situation where a CAA-issued C of A has been revoked because the CAA was unable to contact the aircraft owner. The owner is of course unaware until the situation is discovered at ARC renewal. The BGA has approached the CAA registration department to seek reassurance that the CAA will exhaust all efforts (including assistance from other organisations) to contact an owner before taking the costly to the owner step of cancelling a C of A or aircraft registration. Meanwhile, we recommend that all owners ensure that the CAA registration department has the correct contact details for their aircraft. Of course, even for Permit aircraft it is important that the CAA has the correct contact details, as well as the LAA.*

The next AIRAC update is on June 12th; don't forget to keep your electronic databases current.

Puzzle Picture

This month: identify the aircraft?



Last month: Nigel P was half right in identifying the aircraft as a 'Junkers Ju 52' located at Kent Battle of Britain museum' and the bird as a surprised chicken! Only half right because the aircraft is from the Jean Salis collection at La Ferté Alais and the bird is therefore *un poulet*!

Where to go in June

Flyer free landing vouchers: East Kirkby, Sackville Farm, Jersey, Balado

Light Aviation: Strathaven

1 June (and 31 May): Great Vintage Fly-in Weekend , [Cotswold Airport](#)

1 June: [Wessex Strut fly-in](#), Henstridge *Cancelled*

7 June: Where else but the Bristol Strut fly-in at Oaksey Park!

14 June: [Blackbushe Air Day](#)

15 June: [Sleep Machine Meet](#)

19 June: [Popham evening BBQ](#)

21 June: [Devon Strut](#) fly-in, Farway Common

28 June: Sherlowe charity fly-in — info@sherloweairfield.com

And looking ahead, see the poster on page 5 for Middlezoy's Armed Forces Day fly-in.

Tailpiece

A reminder that the Brissle Strutter takes a break in July and August. We'll be off taking advantage of the longer days, but any important information received will be circulated by email or the Strut WhatsApp group. We'll be back for the September Newsletter.



LAA Bristol Strut Fly-In



All Welcome!
Saturday 7th June *
 (weather reserve Saturday 5th July)



OAKSEY PARK



Vehicle museum and Classic Aeroplane Co. Hangar open
 Overnight camping available for visiting pilots (basic facilities)
 Food available in village (walking distance)
 Limited number of drive-in tickets available in advance (£10)
Please note – no general access for the public



£15 Landing fee (free with 75L of fuel – includes free tea or coffee on arrival)
 BBQ & cake stall
 £10 overnight camping
 Prizes for furthest visitor, oldest aircraft and most meritorious flight!
 Meet the Bristol LAA strut
 All proceeds to Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance



PPR or book drive-in tickets via
events@bristolstrut.uk



Armed Forces Day
Fly-In Middlezoy 5th July 2025

**You are cordially invited to a Fly-In at Middlezoy
To celebrate Armed Forces Day 2025.**

Arrivals from 1130 hr

Please PPR by 3rd July if possible

**Joining / Airfield details on the Middlezoy
website**

BBQ from 1400 hr onwards

Refreshments available throughout the day

