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# Brissle Strut



Newsletter of the LAA Bristol Strut

NOVEMBER 2023

*Inside this issue:*

## Message from the Chair

The weather forecasts and shortening days indicate that we are well into Autumn – although there have been a few excellent flying days in October. It was great to see so many members – and quite a few visitors – at the recent GASCo safety presentation, which provided great food for thought, and lots of practical advice on how to fly more safely. We’ve also enjoyed our annual skittles evening against the Bristol Aero Club – more on both of these events in the newsletter main body!

Our WhatsApp group has proven really helpful in terms of getting messages and reminders out to people quickly, and the Facebook Group is rapidly following – and by next month, I expect to be able to provide you all with a link to it, which you can pass on to your friends. We have also had some encouraging responses to our search for a location for a Strut Fly-In next year, and I’m hoping that we will have something definite on that front to report before Christmas. Don’t forget the PilotAware and Electronic Conspicuity presentation on 7<sup>th</sup> November – our next Strut meeting – in our normal BAWA location. And I’ll also be writing out shortly about our Christmas meal – where, as ever, it would be great to see as many of you as possible for a pleasant evening of flying-related social chat over a hearty meal.

Safe flying,

Neville

## Last month’s meetings

For our October meeting we were fortunate to have a GASCo Safety Evening, presented by GASCo’s CEO Mike O’Donoghue, on the topic of ‘What are your safety strategies?’ He comprehensively explored threat and error management, with compelling examples, and kept us alert with interactive questions. There was the usual signing of logbooks, and a raffle raised well over £200 for GASCo funds.



Message from the Chair	1
Last month’s meetings	1
This month’s meeting	2
Info from CAA and elsewhere	3
Where to go in November	3
Tailpiece	4

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October also saw our annual skittles match against the Bristol Aero Club. This year we had an actual trophy to play for – but it made no difference, we still lost as in previous years!



Neville and BAC captain John Ferguson



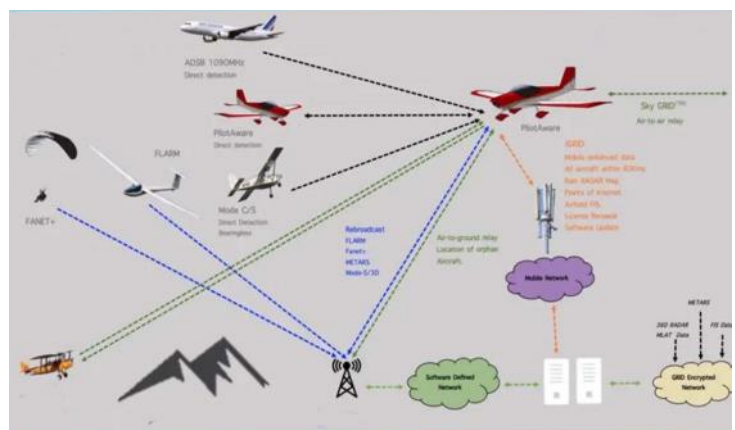
The BAC and Bristol Strut teams



### This month's meeting

Keith Vinning from PilotAware will talk to us about 'Advances in Electronic Conspicuity Interoperability'. There are various equipments and standards for EC, and the priority must be to maximise EC 'see and be seen' - while not neglecting the importance of visual lookout. Thus the effective presentation of EC information is a vital part of the process.

7 November, BAWA Room 4, 19:30 for 19:45.



## Information from the CAA and elsewhere

There is a reminder from the CAA that there are only 5 months before the DfT-funded Electronic Conspicuity rebate scheme application window closes on 31 March 2024. [The scheme](#) aims to improve airspace safety by encouraging the adoption of EC devices that enhance situational awareness for pilots. Eligible applicants still have an opportunity to claim a 50% rebate on the purchase cost of an EC device, up to a maximum of £250.

CAA's [SN2023-005](#) is a useful reminder to the RPAS community of their responsibilities in respect of airspace.

For those interested in the airspace change process, there is a new issue of [CAP1616](#), 'focused on providing simplification, clarification and proportionality.'

There are two AIRAC updates in November— on the 2nd and the 30th; don't forget to keep your electronic databases current.

The CAA is rolling out a new payment system to make payments easier for customers. They say that this new system will transform transactions to improve security, service and efficiency whilst ensuring the security of any payments made. Details are available [here](#).

A reminder from the **British Gliding Association** about the CAA Pilot Medical Declaration, equally appropriate to power pilots:

*All pilots and in particular those who fly with a passenger or student pilot are reminded of their responsibility not to fly in the event of a decrease in their fitness with respect to an illness, medical condition, medical surgery or treatment including medication that may affect the safe operation of an aircraft. Consultation with a medical practitioner and/or AME may be needed to advise the pilot as to whether the fitness conditions of the CAA Pilot Medical Declaration are met or continue to be met. Older pilots who utilise the PMD are reminded that after the age of 70, a new declaration must be submitted every three years.*

Of course for pilots flying on a CAA medical your AME should be consulted for any such decrease in fitness .

## Where to go in November

**Light Aviation** vouchers:

Sandown (half price), Spanhoe, Wolverhampton

**Flyer** vouchers:

Wycombe, Sutton Bank, Lands End (50% off, 10% off food), Eddsfield, Longside

And information from **Bristol Aero Talks**: they are pleased to announce that *as November represents the 20th Anniversary of the return of "Alpha Foxtrot" to Filton a special Concorde-related event has been organised to commemorate this. The realisation that it is now two decades since Concorde last flew prompted a group of BACT members, including Sir George White, to sponsor a complete film history entitled Concorde - First to Last. This film, running for over 2 ½ hours, includes rare archive footage recorded in the early days of the Concorde programme together with interviews with significant personalities involved in the aircraft's development.*

*To accompany this a 45-minute edited version was produced for public showing and this will form the centrepiece of the evening. This will be followed by a Q&A session with invited guests and then we will open the floor for members of the audience to relate anecdotes and share their knowledge and experiences of those days.*

## Where to go in November (cont'd)

*DVDs of Concorde – First to Last (which include 90 minutes of extras including a round-the-world tour) will be on sale after the talk, together with information on how to purchase the film as an HD stream.*

This talk will be held at **7:15 pm on Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup>** at **Aerospace Bristol, Hayes Way, Patchway** in **The John James Theatre** (in the Concorde hangar). Entry to the lecture is free; voluntary contributions are welcomed after the lecture. In the event there is an accrued surplus at the end of the season of talks it will be donated to Aerospace Bristol.



## Tailpiece

### *Early Start*



With thanks to ©Alex Parton for this superb photo