

# ***DEVON STRUT NEWS***

The Newsletter of the Devon Strut of the Popular Flying Association. February 2006.

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## **CO-ORDINATOR'S COMMENTS**

**by Christopher Howell**

January is over and our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year has started. Details have begun to filter through about the 2006 Rally. The Devon Strut is tasked with co-organising a static display of aircraft to mark sixty years of PFA homebuilts. This is very much in the planning stage but is being managed by Jim Gale who will be looking for volunteers to man the exhibits.

It is amazing how far and wide Strut members travel and where the Devon Strut pops up! Just this week a call came through from a guy in Jersey who had seen our website and wanted to set up a Jersey Strut. It would be quite interesting to form an exchange there, maybe once a year. Of all the Channel Islands I always find Jersey the most pleasant.

Nigel and Robert Nicholson have been enjoying some flying around San Diego in the USA; look out for Nigel's update in a later newsletter. Joe Thomas, of Branscombe fame, called from Florida and was immensely cheered up when I related that temperatures here were zero and a light snow was falling, as he was quietly polishing his motorbike in a balmy 70 degrees Fahrenheit! Don Easterbrook has been spending some rather pleasant months in Australia and John Kempton is on his way to sunny Spain for a touring holiday in his motorhome. Many members are fanning out far and wide.

Our AGM was held last month and all went well. The highlight of the evening was the PowerPoint picture show that Derek Boyce presented with a pictorial journey through our 2005 fly-ins. Les Dray presented the Strut with a magnificent new trophy which is to be awarded annually for pilot achievement. The first worthy recipient was Derek Boyce. Derek bought an Aeronca Champ after qualifying for his PPL and during 2005 he completed many epic journeys, including the G-VFWE at Hullavington, Lundy Island, Belle Vue Scout Camp, southern Ireland, France and many of the West Country events.

The Strut Egg Cup was presented to Steve Robson as a mark of thanks for all his hard work during his 3 year term as Safety Officer. Ian Walsh was voted in as our new Safety Officer and the rest of the mob have offered to serve another term; Chris Howell as co-ordinator, Mike Mold as newsletter & web editor, Dave Silsbury as librarian, Pete White as youth event organiser, John Kempton – treasurer; Mike King – membership secretary and Keith Wingate as auditor. A new post has been created with Steve Robson taking on the role of public relations officer. Part of Steve's remit is to put together a Strut and Aviation talk which can be offered to a variety of local groups to promote the Popular Flying Association as a route to affordable flying through the PFA Permit system. May I also say a special thank you to Mike Mold for all his hard work in editing the Strut newsletter each month and organising the updates of the website [www.devonstrut.co.uk](http://www.devonstrut.co.uk)

There will be a special strut meeting on a Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February when Roger Hopkinson, the new Chairman of the PFA, will be travelling down to the Stowey Arms to share with us his vision for the Association and its role with EASA.

We have our usual monthly meeting on Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> and our guest speaker is John H. Evans. John is a Commercial Pilot and began flying when Dragon Rapides were still in commercial service. He has written a fascinating book about his adventures all over the world and has a great love of the West Country as he spent many happy hours flying to the Scilly Isles and helped Bill Bryce form Brymon Airways at Plymouth when they used Runway 31 as grass!!

I am sure you remember from last month: 'Wheellie Bins'. Well of course you are all aware of the governments drive to have us recycling and as a result the whole of the West Country has become blighted by oversized Wheelie Bins that are so Large they will not fit any where, with the end result they now form decorative features at the front of many rural properties. Oh, and why so large? Each one is only collected once a fortnight, GREAT Progress!!!

Best wishes,  
Christopher

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## **Strut AGM Minutes** 12th January 2006, Stowey Arms, Exminster, 8.00pm. (33 attendees)

1. Apologies for Absence. N Wellard, J Flisher, T Wilson, R Horner, B Anning, K Wingate.
2. Minutes of the last meeting. Proposed: Pete White. Seconded: John Havers
3. Co-ordinators Report. (Chris Howell)  
Chris Howell described the series of evening meetings that had been held during the previous year.
4. Treasurer's Report (John Kempton) - balance sheet and budgets available to members on request.  
Acceptance of accounts was Proposed: Mike King Seconded: David Cottingham
5. Fly-In Report and slide show. (Derek Boyce)
6. National Council Report. (Jim Gale)  
There had been 4 NC meetings during 2005, of which 3 had been attended by Jim Gale and one by Mike Mold. Jim had helped two Devon builders get their first flight paperwork speeded up by direct contact with Andrew Moore. The Devon Strut is recognised as the most active of struts with 140 members, of which 117 are also PFA members. 42 have building/rebuilding projects. 11 members are also inspectors. We held 14 fly-ins during the year and 7 autumn/winter evening meetings. The annual Strut "return" was completed so that PFA insurance cover is in place. Our Education activities included a Scout Aerocamp and Young Aviators flights. We are planning a programme of promotional lectures and a recruitment campaign for future PFA and Strut members. An application is being prepared for regional lottery funding to be used for the purchase of audio/visual equipment. The Strut has volunteered to participate in the organisation of the 2006 Rally at Kemble in August, specifically to look after the Historic PFA Aircraft exhibition for which **volunteers** are requested. (Please contact Jim Gale for details.)
- 6a. Safety Officer Report (Steve Robson)  
Steve began by offering his thanks to all members for their professional approach to safety throughout the year and stated that he was not aware of any incidents that infringed the safety responsibilities of the Strut. He went on to outline the safety procedures employed at the Scout Camp in May 05 as an example of the flexible and pragmatic organisation and safety that resulted in a very successful event. He also described having been contacted by a 'pushy' BBC journalist following a fatal accident to an aircraft that had been en-route to one of our events. Steve had declined to comment and he suggested that if any Strut member were to be approached in similar circumstances they should also decline to comment. Finally, in retiring from the post of Safety Officer after 3 years, he stated that the Strut had an enviable safety record that should be jealously maintained, thanked all for their support in the past and wished his successor well for the future.
7. Election of Officers.  
Re-election of Committee en bloc except for retirement of Steve Robson as Safety Officer:  
Proposed by: Nigel Skinner Seconded by: Les Dray  
New Safety Officer: Ian Walsh. Proposed by: Steve Robson; Seconded by: Roger Benson

PR Officer: Steve Robson. Proposed by: P White; Seconded by: I Walsh

#### 8. Presentation of Trophies

Chris Howell described the various successes achieved by the Strut & its members during 2005. These included the Scout Aerocamp; first flights of new a/c: John Flisher (Banbi), Peter Nelson (Banbi), Roy Young (Europa TG) and Ernie Hoblyn (Sopwith Pup Replica). G-VFWE trophies were awarded to Dave Colclough, Terry Wilson, Jon Pote & Pete White. The literary Line Trophy was awarded to Reg McComish. Jon Pote & Terry Wilson received recognition in the CAA Safety Awards. Substantial funds were raised for various charities at the Strut's fly-ins, including over £10,000 at the Branscombe Air Day and £500 at Watchford. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary photo-shoot was orchestrated by Dave Silsbury and Pete White and shot by Derek Boyce.

Strut Cup (for services to the Strut): Steve Robson (Safety Officer over previous 3 years)

Les Dray Trophy (for airmanship / pilotage): Derek Boyce



Mike Mold presents the Strut egg cup to Steve Robson



Derek Boyce receives the new trophy from Les Dray Photos by Mike King

#### 9. Any Other Business

Pete White announced plans for the Strut's PFA 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary fly-in and hangar dance at Bodmin on 1<sup>st</sup> July and he took details of prospective attendees with the intention of contacting them when the tickets were ready for collection. Pete also described the proposals for a tour of 60 airfield sites (current & historical) to celebrate the PFA 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Richard Walker introduced himself as ex-Cornwall FC instructor and prospective co-owner of Aeronca 7AC G-ATKR to be based at Plymouth and that 4 extra shares of 6-man group were to be advertised.

Mike King proposed a vote of thanks for Chris Howell for his co-ordinator role in steering the Strut through another successful year.

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## YOUNG AVIATION ARTISTS COMPETITION 2006

The Royal Aero Club is the representative body of all the different Aerosport organisations in the UK. As a member body, the Youth & Education Strut of the PFA has been asked to publicise this annual artistic competition aimed at young people and organised by FAI, the world governing body of sport flying, based in Switzerland.

The theme for 2006 is "Air sports and nature in harmony". UK winners will receive prizes that include a free 'Young Aviator' Flight in a PFA light aircraft, attending a PFA Youth Aviation Experience camp and free family tickets to the major UK aviation event for light aircraft at Kemble in August. All entries

received will be judged by a panel of experts. The winners in each age group will receive a certificate, which will be presented at a suitable major aviation event. Gold Certificate winning entries will be forwarded to the International Jury for consideration for an International Award. All entries must be received at the PFA Office by 31st March 2006. Details can be found on the PFA's website.

<http://www.pfa.org.uk/YOUNG%20AVIATION%20ARTISTS%20CONTEST%202006%20Final.pdf> Some of you with your local contacts with school children and youth groups may be interested in forwarding the above information to those who have budding or existing creative talents. Details are also on the [www.flyers.org.uk](http://www.flyers.org.uk) website.

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## Members' News

A warm welcome to new members:

**Alan Crutcher** of Pontyclun. Aeronca 11AC Chief G-BRWR – a friendly foreigner and 'knocker driver, who's done the honourable thing and signed away any misconceived Welsh claims to Lundy after many months of cagouling!

**Steve Waddy** from North Cornwall. Aeronca 11AC Chief G-IVOR group member, magazine scribe, prospective Bodmin QFI! Steve's recent article in PF has been well-received and may be used in PFA promotional publications during the coming year.



Alan Crutcher's Aeronca Chief



Steve Waddy in IVOR over Normandy

**Richard Walker** from Plymouth. Ex-Bodmin instructor and prospective group owner of yet another...Aeronca! 7AC Champ G-AKTR, (to be based at Plymouth with shares available.)

**Roger Benson** from Exeter. Roger has rejoined after a year away and keeps his Auster J5V G-AOIY at, where else but Eggesford.

**Mark Preston**, also of Exeter, has his pristine DH 82A Tiger Moth G-ADJJ now resident at Watchford after a protracted rebuild. In response to reading Pete White's account of the Aeronca Club French trip and their encounter with Tiger G-APIG Mark writes, "I think that I was the last pilot to put G-APIG in my logbook when I ferried her from Norfolk to Southend to be dismantled and put into storage. That might even be the last flight in UK of a crop-spraying Tiger fitted with the full gear. I shall have to go to Bernay to renew old acquaintance! A further aside is that the engine from 'PIG is now in G-ADNE, the Hornet Moth which I fly from time to time".

**Charlie Huke** hails from Tisbury in Wiltshire. Charlie and Anna have been regular visitors to our strut fly-ins and have a collection of vintage a/c including Turbulent G-ASHT, Condor G-ARVZ, Topsy Trainer G-AISA, BA Swallow G-AFGE and a Bucker Jungmann in bits! Charlie has considerable ex-military fixed wing and rotary experience and besides being a senior member of the civilian staff at

Boscombe Down he is an instructor, a PFA Coach, PFA inspector and is willing to assist other strut members.



Mark Preston's Tiger Moth



Charlie Huke dropped in to Watchford in late January to warm up!

**Richard Crosby** has sold his Condor G-ATUG to Brian Ell and it will be based at Crowland.

**Brian Murray** is a motor engineer and is building an RV9A in the loft above his premises in Teignmouth. He learnt to fly with Exeter F.C., completing his PPL in February 2003 and started the construction from his kit (not a quick-build) in Feb. 2004. Brian is still flying hired aircraft from Exeter – C152, C172 and PA28. He would like to get involved in a permit aircraft to gain more experience over the next 3 years or so, or until he completes his RV. Any suggestions from other members?



**Alan Faupel** has sent in the following note about PAFRA (Pilots and Friends of Rochester Airport) Flying Club. "Being an ex member, I have been trying over the last couple of years for the club to pay us a visit here in East Devon. Terry Trott (the Chairman) e-mailed me to say that the club had booked the 21st May for the visit to Dunkeswell and would I like to meet them there. I recommended the airfield restaurant or "Fishponds" for their meal when they arrive but not quite sure regarding time scale what else they will be able to fit in before returning to Rochester. Any suggestions, tour around Dunkeswell airfield maybe? (*I also suggested the Memorial Museum – Ed*)

PAFRA are organising a fly-out to Duxford on Sunday 25th June. An invitation has been extended to any Devon Strut members who would like to go via Rochester. I believe that preferential rates for the airfield and I.W.M. have been negotiated. Further details can be obtained from Kelvin Carr, ATC Officer, Rochester Airport on his mobile 0797-6981769 or e-mail [kelvin.carr@talk21.com](mailto:kelvin.carr@talk21.com) Kelvin would

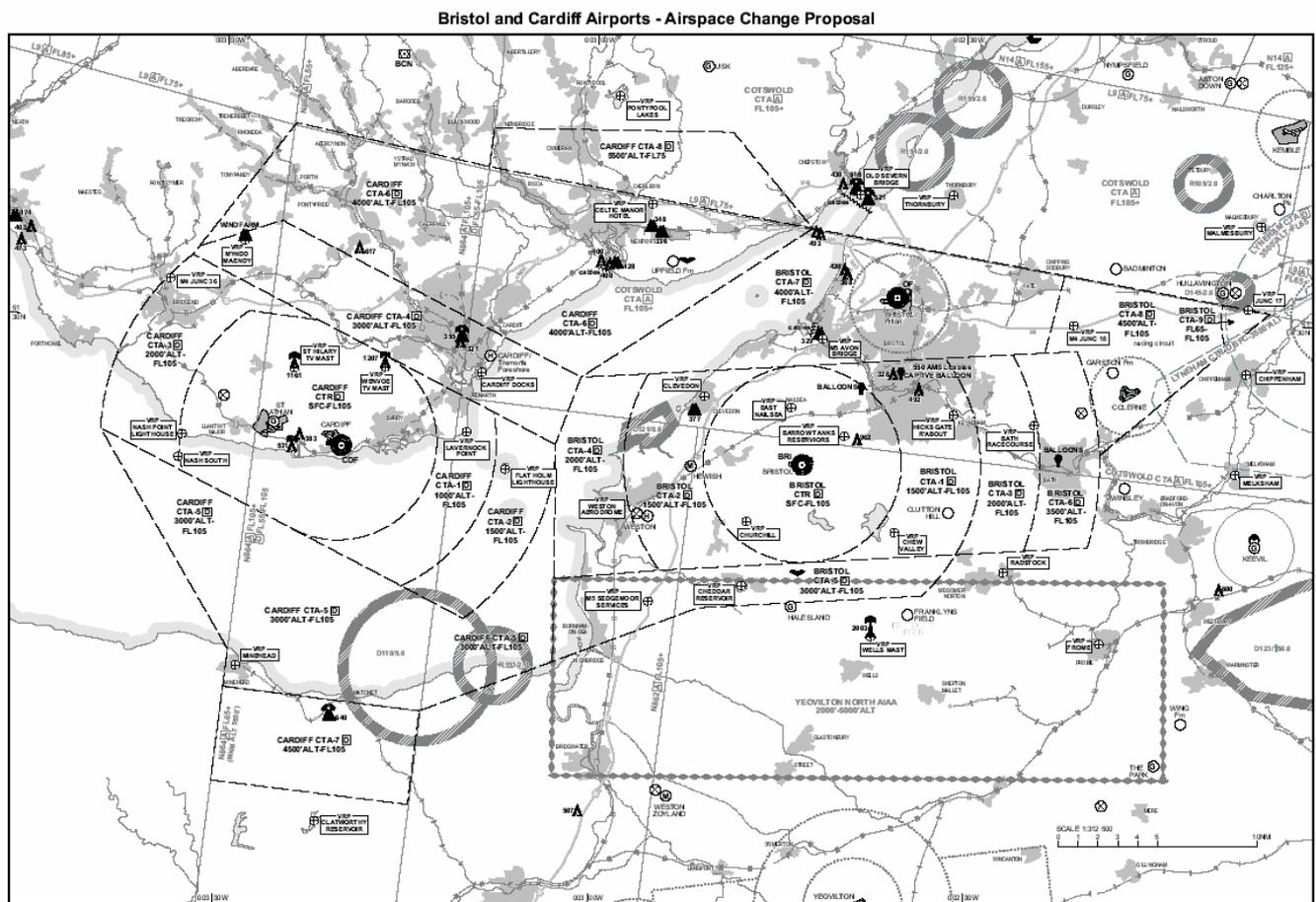
like to know as soon as possible the numbers that would be likely to go.” We all enjoyed the AGM and thought it was a good evening, Regards Alan

## PFA Rally 18-20<sup>th</sup> August

The Strut has been asked to organise and run an exhibition area featuring vintage PFA a/c types at FFF, Kemble. We need several members to provide their a/c for static display and also people to be prepared to man the exhibition area and answer questions from punters. Please contact Jim Gale for details.

## New Bristol & Cardiff Areas

From March 2006, new areas of controlled airspace, which extend outwards and upwards from the existing Bristol and Cardiff zones, will come into operation. The Bristol Strut is hosting a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February (same night as our strut meeting) and has invited representatives from both Cardiff and Bristol ATC to give an up-to-date briefing prior to activation of the additional CTA segments. Any members who may be in the Bristol area that night are welcome to attend. The venue is Room 1 (New Building), The British Aerospace Welfare Association, conference suite (BAWA), Southmead Road, Bristol. See <http://www.garstonfarm.flyer.co.uk/pfabristol/airspace.htm> for full details and an enlargeable map. A second meeting is also being proposed for GA pilots and flying clubs at aerodromes east of the Severn Estuary, within approx 30nm radius of Bristol Int’l Airport, to take place at 19.30 hrs on 13th February at the Media Centre, Old Terminal, Bristol International Airport. (to be confirmed so check [www.ukga.com](http://www.ukga.com)).



## Luscombe Club

Not to be outdone by the Aeroncas (sorry, bloody Aeroncas), Nigel Barratt has been working hard to put together a programme of events for the European Luscombes, including a mini tour of the southern UK on 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June (to which non-Luscombes are invited), a weekend visit to the Scillies in July (in

conjunction with the Old Sarum Flying Club) and (following the example set by the Jodel Club [www.frapppr.com/jodel](http://www.frapppr.com/jodel)) the Luscombe site includes a frapppr map showing where the Luscombe owners are located. <http://www.europeanluscombes.org.uk>

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### **Letter received from the Dunkeswell Village Hall Management Committee.**

Dear Mr Howell, On behalf of the Dunkeswell Village Hall Management Committee, I would like to thank the Devon Strut for their kind donation of £75.00 to the refurbishment of the Dunkeswell Village Hall. We hope this summer's weather is kind enough to allow you to enjoy all your organised fly-ins that you have planned around the South West. Yours sincerely, Cynthia Broad (Secretary)

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### **Battle of Britain Memorial Flight**

Following the interest shown in the history of Lancaster "Just Jane" at our November meeting, members may be keen to know that the BBMF has an interesting and informative website which gives descriptions of the aircraft in the flight and their crews, the flight's history and its visitors' centre at Coningsby. Additionally, the dates of the flight's display and flypast programme will be listed for the coming year. <http://www.raf.mod.uk/bbmf/bbmfhome.html>

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### **February Free Landings**

Pilot: Andrewsfield, Dunkeswell, Huddersfield, Leicester, Shobdon and Stapleford  
Flyer: Beccles, Fishburn, Land's End and White Waltham.  
Today's Pilot: Nottingham, Upfield Farm, Beccles, Old Sarum.

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### **2006 Events**

April	16	Henstridge, Wessex Strut fly-in	
May	??	60 a/f project	tba
	06	Bicester Aeronca Club	01752-406660
	14	Plymouth.	01752-515341
	??	Scillies provisional Strut fly-out	(tba)
	27-29	Keevil G-VFWE	<a href="http://www.zolid.com/cirrus">www.zolid.com/cirrus</a>
June	2-4	Belle Vue Scout Camp	
	17	Eggesford	01363-83746
	17	Priory Farm Aeronca Club	01379-608110
	17-18	North Weald Air Britain Fly-in	<a href="http://www.air-britainflyin.co.uk">http://www.air-britainflyin.co.uk</a>
	25	Halwell	07850-620801 / 07971-480078
July	1	Bodmin fly-in /60 dance / camp	01208-821419
	2	Manstage	01837-871518
	7-9	Nevers, France. RSA Rally	
	8-9	Farway	01395-597535
	16	Lundy	07774-017704
	29	Branscombe Aeronca Club camp	01297-680259
	30	Branscombe Air Show	01297-680259
August	6	Treborough	01984-641179
	13	Dunkeswell Air Day	
	18-20	Kemble PFA Rally	<a href="http://www.flyingforfun.net/index.html">http://www.flyingforfun.net/index.html</a>
	25-28	France Aeronca Tour	01752-406660
	27	Rosarrow	01208-863000
September	2	Belle Vue	01805-623113
	10	Watchford	01823-601268
	23	Middle Wallop Aeronca Club	01980-678727

**Next Meeting** (Stowey Arms, Exminster, 7.30 for 8.00)

Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> John Evans, author and commercial pilot.

**Future Meetings, 2006**

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> **Special meeting: Roger Hopkinson, PFA Chairman.**

March 9<sup>th</sup> Peter Vacher - the recovery and restoration of Hawker Hurricane R4118.

“ 21<sup>st</sup> CAA Safety Evening, Fox & Hounds, Eggesford.

“ 23<sup>rd</sup> CAA Safety Evening, Dunkeswell.

April 13<sup>th</sup> Ted Lawrence will show a film about Light Aviation at Brooklands.

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