



The TrimTab

The monthly update of
the Lancashire Aero Club

December 1994 Vol 2 Issue 2

Editor's Bit.....

Season's Greetings to everybody in LAC, & to all our many friends & neighbours. We're coming to the end of another year & we can look back on 1994 with some pride & a feeling that we've got somewhere. Of course we still have problems & issues to resolve, but we have to expect new ones all the time - that's life! But let's not be negative - let's look at the credit side. We've stabilised our lease situation for the next few years, we've had a record number of events this year, including some super fly-ins & 'guest' aircraft, our financial position has improved modestly, we've refurbished the clubhouse, & the Visitor Centre has really taken off with the arrival of the museum. Most of the change has been down to volunteer effort, & I know that this is repetitive but thanks to all who have contributed to our successes this year.

Publisher's Note:
Mike Edwards was editor of this issue.

We are the oldest & largest flying club in the U.K. Let's use our enhanced position now & make a New Year's resolution to become the friendliest, most active, best quality flying club in the UK. The main thing that's required is a positive attitude of mind, & the ability to set achievable targets for improvements - then to get on & get them done. **Let's go for it!**

IMC Groundschool - That nice chap Martin Rushbrooke is once more running an IMC groundschool course starting Tue. 7th Feb. 1995, running for 12 weeks. Evening course, runs from 1930-2130 hrs in the Portakabin by the Control Tower. Sign up & meet new friends, learn things you never knew but need to if you want to be a better pilot, whether or not your going for your IMC) & make use of those dark evenings to progress your aviation achievements.

Or - why not do the **Meteorology Groundschool** course, on the 10th, 17th & 24th Jan '95 same time, same place as above. A shorter course, price £50, with Martin again as your instructor.

Power Washers..

(rather than Power Rangers) All the rage this year! We've now had a power washer installed on a trial basis (6 months) by the hose tap at the clubhouse. Tokens can be

bought from the Tower to wash your pride & joy, so there's now no need to go breaking the rule on using maintenance's washer, which is only for their use. BUT - please read GASIL re: degreasing moving parts & check with maintenance if you require advice, BEFORE USING IT.

A Nice Cuppa Tea (as they say in EastEnders, no matter what calamity or impending disaster looms). After the clubhouse opened, there was a problem in obtaining cups/mugs of tea, & only pots of tea were sold. This has now been sorted, & you will all be happy to know that you can obtain your favourite brew in a cup or a mug just as before!

Obituary - Members will be saddened to hear that Ron Blomfield, a long time member of the G-ATAF C172 group, has passed away after a long illness. He was 64 years old, & had just taken early retirement from his job of Mechanical Engineer on the Jodrell Bank Telescope. Ron was a very friendly & ebullient character, who really enjoyed his flying at Barton. Although in great pain, he had a short trip in 'AF' as recently as August this year. He'll be greatly missed by the Group.

Thank you Jim Madders for letting us know the sad news. I've heard that not all members' deaths get reported; this is only because I don't get informed of them, so please let me know via the Tower, as there is no way we want ignore our members & their past contributions to the club.

Halloween Do - Ghoulies & ghosties, witches & wizards crept out of the crypt to have a great Ball of fire on Oct 30th. Ghastly fun was had by all, & the entertainment & games were enjoyed horrifically. Fangs to the organisers Gill Rathbone & Bob & Ange Jones for ensuring the spirit of the evening was observed.

Unfortunately, the RAF couldn't send a Phantom - they said there wasn't a ghost of a chance...

Wings Dance 19th November - A rather depleted crowd of around 100 or so attended the Wings Dance this year. Maybe it was the combined cost of subscriptions & the Xmas season which conspired? or apathy? or sheer poverty? Whatever, the actual event was enjoyed by all who did attend, particularly the presentations & speeches. Awards will be listed next month, as space restricts us this month.

Anonymous Letters A few weeks back, & coinciding with last month's Trimtab article on behaviour in the clubhouse, an anonymous letter on that very subject appeared on the club board. I don't know why it was anonymous, as it had some perfectly valid & respectable points. I don't want to tell the author off about this. All I can say is, please address your points & arguments to the Committee & sign your letters. We are not ogres & we will discuss & take your views on board when you write to us.

As Editor of Trimtab, I assure you that I listen to all opinions & attempt to express these within this newsletter - whether I agree or disagree with them. I know that previous Editors of the Elevator have also observed this practice, & have published many a letter which put forward contentious points, in the interests of ensuring democracy & a fair hearing. I also will represent members' views put forward to the Committee & will do my best to ensure that you get a good hearing, & that actions are taken where possible & where democratically approved by the Committee. Those who have written letters to me know that I have done this before, & that their comments are listened to.

Mike Edwards
Editor

VAT

As most of you will know by now, Customs & Excise have refunded VAT on Flying Members' memberships back to LAC, after a lengthy, difficult & costly negotiation. You will probably also be aware that there is much debate (not only in LAC) on whether this money can be held & used by a club, or must be refunded back to individual members.

The greatest difficulty in refunding is that of proving & tracking continuity of membership over the years, & LAC administrative time & expense involved in doing so. The original intention of the Committee was that LAC should use the money in giving Flying Members a benefit, e.g. improved airfield facilities or suchlike. Having said that, LAC has put the money in its entirety into a holding account whilst the debate goes on. We can see both sides of the argument, but as yet no case has been brought which has produced a precedent. We would prefer to have a holding period whilst we see the outcome of such a case elsewhere, or get a consensus (say at AGM?), as this will keep everyone's costs down to a minimum. Please can you be patient?

BVC Xmas thanks

I'm using Editor's licence here to personally thank all BVC helpers this year. At the Wings Dance, I was awarded with the Brian Harbit trophy for effort on BVC & PR work. I feel that the credit must be shared with those who backed the project at the start & encouraged it to keep going. What started in January as a trestle table in the clubhouse has progressed to - well, a trestle table in a Portakabin, but with a few added extras!

Thank you to the volunteers who helped such a lot in 1994: Roger Wareing, Pete Maher, Cliff Mort, Sharon Beeley, Alan Luty, Charles Price, Jimmy Bruton, Pete & Julie Harris, Bob Ogden, Eddie Mayo, Keith Williams, Norman Donnelly, Dave Russ, Sandro Melkuhn, Maureen Davy, Chris Copple, Carol Drummond, John & Pat Seville, Robin Moore, Brian Winstanley, Alistair Roxborough, Mark Walmsley, Ken Watson, John Teece, all Bomber Command members & all club members who donated items or helped in any way - & to the young BVC workers, Mark Howarth, Nick Duriez & Paul Tymon-Finally all MHAS members, especially Mike Eastman & Irene for their boundless enthusiasm. Well Done!

Forthcoming Events

Roger Reeves Fly-in - Roger has invited pilots of 'Real Aeroplanes' to a fly-in at Rednal on Tuesday, 27th December. Please read the notices in the Tower & Club & **GET PPR**.

Sat. 24th December - Xmas Eve Do. A clubhouse Disco from 8pm 'till late, for the budget price of £5 per head. Dance away whilst you wait for Rudolf the red-nosed CFI to whistle over the chimneys & wake you up in his Cessna.

New Year's Eve Posh Do. A duo & comedian star in a cabaret night. See 1995 in with food, drink, a laugh & lotsa goodies. Tickets £20 from the Tower.

Next Year's Flying Dates - Just for a change we've put our heads together early & come up with next summer's flying events calendar, including 3 club open weekends, which will substitute for the lack of a 1995 Air Show. The dates are as follows:

May 7 - PFA NW Strut 'Mayfly' Fly-In

May 27-28 - LAC VE day weekend, including birthday celebrations of RJ Mitchell (Spitfire designer) & the DH Vampire (50 years old). This includes a hangar dance on the Saturday night.

June 10-11 Great British Microlight Rally, & Microlight-themed open days.

July 22-23 LAC Midsummer Madness weekend. Competitions, prizes, & entertainments are promised.

August 13 - PFA NW Strut Treasure Hunt/Dawn Patrol Fly-in. Though PFA-run, everyone can participate in this.

September 3 - Aerobatic competition.

September 9-10 Autumn Air Fair & Landing competition.

Fly-ins & Special Guest aircraft are expected at each event, but the key factor will be club participation, whereby all members are invited to partake over the weekend (not in display routines, but circuit flying & static displays to show the public the variety of sport aircraft available). In addition, the MHAS will make an invaluable contribution to ground displays & organisation, & have already 'carpet-bombed' the warbird fraternity with our intentions, in order to elicit guest fly-bys & interesting visitors.

If 'Our Girls' & the 1994 Autumn Air Fair

was anything to go by, this format will be very popular with both participants & public alike. In addition, we are asking members to run small stands a la village fayre, giving a range of entertainments & spectacles (those short-sighted pilots again!) on the ground. Social members, YOU are also included in this invitation!

In addition we are turning our thoughts to Fly-OUTs, thinking of destinations & events to go to - the idea being that students & newly qualified PPLs get a chance, accompanied by experienced PPLs, to see what fun can be had - be it over the oggin to sunny climes, or just a good day out for an hour or 2's flying.

The sub-committee (Cliff Mort, Mike Edwards, Pete Harris + Mike Eastman) has already started planning, but we'd appreciate Event Owners/Helpers who can spare a any time (any amount is helpful) on any of the events - or just give us creative ideas that we can put into the mix. TTT - Tell The Tower!

Silent Flight, Holy Flight... - Another 1995 idea is to take members for a day's or an evening's gliding at Camphill (or even other sites). Dates, prices & arrangements are being negotiated. Camphill can't take powered aircraft, so this requires a minibus or some means of transport to take you, but other sites may be more accommodating. LAC glider pilots may want to assist with this idea so please contact us - TTT again.

Noise - Ellenbrook - This month, a noise abatement appeal closer to home & one we may be able to do something about. Ellenbrook is a 'new' housing estate just north of the East Lancs Road

between Worsley Church & Astley. It looks like relatively open ground, & lies under a direct line from Barton to Winter Hill. In a Cessna, you're just about levelling off at 1500' as you go over it.

The problem is that everyone uses this route to Winter Hill, Blackpool & t'North - & of course on the return from those destinations. The residents are not very happy, to the point where they dread fine weather, as they know it brings constant noise over their area. On occasions, they have had aerobatics performed overhead (which is illegal) as well as low-flying helicopters on training & joyrides. The joy is not felt on all sides, we can assure you!

In the spring, we'll publish a local map in Trimtab, showing the areas we want you to avoid if at all possible, when the busy flying season gets going again. In the meantime, can we appeal to you not to always use the same old routes 'out' & 'back' when going North & if possible, try to feed in a dog-leg on your way out to Winter Hill & back.

We'll be monitoring noise & complaints from this area, & will feed back results to you through Trimtab. The complainants at this time are, very sensibly & intelligently urging us to do something positive (rather than just complaining aggressively). The last thing we want is complaints going in to councillors, MPs, newspapers & action groups - we want to build links with the community, not sever them. Please help us! It helps you carry on flying from Barton in the long run.

**THE STAFF &
COMMITTEE OF LAC
WISHES YOU ALL A
HAPPY XMAS & A SAFE,
PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR!**

To retain historical value, no changes were made to the wording in this old document when publishing on the www.

However, the original was produced using Word 2, in a single column. I have reformatted the text into two columns and used colour to emphasise headings, with a view to making it easier to read on a computer screen.

Signed **Chris Hicks** (Dec 2006)