



NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Message

Though it seems our Strut nights are all over the place, this is due to trying to get some interesting ideas for you to enjoy. We had the visit in March to the Avro museum, which was a very good show. For those who missed the visit I would recommend you rectify that as soon as you can, it's well worth it. Then we went to the birthday party for Ernie. Well, what do you expect at 105 years young! Once again we provided a cake to celebrate the event – and let's face it – it was an event. See pictures on page 5.

So what is next. For May we are holding a food festival. Sounds great doesn't it, except we normally call it a BBQ, or maybe a Pie and Peas. I shall go by your reaction for which it shall be, so make your wishes known. As we have reached the summer months the Strut will be reverting to evening events at Kenyon Hall starting early at 18.30 hours to make use of the warmer evenings and lighter nights.

Then we follow this with a visit to the Hooton Park airfield museum in June. See the notice in the Newsletter and get your names down quickly as numbers are limited. This airfield has some very auspicious history and is well worth the visit, so join me and enjoy a great day.

Cliff Mort

Strut meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month -
Seasonal - various venues/times - including The Clubhouse, Boysnope, & Kenyon Hall Airfield



NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Check before you travel

13/14 th May	VAC Club Fly In	Bodmin
14 th May	Lancashire Aero Club	Kenyon Hall
16 th May	Commemorative Flour Bombing	RAF Wickenbury
18 th May	Fly In & BBQ	Popham
20 th May	Motor Glider Fly In	Tibenham
28 th May	Wings & Wheels	Stow Maries
28 th May	Open Day and Fly In	Kirkbride
3-4 th June	Fly In	Manchester Barton
8-10 th June	AeroExpo	Sywell
24-30 th July	EAA AirVenture	Oshkosh
18-20 th August	LAA Rally	Popham

NEXT STRUT EVENT
Thursday 18th May 2023
Kenyon Hall Airfield 18.30 hrs.

Food Festival
BBQ OR Pie & Peas
RSVP cliffmort@btinternet.com



It happened in May.....

On 10th May 1913 the Sikorsky Russky Vityaz made its first flight in Russia at St. Petersburg. It was the first four-engined aircraft in the world, designed by Igor Sikorsky and built at the Russian Baltic Railroad Car Works.

Sikorsky developed the S-21 design in 1911, when no known aircraft could lift more than 600 kg. In 1913 the first aerial test of the Russky Vityaz was successful. At that time many people in other parts of the world believed it to be a newspaper hoax and that an aircraft of such dimensions would never leave the ground.

Its design was a multi-bay biplane with unequal span wings. The wing gap was 8ft 2 ins. and the fuselage was a rectangular section girder covered with plywood sheets. The cabin had dual control columns, two passenger cabins and a room for storage of spare parts. There was a searchlight and machine gun forward of the pilot's cabin.

Sikorsky said "there were four tachometers for the engines, two altimeters, a U-glass tube with alcohol connected to a sort of pressure receiver to indicate the flying speed, a ball in a curved glass tube to work as a bank indicator and a long streamlined tube mounted some three feet ahead of the window with divisions to indicate the incidence – these were all 'home made'".

After the first test flights between 10th and 27th May, it was found that a passenger could even walk around the cabins without causing problems with stability. In June 1913 the two rear engines were remounted outboard on the leading edges "into a four in line" which resulted in improved take-off.

Unfortunately the plane was short-lived. It was parked on the runway and was crushed by an engine that fell off a single-seat aircraft during landing. Sikorsky decided not to repair the seriously damaged Russky Vityaz. He went on to design further aircraft and is of course remembered for helicopters in USA.



Information from Wikipedia

IMPORTANT NOTICE - TOUR OF HOOTON PARK HANGARS FOR STRUT MEMBERS

Hooton Park Trust has invited Strut members to a guided tour on Thursday 15th June at 14.00 hrs. Admission fee will be paid by the Strut for bona fide members. If you are interested in attending, please book **NOW** with John Coxon at john54321coxon@hotmail.co.uk



Hooton Park Building 16 displays

Airfield Way, Ellesmere Port CH65 1BQ

One of the many display areas

Back to Barton! It's been called City Airport for 16 years but has now been 're-branded' Manchester Barton. We're all glad to hear that!

Barton began construction in autumn 1928 and in January 1930 the grass airfield and large hangar were completed. The first charter passenger flight then took place. It was managed until 1933 by Northern Air Lines who based several Avro 504s and other types for training, club and charter flights. In summer 1930 Imperial Airways operated a three times a week scheduled service to London's Croydon Airport via Castle Bromwich Aerodrome, subsidized by Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham councils.

In spring 1933 a control tower and wireless station were completed, the first at a municipal airport outside London. The Tower is still in operation and is believed to be the oldest in Europe. It is a Grade II Listed Building.



THE STRUT'S FOUNDER CHAIRMAN ERNEST HORSFALL - 105TH BIRTHDAY



Ernie received over 4,000 cards



R.E.M.E. guard of honour – Blackpool Airport



A large birthday cake



Ernie and Jodel Ambassadeur rebuilt by him



Ernie with Cliff Mort and party friends



A toast for Ernie



Ernie relaxing with R.E.M.E. soldiers

Ernie Horsfall's 105th birthday celebration was held on 21st April at Blackpool Airport. He received thousands of cards - one from H.M. The King & also Rishi Sunak P.M. R.E.M.E. local regiment provided a guard of honour. Many colleagues and friends joined the party. A Jodel airplane originally made in France in 1962 & rebuilt by Ernie was flown in by its current owner.

STRUT VISIT TO AVRO – MARCH 2023



NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Royal Mail are to launch drone deliveries on Orkney in association with Skyports. Trials have already taken place on Shetland using a twin engine fixed wing drone with a 10 metre wingspan weighing 350 kg. There will be no Temporary Danger Area or other restrictions in place. The drone is fully electric. There will be 2 services daily delivery of Royal Mail items.



Royal Mail drone delivery at North Ronaldsay

Picture from Royal Mail

Arson Attack – ten aircraft have been destroyed at Davidstow Airfield in Cornwall, valued at about £250,000. It's the second arson attack in two years. This time it was four fixed-wing, including two Icarus C42s, a Van's RV-6 and a Thruster, two Quantum Flex-wings and four lightweight Flexis. The building has also been damaged by heat and smoke. Gary Perry, the owner of the flying club, said that when the police opened the doors to let him see all the carnage caused, the overwhelming emotion of it all did make him cry. Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service and the police are treating the matter as a criminal offence.

De Havilland Moth Club hopes to hold its 2023 Vintage Tour on 21st and 22nd June. So far 23 aircraft are registered, mainly Tiger Moths. The Tour will start from Enstone.



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