



January 2011

SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Kent*

Strut AGM
Thurs 27th January
Hopefully without snow!



Light Aircraft Association

Jonathan Wilkins enjoying some winter flying at Headcorn on Friday 3rd December in one of two Tiger Club Turbulents fitted out with skis.

"Flying the aircraft is basically no different except for every take off and landing is perfect!! Oh and you have to remember not to stop when taxiing as you stick to the snow and require a rescue."



Nigel Read—Editor

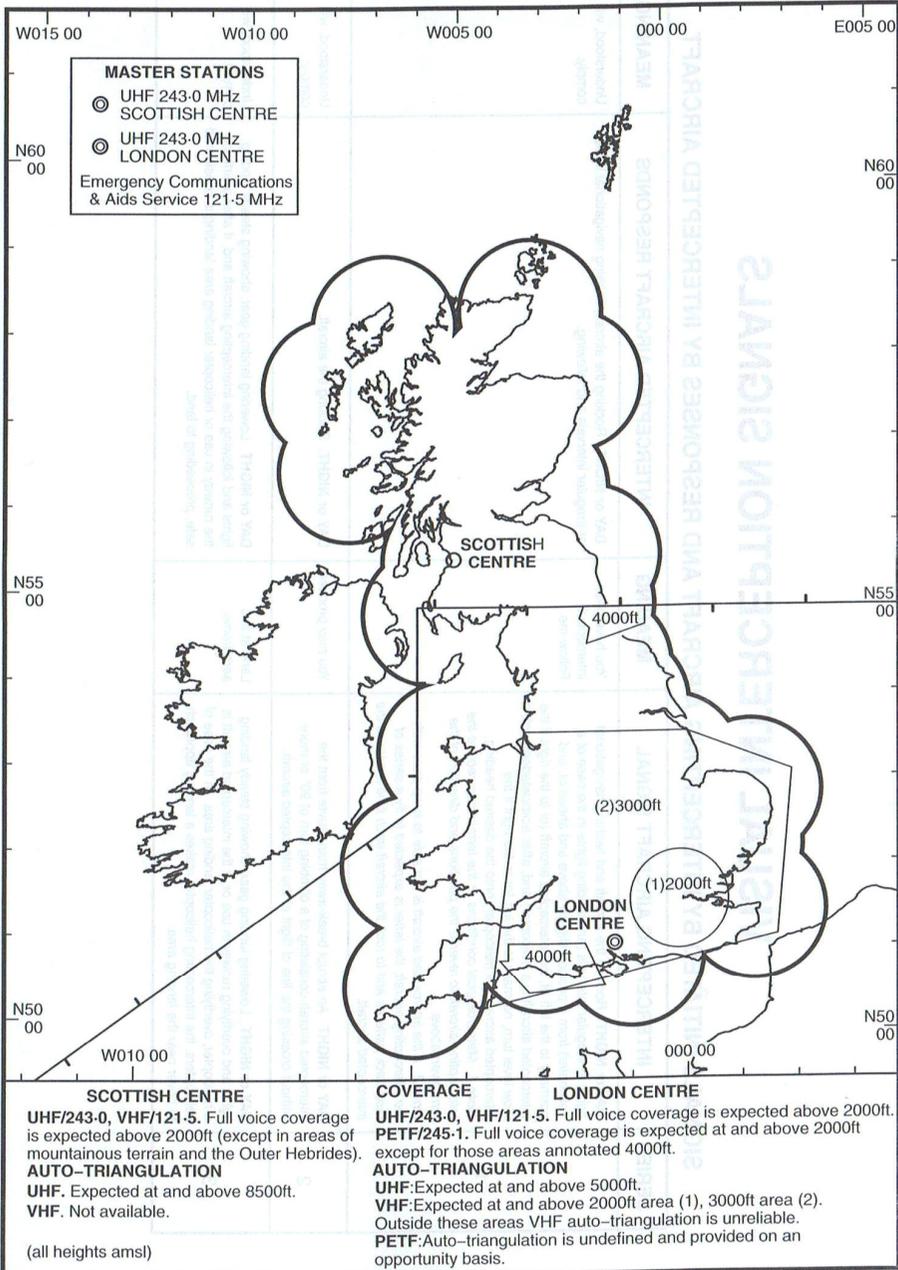


January Meeting

Thursday 27th January 2011 at 8:00pm

www.kentstrut.co.uk

EMERGENCY FIXER SERVICE



Last November's Meeting

Flt/Lt Martin Smith, the officer Commanding the D & D cell at Swanick gave a talk on his work at the London Control Centre. This proved popular with around fifty members and guests from PAFRA attending.

The map opposite shows the extent of coverage of the emergency location service with the London Centre extending up as far as 55° North. Around the London TMA 2000' should be high enough to do a practice pan and or request a training fix.

'PETF' is Practice Emergency Training Frequency used by the RAF.

More on practice pans in the June 2010 newsletter p6.

The D&D cell had just received a new computerized system to improve their locating speed and accuracy.

Any and all methods can be accessed quickly to aid locating an aircraft in distress— Radar, VHF direction finding, Google Maps, mobile phones and air-field guides.

They are always happy to do practices providing there is no real ongoing emergency. Just listen out first.

Christmas Dinner

43 members and guests enjoyed their choice of Christmas fare and a raffle was held with proceeds of £159 towards the Armstrong Isaacs Scholarship

Top Prizes — the Aware GPS donated by NATS and an aviation medical donated by Dr Bruce Alexander. The Aware went to Ron Parker, a new face to the strut who does not have



Raffle prizes



Q. Who is the most famous married woman in America?.....
A. Mrs Sippi



Christmas dinner at Cobtree Manor

a PPL yet . Its very apt that of all the people who could make use of such a useful tool....its an ab-initio pilot. Graham Hammond won the medical.

Armstrong Isaacs Flying Scholarship Foundation.

The title sounds very grand but essentially it's about getting young people under 22 years of age started on a flying career. The foundation, set up and managed by the LAA, contains a reserve of capital but it is the interest which has been used to

provide the flying. Unfortunately with the economic down turn the interest rate has fallen to a level where they have been unable to maintain the usual generous gifts and the foundation was in need of some assistance.

Several LAA struts (including ourselves) decided to pledge their allegiance to the cause and in 2010 the Kent strut decided that any profits from fund raising events would go their way. The end of the year has come and I am in the proud

position to congratulate all those who gave their time and money. The BBQ at Ripple, several single donations and the Christmas raffle raised £485 and this has been forwarded in the hope that we may get a few more young people flying into the sunset. - Gary Smith

Who Do You Think You Are?

Computer ancestry...

In September 1956 IBM launched the 305 RAMAC, the first computer with a hard disk drive (HDD). The HDD weighed over a ton and stored 5MB of data. "RAMAC" stood for Random Access Method of Accounting and Control or just Random Access Memory Accounting. The disk system consisted of fifty 24" disks. At that time the computer could be leased for \$35,000 per year.

"With those whirling magnetic disks RAMAC gives you a 5 million character memory... an unprecedented system whereby your millions of business facts and figures can be stored economically in a random manner, and yet be

immediately accessible! ...

"For all its compact, cost saving size, RAMAC easily handles your many accounting, record keeping and manufacturing control problems."

Production of the 305 RAMAC ended in 1961 after manufacturing over 1000.



Unloading a 305 RAMAC from Pan American Airlines

Q. What must you know to be an auctioneer?...

A. Lots

The first computer in my old office was a 96K IBM PET. We locked it away each night in the stationery cupboard. These days every desk has a computer, but the stationery is still locked away!

Harrier ancestry...

First tethered hover 21 Oct 1960.

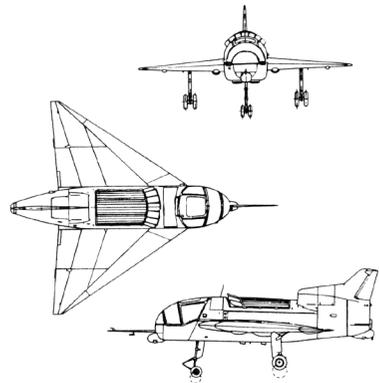


The Harriers have gone but here is a predecessor, the P1127 XP976 at Biggin Hill Air Fair Late 60's.

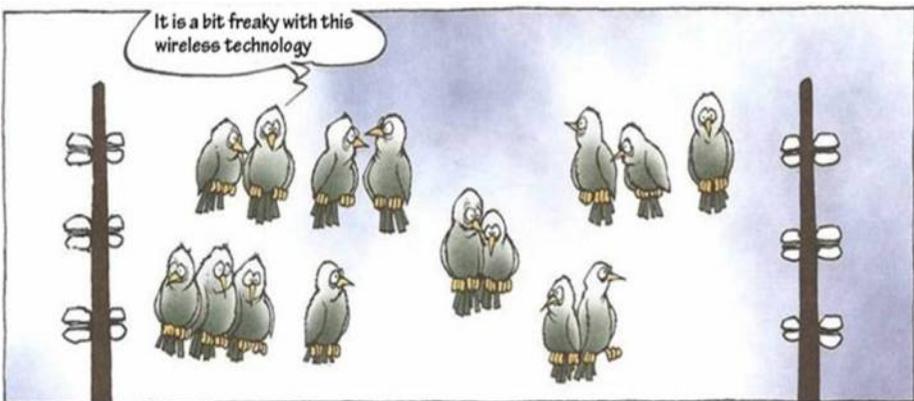
Development into the Kestrel and the two seat super sonic P1154 followed with more powerful Pegasus engines. In spring 1965, a contract for six new aircraft was placed—the Harrier, retaining only the basic configuration of the previous aircraft. By April 1969 after much further development of engine, undercarriage and wing

the Harrier went into service. Earlier, Shorts also produced two VTOL prototypes, the SC1 with five Rolls Royce RB108 engines. Far more complex to operate with five sets of engine controls and instruments but it was easier to handle in hovering flight. The four lift engines had to be shut down in forward flight then restarted before landing.

The first tethered flight was on 26 May 1958.



Short SC1



COPYRIGHT: MORTEN INDEMANN

Moving forwards :—

The LAA's primary objectives are to bring like minded aviators together, maximise the enjoyment and minimise the cost. The LAA Kent strut are following closely in their footsteps. In the good old days our information was conveyed via a posted monthly news letter but times have changed and e-mail is apparently now all the rage. For some modern societies this is their only form of communication and it is easy to see why. Primarily it keeps costs down as there is less



Don't forget to report and check out heavy landings!



paper to print, less printer wear (ours has just been overhauled) less pages to staple, fewer envelopes to label and less stamps to stick (Graham hates licking stamps, particularly the self sticking ones!). There is a secondary advantage too. If we have peoples e-mail addresses a quick mail shot can inform the membership of an event at short notice or a spare seat becoming available in an aircraft going somewhere nice.

We have also recently revised the strut website www.kentstrut.co.uk and are hoping to bring strut members closer together by using it. I would encourage you to have a look and send your photos to any committee member for inclusion on the site.

If you can take your magazine by e-mail then please forward your e-mail address. This will be most helpful to the committee regarding resources and hopefully allow us to keep the subscriptions frozen for another year.

Happy New Year and thanks for your cooperation. Kind regards Gary Smith (Strut coordinator).

Verily I say, Maintain thy airspeed lest the Earth shall arise and smite thee!

Committee Contacts**Co-ordinator: Gary Smith**

Tel : 01795 422426
gary.james.smith@btinternet.com

Treasurer:

John Dean 01892 822776
john@jmdean.co.uk

Membership Secretary:

Graham Hammond 01622 891466
grahamandshirley@tiscali.co.uk

Newsletter Editor:

Nigel Read 01634 362375
nigel.read@tesco.net

Committee Members:

Mike Negus 01634 364396
 Mark Balding 01580 851112
 Brian Hope 01795 662508
 Stephen Solley 01304 374337
 Simon Pratt 07973 402986
 Martin Payne 01474 853181
 Glen Everett 01622 858956



www.solleysicecreams.co.uk

Other Meetings

RAeS Medway Branch
 BAE Systems Staff Canteen
 Airport Works, Rochester
 Wednesdays at 19:00:-

Restoration of the Handley-Page Hampden

Darren Friday 19th Jan 2011

Gyroplanes

Wing Cdr Ken Wallis MBE RAF
 (Ret'd) 16th Feb 2011

Victor Tanker Operations

Are Cdre Norman Bonnor RAF
 (Ret'd) 16th March 2011

Alcock and Brown's Flight

Peter Elliot 20th April 2011

AGM & Remembering TSR2

Brian Mann 18th May 2011
 Temp Membership £2.50
 Annual Membership £8.00
 Concessions over 60's and
 PAFRA £2/£6

Dates for your Diary

Jan 27th AGM
 Feb 26th Strut Meeting
 Mar 26th Strut Meeting
 Apr 30th Strut Meeting
 May 26th Strut Meeting
 June 17-19th Aero Expo Sywell
 Jun 30th BBQ Ripple
 Jul 28th Summer BBQ TBA