FLYING FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary's Starters

As our Chairman, Martin Gosling is away sunning himself in South Africa on a Prpare2Go epic, he has asked me to stand in with an introduction, which I will combine with my usual Editor's Notes.

You might notice that this is a newsletter rather than magazine due to lack of content. But the main aim of the March edition is to detail the FFA summer meetings. So to save costs, I have done away with the cover photograph and contained the newsletter to one A3 sheet. The August edition will make up for it no doubt!

One of our biggest costs is the Membership List which I intend to reprint after April 25th - subscription day. When the Treasurer has assured me that everyone has paid, then we will reconcile the database and I will produce an updated booklet. **It is imperative therefore**, that if there are any changes to your emails, mobiles, addresses or if you want to add email addresses to be put on the bulk email list so that you can receive the FFA News updates, then please write now to chix@farmline.com

Rick has yet again put together another very interesting list of events which seem to be getting quickly oversubscribed. The crew of G-CRUZ were putting together the FFA Tour of Finland which Bill Burton was heading. This, for reasons explained below, has had to be postponed and Gordon Bellerby has stood in to organise a week in France.

We always get members wanting landing sites for the Cereals event and Game Fair. Andrew Dent has got the Game Fair sorted - see the back cover. Any volunteers to organise the Cereals event? It will be held near Leadenham in Lincolnshire - quite close to Cranwell.

Let's now look forward to a good spring and summer of flying and farming - hoping we can equal last year's record of every event enjoying good weather.

The Old Order Changeth

As we are an ageing Association, it is inevitable that we will loose some members each year through natural causes. I don't always hear of these losses until subscription time. It came as an almighty shock last year when one of our founder members, David Corbett was taken away from us very suddenly. We had yet another shock, as related on the FFA email news, when Bill Burton was taken ill and died in February 2011.

He wouldn't have been known to all our members, but to those that take part in the FFA European Tours, he had been a regular attendee for a great many years in his distinctive Cessna Crusader G-CRUZ. He also attended nearly every AGM and a few of the day events. He was always known as an extremely professional instrument rated pilot who was very economical with words, but whatever he said he meant, and was always absolutely correct.

His funeral was held in the town of March with a 'celebration of his life' at his fabulous new home, which he and Wendy had only just moved into, situated right beside their airstrip at Benwick.



Bill & Wendy Burton, Libya 2009

I counted 24 FFA members at the funeral (including wives) and I'm sure a lot more would have flown in if the weather hadn't been difficult with very low cloud. Our hearts go out to Wendy and their sons Tom and Guy for their, and our, very sad loss. He was only 65.

Problems in Africa

As mentioned above, our Chairman, as I write is half way through his round Africa adventure. Again through the FFA News, quite a few members have been tracking his progress. He will no doubt write a very interesting recount of his tour for the next newsletter. In fact from the stories we have received so far, he will have enough material for a book!

By the time you receive this, he will be on his way back through central Africa. He left home in early February and expects to be back in early April - lighter by several thousand US$ I would think!

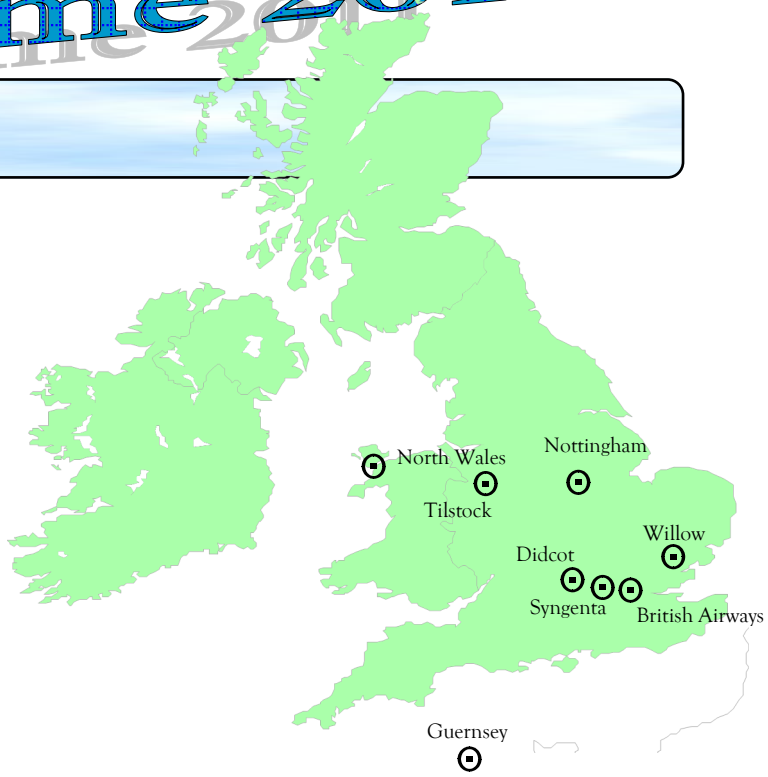
The journey down the East side coincided with the early troubles in Egypt, which required a diversion through Libya. He must have really upset the Libyan's because they revolted the day they left Libyan soil for Sudan, where he became an illegal immigrant due to paperwork not being in order. When they landed in Ethiopia, they heard that the Cessna Crusader on the tour had wiped its nose leg off, on take off from Damazin in Sudan blocking the runway. They then seemed to have continuous fuelling problems, even after being promised that it would be available. At one point they had to have fuel flown in. At another they had to go to the filling station to buy mogas. Some crews were suffering with the Khartoum Kanter, but Martin kept his stomach together until about 3 hours from the South African destination, Stellenbosch, where another crew lost a noseleg.

Lets hope they return safe from this amazing journey.

Paul Stephens

Programme 2011

28th January	British Airways Museum
13th April	Willow Growers, Essex
4th & 5th May	North Wales
10th May	Anaerobic Digestion, Tollerton
28th May / 5th June	FFA Tour of France
8th June	Syngenta - White Waltham
14th June	The Vacher's strip, Didcot
21st June	Tilstock, Shropshire
28th to 30th June	Guernsey



Events such as these set above are arranged by FFA members on a voluntary basis. It is accepted by those who participate that nothing undertaken by the FFA collectively or members individually shall be construed as establishing a duty of care nor in any way removing or modifying the duties, responsibilities or obligations of pilots or land owners in relation to any event and attendance thereat. All information provided in these programmes is purely advisory and should ALWAYS be verified from official sources.

Friday 28th January 2011. Visit to British Airways Heritage Collection

This meeting was well attended by over 40 of us, and is situated in BA's impressive Waterside headquarters, complete with coffee bars, shops (a Waitrose) and a bank.

Jim Davies of the Heritage Centre gave us a talk together with two assistants. If you find yourself at terminal 5 with a couple of hours to kill take the staff bus to Waterside. Well worth the visit but give them a ring first.

We then had a fairly aimless walk around the grounds. I'm sure it's lovely in Summer but not on a freezing January day! We finished off at a local pub with our own Flying Farmer's menu. We managed to get David Keene up a very narrow staircase too! Sorry I didn't take any photos.

Rick Holt

Wednesday April 13th Visit to J S Wright & Co, Willow Growers, Great Leighs, Essex

There has been a very strong response to this event with 64 applicants and 28 aircraft wanting to attend, which will be a great start to our summer events season - if the weather plays ball!

I am sad to say that I am unable to take more than a full 49 seater coach (plus 2 in a car), so there will be 13 people and 6 aircraft on the reserve list. Therefore if anyone is unable to take up their place for any reason, please let me know straight away, so that we can replace them from the reserves.

The coach is scheduled to depart from my strip at 10.15 prompt, which should get us to the Cricket Bat factory at 11.00. It will be difficult to accommodate anyone who is late, so please ensure your arrival time is planned for 10.00 at the latest.

Martin Gosling

Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th May 2011, North Wales

Again, Neville Stops reports that he has the full allocation of 40 booked in with several on the reserve list.

Tuesday 10th May, Visit to an Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Nottingham

Fly into Nottingham - Tollerton Airport by 9.45 a.m

Coffee and biscuits on arrival then coach to Severn Trent Farms at Bulcote.

Visit Beef Unit of David Prince who fattens mainly Aberdeen Angus beef for Dovecote Park / Waitrose on maize and TMR (total mixed rations).

Lunch on site. Afternoon tour of new Severn Trent industrial crop (maize) digester creating heat and power output sufficient to power 4,500 homes.

Coach back to airport for 4.30/5.00 pm departure.

Cost £20/head. Airport owner currently being blackmailed for free landing fees. Visit limited to 30 people - first come, first served.

Reply Slips to: Richard Blant, Cockliffe Hill Farm, Burntstump Hill, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8PQ with stamped addressed envelope.

Tel: 0115 9632595
email: richardblant@btconnect.com

Sunday 29th May to Sunday 5th June 2011

Due to the very sad loss of Bill Burton who was in charge of organising the FFA European Tour to Denmark, Sweden and Finland, the event has been cancelled / postponed for obvious reasons.

Due to lack of time, we thought it sensible to run a tour a bit closer to home and Gordon Bellerby volunteered to take on the job. We never turn a way a volunteer and Gordon (together with a few helpers) has quickly put together a very interesting tour of France.

This will start in Deauville with some equine visits in the area followed by a visit to either the Manitou or Bobcat factory at Nantes.

Then on to Toulouse where Gordon has arranged a visit to the Airbus factory. The night will be spent at Carcassonne followed by a free day in the beautiful town next day.

Back to the aircraft for a flight to St Etienne to visit a shot gun works, finishing the trip at Semur-en-Auxois which is run by Mark, who some will remember, set up the strip at Chateau la Chassagne.

Yet again, the tour is fully booked with 19 aircraft and 39 people. Obviously priority was given to those that had already paid a deposit for the Finnish trip. However, Gordon is taking names for anyone wishing to be put on the reserve list.

I suggest you ring him on 01423 520770 to put your name down.

Wednesday 8th June, Syngenta

Syngenta's International Research Centre at Jealott's Hill is their largest site for new agrochemical R&D and product support. The site was founded in 1927 and today employs nearly 800 scientists and support staff who are continuing an 80 year tradition of innovation in agriculture. Many of the world's most important crop protection products were developed there.

Jealott's Hill is also the site of the biggest glasshouse research complex in Europe, a £8.5 million development covering 4000 square metres. The complex allows scientists to carry out research on a wide selection of crops in a range of climatic conditions. Their Product Safety team are also based on the site, ensuring their products are safe to both people and the environment.

The centre is surrounded by the 650 acre Jealott's Hill Farm. The area has supported agriculture since before Tudor times, and the 16th century farm buildings still exist today. Today the farm grows both winter wheat and oilseed rape, and produces milk and beef from its 500 cows. Its sustainable approach to agriculture was recognised in 2000 when it became a LEAF (Linking Environmental and Farming) demonstration farm.

09:30 Arrive White Waltham
10:00 Coach leaves for Jealotts Hill research station.
10:30 Welcome & introduction to Syngenta.
11:00 Visit LEAF demonstration farm / site tour.
12:30 Lunch
13:30 Site tour / visit LEAF demonstration farm.
15:00 Depart.

Syngenta will provide the lunch. Cost of £20 per head to cover coach costs.

Replies and cheques to Rick Holt by 14th April.

Tuesday 14th June, Polly Vacher's strip.

Our members Polly and Peter Vacher are both well known.

Polly, for her round the world flights in aid of Flying for the Disabled. She was awarded an MBE in 2002 for her charity work.

Peter for his love of restoring Rolls Royce motor cars and his extraordinary find of a Mk1 Hurricane that had flown in the Battle of Britain, in a backyard of a university in India. He bought and restored it to its present beautiful condition.

10:00 Arrive up to 11:00
11:30 Depart for farm visit to Angus and Patricia Dart's dairy and arable farm milking 300 high welfare cows.
13:30 Return to the Vacher's for lunch.
Inspect the Vacher's Hurricane which is the only one still flying that took part in the Battle of Britain - and hopefully see it flying.
Depart when you've had enough!

Reply slips to P. Vacher by 14th May with a cheque for £30.00 per head to cover the cost of the buffet, drinks and fuel for the Hurricane / donation to charity.

Tuesday 21st June, Twemlows Stud Farm

Fly into Tilstock (north of Shawbury). Parachuting will be curtailed for the day with so many aircraft on the ground!

Tullis Matson (FFA member) will ferry us to their farm where we will meet father Richard Matson who is the senior partner and consultant to the British Equestrian Trade Overseas (BETO).

Programme for the day not fully arranged as yet. There will be around 250 horses on the farm.

Rick Holt will handle the paperwork and give final details to those entering for the event. Please send the reply slip with £20 per person and either a legible email address or SAE.

28th - 30th June 2011, Guernsey

This is another event being coordinated by Martin Gosling. He has already received entries and deposits despite a reply slip not yet being produced, so I suggest if you want to go, you should deal with it straight away! (closing date for entries by April 30th).

Tuesday 28th June

AM	Arrive Guernsey airport by 13.00
Lunch	Sandwiches available for our group at the Aeroclub
14.00	Depart for visit to Guernsey Cider Company
16.00	Leave for hotel La Trelard - book in
19.00	Minibus to The Farmhouse restaurant for Dinner
22.00	Return to Hotel

Wednesday 29th June

09.00	Minibus to Guernsey Sea Farms
11.30	Leave to catch ferry to Herm Island
12.30	Ferry across to Herm
13.00	Lunch at The Ship Inn
14.00	Explore Island at leisure
16.00	Ferry back to St Peter Port
16.30	Minibus back to Hotel - R & R
19.30	Minibus to airfield for barbeque with Aeroclub
20.00	Return to Hotel

Thursday 30th June

09.30	Leave Hotel for Meadow Court Farm
10.00	Tour of Farm & diversification - largest on Guernsey
13.00	Light lunch laid on at farm
	Minibus back to airfield - depart at will

Predicted cost to be in the region of £140-£150/head for a double/twin room to include two nights bed and breakfast, dinner in the Farmhouse restaurant, barbecue at the aeroclub, visit to the cider company, ferry to Herm, lunch at the Ship Inn, lunch at Meadowcourt Farm and all transport for the visit. Replies with cheque for £25/head to Martin Gosling to reserve your place. Balance of costs to be paid by mid-June when invoiced.

Please fill in the reply slip and post to Martin with your deposit.



Air Operations at The CLA Game Fair, Blenheim Palace, 22 – 24 July 2011

Introduction

Thanks to the management of EGTK London Oxford Airport the CLA have secured a dedicated parking area for the duration of the Game Fair, adjacent to the threshold of runway 11.

Pre-arrival arrangements

Pre-notification is essential for both parking and the Game Fair shuttle. No later than 24 hrs before arrival, visiting pilots should e-mail andrew@dentcomm.net to confirm that they have read this sheet (Ground Information Alpha), to advise date and ETA plus a/c callsign and number of shuttle pax.

Arriving pilots MUST also obtain PPR by phone from EGTK Operations on **01865 290660**. Visiting aircraft MUST be radio equipped – see the AIP for frequencies.

Hours of Operation

At the time of writing EGTK opening hours during the event are expected be 0630 to 2230, but please check the AIP for changes before arriving or departing.

The Shuttle Car service will begin at 0900 hrs and cease at 1900 hrs except by special arrangement.

On arrival

All arriving aircraft should advise ATC that they are taxiing to the Game Fair parking. ATC will direct fixed wing arrivals from the active runway. Helicopters should follow ATC instructions and self park.

Location of Parking

Rotary and Fixed-Wing parking will be in the vicinity of the threshold of Runway 11 (ie at the north-western edge of the airport site). Please follow ATC directions.

Fuel

There will be no fuel available on the North West Side so any aircraft requiring fuel will need to re-position to the South East Side. Pilots MUST be in attendance for fuelling.

Shuttle service

A Shuttle car service will be available from the aircraft parking areas, via a short off-road route, to a location close to the pedestrian entrance to the Game Fair. Time of travel should not exceed 5 minutes. On the outbound shuttle pick-up arrangements will be made for collection from the drop-off location.

A donation to the CLA will be required to use this service (see below).

Fees

Landing fees, any fuel charges and the shuttle car donations will be payable to the Head of CLA Air Operations on behalf of Oxford Airport Management and CLA Game Fair respectively.

Landing fees (guideline): CASH only will be accepted.

SEP (fixed-wing and rotary) £15 inc VAT : Light twin (fixed wing) £30 inc VAT

Single turbine rotary £40 inc VAT : Light twin rotary £50 inc VAT

Shuttle Donation : All passengers taking the return shuttle to the Game Fair site will be required to make a donation to the CLA of £5 per person to cover fuel and airside insurance. CASH only will be accepted.

Contact Number

The Emergency Contact Number for CLA Air Operations and Shuttle during the event will be **07860 378429**

Andrew Dent