



June 2003

SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Mid Kent Strut* of the



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Mike's Mutterings

Mike Negus -
Editor



Varieze Flies !!!!

June
Meeting –
Aerobatics

Help needed
at the Rally

Lots to read this month

- French to visit the Strut's Pancake Fly-In
- Pictures of Strut Aircraft particularly needed
- All material for publication welcomed



Whoopee!!! **Vari-eze G-VEZE** has been completed and had its first flight!!! (in fact it has been flown three or four times by our intrepid committee member Mike Tooze who has kindly agreed to be test pilot). One or two minor adjustments were made to trim springs and the side control-stick angle but generally things seem to be progressing satisfactorily. We hope to proceed with and complete

the full test programme in the near future. It has taken Steve Brown and Mike Roper some six years of effort to take an unlikely bundle of foam, glass-cloth & resin and create a thing of beauty!! Plans-built aircraft are certainly labour intensive. The finished weight was 671lbs, and it is fitted with a Continental O-200 100hp, a Lemere 55x66 prop, a B & C Starter, and a Grand Rapids engine monitoring unit (which is brilliant!!)



June Sunshine



“What a struggle to fly in to Old Warden.”

*What's wrong now!!*

A One Aircraft Flyout

Well to be fair it was a struggle to get permission from Old Warden to attend the Aeronca Flyout which was the proposed destination for our end of month same way same day trip. The weekend was set fair after the last two abortive attempts so Graham Hammond, myself and Paddy Jordan tried the PPR line. After being told to ring back Saturday Morning and several conversations later Paddy and I were approved so off we went expecting at least to see Graham but no he was refused. What an erratic policy!

As it happens only seven Aeroncas and one Auster plus us turned up to brave a stonking cross wind across the active 23. The Shuttleworth Trust Collection is always a joy to visit even if it is a struggle, but don't let that put you off.



Old Warden Flyout

Grilled Like a Kipper

Graham Newby, The CEO of the PFA came to the last meeting for a question and answer session and to give a bit of a resume on the current state of play with the Association. A lot of time has been spent on 'European Issues' which has had by his own admission a detrimental effect particularly on engineering matters which seemed to yank a number of members chains. What followed was a fairly lively debate, to say the least, the mood of which will no doubt be reported back to Headquarters by Graham.



Old Warden Flyout

Touring

The season has gotten well and truly underway Brain Hope, John Dean and Frank Rothera leading the charge to Spain. Unfortunately thwarted by bad weather preventing the Pyrenees being surmounted and this having thus having to spend the remaining time in France. So near yet so far! Notwithstanding as I write one group is off to Alderney whilst diametrically opposed another is heading towards Denmark, blighted last year by high winds which curtailed the planned Swedish visit. Alderney last year also had its problems with weather, however there seems to be a better chance this year. We look forward to hearing all about it.

Do not miss the June meeting at the Golf Club - A talk by Nick Davies of TG Aviation at Manston on the joys of Aerobatics. Much better than watching the tennis at Wimbledon!!

New Kids on the Block

It is always agreeable to report on projects that come to fruition and new aircraft on the scene so it is pleasing to note the following: Matthew has taken delivery

~~G-AXSU~~ ^{^^}
which is currently resident at Headcorn whilst he gets used to his new mount so no doubt we will be regaled with more tales of touring with the Blonde. Your cup truly runneth over!

Further south Graham Smith who is also responsible for the printing of the magazine has seen the completion of Rans Coyote which I can confirm having seen it has been built to a very high standard. Graham operates from a very short strip with his bungalow one end but these Coyotes (for he now has two) cope admirably allowing him to fly most days weather and work permitting.

Epsom Downs and Ups

Talking of weather it played a not insignificant part in the return of several Strut Members from the Great Vintage Weekend at Kemble. I came back early around 2.00pm, on the Sunday with the Luscombe when the weather was still reasonable. However, as the day wore on it deteriorated so I was quite, although not entirely surprised, to see Brian's Jodel drop out of the murk and land back at Farthing Corner after what Paddy Jordan, his passenger, had declared an interesting flight.

Further back Paul Lipman and Colin Ladd with Alan Jubb were trying to find a way round the clag and unable to divert chose Epsom Downs to make a precautionary landing. With no let up in sight, tents were erected and a peaceful night was passed (poetic licence). Due to horses exercising the next day, permission to take off was deferred to after midday when the gee gee's returned to their stables, whereupon our intrepid aviators emplaned and returned to base. A satisfactory outcome but no doubt a little fraught at the time.

CAA Spec Computer cut Aircraft Registration Letters, Logo's, Graphics, Magnetic Signs, most colours. Only top quality vinyl used. Allen 01634 365473



Parish Notices

Jaqui is still seeking volunteers to help out at the Kemble Rally. Duties will not be that onerous but the more folk to help it does relieve the burden of the few. As if you didn't know the Rally this year is on 11/12/13th of July and Jaqui's number / E mail address is on the back of this and all newsletters.

John Luck has advised the following, you may know that the Moth and Vintage Round Britain Flight are planning to overnight at Rochester on the 27th June and he is seeking a few helpers to assist with the Bar-B-Q and drink serving. It would also, I guess, enable you to be part of quite an enterprise and maybe the opportunity to have a closer look at an eclectic collection of classic aircraft.

Update on the proposed Safety Evening, as mentioned in the April Newsletter there was an enquiry made of SEMS to have a safety evening to display and have practical use of their products. Obviously if lifejackets / life rafts are to be utilized premises including a swimming pool and lecture type room is necessary to accommodate the minimum 20 attendees plus the instructor. The event would include a talk on survival products and up to 1½ hours instruction in the pool. The charge for this is £20 per head plus the cost of the pool hire and the conference room. So what we need is someone who knows someone who could offer these facilities at a nil or minimal rate for it not to be prohibitive. If anybody is interested and or knows of such premises contact Mark Balding number at the back.



Coyote Interior



"Jaqui needs volunteers to help at the Rally - Please don't let her down."



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Dates for your Diary

June 29	Old Sarum
June 26	Monthly Meeting
July 6	Pancake Fly In
August 3	Old Buckenham
Sept 7	Laddingford Fly In



Another view of the new Varieze

Fly-In - July 6th

Our Pancake Fly In will hopefully have a Gallic twist if the planned visit by Philippe Simon and fellow St Omer Flying Club members in several Robin aircraft materializes so we plan to offer good British hospitality with a welcoming Bar-B-Q and make sure they are transported to a local hotel as they intend returning on Sunday. Brian Hope has been fostering good relations since his visit last year and it is hoped we can make a return visit to St Omer later this year. For one thing I bet the foods better and the hotels are cheaper!

Make a note Pancake Fly In July 6th.



Nigel Do you want to buy a Chipmunk? This one is for sale

Young Eagles Day

Final total was over 100 juveniles and half a dozen adults flown. A good effort on behalf of all those involved

More Parish Notes

We are hoping to do a bit of an 'Old Eagles' by getting any of our strut members who perhaps don't get the chance to fly as regularly as others airborne so if you fancy a whiz round at our Fly-In let us know please, we're all part of the same group.

If you feel like a busy weekend and want to take advantage of this spell of good weather, assuming of course that it lasts, then on Saturday 28th June there is a young Eagles Day at Leicester and they are short of pilots and aircraft so if you can help contact Alan Hyatt on 01530 244731 or 07836 339067, I'm sure he would be pleased to hear from you, after all he came down and did the same for us recently.

On the 29th June our monthly trip is down to Old Sarum followed on the 3rd August to Old Buckenham.

'After the Lord Mayors Show' Comes the Next Meeting

Which will be a little less controversial with the presence of Nick Davis who is currently the CFI of TG Aviation based down at Manston and is going to talk on aerobatics which for those of us who think that a rate three turn and stalling (not of course to be recommended in that order) is pretty hairy stuff it should be very enlightening. Usual time 7.30 for 8.00 pm at the Golf Club.

July Meeting

By tradition is the friends and family Bar-B-Q held at ROCHESTER AIRPORT so make a note. We have been blessed, with one or two notable exceptions with, schhhhhh, good weather so let's hope for a good turnout. If you wish to fly in for the evening for those locally based it is a practical proposition, or if you have any model aircraft this has been known .

