



October 2003

# SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Mid Kent Strut* of the



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## Mike's Mutterings

Mike Negus -  
Editor



# Luscombe's Again !!

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September saw the Luscombe Fly In at Popham which was dutifully attended in our Farthing Corner based example and whilst numbers were considerably down from last year the weather being a bit murky down West, as usual it was quality not quantity as some of the accompanying photo's show. For looks it's still a hard act to follow!



*Luscombe at Popham*



*Artistic Luscombe*

**However tempted you may be  
NEVER buy a stupid dwarf.  
It isn't big. And it isn't  
clever**

## Electronic Newsletter

At least 10 members and those on the Committee are receiving their newsletter electronically so if you wish to join this number please E Mail your address to let us know. Ultimately this will save cost and help the funds. For the foreseeable future the Newsletter will still be produced in the printed form for those who want it that way.

**I almost had a psychic girlfriend  
but she left me before we met.**

**October  
Meeting –  
Dick  
Richardson**

**Xmas Party  
Coming  
Soon**

## Exciting things to read this month

- Stupendous Stauning
- Pictures of Strut Aircraft particularly needed
- Please let Editor Mike have your articles for inclusion in the Newsletter



*We're off. Our Stauning 'Young Eagles' take the air. Don't know what Mum said when they got home! Great weather, open countryside and fly as much as you like - that's what Stauning is ALL about!*



*"Abbeville Fly-Out not well attended this year!!"*



*The First Dutch Homebuilt ??*



## Stupendous Stauning

By Mike Tooze

It seems that still not everyone in the PFA is aware that PFA types are regularly traversing Europe in pursuit of their hobby. Within our small group visits to S. France, Spain, Switzerland have been successfully completed and, of course, there is the annual migration to Denmark for the Annual KZ Rally held for 2003 from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

This year we were down from the fairly regular nine/ten aircraft to six, rising to seven as I recognised Graham's Jaberoo already tied down when I arrived a day early on Thursday afternoon.



*The Route to Stauning*

The weather for my trip was generally better than previous years. My routing was to Koksy, past Ostend, Costa, then Dordrecht. From there east of Amsterdam normally to PAM low level but a helpful Dutch Mil controller offered me a higher level route to the east re-joining my plan past Groningen, then Heligoland in the German Bucht along Sylt and so looking for the windmills that mark Stauning after leaving the Esbjerg area.



*Determined smile from her brother in Dave's rear seat - ready to Go!*

The relaxed atmosphere is probably the unwitting reason most attend so often. There's food on Thursday, food plus band on Friday and the hangar D&D on Saturday. You can fly when and as often as you like and that far North we always find a way out of the D&D to fly the setting Sun around 9pm or later. At night, in our log cabins, there was nothing but the sounds of nature to disturb us.

Amongst other flights, Dave and I were pleased to take up a couple of the local children after the parade on Saturday. They thought that we flew Austers but weren't too disappointed by their Vari Eze flights.



*I finish my brief for my passenger*

The return flight was uneventful in good weather. Along the way I heard Graham talking to Bremen Info on his way to St Michaelisdonn in Germany. Apparently when he arrived he was followed closely in by one of our number still outbound and finishing what had turned out to be one of those fraught trips that can happen to anyone!

I would encourage anyone with the basic skill, time and weather to try these longer trips. Following a pause for breath we were off to Brittany for another annual event, the 14<sup>th</sup> of July - but that's another story.



*Our young Danish lass about to sample 'Eze flight'. - All photos by her enthusiastic Dad!*

## D Day Anniversary 2004

Graham Hammond E mailed to say that the Strut is planning a weekend flyout to Caen in 2004 to celebrate what will be the 60th Anniversary of Operation Overboard. Can it really be 10 years since we flew along the beach on return from the Alderney Fly In keeping respectfully out to sea whilst passing the Remembrance services being held at the various Cemeteries that are situated in the area. Any way more nearer the time.

## Last Months Meeting Dawn to Dusk

This was the subject of the talk given by Gary Smith and Chris Reynolds to describe the concept and execution of the competition known by that name held annually in the summer when the days are longest. Gary has entered the competition twice and is currently awaiting results of his last entry and Chris who with his son formed his entry around flying to 20 + farm strips in the South of England representing his vocation and membership of the Flying Farmers Association.

Gary chose to contact all the flyable Vagabond owners in an attempt to get everybody that could fly on the day and seeking to record the event by way of his competition entry

Gary has been awarded runner up previously receiving his prize from HRH the Duke of Edinburgh no less so lets see how they do this time. Well done lads a good evening which hopefully will spawn further ideas from other Strut Members.

## October Talk

Dick Richardson will be gracing our presence for the talk in October which as usual will be at the Cobtree Manor Golf

**When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.**

Club 7.30 for 8.00pm Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Dick runs Popham Airfield but at one time was attached to the Strathallan Collection based at Auchterader in Perthshire owned by WJD Roberts. The collection long since defunct and the exhibits scattered to other collections included such rarities as the Westland Lysander, Fairey Battle, D H Mosquito, Bristol Bolingbroke to name but a few.

On my one and only visit to Scotland back in the early 70's I remember vividly looking over the fence to see what aircraft from the collection were on view outside, regrettably few, because the aircraft were not in public show. I for one will look forward to hearing more.

## November Meeting - Builders Night

Your opportunity to impress your friends, fellow members and maybe yourselves by bringing along those portable bits of your current transport of delight. As a strut we have had and retain a quite prolific core of builders so if you are remotely considering taking up tools for construction in wood, plastic or metal we will have plenty of people to offer advice. If you are prepared to stand before your peers and give a short diatribe on your current project your input would be warmly welcomed. Contact Jacqui, Brian or any the committee members to book your slot.

## Movements



*Kitfox*



*Jodel 1050*



*"excellent weekend with good weather"*



## Committee Contacts

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### Dates for your Diary

Oct 30	Dick Richardson
Nov 27	Builders Evening
Dec 13	Christmas Party
Dec 13-21	National Aviation Week

## Movements (Cont.)

Farthing Corner has several new arrivals in the last month, Martin Ferrids Jodel 120 "Paris-Nice" to swell the already bloated contingent based here and Matt Shelton has recently purchased a Kitfox IV, at least a spark of originality here!

Anyway nice to have them aboard. Frank Lissimore's problems with his groups Biggin based Jodel 1050 seem largely to have eased and he was clearly delighted with his mount when I talked to him at the last meeting.



*Paul's Vagabond is now in many pieces*

Paul Newmans Vagabond looks like an Airfix kit in the engineering hanger at F.C. yet to be assembled following an extensive post first season strip

Don't forget the

## Christmas Party

on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2003.  
Get your booking to Jaqui now!!

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.



down but should be ready for 2004.



*Gary's RV9 could look like this one day*

Gary Smith reports that the empennage of his RV9 is complete and the next stage is underway on what he suggests could be up to as three year build but knowing the man the finished article will be worth the

### LOST

GPS 90 Manual and aerial cable - left at Golf Club last month. Please phone Steve Brown on 020 8462 6199 if you have any information.

KR Project for Sale - All woodwork done with many parts - £1000 Phone Steve Solley on 01304 347100 for more details

