



April 2019

# SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Kent Strut*



## Summer's Here!

**Fuel at Lydd and larger Airports** from John & Gary

**I**t has been brought to our attention that some of the larger airports (Lydd and some larger foreign ones too) may not refuel aircraft with 100LL AVGAS if the tank/s do not display a label stating 100LL on a red label.



Nigel Read - Editor

Many permit aircraft that used to run on 100LL have now been cleared to use unleaded fuel and the tank labels updated accordingly, but it appears refuelling staff are reluctant to fill a tank labelled "91 Octane unleaded" with 100 Octane aviation spirit. Since we live in a very litigious society I have some sympathy, but explaining the aircraft need a minimum of 91 Octane and will be fine on 100 Octane seems to fall on deaf ears. The net result is that you may have to purchase labels from the main building (if its open) and stick them on your aircraft before they will refuel, worst case is you get turned away.

I am not sure if labelling the tank "MINIMUM 91 Octane" has enough clout for one to argue that since 100LL is greater than the 91 minimum it should be okay, but for good measure and to reduce hassle I now carry two red sticky labels stating "100LL" that can be attached (and removed) at a moments notice.

**April 25th Meeting**

**Nick Woodland, Local Historian**

**Cobtree Manor Golf Club, ME14 3AZ 20:00hrs**

[www.laakentstrut.org.uk](http://www.laakentstrut.org.uk)

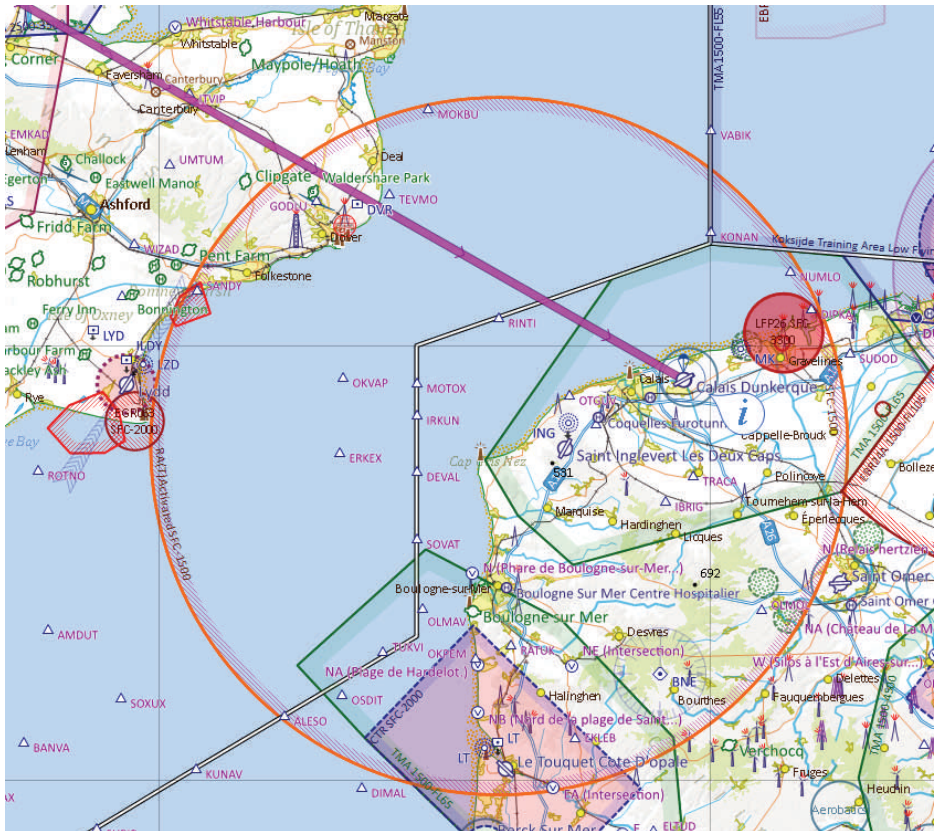
## The Cross Channel RA(T)

Those looking to cross the channel this summer may be worried by the large circle indicating a RA(T).

Worry not. It's not as bad as it seems. The actual extent of the RA(T) is more clearly seen in the AIC.

The restriction only applies below 1500ft and the area is split into two areas, north and south, only one of which will be active at any one time. Check the NOTAMS to see which one (if any) is active.

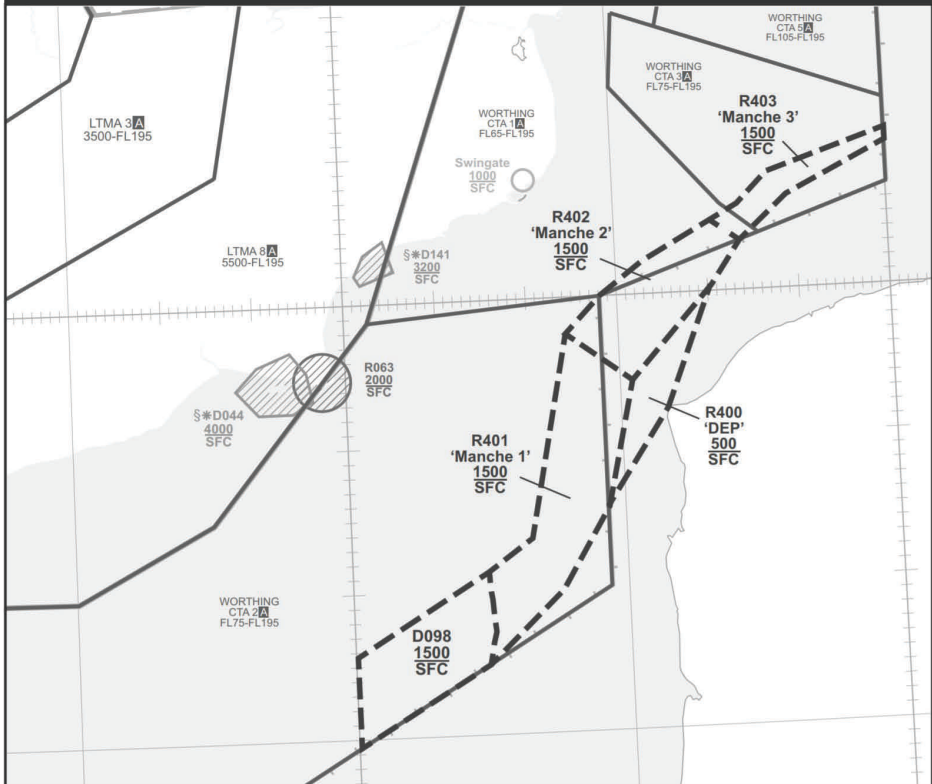
Easily avoided if you fly at 1600' then.



## Last Months meeting

Geoff Collins gave a good well researched presentation on Amy Johnson to a full room of strut members, thank you Geoff.

**TEMPORARY DANGER AREA (HIGH SEAS)  
AND TEMPORARY RESTRICTED AREAS (FRANCE)  
FRENCH DIRECTORATE OF MARITIME AFFAIRS BVLOS OPERATIONS  
2 MAY 2019 TO 31 AUGUST 2019**



**April Meeting** Nick (Woody) Woodland

This month's meeting is about a Gloucester Meteor crash near Sandwich and WWI equipment that was recovered at Richborough port.

Originally conceived as a coal port, an alternative to Dover prior to WWI, which at one point was intended for the Royal Navy, the production of cannon by Krupps capable of firing across the channel rendered Dover of no use for the Navy.

The Royal engineers extended the rail lines and sidings and the port became a transshipment camp from about 1916.

A golf course was also built there but I assume not for passing soldiers amusement.

## PAFRA Spot Landing Competition Mike & Gary (2 stories nailed and bashed together)

Well, by way of a change the annual Good Friday spot landing competition hosted by PAFRA at Rochester Airport on April 19<sup>th</sup> was held in the most glorious Spring Bank Holiday weather with the wind favouring 02 and about 8 knots it gave the competitors a good chance to show off their skills, or lack thereof. A variety of aircraft both resident and visitors took part but there was one stand out German registered aircraft whilst not participating, that looked similar to the Focke-Wulf Fw44 WW2 trainer however consulting with Colin it would appear not the case so I would appreciate a positive identification.

Contestants were allowed 3 circuits which certainly took some time and left me with but one (unsuccessful) go as the competition had severely overrun the scheduled times. As a previous winner many moons ago it was just good to take part in this light hearted event. There were 30 entrants including two from the Strut although there were others attending watching the sport and offering critical advice. Hot cross buns were provided and I couldn't think of a nicer way to start the Bank Holiday weekend.

The airport did well to ram 90 circuits in between 10:00 and the finish at 12:30. Mike Negus and Ian McLeod in the Luscombe had one last attempt in "extra time", but even with extra power from its new cylinders it was all in vain.

Simon and Ron had a crack in our Luscombe freshly polished up for the Season and myself and Ian had our one shot, albeit a brief one. The upshot was no banana for us and the eventual winner was a Cub details flown by Roger Seaward. We think he may have had the side door open to get a better look at the line, but let the best man win and get his name on the Rochester Airport Challenge Shield. The Skytrek guys took second and third.

*Roger Seaward Left, Peter Liddle presenting Right*



When the weather behaves it's always a popular event, Terry Trott and his PAFRA team ensure fair play and Rochester Airport looking fit and ready for the year ahead make the flying side stress free so thanks to one and all, looking forward to next year.

The epic journey from Farthing corner to Rochester (4nm) can normally be achieved in less than 2 minutes (plus circuit time of course) so a flight of 35 minutes was longer than expected as we held to the east, Jim Merchant juggling traffic on the radio trying to fit every body in safely.



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**D**on't forget that new maps are now available for our area (1/2million southern England Edition 45 for 2019) from the LAA shop at Turweston (post free). Some may argue that their Skydemon (or similar) flight planning software is more up to date than any paper map but when the software has a bad day and your map still shows Croydon and Gravesend Aerodromes, its time to update.

**Dates for your Diary 2019**

25th April Historian Nick Woodland

Meteor crash / Port Richborough

27th April Andrewsfield fly out

(voucher in LAA magazine)

30th May tbc

27th June BBQ Ripple

25th July Pub social near Canterbury

August no meeting - Rally

26th September tbc

28th September

"Meet the Members" EGKH

31st October tbc

28th November tbc

Christmas Dinner December TBA