



October2020

SKYWRITINGS

Next virtual meeting is a Jitsi meet

Newsletter of the **Kent Strut**

Dawn to Dusk Challenge, Nic 'Bearcraft' Orchard



Light Aircraft Association

This is the 57th year of Pooleys dawn-to-dusk challenge "the objective being to encourage the most interesting employment of a Flying Machine within the limits of competent airmanship and to demonstrate the capabilities of pilot and machine in a day's flying, in the hours between Dawn and Dusk, whilst undertaking an original and praiseworthy objective".

There is full information at

<https://www.pooleys.com/dawn-to-dusk>



Nigel Read - Editor

After 57 years it may be difficult to come up with an original challenge, this year Nic decided to fly her 1946 Aeronca Champ searching for follies, the charity chosen being the Martha Trust, which the strut supports through the Ripple fly-ins at Steve Solley's, one of the many smaller charities who are losing almost all valuable opportunities to boost their funds.

A considerable amount of time is spent researching and planning the challenge then writing it up afterwards, completion by the end of August.

I decided that the virus was no reason to abandon all plans and having been working on my Challenge for some time, decided that from late May I would grab any day forecast to be decent across the south of England. The only downsides to entering this year are the reduced number of airfields open to visitors, reduced opening times/days of those that are and the need to end up where I started - no chance of staying in a smart hotel at the end this year.

June 25th Meeting

Jitsi Meet—Vulcan and Canberra projects 8pm

www.laakentstrut.org.uk

I'm still working on the report, which still takes far longer than one expects, even with foresight (me?!!) and planning.

The results aren't until the new year, and this time will be also the roll-over from last year, when they didn't have enough fully completed entries (so I have two entries in). Entries have to be in during the summer, though.

Actual time in my logbook totalled 9:35 - a long day that went quickly (but not quite my record!). It amuses me to use one of the slowest aeroplanes around to 'challenge' the whizz kids - the sort who fly twice round the UK, inverted, but Looking At Things is my sort of flying and that's what Aeroncas do well.

Despite flying from East Kent for thirty five years I can always find something new to pique the curiosity. That led to my first Challenge in 2017: researching the Sound Mirrors became a massive project about WWI defences.

I use SkyDemon for planning at home, particularly for NOTAMS, but cannot use it in the Champ, but I do have a trusty GPS. I planned using 70kts; 'CC cruises at 85-90mph but I'm usually bimbling 80-85.

Fuel used was in the region of 160 litres (sadly none at today's prices).

My partner, Richard Warriner, flew directly from airfield to airfield to provide moral and practical support on the ground. Fenland had all its facilities open in some measure; Shobdon is open Tuesdays and Thursdays with fuel and loos; Popham daily ditto but there's no out of hours operation at present. We had to be gone at 17:00, making it a very brief, functional visit. Richard would produce a fresh mug of tea from his magic bag. In fact he deserves great credit, as I found previously down route when field engineering is required. Our routes crossed at one point and we waved.

My goal, in the Aeronca Champ was a total of some 575nm in a little over 8 hours, (in nil wind): two old ladies bimbling around the countryside.

All this wasn't long after we were able to fly more than engine health checks, so there wasn't a lot of time to go public with the JustGiving page, but it was worth a try, me thought. At the time of writing, the total is £610 - 61% of my target. (£1034 as of 19th June).

Any donation, however small, would be appreciated greatly.

<https://tinyurl.com/yd4yx1k5>

Malvern hills



Rutland Water



Shutting down D2D completed





Nic Orchard's D2D Challenge was to overfly Follies. Where's this?

Report is a mixture of emails from Nic, your editor, Pooleys website Skydemon and Flyer Magazine.

Meetings

Last month we had an informative Zoom meeting about the Lancaster Aviation Heritage Centre from Andrew Paton which officially opened in 1988. Fred and Harold Panton initially acquired it in memory of their brother Chris, shot down in March 1944. The aircraft came up for auction at Squids Gate in 1972, was bought by someone else, spent time as a gate guardian at Scampton when NX611 was relocated to the brothers farm and plans were formed to open a museum to Bomber Command. I have captured some screen shots from the meeting.

Andrew described how the aircraft was transported to East Kirkby by the RAF, how they set about restoring the aircraft after many years outside, the internal structure had not enjoyed any protection. Cleaning, repainting required 2000m of polythene, 100 rolls of masking tape, 1020 litres of paint stripper, 80l primer, 60l Black, 20l Green, 20l Dark Earth, 640 man hours of corrosion removal, 1680 hrs strip, clean & paint; 12 days to paint strip and 200 corrosion cleaning bristle discs.



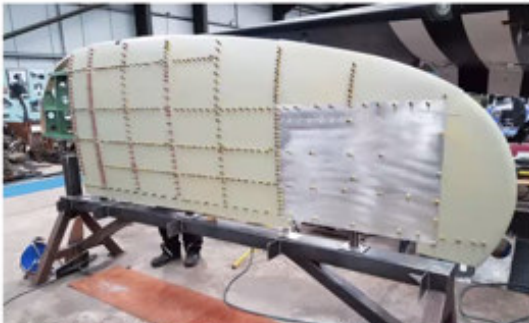
Chris Paton, his crew and Andrew with Fred and Harold



Taxiing is possible and even the tail can be lifted. Shots like this (next page) have been used in films. There is a good relationship with the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.



They have a ten year restoration plan, currently at about year three, expecting the cost to be between 3 1/2 and 4 million pounds resulting in a fully airworthy aircraft.



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:**

Stephen Solley 07836 653257

sc.solley@solleysicecream.co.uk**Newsletter Editor:**

Nigel Read 01634 362375

nread52@yahoo.co.uk**Committee Members:**

Mike Negus 01634 364396

Brian Hope 01795 662508

Uttam Chakravorty 07802 413043

Frank Lissimore 07798 900220

Peter Huxley 07899 015287

Kevin Marks 01622 850939

Steve Hoskins 07768 984507

Co-opted

Ron Armitage

Dates for your Diary 2019

25th June Jitsi meet- Vulcan and Canberra project. <https://meet.jit.si/kentstrut>. If using the app, kentstrut is the room name.

27th June Fly-out to Great Oakley

www.solleysicecream.co.uk**Fly-out**

Ron Armitage has arranged a fly-out to Great Oakley on Saturday 27th June. There will be no facilities available so it will be necessary to bring your own refreshments and perhaps something to sit on, chair, portaloos (!) or long range tanks! Aim to arrive at about 12 noon.

Flying to France?

There is still info on our website but the Vale of York struts have an up to date 40 min YouTube video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyaLve7R4M4>

Fly-in to Ripple is also available but PPR to Steve Solley first. Again no toilets but ice cream is available to purchase, so bring a cold box.