



# Bournemouth Aero Club Newsletter

Winter 2008

## What's in a name!

You will have noticed a change in our Club's name and logo, a change which our members reluctantly agreed to make at a Special General Meeting on 6 November. It all began in August when the new management of Bournemouth Flying Club expressed the view that there was confusion expressed by the public, thinking that BFC (Social) was also a flying school. They requested that we change our name, and



Special General Meeting

cease to become the social arm of BFC. It was clear that many members felt very strongly about our long association with BFC, but as BFC Limited, the owners, wanted our name

### BAC Website

During the discussions with BFC we suspended our website, but now that we have changed our name to BAC, it is again up and running. You can reach it on [www.baeroclub.co.uk](http://www.baeroclub.co.uk) and this month you will find two new articles by club contributors.

"Wartime Hurn and Thereabouts" is by Tony Talbot and as the title suggests is a nostalgic look back at some of the incidents in the area, before and after RAF Hurn became operational. If you can solve the riddle of the



changed, we really had no option but to comply. The SGM expressed a unanimous desire to continue as a club, and overwhelmingly voted in favour of being called "Bournemouth Aero Club"

We are now completely separated from BFC, and will not, for example, be organizing any flying competitions. The clubhouse is being completely refurbished and it should be a major improvement on the previous facilities.

However, we do not have any automatic right to hold our meetings and activities there. We understand that bids will be invited from interested parties to run the clubhouse bar and restaurant, and our club arrangements will be subject to negotiation with the new manager. Reopening is reported to be in January 2009. For the time being BAC is continuing to meet in very congenial surroundings, at the Parley Golf Club each Thursday as usual, and where we have been made to feel very welcome.

crystals we will be interested in hearing from you!

"One Horsepower Holiday in Ireland" is by Neil and Dee Mitchener and describes a relaxing break in a horse drawn caravan.

Sam the provider of the one horse power was quite a likeable character, and no pushover!



On our way to the next pub!

### Inside Story— Visit to HMS Nottingham



Obviously this is a major change in our circumstances, but your committee is confident that "normal service will resume" - but with a bit of a delay while changes take place. In the meantime it has been decided to wind down on activities (but not completely) so please keep in touch for events which may be organised at short notice. The AGM has been postponed until March/April so that we can be in a better position to make judgements and proposals on the way forward.

We have been grateful to BFC for allowing us to use the Operations Centre for some of our Thursday night meetings. We wish the management of BFC good fortune in their efforts to continue to make BFC a thriving business concern and hope that we will continue to be co-located.

### Farewell to Bob Hicks



Andy Townsend presents a commemorative tankard to Bob

At a function in the club house, Bob Hicks said adieu to his friends at BFC and BAC, as he moves onto pastures new, and to spend more time with his family, and particularly his young son, Sam. Bob had been running the Operations side of BFC for the past ten years, having joined from Compton Abbas Airfield Operations. We wish him good luck in his future and will miss his courtesy and helpfulness



### Events

Bournemouth Red Arrows Association  
(Every 2nd Tuesday in the month at 1945)  
Bournemouth Aero Club  
(Every Thursday in the month at 1930)

- 9 December Colin van Geffen Talk
- 13 January Tracey Barlow—Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance
- 10 February—Col. Bob Brannigan—The White Helmets
- 16 May—Royal Signals Concert at the Lighthouse, Poole.
- The social programme for BAC has been temporarily suspended during the uncertainties on venue, but keep in touch as events may be organised at short notice. But please note the following:
- 22 January—New Year Party—chase away those January blues—venue TBA
- 12 April—Easter Barbecue, venue TBA

Keep an eye on the website for any additions [www.baeroclub.co.uk](http://www.baeroclub.co.uk)

which he always extended to our flying members. Come to one of our BAC club evenings, Bob, and you will be very welcome!

### Life Memberships

Your committee received proposals for life membership and after the briefest of discussions, unanimously approved it being awarded as follows:

**Mr. and Mrs. Jim Parker**—for thirty years of unbroken membership. We look forward to your company for the next 30!

**Terry Trevett**—for his unstinting and tireless commitment behind the scenes for the benefit of the Club Membership.

Congratulations to these worthy Club members!

## HMS Nottingham Visit

In September a party of 12 people visited HMS Nottingham in Portsmouth. The whole visit had been arranged by Betty Hockey through her service connections, and a memorable day was had by all.

The visitors were given a comprehensive tour of the various weapons and defence systems by ship's officers. Lunch was preceded by RN size gins, and Terry Mobley appointed himself as Gin Quality Manager! A presentation was made to Betty Hockey of a painting of HMS Nottingham and the ship's crest.

The visit was concluded with tea in the wardroom, and everyone agreed that they had been entertained royally by very capable and charming hosts.

HMS Nottingham is a very capable and versatile Type 42 Destroyer, built by Vosper Thornycroft in Southampton and commissioned into the Navy in 1983. You may remember that she was involved in a bit of a tangle with underwater rocks whilst in Australian waters. Valiant efforts by the ship's crew prevented her sinking, and she was transported back to the U.K. for a complete repair and refit. She is the fifth ship to be named "Nottingham" and is now in the process of being decommissioned.



Terry checks gin quality!



Presentation to Betty



Welcome aboard!

## Flying the Taifun 17E

It's never boring flying the popular Piper and Cessna aircraft, but occasionally the opportunity to fly something different, and more challenging crops up and this was the case when I heard about the Taifun 17E which is based at Bournemouth. Flying partners Bill Field and Terry Mobley had tried it and from what they told me, it sounded quite intriguing. It is a low wing motor glider, constructed from composite materials and quite rare, there being only 4 on the U.K. register. This particular one is operated by Dorset Flying Club situated at Aviation Park West and



Ian Gumbrell and intriguing Taifun

I gave proprietor and Chief Instructor Ian Gumbrell a call to fix up a weather dependent date to fly this unusual aircraft—unusual for the average PPL—but not to experienced glider pilots. These are the opening sentences on a full article written by Ron Clarke about the experience, and you can read it by visiting the website at [www.baeroclub.co.uk](http://www.baeroclub.co.uk)

## President's Charity—TWAS

The BAC Annual Dinner was held at the Dudsbury Golf Club on 31 October and what a fine event it was. Excellent food, friendly and efficient service, and sweet music provided by Peter Francis. The dance areas was a little intimate, but none the less enjoyable—nice and intimate! Thanks to Terry Trevett and his helpers for an excellent evening. We raised money for charity and Club President Tony Erwood handed over a cheque for £750 to TWAS (The Wessex Autistic Society), represented by Millie Paterson. Additional money was raised for the John Thornton Memorial Trust and there will be a hand-over to Trust representatives at Parley Golf Club on 11 December



Cheque Presentation

## Get Well Soon!

We have heard that George Griffin and Tony Lokatis have been unwell for a few weeks and we would like to send them our members' good wishes for speedy recoveries to their normal health. You don't think that George has come out in sympathy with the closing of the club house, do you!?

## Telephone Number

A mobile telephone has been bought by the club and is in the possession of the club membership secretary. This has been done to provide a contact on the Membership Application Forms, now that the Club House has closed, and to save any possibility of bothering BFC with BAC business. The number is 07986 359935 and membership secretary is Tony Griffin.

## Airport News

A Category III ILS facility is being installed and is due for completion in February 09. This £6.5m investment in the airport will allow landings and take offs to be continued even in the foggiest of weathers. Work to enlarge and improve the eastern apron are underway and the soil is being moved to create an earth wall along Parley Lane. Taxiways are being taken out of service as required to permit the work to continue, and a complete review of all surfaces has been undertaken. During 2009, there will be a complete overlay of the taxi lane between the east and west aprons. The airport management continue to support existing GA on the airport, but would not permit any further additions. The airport has invested in a speed gun, primarily for controlling vehicles, but could equally be used on aircraft. If, after receiving a warning, a pilot continued to speed on taxiing, then appropriate action would be taken. Reminder: anyone working airside, or a crew member, must wear high visibility jackets; one crew member with high visibility jacket is allowed to escort up to 3 visitors.

## Fancy a Shower?

The amount of water being consumed by the showers on board Emirates' Airbus A380s is much lower than expected, allowing the airline to examine a significant reduction in the uplift for each flight. The original estimate for shower usage of the two on board showers by first class passengers now appears excessive, and it is likely that a significantly smaller amount of water will be required, meaning a reduction in fuel burn, or boost in payload. The airline's A380 first class cabin features 14 suites; "we hadn't taken into account properly that the A380 has new distribution technology which delivers the water more efficiently" an airline official said.

Flight International

## Czech Republic Shopping



Goodbye to the Grob

Bill Field and his flying syndicate waved a fond farewell in April to the Grob 115 they had been flying for the past four years. It had become expensive to maintain, and what is more there are more exciting ultralight aircraft becoming available, more suited to the relaxing cruising that the syndicate undertakes and with more benign certification requirements. The Grob has gone to a good home at Leicester, and will take up a more suitable role in the training of PPLs. Bill has lead the syndicate into looking for a suitable replacement visiting exhibitions, reviewing brochures and specs, taking familiarisation flights, and generally digging in the market place. They came up with a short list of three, but fell in love with a TL Ultralight designed and built in the Czech Republic. So, in November Bill Field and Ron Clarke took the Flybe jet from Bristol to Prague, and then drove to a picturesque town 50 miles to the east, to give the factory and the aeroplane a thorough inspection. We'll be putting a report on this expedition on the website in the next month, [www.baeroclub.co.uk](http://www.baeroclub.co.uk) so look out for the TL Ultralight 2000 "Sting"!



Taifun 17E Cockpit



Taifun 17E

If, after reading Ron's full article on the website, you want to repeat the experience you can contact Ian Gumbrell on 07976 351999 or 01 202 466038. Ian also does full PPL training on less demanding training aircraft, like Pipers and Cessnas, at very competitive rates. There are other opportunities like this around the airfield if you want a change. For example, BFC are offering aerobatic lessons. These are conducted by Chief Flying Instructor Vic Foyle, in their Beagle Pup at a cost of £92.98 for half an hour. Contact BFC via our link on the website.