

APSS News

No 1, July 2008

Newsletter of the Aviation Preservation Society of Scotland

APSS is registered as a Charity in Scotland SC033307

Member of the British Aviation Preservation Council

Introduction

Our membership consists of a minority who are able to come to East Fortune on something like a weekly basis and have some idea of what we are doing and a majority who can't because of time, travelling distance or health. Our publication Fortune Teller is the main means of informing members. FT16 is close to completion and much material for FT17 is also to hand, but our editor and our publisher are both very busy men with businesses to attend to, hence the idea of this Newsletter.

The object is not to create a publication to rival Fortune Teller but simply to try to keep in touch better, with an emphasis on the word *simply*. To keep costs down distribution will be by email to everyone for whom we have an email address, with the rest posted where absolutely necessary.

News is a two-way process. Let us know what you think of the Newsletter and of any Scottish aviation news that we may not be aware of and, most importantly, any news of members. We will always try to visit anyone in hospital, for example, but we need to know they are there first!

News

Subscriptions for the current year

A reminder that our 2008-2009 year started in April and we hope you will continue to support APSS and its projects by rejoining at the current subscription rate of £15. If you think that seems a lot please be aware that it takes about 30 memberships just to pay our insurance bills for example. If you have already rejoined thank you very much for your essential support, if not I look forward very much to hearing from you at the address below. Your blue membership card will probably have no more spaces to fill in. In that case don't send it back. We are looking into new ones.

Air Show and APSS stand/marquee

Because the doors of the Strutter and Radio/Radar buildings do not open outwards we are now prohibited from allowing public access to those areas until the Museum of Flight and Historic Scotland address the problem. This cuts off much of our public contact and so we have invested in a 9m x 3m marquee (B&Q's finest!) so that we can have an APSS presence at the

NMoF Air Show on Saturday 26th July

details at http://www.nms.ac.uk/airshow_home.aspx

and possibly elsewhere. The marquee will be in front of the Radio and Radar building, will be manned all day and will demonstrate among other things a Strutter wing and other Strutter components, some radar exhibits plus photographs of other APSS work on museum items such as the Anson, Bolingbroke, BAC111, Vulcan, Comet and aircraft steps.

Come and see us if you possibly can.

Sopwith 1½ Strutter

The Strutter is the main APSS project and it is progressing steadily. Fuselage construction is under way and an engine deposit was paid last year.

We have taken out insurance cover for the Strutter fabric as it now represents a significant APSS investment and we thought it should be protected.

Radio and Radar

Last year APSS funded acquisition of a power supply for the Blue Parrot radar and that is now impressively operational. Following the successful research and modelling of the Chain Home radar station at Drone Hill, plans are developing to research other local early warning stations at Cockburnspath and Dirleton (see APSS website for a call for information).

Slingsby T53 glider

The APSS T53 operates in full flying condition from Portmoak airfield and is managed by a separate gliding group within APSS. Details of the history of this aircraft and how to fly in it as an APSS member can be found on the APSS website. Give it a go. Many have.

Outings

We have been thinking about practical outings that could be offered to members. Sometimes the British Aviation Preservation Council (BAPC) holds a conference within striking distance, such as at Leuchars in 2006, attended by a bus-load from APSS, who supplied several of the speakers. The next main BAPC event is at Hendon on Saturday 4th October, making it a much less suitable trip. If outings are of interest to you do let us know, including any thoughts you have on venues which take account of today's travel costs.

NMoF restoration/conservation projects

APSS has been working on items in the National Collection for many years and that work continues, albeit with much more formality and paperwork these days, as everyone involved now needs to be signed on as an NMS volunteer. Ian Hutchison and Jack Wilson in particular have done a great deal of work on the Anson in H2 but that project is on hold at the moment due to Ian's retirement for health reasons. A considerable programme of work was done on Vulcan XM597, both inside in all cockpit areas to recover from water damage and outside on the undercarriage and tail pipes. This project is now finished. The Bolingbroke in H3 is also advancing when time, available skills, materials and permission allow. The BAC111 is open to the public after APSS work and the DH Comet should be available for public access soon, after completion of cockpit restoration and many cabin seat repairs.

AGM

The AGM date is still to be set but the accounts and AGM notices will ideally accompany Fortune Teller soon, if that can be organised.

Web site and other contacts

Our website <http://www.apss.org.uk> has been much updated by webmaster Bob Thomson. Keep checking it for news and for a list of people and email addresses to contact. Stay in touch and make your opinions known.

With all good wishes

Brian Wilson

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