



LFC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Limerick Flying Club

www.limerickflyingclub.com

May 2011

They came, they saw, and...

The General Aviation Safety Council roadshow came to the clubhouse in Coonagh on Tuesday 7th June at 20:00. The IAA was represented by John Murray and Jim Corbett and Martin, which included input from licensing airworthiness and general information. Gerry Humphreys chaired the meeting and he was also instrumental in organising the evening.

They did their best to be friendly but during a quite lively discussion and question and answer session we were more or less told that things will be the way they want them no matter how we feel about it. The question of foreign registered aeroplanes operating in Ireland was addressed and the IAA clearly indicated that they intend regulating the situation in due course. They also indicated that changes are being considered about the operation in Europe, and of course Ireland with foreign licences will also be addressed in the future.

There was a good attendance of 22 people and glad to say some were from outside the club and from other flying disciplines other than light aircraft training.

In general the meeting was worth having and in the final analysis there will be some kind of general aviation council established which will co-ordinate with the IAA on safety matters among others as required in due course.

An Alarming Ripoff...

By Gerry Humphreys

Dave Bruton had an amazing escape on Sunday 5th June when the top surface of the wing of the aircraft he was flying disintegrated during an aerobatics display at the Foynes Irish Coffee Festival. What started as a thrilling

display by one of the country's top aerobatic pilots suddenly changed into a dramatic emergency situation.

When the pilot called 'Mayday' Shannon ATC responded immediately 'cleared to land at Shannon'... 'Negative.... I'm going down' replied Dave as he struggled to control the stricken aircraft. He had only seconds to act, he thought about jumping out and using his parachute, but realised he was too low. His only chance was to somehow find a clear area and do the best he could to get his crippled machine on the ground. Years of practice and training and a bit of luck kicked in and Liam O'Sullivan's field, just on the edge of Foynes looked like Dave's only chance. He pulled off what can only be described as an amazing landing. One in a million pilots would have only had the slightest chance of walking away. Very few would have relished the prospect of landing a servicable Skybolt in a 300m field. However Dave made a perfect landing using full power and every ounce of flying skill he possessed in an aircraft that was literally falling out of the sky and caused not even a scratch to the aircraft.



Immediately on the ground he radioed that he was OK. Eddie Goggins who was next to



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perform in the Extra, quickly found him and relayed his position and the good news to the display commentator. a huge cheer went up all around Foynes, They had witnessed one of the greatest escapes in Irish light aviation history, surely ranking up there with Neil Williams' famous escape in a Zlin when his wing folded.

Fire crews and the ambulance sprang into action locating Dave and his aircraft within minutes, but fortunately he was completely uninjured and only regretting leaving his phone behind on take-off for the display! The AAIU inspector Leo Murray's bank holiday weekend drew to a premature end and he was on the scene from Dublin in hours. Many members of the public had photos and recordings of the incident which they offered to help find the cause of what happened. The aircraft was dismantled and removed next day.

See the flight on this youtube link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0ZzPrUuE6A>

The investigation continues, but of course, well done Dave.

Nice one Gerry...



A Submarine Spitfire MK 26 which Gerry Hum as managed to test fly for the builder. A very impressive piece of machinery, see youtube.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siRj2vFTJZI>

Back from Luxemburg...

By Mark Lloyd

Here is a picture of Christy on completion of a Solo Cross Country, Coonagh - Kerry - Galway on last Thursday the 2nd June.



He is home from working in Luxemburg for a 3 week annual leave period to try to finish his training at Coonagh. Because he has not flown for almost 9 months he will not be doing badly if he can pull it all off in his 3 weeks at home.

He was also present on the Flyout last weekend getting in some more Cross Country experience while he had the weather for it. The latest news is that, weather permitting, he will do the flight test with Des sometime this week. We all wish him the best of luck.

Stop press...

Since Mark wrote the article we have now been informed that Christy has actually done and of course passed his flight test.

Great news and congratulations Chisty.



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Curtailed plans...

The planned 'flyout' did indeed go ahead on Saturday 4th June. Many club members and some aircraft departed flew to Newtownards had a look at the air show to mark the 50th anniversary of that club.

However the weather god was not in good form this year and some foul weather threatened to Show up in the Northeast on Sunday. Therefore the club members decided to return to Coonagh base on Saturday. A little disappointed no doubt but everybody got home safe which is probably the best news that could be gained from the exercise. A small bonus also was that the weather in Coonagh was good on Sunday so some training flights could take place, although it had been planned not to have any training available that weekend.



The happy group at EGAD

And then we leave behind EGAD, a pity that the group could not wait around for the Bar B Q or enjoy some overnight entertainment. That is of course the problem with trying to keep VFR flying safe.



15 June 2011 Christy shoots out the back window of his 737 on takeoff. Gillbank Keady Credit

Closed Forum...

By S N Walsh

Martin McMahon who is giving our website a facelift conducted an email survey in the past few days. The theme was to ascertain if the forum should be maintained on the new site. Out of the ten votes received the final result was 5 and 5, so somebody's casting vote was used and the decision was made to close the forum.

Some people expressed an interest in keeping it going but also recognised that we have many other communication methods now, some said too many. This is so but I think that the real problem is not the amount of communication methods available but the lack of use of any of the available methods. Let us face it our members are not good at sharing points of view, even this poor Newsletter has to struggle to get a few lines from most people.

Open Evening...

Waterford flight school will run an open day in Shannon Hotel 6th July. The open session will be from about 1800. Check their website.