



Issue 7 -Feb10 -May10

Contrails

Newsletter of the Christchurch Aviation Society

Hunter One by Mike Phipp

The story starts with Spencer Flack, based at Elstree, who bought a Sea Fury during the 70's. His passion for aircraft led him to buy a Hunter in 1978 which needed renovation and was given the serial G-HUNT. Following the restoration, Stefan Karwowski flew the maiden flight of the restored Hunter out of Elstree – itself quite a feat given the available runway length – in 1980. Spencer Flack had an accident with his Sea Fury and decided to sell the Hunter which Mike Carlton bought in September 1981. He based it at Hurn and so this aircraft was the core of the 'Hunter One' organisation Mike created in 1984. Eric Hayward, a former Hawker engineer who had worked on Hunters, was employed to look after the aircraft. Mike Carlton could not fly G-HUNT and he bought a Hunter T7 so that he could learn – this was reg G-BOOM.



In 1983 Eric was sent to Singapore where a Jet Provost was up for sale, he came back with two, G-JETP and G-PROV, so now the fleet was growing. In fairly short order a Meteor night fighter, Sea Hawk (G-JETH), and Vampires were added. Many needed work so Eric was busy refurbishing whilst at the same time maintaining the Hunter One fleet for their popular air displays. Mike Phipp showed many pictures of the heyday of Hunter One.

An example of an acquisition destined for refurb was the Sea Hawk (retired from the RN at Hurn c'67) which had been delivered by road with the intention of restoring the airframe to flying condition and so become a part of the Hunter One collection for flying

displays. Similarly a Sea Vixen was acquired and registered as G-VIXN.

The untimely and tragic death of Mike Carlton brought all the plans to an end and the whole collection, was offered for sale by auction at Hurn Airport by Christies on the 1st of October 1987.

Aircraft unsold formed the core of the Jet Heritage collection – another story - here on Wed 05Jan2011. G-VIXN is at Gatwick Aviation Museum.

G-JETH is at Gatwick Aviation Museum.

G-HUNT went to a Texas Combat Flying Museum.

The red Hunter near the East end of the runway at Hurn is a reminder and commemorates Hunter One.

Science Museum Wroughton-Proposed Visit

The Public Access Hangar contains objects such as a Lockheed Constellation, Boeing 247D and DeHavilland Dragon. Provisional (on getting 30 people) booking is for morning **Wed 07Jul10**. Cost £11 plus transport by car share, perhaps coach. Please let me know by 14May10 so we can confirm booking. Ed

Celebrity dies in Air Pageant

The first Briton to die in a flying accident was killed on 12 July 1910 in Southbourne at what are now St Peter's School playing fields. This will be commemorated by a Spitfire fly past on 9th July - why - the celebrity was Charles Rolls, of Rolls-Royce fame. Rolls was a pioneer of aviation in England, had met the Wright brothers and owned a Wright aircraft which was at the fore front of aviation at the time. Rolls, age 33, had been competing in an Air Pageant when, during his approach to land, his tailplane failed. Four days of events will mark his death and there is a wreath laying on Sunday, 11th July at which the RAF Central Band will perform.

FONFA Open Day 16th May 10.30 - 15.30

At RAF Sopley - The guardroom will be open for any one who wants to revisit their misdeeds.

Meetings List

Wed, 01Sep10, Britten Norman by Bob Wealthy.

Wed 03Nov10, Gliding by Mike Radice.

Wed 05Jan2011, Jet Heritage by Mike Phipp.

Wed 02Mar11, RAF Engineer by Steve Robson

Wed 04May11, AGM and talk

Other Events

Visit to the British Legion Poppy Factory at Richmond, then Farnborough Air Science Museum, 0730 03Jun Christchurch RAes, Peter Whitcher 01202 486802

New Forest Airfields Commemorative Service - 2pm 27Jun10 - at the Airfields Memorial, Holmsley . John Levesley 01425 673028