



Welcome to the **JERSEY AERO CLUB**

March 2024 members newsletter

Honorary Secretary update ... *by Mark Hamilton*

Members Meetings & Committee Roles

Extraordinary General Meeting – Thursday, 14 March 2024 at 19:00

As notified recently, an EGM is taking place to canvas the views of the Members on flight training operations in Jersey and to consider and vote on the in-principle approval of the sub-let of Club premises to Ortac and to contract with them in the support and provision of some or all of flying desk operations, flight training, airside security and Club membership ‘front of house’ services. Following past undertakings made to members, professional advice has been obtained by the Club’s Chartered Surveyor and the sub-let would be at full market rates.

Ortac will be providing a presentation and the Committee will be on hand to answer any questions. We encourage all to attend and participate in what is a key decision for the Club.

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday, 30 April 2024 at 19:00

Save the date! This is advance notice that the Club’s AGM will be taking place at the Club House at 19:00 on Tuesday, 30 April 2024. Further details including the official notice and agenda, together with pre-meeting materials, will be issued closer to the date.

Seeking our Next Honorary Treasurer

James Pirie of Grant Thornton, our current Treasurer, will not be seeking re-election at the upcoming AGM having served his expected two-year term in office.

Are you a qualified accountant and able to provide oversight to the financial affairs of the Club? The Executive Committee would love to hear from you.

We have a well-established and self-supporting operational framework in place. Day to day bookkeeping and management of sales and purchase ledgers are undertaken in house by Maggie with the external support of FCM Limited who prepare monthly management accounts and our annual financial statements. Jersey tax returns and consulting services are provided by Grant Thornton.

If you would like to understand more about the role and help shape the future of the finance function for the Club, please get in touch with the Committee.

New Committee Members

The Executive Committee would be delighted to hear from any members, old or new, that would be interested in joining the Committee.

New ideas, enthusiasm, and alternative viewpoints help us to shape the Club and deliver a vibrant environment that is relevant and of value to members. Much has been done over recent years to secure the financial stability of the Club and a priority now is to deliver services to members, grow our numbers and better achieve one of the Club's principle objectives to foster and develop interest in aviation in all its aspects.

The Club and Committee are very fortunate to have numerous dedicated club members who give or have given freely to various aspects of the smooth operation of the Club, much of which goes on unseen but supports the Club in many ways. Adding to our numbers on the Committee will help us to support our valued volunteers and our wider membership base.

Please do give this some thought and feel free to contact any of the current Committee for an informal chat around how you could bring some new skills or ideas to the Committee. You will be made very welcome indeed.

Executive Committee Email: committee@jerseyaeroclub.com

Deputy chairman's update ... by Derek Fage

Background

We know that there have been several rumours and questions about the future of flying operations and Synergy at the Jersey Aero Club (JAC).

Since the restructuring of the club in June 2020 following the insolvency of the previous limited company subsidiary providing flight training and GA handling, we have come a long way and Synergy has been a huge help in this.

With the help of Synergy, not only did we get flight training back in operation at the club following the Covid restrictions, but we managed to get student solo flights over France approved again after these were stopped due to the old processes no longer being applicable following Brexit – a significant obstacle in providing a PPL in Jersey. I'd also like to record my thanks to Richard Hawkin and AOPA (Channel Islands) for his work in liaising directly with the DGAC with regards to how Channel Islands PPL students could resume solo flights in France post Brexit.

Synergy also took over responsibility for the Flying Desk and GA Handling, and were instrumental in helping us get through the increased security associated with airside access that was imposed by the Airport as required by the DfT/CAA.

Throughout this time Glen Heavens, the owner and founder of the Synergy group of companies, has worked closely with the committee to provide the help required to bring flight training back to Jersey and with all the areas Synergy has helped with.

However, times do move on, and things change.

In July 2023 Glen sold Synergy Aviation, the UK private aircraft charter and management company, to Avia Solutions Group, but he maintained the flight training companies that operate in Fairoaks and Jersey.

As time has gone on, there have been some challenges that have arisen for Glen in remotely operating a small operation in a different jurisdiction to the UK (Jersey). We all know that there are challenges in operating in Jersey relating to staff and the cost of living, and this is made more difficult when trying to manage this from the UK. Instructor availability has been a challenge since Martin left and the combination of that and the lack of G-EHLX (the PA28) due to an engine rebuild requirement has meant that we have not been able to provide the level of flight training we want to in Jersey. Particular thanks must go to Colin Wright who kindly provided one of his Tecnams for the use of Synergy for flight training whilst G-EHLX has been offline.

In November 2023, the Committee agreed to start working with Synergy to look to see how we could transition over time to alternative flight training arrangements to allow them to focus on their UK operation, however Synergy agreed to continue working with us to keep flight training going during this process.

As part of this, the club took over the manning and management of the flying desk. This process was led by myself and involved employing Karen Williamson (previously employed by Synergy) and help from several members as well as Lois Chaopradith (who I'm sure you all remember). I would formally like to record my thanks must go to Darrall Pullen, Chris Winch, Mal Richardson, John Le Ruez and Lois for their continued help and support as well as Colin Wright for his ongoing support with the provision of G- JACN.

The Committee has reviewed in detail how we might move forward looking at the whole of the Flying Desk Operation, Flight Training, Airside Security, GA handling and club membership front of house. We previously contacted every ATO and DTO in the UK as part of the process when we selected Synergy, but only two submissions were received and only one covered anything other than just flight training. We did have a few offers of ATO satellite oversight, however none of them wanted to be involved in management/staffing/resourcing/aircraft. We now feel that having looked at this before and seen the issues that Synergy has faced with a remotely managed small operation, that it is now time to move back into a more local operation within Jersey.

We have been in discussion with Ortac who are keen to provide all the services discussed including transitioning to a new flight training operation, as well as renting some office space for some of their operations that remain in Jersey. In addition to manning and running the Flying Desk / GA Handling, they intend on employing a full time CFI as well as making use of part time instructors and providing aircraft. This will provide continuity of flight training to existing members and students.

At the same time as discussing this with Ortac, we have also looked at how we might be able to do this in house. We have concluded, having seen the Ortac proposal and discussing it with them, that their proposal offers the most sustainable way forward with a proper business focus, and so we have organised an EGM for members where Ortac can present their proposal to move forward.

Dates for your diary ... by Mike Pownall

Wednesday 6th March 2024 @18:30

An evening with John Nicolas DCA, the Director of Civil Aviation & Simon Crook Head of Flight Operations.

What are the latest hot topics on the DCA'S desk? Fire away with an informative Q&A session. Kevin Perryman, Head of Airworthiness will also be attending along with a Ports of Jersey member.

Thursday 18th April 2024 @19:00

Chris Unitt, Searching for Uncle Herb. A novel evening, with a local twist! Chris tells the story of a search for an American tail gunner from a Boeing B17 Bomber lost in wartime, his search lasted 35 years, spanning, America, England, the Channel Islands, Europe & Russia.

This is also a story of the Boeing B17 Flying Fortress, an evening that promises to be a very interesting one.

Saturday 15th June 2024 @18:30

Rob Hart, SkyDemon, where tech joins the sky!

The much awaited and rescheduled event from last December.

Join Rob Hart, SkyDemons Marketing & Development Co-ordinator for an evening of your favourite software jargon. Find out all

the top tips and tricks for using the aviators preferred choice of app, the SkyDemon, an essential demo not to be missed.

Fatima will be hosting and taking care of the drinks & nibbles. With special thanks to Mike Pownall for organising our varied & interesting speakers, with more scheduled for the future.

Plane spotter's corner ... from Bob Sauvary's collection

Part 1 of 2 - Visit to the Duxford Autumn Show on 14 October 2007. Trip organised by Jonathan Vibert and transport by Aurigny ATR 72.



F3556 RAF RE.8



FA-131 General Dynamics F-16AM



G-AIYR HG691 DH.89A Dragon Rapide

**G-BGPB 1747 Canadian Car
Foundry built N.A.T-6J Harvard 4**



G-BLKZ A-125 Pilatus P.2-05



**G-BTCC 40467 Grumman F6F-5K
Hellcat**



**G-BUOS SM845; FA-131;
G-TFSI 44-84847**





**G-BWUE Hispano HA.1112-M1L
Buchon**



G-CCVH 82 Curtiss Hawk 75A-1



N6635 DH.82A Tiger Moth



**P5915 Vickers Supermarine
Spitfire**

Captain Willy Weber ...

We were all very saddened to hear about Willy passing away. Willy was a much respected and loved member of our club and our thoughts are with Diane and family during these difficult times.

Below are a few words from Jim Buckley - past chairman

Captain Willy Weber was a consummate gentleman in every sense of the word and he was also a very gifted aviator which was displayed in the way he approached his profession.

He flew a wide variety of aircraft in his career including Dakota's, Viscounts, Boeing 737's, 747's and of course the Heron. I once asked him which of the aircraft he had flown had been the most difficult, he laughed and said, 'a Dakota in a crosswind, in driving rain can be a bit sporty!'

First Officers and Flight Engineers who flew with him always described it as a pleasure and if he had to pass on his knowledge or advice it was always presented in a firm but gentle way backed up with solid reason.

There was one occasion when he had a minor accident. He was taxiing out at Abingdon in the Heron, the Heron has a large wingspan, keeping faithfully to the centre line his port wingtip just touched a grass bank, not his fault but it earned him the nickname, 'Wingtips Willy!' There was no damage to the aircraft.

Willy Weber was a very kind man, he treated everyone he met equally, always interested in what they had to say, he was clever and very wise, a great sense of humour and we are all going to miss him.

Blue skies Willy.

For sale and wanted items...

Do you have anything to sale or are you looking for a particular item ? If so, contact me on evelinehawkin@gmail.com and I will ensure it appears in the next newsletter. Please send photos separately.

and finally ...

Hopefully, we will see many of you both at the EGM and AGM as those two events are of utmost importance for the future of the club.

Also, don't forget to put the 3 confirmed events organised by Mike Pownall in your diaries. This is another way to support your club.

See you at the club ... Eveline