



Welcome to the JERSEY AERO CLUB

June 2026 members newsletter

Editor - Eveline Hawkin

FOR YOUR DIARY ...

Wednesday 15th July - Talk by Jersey AME - James Mair (details to follow)



Skywalker Jersey June 2026 update ... by Lee McConnell

Flying Programme

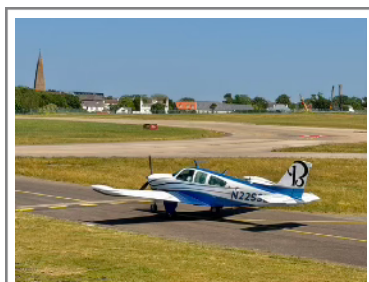
As we head into the summer season, there has been plenty of activity around the Club, both in the air and on the ground, and it is great to see such strong momentum building across flying, handling and facilities.

The flying programme has remained busy and encouraging. Our second PA28 Archer, G-EHLX, has made an excellent start since joining the fleet, flying 58 hours in its first month alone, which is a very strong result and a clear sign of how well she has been received. She has now gone into maintenance and we will update members again once she is ready to return to service. Meanwhile, G-JJER is now back in the swing of things and ready for a busy summer season following her full maintenance input and propeller installation.

Handling / FBO

Activity on the handling side has also increased significantly as summer approaches. Over the recent bank holiday weekend, the FBO handled 52 aircraft, making for an exceptionally busy few days on the apron and around the clubhouse. A sincere thank you goes to all staff who supported this effort and helped everything run smoothly. We intend to continue the growth of the flying desk team with new members.

On fuel, members should be aware that prices remain under pressure due to wider global market instability. Current Avgas pricing is 145.00, with an AOPA rate of 137.75. More broadly, aviation fuel prices remain volatile and are expected to stay firm through the summer, so members are encouraged to check the latest pricing at the flying desk before their next flight.



Other Activities / Business

There has also been encouraging progress on the facilities side. In conjunction with Andrew Renouf, a full risk assessment and proposal has now been presented to Ports of Jersey regarding the bowser location and opportunities to increase hard-standing parking areas at the Club. The objective is to improve safety, make better use of the available apron space and support growing levels of general aviation activity. Further updates will follow as discussions progress.

The ALSIM AL250 Simulator is now in place at the Club, but we are still waiting for the ALSIM technician and team to complete the final installation. Following a review, the decision has been taken to upgrade the projection system: the original projectors were found to be too large and inflexible, so these will be replaced with more modern, compact Optoma units mounted on aluminium extrusion above the screen to allow precise adjustment. The new hardware is being prepared and shipped to Jersey, and the ALSIM team currently expects to be on site in the week commencing 8 June to carry out the final installation and handover.



Finally, there has also been important work promoting Jersey further afield. I made a visit to the Private Flyer event to showcase the Jersey Aero Club, Skywalker Flight Training and Jersey as a destination for private pilots and GA visitors. This was a valuable opportunity to highlight the Island's facilities, community and flying opportunities to a wider audience and to encourage more pilots to include Jersey in their future flying plans.



Changes to your Club Committee ... from *Club Chairman and the Committee*



The Jersey Aero Club Executive Committee has accepted the resignation of Jasmine Clarke with considerable regret.

After careful consideration, she has decided to step down from her committee role due to the increasing challenges of balancing her professional responsibilities at Ports of Jersey with her voluntary position at the Club.

While we are naturally disappointed to see her leave the Committee, we fully understand and respect her decision. Throughout her time on the Executive Committee, she has made a significant contribution to the Club, giving generously of her time, energy, and expertise. Her commitment, enthusiasm, and support have been greatly valued by both the Committee and the wider membership.

On behalf of everyone at the Jersey Aero Club, we would like to express our sincere thanks for everything she has done for the Club and for the positive impact she has had during her tenure.

Although she is stepping down from her formal committee responsibilities, we very much hope that this is not goodbye. We look forward to continuing to see her around the Aero Club, sharing in the activities and community that she has helped to support and strengthen over the years.

We wish her every success in her role and thank her once again for her dedicated service to the Jersey Aero Club.

Committee updates ... from *Andrew Renouf*

Fuelling and parking

The Aero Club and Skywalker have made a proposal to Ports to move the fuel pump to a safer location where aircraft can queue without blocking the taxiway. We are also hoping to provide an extra area of grass parking for visiting GA which of course benefits everyone as this relieves congestion as the main parking gets very full in the summer.

The Club has produced architectural drawings using Digimap as well as an electrical design for a new power & data cable to deal with the battery issue on the bowser. Skywalker have produced a formal risk assessment which proves the new location is safer and provides the necessary wing tip clearances. It's too early to share drawings until Ports or Jersey have fully considered the proposal but if this does go ahead, the Club will fund & install the power cable. The mains pump will double the speed of the fuel delivery which we all know is painfully slow. The data will allow remote reading at the Flying Desk so the system should be able to eliminate manual recording, keys etc. Skywalker are considering obtaining a Ground Frequency which would allow GA to go straight to the fuel pump on arrival & with remote switching and quantity readings, this would bring Jersey into line with most other airfields.

Hangar Lights

We are starting the replacement of the back row of Hangar lights this weekend. We are doing this "in house" which means we have purchased the Collingwood lights at trade prices. Collingwood are a premium product with a projected lifespan of 50,000+ hours or 27 years with our usage profile. Apart from reducing future maintenance, this also means the scaffold tower lent to the Club in case of door & light failure will be removed as both of these issues have now been resolved.



Self Serve Area

The delay on the kiosk area is due to waiting for the Barclaycard reader. We have re-purposed the Paxton card reader which was previously used on the airside door and this is now installed on the door to the Café. As the self-serve coffee machine will be working on an honesty basis, it is likely we will limit the Clubroom access after 4 pm to visiting GA and members using your Club card (no PIN required) to prevent non-club members abusing the system.



Committee updates ... *Airport Identification Cards ...from Paul Holroyd*

For those of you who hold AICs (Airport Identification Cards) to allow Airside Access, we have about 20 suspended cards at the moment and another 6 about to expire. As you know there is a 60 day limit on the time that the card was last used until it becomes suspended.

We have been asking Airport Security, for some time now, if they will increase the 60 period for us, - to no avail, but we are still working on it.

All AIC holders are aware of this rule and should ensure that they swipe their cards regularly to avoid suspension. We appreciate that some members spend long periods away from Jersey and are therefore unable to do so.

To apply to have a card unsuspended creates a lot of extra and unnecessary work for the Committee, and therefore we propose to introduce a processing fee.

This is not, as has been suggested, to generate more income for the club, but to try to encourage AIC holders to take more responsibility for ensuring their AICs are used within the 60 day period. If a member knows they will be away for a long period, then if they advise us of dates, we will waive the extra fee.

At present, the Airport charge £20 for un-suspending a card, but the new fee will be £50.

We will continue to try to persuade Security to increase the 60 day period, and advise you of progress.

More committee news ...*Spitfire Visit Brings History to Life Once More ...* by Jonathan Vibert, Club Manager

Members and visitors at Jersey Aero Club were treated to a spectacular sight on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th May as the team from Spitfires.com visited Jersey with their beautifully restored two-seat Supermarine Spitfire, SM520 (registration G-ILDA), based at Goodwood Aerodrome.



GILDA - 27 may 2026 (courtesy of Nigel Vibert)

SM520 has a fascinating history. Built at the Castle Bromwich factory in 1944 as a high-altitude Spitfire Mk IXe fighter, it was delivered to the RAF in November of that year. Following the end of the Second World War, the aircraft was transferred to the South African Air Force, where it served primarily in training roles. After suffering a major accident, the aircraft eventually ended up in a scrapyard before being identified and recovered for restoration. In the early 2000s, it underwent an extensive rebuild and conversion into a two-seat Trainer 9 configuration, returning to the skies as G-ILDA. Today, it is operated by Spitfires.com, allowing passengers to experience flight in one of Britain's most iconic aircraft, in the most southerly point in the British Isles.

Now carrying markings that reflect its South African heritage and wartime service history, SM520 represents both the engineering excellence of the Spitfire and the remarkable efforts made to preserve these historic aircraft for future generations. Seeing and hearing this aircraft flying from Jersey was a privilege for aviation enthusiasts and a fitting reminder of the island's own rich wartime aviation history.

The visit coincided with exceptionally warm weather across the Channel Islands, providing near-perfect flying conditions and some of the highest temperatures seen so far this year. Jersey recorded temperatures of 34.2°C during the visit, making it one of the warmest periods of the spring and well above the seasonal average for late May. The warm, settled conditions offered excellent visibility for flying and attracted many members and visitors to the airport to enjoy the spectacle. This said, extra steps were taken to keep passengers and crew cool with bottled water, and shade from umbrellas.



Midday sun- GILDA - 27 may 2026 (courtesy of Niall Vibert)

Some wonderful feedback from their guests came via the Club too:

"We would like to thank you all for the kind hospitality yesterday, it really added to Rob's amazing experience in the Spitfire. The Spitfire Pilots are so personable. It was an amazing day for me and my sisters too!"

Thank you to Jonathan Vibert for all your care and attention and to the person on the reception desk (my apologies, I didn't get your name). I know there are other people that were also involved and I thank those people too."

The combination of clear skies, sunshine and the unmistakable sound of the Merlin engine made for a memorable two days at the Club, and our thanks again to Fatima and Lucy for keeping everyone fed and watered during the week.



Courtesy of David Fergusson

Also from Jonathan ... Inspiring Future Aviators

Photos: *Courtesy of Pack Leaders 'Kingfisher' and 'Badger'*

Recently, I had the pleasure of welcoming the 23rd St Lawrence and 23rd St George's Cub Packs for an aviation-themed visit to the Club House, to gain stage 1 of their Air Adventures badge.

The Air Activities badge is a staged activity badge for Cubs designed to build STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and an understanding of flight. Cubs can earn stages 1 to 5, progressing from making paper planes to understanding flight physics and flight simulators.

As part of the Cub's badge, we got them involved in some sessions building and flying paper aeroplanes, with plenty of friendly competition to see whose design would travel the furthest. They also learned about the phonetic alphabet, discovering how pilots and air traffic controllers communicate clearly and accurately over the radio, and got to see some aircraft land and take-off from the Club's balcony. The Cubs asked some excellent questions and showed great enthusiasm for all aspects of aviation.

It was a fantastic opportunity to share our passion for flying with the next generation, and we hope the visit has inspired some future pilots, engineers, and aviation enthusiasts. If any of our Club members are part of other organisations, who may wish for similar visits, please contact Jonathan Vibert - jv@jerseyaeroclub.com



Update ... by *Eveline Hawkin*

Wonderful news this month ... after years in the waiting, our hand control unit is being fitted in G-EHLX, Skywalker's recently purchased PA28. The aircraft is in Goodwood for maintenance at the moment but as soon as it get back to Jersey, we are planning to bring Aerobility's Instructor Mike Owen to come over to familiarise Skywalker's instructors.

So, our current lower limb students will be able to resume flying and of course, we look forward to seeing new students up in the air!

Planning is well on the way for our joint event with Wetwheels on Sunday 5th July. We are so lucky to have, yet again, wonderful pilots covering all 20 flights. The day will start with breakfast at the Aero Club before the groups are split so that whilst some are flying, the others will be sailing on the Wetwheels vessel and vice versa in the afternoon.

So, fingers crossed for the weather, it should be a fun day!

If you are interested in either flying for Helping Wings and helping on the ground, contact us on hello@helpingwingsjersey.org

Your story - The international gathering of Chipmunk... by Vin Cadigan

I visited Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green on Thursday 21st of May. They had warned me there was an event on and to expect a busy circuit. I managed to squeeze in with a "land after" and found a horde of Chipmunks there celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the first DHC-1 flight on 22nd May 1946.

I counted 14 chipmunks by the time I left and apparently G-APLO was due in from Seppe in the Netherlands, (now renamed Breda.)



Call Sign	Time	From
ODWFB DHC1	14:00	Flanders
SEXKU DHC1	14:00	Boras
FAZNS DHC1	15:00	Welsbourne
FAZUU DHC1	15:00	Arcachon
GJKHT R22	15:00	Shebden
FAZUR DHC1	15:01	Le Touquet
FAZGP DHC1	16:00	Blois Le Breuil
FAZOH DHC1	16:30	Headcorn
OOPMS DHC1	16:30	Leopoldsborg
GJJPK A100	17:00	Private Landing St
GBXDG DHC1	18:00	Private Landing St
LHC11 ASSS	18:00	Birmingham



On the way over there I had heard a formation of 5 Turbulents "Turbulent Team" reporting mid channel on their way to France who were told to look out for a formation of chipmunks heading in the opposite direction at a similar height.



Halfpenny Green is in the middle of major improvements and only one of the 4 runways is currently open. The restaurant beneath the control tower has been completely refurbished and the food is top notch as is the friendly service.

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



OO-LMZ Piper PA.18-95 Super Cub
on 28 September 1973 Hasselt-Kiewit



OO-SEZ Cessna 150
on 29 September 1973 Grimbergen



OO-ACB Piper J.3C-65 Cub
on 29 September 1973 Grimbergen



LN-NPJ Auster
on 5 July 1986 Cranfield



OO-DAF Noorduyn AT-16D Harvard IIB
on 13 June 1987 Biggin Hill



OO-99 Monnet Sonerai III
on 3 July 1987 Cranfield.

Plane spotter's corner ... continued



OO-JUS Naval Aircraft Factory N3N-3
on 6 June 1992 La Ferte Alais.jpg



OK-EOC Zlin Z.43
on 19 June 1992 Jihlava



OK-8900 LET L.13SW Vivat
on 18 June 1992 Kunovic



OO-103 Rutan Vari-Eze
on 22 Julv 1993 Moulins



VH-SCW Ryan SCW
on 07 July 2017 Duxford



OY-DEZ DH.87B Hornet Moth
on 11 August 2019 Stauning

and finally ...

Do you have a story or tip to share?

We'd love to feature it in the newsletter. Email me at evelinehawkin@gmail.com

Anything else regarding the club, please email the committee at - committee@jerseyacroclub.com