



Welcome to the **JERSEY AERO CLUB**

May 2026 members newsletter

Editor - Eveline Hawkin

FOR YOUR DIARY ...

Cherbourg Fly-in - 1st & 2nd May



Skywalker Jersey May 2026 update ... by Lee McConnell

Flying Programme

Following a busy April, G-JJER continues to be popular, logging a fantastic number of hours. We are delighted to announce that we have secured our second PA28-181 Archer II, G-EHLX. Many of you may recognise her, as she was a staple at the Jersey Aero Club in years past. Huge thanks go to Glen Heavens for delivering her back to Jersey; we are currently finalising documentation and onboarding, with plans to have her integrated into the flying school fleet by the first week of May while G-JJER undergoes maintenance in Bournemouth. Finally, we would like to extend a massive congratulations to Gracie Meade for successfully completing her PPL— a wonderful achievement!

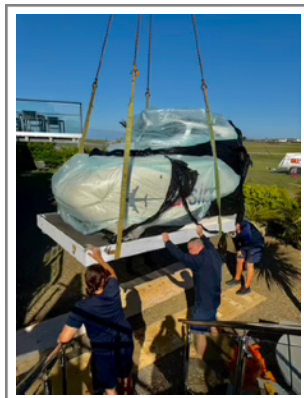
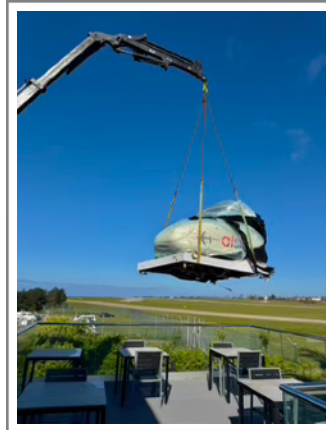


Handling / FBO

As we head into the summer season, we are seeing a significant and exciting increase in general aviation (GA) traffic. We recently had a very busy desk as we welcomed 15 aircraft from the Rochester Flight School, and we continue to see a diverse range of visitors, including recent notable arrivals of the Visionjet. Regarding fuel, as anticipated, Avgas prices have risen this May due to ongoing volatility in the Gulf. Please ensure you check the current pricing at the flying desk before your next flight.

Other Activities / Business

The AI Sim AL250 simulator has safely arrived on the island! We owe a special thanks to the White Company in Jersey for their expert handling; it was quite a spectacle to watch the three-piece unit being craned over the balcony and into its new home. It is a perfect fit, and we are now eagerly awaiting the technicians who will complete the final installation at the end of May. We look forward to getting you all airborne in the new simulator very soon.



Committee updates ... by Jonathan Vibert - Club Manager

Annual General Meeting

Following our Annual General Meeting on 29 April 2026, members of the Jersey Aero Club were provided with a comprehensive update on the Club's progress, current projects, and plans for the year ahead by Chairman, Nigel Hall and the Executive Committee. The meeting reflected both the strength of the Club today, the progress over the past 5 years, and the ambition driving it forward.

The Executive Committee reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a financially sustainable, transparent, and forward-looking Club. With a clear focus on supporting flight training, improving facilities, and growing membership, the Club continues to balance tradition with modernisation.

Chairman Nigel Hall and the Committee highlighted the importance of member engagement and support, particularly as the Club continues to explore new income streams and investment opportunities.

Key Developments and Improvements

The past year has seen significant upgrades across the Club's facilities:

- Completion of the balcony refurbishment, including new glass balustrades and furniture
- Hangar improvements, including upgraded doors and lighting
- Installation of ANPR cameras to the existing barrier system to automate entry
- Creation of a dedicated ALSIM 200 flight simulator room, expanding training capability
- Conversion of underutilised spaces into functional meeting and training areas
- Ongoing progress toward solar panel installation, supporting sustainability goals and to provide extra rental income which will be 100% reinvested in Club and Airside facilities
- Continued enhancements to the café and member areas

These projects reflect a consistent effort to improve both the member experience and operational efficiency.

Membership Growth and Future Opportunities

Looking ahead, the Club is focused on:

- Attracting new individual and corporate members
- Developing youth engagement, including links with Air Cadets
- Exploring the introduction of flying scholarships
- Enhancing the Club's visibility within the wider aviation community

The Committee acknowledged that membership fees may need periodic review to support ongoing investment in facilities and services, and the simulator offering will form part of that.

Infrastructure and Strategic Projects

Several important projects and discussions are underway, with updates given to the meeting on:

- Proposed development of additional hangars and improved grass parking with matting systems
- Continued dialogue with Ports of Jersey regarding the master plan, with positive indications that general aviation will remain at its current location
- Engagement with the Strive Hotel project, which could provide valuable long-term income and benefits, subject to member support
- Exploration of improved airside infrastructure, including fuel facilities and parking solutions

These initiatives aim to strengthen the Club's long-term position while improving safety, usability, and revenue potential.

Financial and Operational Outlook

The Club Treasurer provided financial statements, and confirmed the Club remains financially stable, with a clear emphasis on reinvesting income into aviation activities and facilities. Transparency continues to be a guiding principle, with members encouraged to stay informed and involved.

The AGM also recognised the vital contributions of staff and volunteers, whose efforts ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the Club.

Thanks from the Chairman

The Club extends its sincere thanks to all those whose time, expertise, and commitment keep operations running smoothly and continue to drive the Club forward.

Appreciation went to **Sonia Marinello**, whose work as Honorary Secretary ensures the Club remains organised, compliant, and transparent for members. **Andrew Renouf** was recognised for his ongoing efforts overseeing improvements and maintenance that enhance the Club's facilities. Thanks are also due to **Paul Holroyd** for his broad remit across the club's Hangar, engineering partnership, and Cafe.

The Chair extended his thanks to **Offshore Group** for their role as Treasurer, providing essential financial oversight, and to **Matt Palmer** for his steady guidance on governance and general support. **Darrall Pullen** is thanked for his leadership in IT and data protection, including advancing the Club's technical capabilities with the new simulator.

The Club also recognises **Jasmine Clarke** for her support and organisation of flying events, and **Jonathan Vibert** for his continuing valuable contribution as Club Manager, supporting the Club's day-to-day operation and business development.

Beyond the Executive Committee, thanks go to **Mike Pownal** for coordinating social events that strengthen the Club's community spirit, and to **Mary Frawley** for her work as Project Consultant, helping to deliver key initiatives.

Finally, special recognition is given to **Fatima Goncalves**, whose management of the Club bar provides a welcoming environment for members and guests alike.

Together, their combined efforts play a vital role in supporting the Club's operations, enhancing the member experience, and shaping its future.

A Collective Effort

The Executive Committee were re-elected for another year, with Martyn Crespel joining the Committee as a link for regular updates between the Flight Training School and the Club.

The success of the Jersey Aero Club is built on the dedication of its members, staff, and Executive Committee. As the Club moves into 2026/27, there is a shared sense of momentum—balancing careful stewardship with exciting new opportunities.

Members are encouraged to stay engaged, provide feedback, and continue supporting the Club as it evolves.

Also by Jonathan Vibert ... **Capturing and sharing tales of Jersey's Aviation History**

Photos: Courtesy of Life Member, Nigel Vibert

Jersey has a rich and fascinating aviation heritage—one that continues to capture the imagination of enthusiasts, historians, and curious islanders alike. If you haven't yet discovered the [Jersey Aviation Archive](#) on Facebook, now is the perfect time to take a look - www.facebook.com/groups/jerseyaviation

This growing online community is dedicated to preserving and sharing the story of aviation in Jersey, from its earliest pioneering flights to the modern era. Through rare photographs, personal recollections, historical documents, and lively discussion, the group brings the island's aviation past vividly to life. Whether it's memories of pre-war activities on (and off) the beach, the evolution of Jersey Airport, or stories of the people who shaped local aviation, there is always something new to explore.

Group members are encouraged to contribute their own photos, stories, and knowledge—helping to build a shared record that might otherwise be lost over time. It's not just about looking back; it's about connecting generations and keeping these stories alive. As the Aero Club enters its 75th year of promoting General Aviation on the island, I am keen to capture what photos, stories and memories we have as events continue to be planned for this year.



Jersey International Air Rally & Red Arrow in the club hangar

“Achtung - SPITFIRE!!” ... by Jonathan Vibert

Photo: Courtesy of John Dibbs

As we see the Summer season commence, with longer day light hours, we begin to welcome back a number of activities at the Club.

Members are in for a truly special experience this May as Spitfires.com brings its iconic aircraft back to Jersey at the end of the month, offering a rare opportunity to see one of aviation's most legendary machines up close and to hear the merlin engine roar.

The arrival of the Supermarine Spitfire is always something to behold. Synonymous with skill, innovation, and history, the Spitfire remains one of the most celebrated aircraft ever built—an enduring symbol of British aviation heritage and engineering excellence. This year sees the 90th anniversary of the aircraft's first flight, and we hope to bring members an exclusive talk on this later in the year.



Exclusive Member Offer:

To mark the occasion, members have the opportunity to own a piece of that remarkable journey. The **Silver Spitfire DVD** and **commemorative book**—detailing the global adventure—are available to order on the [Spitfires.com](https://www.spitfires.com) website using an exclusive code.

Discount Code for members is '**JERSEYSS**', and orders will be made available for members to collect from the Club House. For further information, please email Jonathan Vibert on jv@jerseyaeroclub.com

These make excellent keepsakes or gifts, capturing the spirit of adventure and determination that defines the Spitfire legacy.



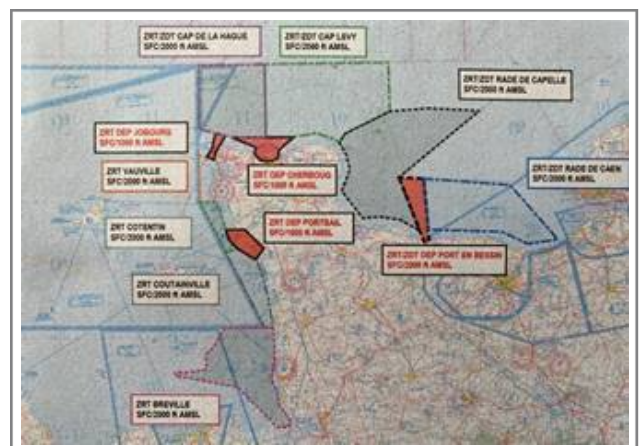
Update ... from Richard Hawkin

Drone ZRTs over the French coast

The French Navy will be conducting drone operations around the Normandy coastline starting on the 27th April this year through to 26th April 2027

Some of the areas are adjacent to Channel Islands airspace so are worthy of particular attention. Activity will be notified by NOTAM with 24 hours notice.

Full details can be viewed by clicking the link below:





Update ... by *Eveline Hawkin*

Our first event of the year was on Sunday 12th April. We were blessed with perfect weather which allowed our volunteer pilots to complete all 25 booked flights.

The club room was rather busy as we had over 60 guests to look after! However, the whole day went very smoothly and we had nothing but smiles by the end of the day.

Of course, those events need a lot of pre-planning but we are extremely lucky to operator solely through the kindness of volunteers who give their time so generously.

Two more events to look forward to ...

Sunday 5th July - Our joint event with Wetwheels when all our guests have a chance to fly and sail.

Sunday 20th September - Our traditional day for young children aged 5 to 12.

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



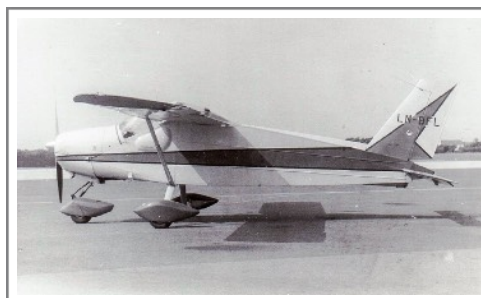
Pictures left is Bray Langlois, the 2026 HW flying award winner sponsored by PoJ.

Bray has now booked his first flight with Skywalker Flight Training and we look forward to see him up in the air!

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



OO-DEF Cessna 150C
Jersey 1960's



LN-BFL Malmo MFI 9B
July 1966 Jersey



OO-DAS Piper PA.18-95 Super Cub
on 29 September 1973 Grimbergen



OO-BMJ MS.893A-180 Commodore
on 29 September 1973 Ghent



OH-VKU Lockheed 18-56 Lodestar
on 21 August 1985 Helsinki Aviation Museum



OO-GWB Stampe-Vertongen SV.4B
on 4 July 1987 Cranfield



OO-70 Monnet Monerai P
on 1 August 1987 Brienne Le Chateau

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



LN-KAY DH.82A Tiger Moth
on 19 August 1989 Duxford



00-96 Mignet HM.293A Pou du Ciel
on 4 July 1997 Cranfield



LN-WND Douglas DC-3
on 4 June 2014 Cherbourg



LN-) 205 LN-OAU Fleet PT-26B Cornell III
on 13 August 2019 Gardermoen



ES-XAB Mil 2
on 17 August 2019 Gothenborg-Save



3-IN 640 AMD Mirage 2000D
on 24 April 26 Jersey

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@jerseyaeroclub.com