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YORKSHIRE AIR NEWS

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EDITORIAL

One of my brief appearances in this form. The editor has been banished to a new place of work at Masham, this may involve living out for the weekdays. While I regret it may possibly delay the production of YAN by a few days it should mean more information as we now have a Masham correspondent. Any correspondence should continue to be sent to my home address.

BRANCH NOTICES.

- 1) The Tees-side trip was well attended but we still do not have sufficient numbers to make it a roaring success.
- 2) The Southend Trip is looking grim with only 10 firm bookings, we need another 15 to make it worthwhile. This trip is on the 27th October, a Saturday. Depart the aero club Yeadon at 07.00 hrs and Leeds, Wellington St. Bus Station at 07.00. We will be stopping off at Luton on the way. The cost is £2.25 to members and £2.50 to non-members, which is about £1 less than comparable trips advertised by other similar organisations. Deposits of 50p to the editor to secure a place.
- 3) Branch meeting on Sunday 28th October at 15.00 (3.p.m.) at the Yorkshire Aeroplane Club, Yeadon airport (courtesy of the directors). We are being shown a collection of slides of aircraft preserved in museums in America taken by John Allen on a recent trip over there. There are many surprises among the slides. Everyone welcome.
- 4) Annual General Meeting November 25th.

SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING The committee were as enthusiastic as ever (even if no-one else in the branch is) and discussed a number of topics as follows: Future coach trips to be run would probably include several to the Shuttleworth Collection on flying days in 1974, a trip to Hawker Siddeley at Hatfield, the Farnborough Air Show, - Several of the dates for Branch meetings next year have been changed from the last Sunday in the month to avoid clashing with the Shuttleworth Displays. - - The stand at Finningley had a disappointing sale but it was important that the branch maintained a presence here - - Plans for a Treasure Hunt to be held next year were agreed - - The price of YAN next year was discussed. - - It was agreed to hold a Fancy Dress Ball again next year.

NEWS

Severn Airways has been granted a licence to operate Trislanders from Bristol to Leeds/Bradford from January 1974 at a frequency of 10 times a week. There has been a number of bomb scares at LBA recently. One which was personally witnessed was on the 15th September when a call was received that there was a bomb in the terminal building. The building was cleared and searched. The ATC had to operate from a Land Rover parked on the Southern Taxiway, Flight Planning was parked alongside in another van! Landing aircraft and passengers were kept well away from the terminal area and apron. Needless to say nothing was found.

The Flying Flea being built by three branch members is still progressing well, the fuselage is complete and the rudder is almost finished, a start will be made on the wings soon. The group is in need of suitable premises for construction as the existing premises are too short to build the wings, if anyone knows of any suitable (and cheap) space under cover please let the editor know. The completed aircraft is to be registered G-APPI, if anyone wants to kop it, and will be painted medium blue with silver wings. The Yorkshire Post has asked if the aircraft can be displayed in their public space when finished.

ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES.

The British Aircraft Preservation Council has expressed its concern at the uncontrolled growth of aircraft wreck recovery, in many cases without adequate regard to safety, with little concern for the rights of landowners, and sometimes with lack of respect for human remains. The Council agreed urgently to form a sub-committee to consult with other organisations regarding means of drawing up and enforcing a code of conduct for this field. (Editor- Any members of this branch should bear this in mind if they go hunting after wrecks).

FOR SALE. Prinz Galaxy 400mm pre-set lens, hardly used in mint condition, will take £10. Apply to the editor.

'AN RAF STATION MAKES SCHOOL FRIENDS' by Brian Martin.

In mid 1972 a model club was formed at New Park School and attendance on a Thursday evening soon grew to thirty. Of course a majority of the boys (and girls) involved themselves with aeroplane modelling and eventually linked with the local army camp's modelling club.

As a special treat I arranged a day visit to RAF Topcliffe on Thursday 26th April, 1973 the day was to arrive very quickly and at 9.15 a.m. we set off to the camp. On our arrival at Topcliffe we drew up outside the guardroom and were given previously organised sheets giving the various places we were to visit during the day. Working in four groups we visited the airloadmasters training school, radar sections, combat and survival rooms, air engineers block, control tower and museum, Certainly the highlights were the museum, emergency services and tower which was engaged in trying to find a lost Beaver aircraft. In the museum the model club members were shown the inside of a Varsity, Argosy and Shackleton. The Varsity will be well known to readers as it is always used at Topcliffe as a simulated 'chocked up' landing system on open days. The Argosy seemed huge inside and certainly surprised us all with its relatively small crew deck.

The Shackleton caused a great stir as we had previously written to Kinloss asking information so that we could build our own 'Magic Roundabout Squadron'. Such was our interest in the 'Shack' that we were later presented with a control column. This is now engraved with model competition winners names. We were also presented with a 'fastings' prop blade which now stands with pride in our school hall.

The culmination of our visit was the address by Gp. Capt. Wm.C.Milne in the camp theatre. He talked for some time with the group boys and was presented with a model Shackleton which had been made for him by the boys.

After several letters the model club decided to invite Gp.Capt. Milne to our model competition prize giving. He arrived with Flying Officer Bernard Thompson and Flt.Lt.Rodger Morgan who stumbled in with our prop blade and control column. He was full of admiration for our efforts to help with Lanc NX611 this of course was not to be but the efforts were not in vain. Michael Allen kept the club in touch throughout the 'battle' and gave the whole school a great interest.

Only today has our link with Topcliffe been broken. At 14.06 hrs. at a height of approx. 12000-15000 ft. a flight of 4 Varsity aircraft flew over our school, the children were out in force to wave a goodbye. Group Capt.Milne (navigator) who was in the leading plane had the wings dipped and landing light on as they flew to their new base at Finningley. The atmosphere in the school yard with three classes formed in an N.P. sign for our school's initials and some 200 children looking up in amazement was beyond description. I am sure that the experience will remain with the children for the rest of their lives. Certainly I feel that not only has the interest in aviation grown throughout the children and staff but my own model-making hobby has gained new life. We hope in the future to visit other RAF Stations. (Editor- good to see young children's interest being encouraged in aviation).

