



Free flying for women

The British Women Pilots' Association has secured more than 50 free trial lessons for women across the UK in a campaign to get more women flying.

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations the BWPA has persuaded flight training organisations nationwide to offer free trial lessons for women, which it will distribute by running a national competition. Lessons will be in fixed wing aircraft, helicopters, microlights and gliders. Winners will be awarded a lesson as close to their homes as is possible.

Says Tricia Nelmes, BWPA chairman and a flying instructor for more than 20 years: "Studies have shown that one of the reasons women do not enter aviation as a career is that they do not even consider it as a possible profession. We want to give women the opportunity to experience flying and highlight the fact that a career in aviation is just as possible for women as it is for men."

"This promotion is not only aimed at women who wish to fly for a living. We also aim to offer the opportunity to try flying to women

who would like to be recreational pilots."

Despite the fact that the first woman in the UK won her licence in 1911, today only 6% of licensed pilots in the UK are female, with less than 3% flying professionally.

Women over 18 who wish to enter the competition should log on to www.bwpa.co.uk and download the entry form, which consists of a simple question and a tie-breaker. Deadline for entries is October 31st.

Scholarship for Vikki

Vikki Bingham, from Glasgow, has won a national scholarship to train as a pilot at AOPA corporate member Aviation South West.

Vikki, 22, is already an accomplished parachute instructor but has set her sights on a career as a commercial airline pilot. She beat some 200 other applicants to win the scholarship at Aviation South West's training school at Exeter.

James Pyne, director of Aviation South

West, says: "We were delighted at the quality of all the applicants, and especially happy to award the scholarship to Vikki. Exeter Airport is probably one of the finest sites in the country for professional pilot training and we hope she will have a happy and successful time with us."



George Done, chairman of AOPA and chair of the finalists panel, congratulates Vikki on her award

Dying to fly

Only lumberjacks are as likely as pilots to get killed on the job, according to a report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Both professions had a fatality rate of 92.4 per 100,000 workers for 2004, the report said, ranking above fisheries workers (86.4 per 100,000), and structural iron and steel workers (47 per 100,000). A total of 109 pilots died on the job in the United States. Of those, 22 were flight crew for airlines and 87 were commercial pilots.

Canberra bows out



Canberra T.4 WJ874 touches down for the last time

After nearly 51 years of service (nearly two thirds of the existence of the RAF) the last Canberra T.4 – WJ874 – retired at RAF Marham on September 1st after a farewell tour of several airfields that played a part in Canberra history – Bassingbourn, Wyton, Cottesmore, Salmesbury and Warton. Crew for the final flight were pilot Sqn Ldr Terry Cairns, who at 60 is possibly the world's oldest combat pilot, navigator Wing Commander Clive Mitchell (CO of the squadron) and Air Vice-Marshal Andy White (AOC No.3 Group). 39 Squadron's remaining PR.9 Canberras will continue to serve for a little under a year, but with no further need for currency or conversion training, the T.4 has bowed out first. Painted to represent the prototype Canberra, VN799, WJ874 is now in the hands of the MoD's Disposal Services Agency and will probably be sold to highest bidder. – *Damien Burke*

Hangarage available

Some issues back General Aviation conducted a survey of the availability of hangarage around the country, and the results were depressing. But Plymouth Airport currently has ample space at reasonable rates.

Hangar space became available in March 2005 but has not been widely advertised, and so far there are only four aircraft in the hangar, which is stormproof and watertight.

Plymouth is relatively GA-friendly and has long opening hours – 0630-2200 local – customs, a sensible policy on security and two tarmac runways, one of which has an ILS. Interested parties should contact the airport manager Terry Linge on 01752 515336.

JAA in South Africa

English pilot Vicky Buxton has joined Lanseria Flight Centre in Johannesburg as a JAA examiner, making the school the only one in South Africa able to offer full conversions from South African to European licences.

Vicky has logged over 6,000 instructional hours, 5,000 commercial hours and more than 3,000 examining hours and holds an ATPL, QFI Rating and JAA examiner rating allowing her to conduct the GFT, IR, CIT, TR, PFIR and CFIR.

She will be undertaking JAA licence



Examiner Vicky Buxton with Lanseria's Beech Duchess

examinations and renewals for the PPL and CPL, single- and multi-engine ATPL, IR and instructor ratings. For the JAA PPL will pay the equivalent of £25 each for the seven theory exams, with a flight test at £175 and a partial re-test at £100.

Lanseria has a team of 15 flying and ground school instructors and four examiners who can call on a range of Beech, Cessna and Piper aircraft in a 21-strong fixed-wing fleet, and a Robinson R22 for rotary PPL training.

Born in England, Vicky holds an MBA degree from Strathclyde University and spends part of the year working for the CAA in the UK. ■

Safety evenings

The venues for many of the CAA's safety evenings to be held this winter have been confirmed. If you haven't been to one, it's well worth making the effort – there's statistical evidence that pilots who attend these evenings (and there have been thousands down the years) have a significantly lower accident rate than those who do not, and many insurers look kindly on those with a safety evening stamp in their log book. As before, the evenings will be presented by David Cockburn. Venues and contacts are:

September

| | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 29 | Seething | Steven Pavey 01508 550453 |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------|

October

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 | Sherburn in Elmet | John Cross 01977 682674 |
| 6 | Glasgow | Gary Anderson 01418 894565 |
| 17 | Teesside | Alan Wrigley 01325 332855 |
| 18 | Dundee | George Leckie 01382 644372 |
| 19 | Wick | Andrew Bruce 01955 602201 |

November

| | | |
|----|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Old Sarum | Megan Thornton 01722 322525 |
| 7 | Henlow | Joe Wright 01462 851936 |
| 8 | Gloucestershire | Harry Hopkins 01242 260242 |
| 28 | Yeovilton | Michael Ryan 07785 294108 |
| 29 | Cardiff | Simon Robinson 01446 710000 |
| 30 | Haverfordwest | Gwyndaff Williams 01437 760822 |

December

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 | Peterborough Sibson | Lucy Kimbell 01832 280289 |
| 7 | Southend | Philip Nasskau 01702 546420 |
| 8 | Fairoaks | Alistair Wang 01276 858075 |
| 12 | Gamston | John Walker 01777 838521 |
| 13 | Wellesbourne | Mike Littler 01789 842000 |

French microlight pilot Christian Moullec flies with a group of lesser white-fronted geese at Shoreham Airshow in September. Environmentalist Moullec raised the geese in an endangered species project in Sweden and trained them to think that his aircraft is their leader. Flying his microlight, he was able to guide them along a safe migration route from Sweden to protected winter quarters on Bislich Island on the Lower Rhine. Alumni of Moullec's flying school are now passing their skills on to a new generation. As airshow organisers may note with satisfaction, they're probably the only fliers who are happy to display for chickenfeed. Photo: Roy Harford



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