



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**
PRESTWICK BRANCH

**Newsletter
December 2019**

100th Edition



Merry Christmas



Welcome to the 100th edition of the Prestwick Branch Newsletter. If you had said to me in 2007 that I would still be doing this twelve and a half years later, I would probably have laughed at you. Yet here I am, still typing away. Will I still be doing so at the 200th edition? Well, that depends largely on the support I get from the membership in terms of content. I will do my best. For those who don't remember it, here is the front page from the first edition.

The editorial in the last two editions mentioned the demands being made on the Branch to support STEM events. I think that the rush is now just about over. Unfortunately I was unable to support the Stewarton event as intimated in the last editorial, but other than that I think we met all of our commitments. Ian Adams has submitted a brief report of the UWS event overleaf to give a flavour of what is required. Please consider volunteering next time we ask.

I thoroughly enjoyed last month's talk from Rolls-Royce on the history, operation and maintenance of their Spitfire. The Branch learned a lot about using a different venue too. This month's subject takes us into the world of civil aviation history with Tony Merton-Jones describing British Independent Airlines of the Fifties and Sixties. Welcome Tony. I hope you enjoy your time with us.

It wouldn't be Christmas without a crossword in the newsletter, and this year is no exception. Please indulge me and submit a solution. I've tried not to make it too difficult - honest!

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2020.

Dave



Prestwick Retrospective



For the 100th edition of the newsletter, I wanted something special for the 'Prestwick Retrospective' slot. At just the right moment, this lovely image of a Douglas C-124A Globemaster II of the United States Air Force was posted on the 'Memories of Prestwick Airport' Facebook Page. The photograph was taken on 13th August 1958 and shows 52-992. The mission marks are penguins, so the aircraft has presumably made quite a few trips down to the Antarctic. It is quite amazing how close the boys have managed to get to the aircraft - are they current members of the Branch?

(Picture – taken by Jim Cain and published courtesy of David Cain)



STEM Learners' Event

Ian Adams

The Prestwick Branch was represented at a four-day STEM Learners' Event that was held in the Ayr Campus of the UWS. The event was organised by South Ayrshire Council and RAISE (Raising Inspiration in Science Education). Our stand was manned by seven volunteers (John Wragg, Rod Winhall, Giorgio Bindoni, Christine Richardson, Hugh Haddow, Quentin Wilson and Ian Adams) and we all agreed that it was a worthwhile exercise. The 3rd year secondary school students came from all over Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. There were about a dozen exhibitors and we, of course, concentrated on Aerospace subjects. The stands were positioned in the three-storey high atrium of the building so that gave us scope to launch a hot-air balloon, small parachutes and paper aeroplanes to attract visitors to the stand. The flight simulator and rolling video show were good attractions. On the first day, Giorgio earned brownie points for us by delivering four consecutive talks while standing in for an absent keynote speaker.



*Not at UWS, but Giorgio earning even more brownie points describing 'How Helicopters Fly' to students at Kyle Academy.
(Picture – Kyle Academy via Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce)*

Additional copies of this edition can be downloaded from www.raesprestwick.org.uk



Reluctant Hero – God ‘Elp All of Us!

David Lacey

Four complete Vickers Vimy aircraft exist in the world. Two of these – at Brooklands and Hendon - are ‘modern’ replicas. The best known is probably the original one displayed in the Science Museum at South Kensington which made the first successful crossing of the North Atlantic. There is, however, one other. It is not displayed in the UK but is one of the most significant and least known preserved aircraft in the world.

On 12th November 1919, pilot Ross Smith, his brother Keith and mechanics Wally Shiers and Jim Bennett took off from Hounslow bound for Australia in Vickers Vimy, G-EAOU. To qualify for the £10000 prize, they had to arrive in Australia within 30 days – no wonder they christened the aircraft ‘God ‘Elp All of Us’. They made it to Darwin within the allotted time – just, but it took them even longer to cross the continent. Several books such as ‘Anzac Aviator’ by Michael Molkentin and ‘The Greatest Flight’ by Peter McMillan give detailed accounts of their adventures.

G-EAOU was preserved at various locations in Australia before eventually arriving at the Smith’s hometown of Adelaide. In 1958, the aircraft was placed in its own, purpose-built building at Adelaide Airport – and there it remains, for now. It is a few hundred yards walk from the terminal and you can peer at the aircraft through glass, but you can’t go in. It is a strange, and controversial arrangement.

Things are about to change though. Adelaide Airport is in the middle of a major development programme and have no intention of losing ‘their’ Vimy. During the next two years G-EAOU will be removed from its home of over 60 years and will be placed in a much more publicly accessible location within the new terminal. Until she is released from her confinement though, we will have to make do with views such as these.





BA Humbug!

David Lacey



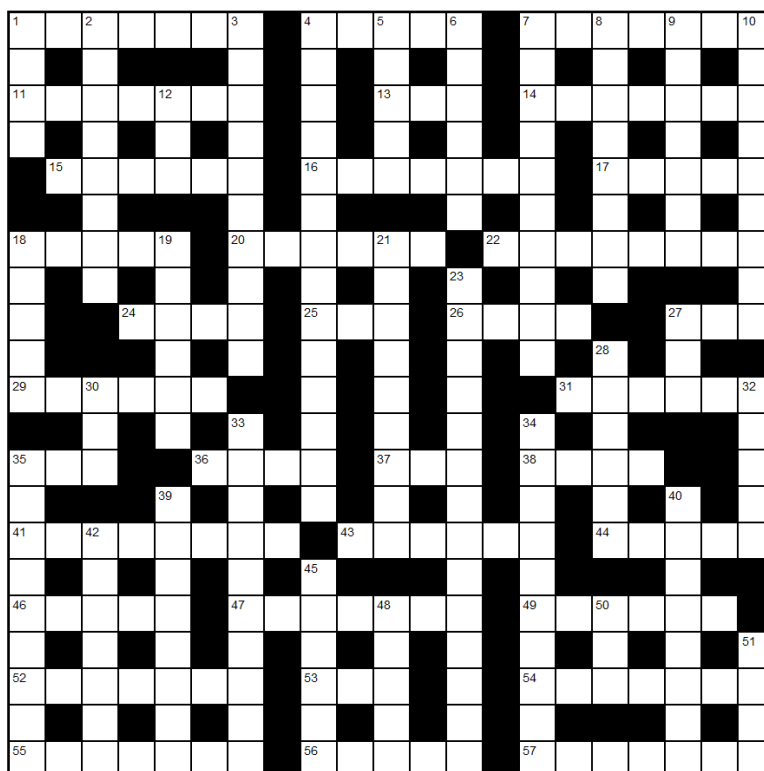
The annual antidote to too much Xmas pudding! Prizes on offer are a flight in Piper Super Cub, G-BIID or a £20 book token. Completed grids should be annotated with your name and sent to the author at the following address:

**D A Lacey,
68 Back o Hill
Crosslee
Renfrewshire
PA6 7LE**

The winner will be announced, and the solution published in the February newsletter. Good luck!

ACROSS

- 1 and 7 ACROSS. The theme of this crossword - a clue is in the title. (7,7)
- 4 One of Santa's reindeer; ground-breaking airliner introduced into service by 1 DOWN. (5)
- 7 See 1 ACROSS and 2 DOWN
- 11 You may need this if your crossword is giving you a headache. (7)
- 13 Forty-one. (3)
- 14 1960s hairdo or the original terminal building at Gatwick. (7)
- 15 Spanner. (6)
- 16 Archaeological feature; towering cloud losing a hundred but gaining time. (7)
- 17 Ayr-based bus and airline magnate. (5)
- 18 Torpedo bomber from Blackburn or Sea Harrier by the thousand. (5)
- 20 41 ACROSS was faster than this apparently. (6)
- 22 Italian squid. (8)
- 24 Do you buy structural wing components from this supermarket? (4)
- 25 The currency of Australia (abbrev.) (3)
- 26 'W' configured engine from Napier used in some Schneider Trophy aircraft. (4)
- 27 Young person, or young goat! (3)
- 29 Metal worth 5 cents. (6)
- 31 See 49 ACROSS.
- 35 One of the carriers which combined to form 1 ACROSS 7 ACROSS. (1,1,1)
- 36 Ernest ____, author of 'Fate is the Hunter' and many others. (4)
- 37 See 27 DOWN.
- 38 Pre-war light aircraft from Miles or a different aircraft altogether. (4)
- 41 1 ACROSS 7 ACROSS's SST. (8)
- 43 Mad fruit with the head cut off is pineapple. (6)
- 44 Type of whale that 1 ACROSS 7 ACROSS would struggle without. (5)
- 46 Spirit of Tempest. (5)
- 47 Custard's pal. (7)
- 49 and 31 ACROSS and 51 DOWN. Long-haul mainstay of 2 DOWN 7 ACROSS. (6,6,4)
- 52 It is absent minded in France to put Hollywood alien ahead of a direction indicator belonging to us. I toured about. (7)
- 53 Diamonds colloquially. (3)
- 54 Thickly applied paint (7)
- 55 35 ACROSS airliner found in putrid entity. (7)
- 56 Small airliner flown from the beach at Barra by 35 ACROSS. (5)
- 57 Tube; predecessor of the aircraft intercom. (7)



DOWN

- 1 One of the carriers which combined to form 1 ACROSS 7 ACROSS. (1,1,1,1)
- 2 and 7 ACROSS. Predecessor of 1 ACROSS 7 ACROSS. (8,7)
- 3 Very large and tragic German dirigible. (10)
- 4 Elegant triple-tailed airliners used by 1 DOWN. (14)
- 5 Unsuccessful aviation pioneer who had more success developing machine guns. (5)
- 6 and 18 DOWN. Long-haul mainstay of 1 ACROSS 7 ACROSS. (6,5)
- 7 35 ACROSS called it the Elizabethan. (10)
- 8 A variable, electrical resistor. (8)
- 9 Grand Canyon State where old military aircraft often go to die. (7)
- 10 Radio call-sign of 1 DOWN and 1 ACROSS 7 ACROSS. (9)
- 12 and 21 DOWN. Australian former CEO of 1 ACROSS 7 ACROSS. (3,9)
- 18 See 6 DOWN.
- 19 Astronomer best known for identifying the Laws of Planetary Motion. (6)
- 21 See 12 DOWN.
- 23 First to fly the Atlantic. (6,3,5)
- 27 and 37 ACROSS. Hong Kong's old airport. (3,3)
- 28 Inflate, enlarge or explode. (4,2)
- 30 The UK's aviation regulator. (1,1,1)
- 32 See 34 DOWN.
- 33 Commercial vehicle the German constructed we hear for this wealthy American family. (10)
- 34 Nickname of 1 DOWN's only turbo-prop type. (10,5)
- 35 Capital of Romania. (9)
- 39 Roll feet around to be without charge. (4-4)
- 40 Outdoors in Italy? (2,6)
- 42 One place you will find Eastleigh Airport. (7)
- 45 2-handled Scottish whiskey bowl. (6)
- 48 Middle East ruler found in Durham eerily. (5)
- 50 Aeroplane from Sopwith or Beagle. (3)
- 51 See 49 ACROSS. (4)