



## Newsletter - December 2018

Welcome to our final newsletter for 2018. In this edition we look back at some of our activities in 2018 and forward to some of what is planned for 2019. One of our major events is our Fly-In and details of the 2019 event are below, so please mark the date in your diaries.

This is also the time when membership renewals come around – you should have all received renewal notices with recent issues of our magazines and I encourage you to renew your membership promptly, to avoid any disruption in receiving magazines or access to our various other benefits, such as our Travel programme. The easiest way to renew is on-line [HERE](#).

We have listened to members who wish us to be transparent in the way the organisation is run and therefore have included summaries of the recent meetings of the Trust Board and the Executive Committee in this newsletter. We also have a working group looking at how best to organise and exploit our Archives and a summary of their first meeting is included below.

I am always open to your views & thoughts and ensure they are shared within our various management groups. Feel free to contact me [HERE](#) or post to the [Newsletter](#) thread on the Message Board.

In closing I would like to wish our members and their families a peaceful and prosperous 2019 – we look forward to your continued membership.

**Malcolm Fillmore**

Chairman

## Air-Britain Fly-In 2019

We are pleased to announce that its 2019 Air-Britain Fly-In will be taking place at **TURWESTON AERODROME** over the weekend of **22-23 June**.

We are delighted to be working in partnership for our 40th Fly-In with our hosts the [Turweston Flight Centre Ltd](#). Turweston's central location offers excellent facilities for visitors, easy access from the A43 trunk road and unrestricted airspace for pilots.

By moving to Turweston we have taken the opportunity to review our event and make some changes, while still aiming to maintain the friendly, relaxed and safe event that we have always striven to provide at our previous locations. One noticeable change will be to our entry prices, for 2019 the entrance cost will be just £5 per person per day (Children U-12's are free). Further details about the event will be published here, on our Website and Message Board in due course.

We look forward to welcoming you to Turweston in June.

Phil Kemp - Fly-In Director



Also looking forward into 2019 we can give members a sneak preview of what they can expect in the Spring 2019 issue of Aviation World.

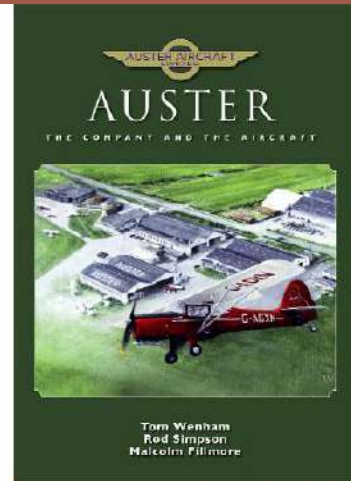
For airliner enthusiasts, Gerry Sweet presents the story of the Dassault Mercure – faithfully serving Air Inter for 20 years, but, unfortunately a Commercial Failure.

Then we describe the 40-year career of one of the world's most successful rotorcraft – the Sikorsky Black Hawk.

And for light aircraft coverage we look into the history of the Orlican Meta Sokol.

Finally Tom Singfield explores aviation on Lake Como, Noam Hartoch talk about Grumman Avengers in Israel and Bernard Martin tells all about the restoration of the Bristol Blenheim at Duxford.

Just a part of what will appear in this packed 72-page magazine.



As the current year draws to a close it is appropriate to look back over this year's publishing programme and forward to next year. Our Quick Reference (QR) registers and other Annuals continue to be popular with both members and non-members and the 2018 editions have all sold well. In addition to our usual output in this area, we published the first of a three volume set of 'Jet Airliners of the World', this one covering Airbus.

The historical books that we published in 2018 have been very successful with us having to print additional copies of 'Auster – The Company and the Aircraft'. Likewise 'Avro Lancaster to York' and 'Bomber Losses in the Middle East and Mediterranean 1943-1945' have proved good sellers and are well-liked by our customers.

Turning to 2019, our normal range of QRs and Annuals are in the course of preparation and will be available as usual in the early part of the year. For our the historical books, we aim to repeat the success of the Auster book with the publication of 'Scottish Aviation Bulldog – Trainer for the World'. This should be published in spring 2019. We intend to have a new edition of the Piper book to be titled "Piper Aircraft – Freedom of Flight" by Roger Peperell, which should be available in the summer. Other titles that are moving forward include the second volume of 'British Aircraft Specifications' covering 1950 – 1976. Two of our military experts Chris Gibson and Phil Butler, have reviewed and updated the original draft by K.J. Meekoms and E.B. Morgan. (Look out for

copies of the first edition 'The British Aircraft Specifications File - British Military and Commercial Aircraft Specifications 1920 – 1949' which appears in our Second-Hand listings from time to time).

Work is well underway on what will be the definitive book on the Vickers VC10 by John McCrickard. A book on the Bristol Beaufighter is presently being edited and should be published later in the year. Further down the track, we hope to have the second volume of 'Jet Airliners of the World'. Other projects moving forward include a detailed production history of all Auster aircraft; this will complement the first Auster book. Also planned is history of Sikorsky fixed wing aircraft, and a book dealing with the Short Skyvan / 330 / 360 / Sherpa family of aircraft.

Nigel Dingley - Book Publishing Committee

We will be continuing our successful Travel programme, with three trips available for 2019. A number of places have already been booked, so if you want to join one or more of these trips please look [HERE](#) for more details or e-mail our Travel organiser, [Dennis Clement](#).

**Aero Friedrichshafen and Frankfurt – April 6<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>**

Departing Heathrow on LH921 ETD 06.30 we spend three full days at Frankfurt, to include a ramp tour, staying at the InterCity Hotel overlooking the runways and just 10 minutes walk to the viewing area by the autobahn. Having met our German coach we route to Nurnberg via Egelsbach, Aschaffenburg and Wurzburg, staying at the Movenpick Hotel just 50 metres from the airport terminal. Then on to our regular hotel at Weingarten via Augsburg, Jesenwang and Memmingen. Three days are then spent at Aero Friedrichshafen with visits to Markdorf on each day. On the final day we drive to Munich and our evening flight LH2480 ETD 18.35 to Heathrow ETA 19.40.

**Amsterdam – June 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>**

A long weekend visit to Amsterdam, staying at the nearby IBIS hotel

**Johannesburg and surrounding area – September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 6<sup>th</sup>**

Departing Heathrow late evening we spend the following eight days at airfields in and around Johannesburg and Pretoria. Our hotel at the International Airport will have rooms overlooking the ramp with the airports two viewing areas just a shuttle bus ride away. We will visit Rand, Springs, Brakpan, Bapsfontein, Microland, Petit, Woderboom, Grand Central, Vereeniging, Parys, Swartkop, Krugersdorf, Orient, Crosswinds plus a full day at Lanseria.



## Welcome to Air-Britain

### The world's leading organisation for aviation enthusiasts!

Since 1948, Air-Britain has been bringing together spotters, historians, aviation writers, pilots and photographers - all having a passion for aircraft and aviation. Air-Britain is an international organisation with 3,000 members - many of them outside the UK. It is a registered charity (the Air-Britain Trust Ltd.) run by a board of volunteers who are elected by the members of the organisation. Despite its many activities, Air-Britain is a virtual organisation without the trappings of offices and permanent staff.

We publish two magazines - the monthly Air-Britain News and the quarterly Aviation World. We also produce authoritative books for the spotting community - and historical books on a wide range of aviation topics.

Join us here and find out about the many faces of Air-Britain and how it can bring you into the exciting world of aviation.



It is now almost a year since the updated web site was launched. In addition to being the signpost for the numerous Air-Britain activities, it is also the repository of a wide variety of research papers and articles, the bulk of which are only available to registered users; over 800 members have already registered for access to the Members Area. For members that have not yet registered please visit the [Member Signup](#) page. There is a comprehensive guide to registration on that page. Once registered you will be able to review the research areas of the site, in addition to specific pages exclusively dedicated to articles that would previously been published in Archive or Aeromilitaria magazines. The new structure enables us to publish complete articles on the web pages that would otherwise have been serialised in those magazines.

In addition to the research areas, links to Book and Magazines, ABPIC, Events, Message Board as well as this Newsletter can be easily found, so please bookmark our home page at [www.air-britain.com](http://www.air-britain.com) in your web browser.



# SHARING AVIATION IMAGES

Welcome to ABPic, the aviation photographic website run by Air-Britain.

Search our Image Library



Exact Only?



ADVANCED SEARCH

SEARCH

## ABOUT US

ABPic is the photographic library run by the Air-Britain aviation enthusiasts organisation. We accept high quality picture submissions from across the globe and all photos undergo a rigorous screening process to ensure the quality of our collection.

### BUSINESS JETS



### Editor's Choice

#### A new bird in transit to Bangladesh

A lovely shot from David Stanley, Ward of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship's new Cessna 208 whilst on a short stay in the UK.

### System Status

Have your contact details changed?

Have you a new email address?

If yes, please contact ABPIC using the Contact form to have your records updated. We can now change our records.

[AB-PIC \(www.abpic.co.uk\)](http://www.abpic.co.uk) is Air-Britain's digital online archive of aircraft images.

It is open to all to submit images for possible inclusion and it is open for all to enjoy. The AB-PIC offering of nearly 550,000 images provides a unique library of images specially submitted in recent years. Managed by Air-Britain, it is a key constituent of our ongoing charitable objectives fostering relationships and knowledge and interest in aviation.

What does the library cover? It is obviously stronger in covering more recent aircraft but a number of photographers and collectors have digitised their old prints, slides and negatives and offered them to ABPIC. It can take time to clean up an old print, but often the results can make it very worthwhile. A recent discussion on AB-IX of the Blenheim L8423 for example arose from a query from the public – you can see the photo [HERE](#).

What is ABPIC looking for? We are an online window for aviation images and we know that our images are of daily use to historians, researchers, enthusiasts and the general public. We are looking for this collection to keep on growing. We like to have images that show the complete airframe and are as well composed as possible. We like to have images that show the aircraft from

different angles and in different colours. We want images that can tell a story. One picture of a Valiant from a 1950's Battle of Britain display elicited memories from a member of the crew who recalled returning from Malta at over 40,000 ft in it! We know that a modern digital image well processed and sharp can be a very different image from a 1950 box brownie image; we try to reflect this.

Can you contribute? Please do so. The [Upload Page](#) is straightforward and offers help. There are some lookup facilities and drop-down boxes to assist. You may well find that the core details of an aircraft are already in the database. But we ask you to check that they are still relevant to your image! Who owns these images after upload? The rights remain with the photographer, ABPIC and Air-Britain are only hosting the images.

We are continuing to work on the system each year. Since the revamped website started a couple of years ago, we have spent a lot of time on ensuring that the site remains fast and reliable; for example, we have upgraded the servers and databases recently, and we have a lot of projects in the pipeline. Is it perfect yet? No, we are not, we have gaps still to be filled and projects to be undertaken but progress is being made.

It is great when images and photographers that are on ABPIC are asked for their permission for the use of images.

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of the Board and members; we are very grateful too for the ongoing daily work being done by the team of volunteer screeners.

### **Air-Britain Trust Board**

The Air-Britain Trust Board comprises twelve directors, who physically meet four times a year and have many more discussions on-line between those meetings. Brief summaries of the last two meetings are shared here.

A full Board Meeting of the Trustees was held at North Weald on **September 29<sup>th</sup> 2018**. Amongst the matters discussed were the practical aspects of setting up the proposed archive so that it could be accessible and Phil Kemp agreed to chair a special meeting in December to take this forward. We also discussed the resource issues at the Tonbridge sales and distribution warehouse. The



management accounts were reviewed and discussed. Other matters included the results of the mailshots for the e-Newsletter, the possible future siting of AB-IX, the need to further promote the use of the Message Board, further developments of the website, venues for the 2019 Fly-In and a review of the AGM plans and procedures. Reports reviewed included the Risk Register specifically on issues relating to the loss of key individuals and also a report on proposed remuneration adjustments for key workers.

The latest Board Meeting of the Trustees was held at North Weald on **December 8<sup>th</sup> 2018** and we welcomed our three newly appointed Trustees – Sue Bushell, Dave Welch and Tony Merton-Jones. The Board received and discussed a report on the potentialities of its ability to claim Gift Aid and agreed to put in place the necessary procedures following which the opportunities will be announced to members and others. A further report on co-ordination and management of our digital output was considered and passed to ExCom for full review. A detailed report of all operational matters was then considered. It was noted that there were now 486 members registered on the Message Board, which indicated a steady increase in its interest although the number of postings had not increased. The service by Yahoo Groups for AB-IX was further reviewed and options continue to be explored. The proposed 2019/20 publishing programme was reported upon; issues relating to Distribution focused on increased postal charges, particularly with certain enlarged annual publications resulting in them being in a higher rate band. It was reported that we had purchased more RAM and disk-space for AB-PIC to cope with its increasing popularity. Travel reported that three trips were scheduled for 2019. Phil Kemp reported on the plans for the 2019 Fly-In. He separately reported on the formation of the Archive sub-committee meeting which is covered elsewhere in the newsletter. Many other managerial and charitable issues were discussed and progress achieved, with useful input being made by the new Trustees.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring the ongoing operations of Air-Britain run smoothly and that decisions made by the Trust Board are enacted. Again they meet physically four times a year, with frequent on-line discussions in between.

At the Executive Committee meeting on **September 18th 2018**, the committee reviewed the ongoing activities of Air-Britain, including Sales, Membership and Finance. Details of the practical arrangements for the AGM were considered, as were the lessons learned from the 2018 Fly-In and possible future events. Details of the proposed membership rates and remuneration rates for 2019 were discussed and details agreed for consideration by the Trust Board. A review of progress

against the Trust's Charitable Objects was made and will continue to be reviewed at future meetings.

The Executive Committee meeting on **November 24<sup>th</sup> 2018** included the Draft report for the Trustees meeting scheduled for 8 December, the plans for 2019 Fly-In, a risk review threats from digital information and updates from finance, sales, publishing (books), publishing (digital), membership, travel and of data protection issues.

There were substantive discussions about the plans for the 2019 Fly-In. This led to the approval and setting of the budget, that subject to any comments from the Trust Board in June 2019. The risk review concluded there would be an ongoing monitoring of the impact of electronic data and its impact on sales. The ongoing performance and use of Yahoo (for AB-IX) would continue to be monitored, with alternative service provider options kept under consideration. Further promotion and use of the Message Board was to be actively encouraged.

It was agreed that issues related to missing content from A-B CDs and use of publishing material from of Aeromilitaria and Archive materials would be undertaken. The meeting noted that a working group will hold its first meeting on 1 December to start to develop strategy and plans for taking forward the development of an archive, which is one of Trust's charitable objects.

### **Archive Working Group**

A workshop involving 7 members, facilitated by Phil Kemp, was held on 1 December to consider developing the strategy to meet the Trust's charitable object of providing an archive facility. The aims of this first meeting were to understand the scale, risks and complexity of the task ahead and consider the strategic objectives we may wish to meet. In that context the workshop considered what the strategic outcomes the archive might provide, started to think about the potential policy decisions required e.g. what is definitely in/out of scope, the implications of reactive and proactive management of materials and implications of a digital environment. This meeting was not intended to consider **how** the strategic objectives would be achieved, as that will be something for discussion at a later meeting.

The workshop made good progress and a series of actions were agreed to take matters forward, such as understanding the current indexing systems used for image collections, consider a potential indexing architecture, exploring how to maximise the potential opportunities of systems and collections already owned by A-B, assessing the extent of uncatalogued materials already held and ensuring the legal protection of materials held. A list of issues has been captured on areas that time constraints prevented discussion at this workshop.

Two areas were identified where further help would be useful, namely from someone who has

practical experience and actively involved in an archive to learn lessons and help us avoid potential pitfalls and to get a broader perspective of the possible requirements from potential users of such an archive to assess the scale. If you would like to contribute in either of these areas or offer your input to the group please drop an email to [Phil Kemp phil.kemp@air-britain.co.uk](mailto:Phil.Kemp@air-britain.co.uk).

The next meeting of the group is expected to be in early February 2019.

### **AIR-BRITAIN NEEDS YOU!**

Air-Britain relies on a large number of volunteers to keep our organisation running and to provide the services that members have become used to. Apart from those mentioned above, we are also still looking for

- [an archivist to manage our digital images collections.](#)
- [a person to take overall co-ordination of our photo collections and explore new ways of making Air-Britain's images available to the membership.](#)
- [part-time staff and volunteers to help in our Distribution centre in Tonbridge, Kent.](#)
- [an E-Bay co-ordinator to increase sales of our second-hand stock](#)

This list is not exhaustive and if you would like to help, we would be pleased to hear from you - please contact either [Rod Simpson](#) or [Malcolm Fillmore](#).

### **The Air-Britain Second-Hand Sales List**

We regularly seek out and recover collections of aviation books and magazines from members. After keeping any that are needed for our archive, all others are available for sale via our extensive second-hand list. This is updated on a monthly basis and is published on our website [HERE](#).

Stock may be viewed at our Tonbridge distribution centre on most Monday mornings and at other times by prior arrangement. Contact [Roger Birchall](#) to arrange a visit.

This newsletter is just one element of Air-Britain's presence on the web.

Most can be accessed from our [Main Website](#) which includes links to

- our secure [Sales site](#), where Air-Britain publications can be ordered
- [ABPIC](#) - Air-Britain's online photo gallery with well over 500,000 images. Open to members and non-members, all images are screened prior to acceptance. A great way of showing and sharing your images. You, the photographer, retain all ownership rights. Members are frequently asked to share their images with others.
- The [Air-Britain Message Board](#) where members can share on a range of subjects and where we will announce new publications and other news of the organisation, often in advance of the printed magazines. A guide on how to register can be found [HERE](#)
- Members Area - containing various files, including registers and listings previously published in Archive and Aeromilitaria only available to members. You can register to access these files [HERE](#).

In addition we have

- [AB-IX](#) - Open to members only, AB-IX is run as part of Yahoogroups. An online discussion forum for aviation research topics only. Members can set their own message preferences (single or daily digest) within Yahoogroups. For more details contact the [group owner](#)
- eABN - an electronic version of Air-Britain News, available days before the printed version. Available in single issue or on subscription via [Pocketmags](#).
- The [Air-Britain Facebook](#) page - where we share details of Air-Britain happenings, as well as other selected items related to aviation.

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