



Newsletter - May 2020

Welcome to Air-Britain's May newsletter, at a time of great change in the aviation world as we all grapple with the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic. At the time of writing this, airlines are starting to make plans to restart services, but Heathrow reported passenger numbers down 97% for April, and airlines are looking to make substantial numbers of their workforces redundant.

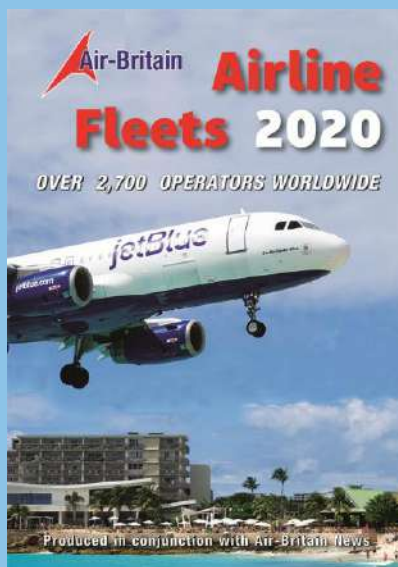
Here at Air-Britain we are doing our best to keep all our members informed. The next edition of *Aviation World* is due to appear on 1st June 2020, and the May issue of *Air-Britain News* is at the printers.

Sue Bushell
Newsletter Editor

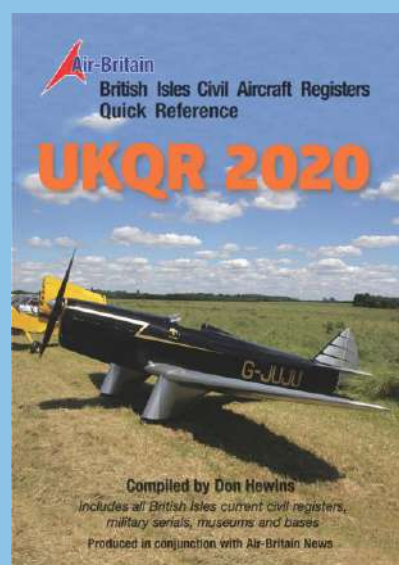
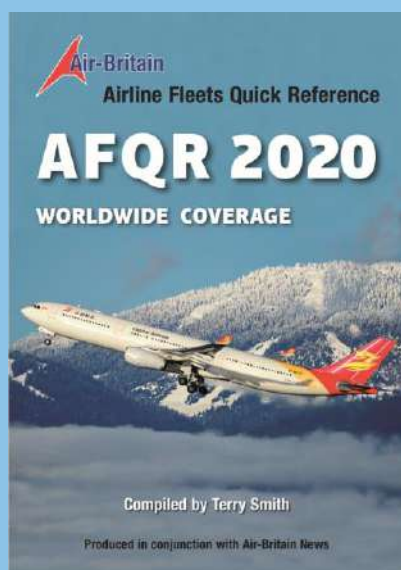
NEW BOOKS!

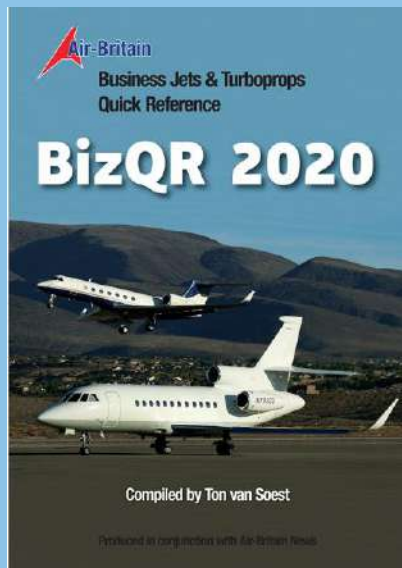
The Sales Department is working at a reduced level of staffing due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We have published several new books recently - all are already in stock and can be ordered [here](#).

Our most recent arrival is our annual [Airline Fleets](#) volume, covering 2,700 operators in 203 countries. Members £24.00; non-members £31.50.



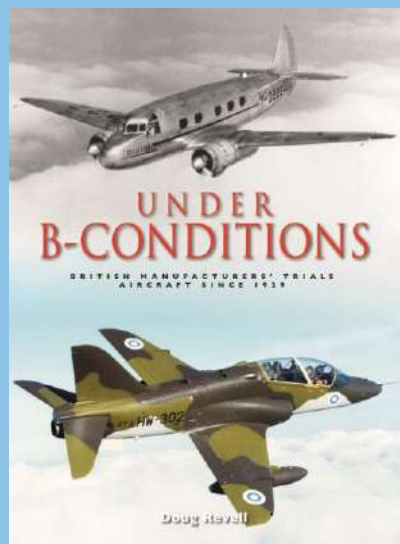
Four of our renowned Quick Reference books are also available:





- [AFQR 2020](#): Members £11.00; Non-members £13.50
- [UKQR 2020](#): Members £10.50; Non-members £13.00
- [BizQR 2020](#): Members £10.50; Non-members £13.00
- [MTQR 2020](#): Members £10.00; Non-members £12.50 - **stocks are LOW so get yours now!**

UNDER B-CONDITIONS



[B-Conditions](#) identity markings have been applied to British aircraft used for experimental purposes and flight testing since 1929. They are neither a civil registration nor a military serial number. They provide an identity to aircraft which do not yet have a Certificate of Airworthiness and are used prior to being placed on

the civil or military aircraft register.

B-Conditions covers the history of these aircraft, but is more than just a listing of individual aircraft. Nowadays B-Conditions embraces many small companies which bring vitality to the aerospace industry with activities from light aircraft to airships. The book features 240 images of B-Conditions marked aircraft, many of which have not been seen previously.

208 pages - Hardback - Members £27.50 - Non-members £39.50

COMING SOON:



- [Civil Aircraft Registers of the British Isles 2020](#): Members £25.00; Non-members £32.50 **AVAILABLE EARLY JUNE**
- [Business Jets International 2020](#): Members £25.00; Non-members £32.50 **AVAILABLE LATE JUNE**
- [European Registers Handbook 2020](#): Members £27.50; Non-members £34.95 **AVAILABLE LATE JUNE**

(Note that the individual volumes of Business Jets International and European

Registers Handbook are NOT available to buy separately)

When the books are delivered to us, we will announce this on our [Facebook](#) page and the [Message Board](#), as well as activating the purchase button on the Sales Website.

Important: Please do not ring the Sales Department with queries. Instead, where possible please contact them by email on sales@air-britain.co.uk and they will reply as soon as they are able to.

We also have a number of books covering aircraft histories and other historic subjects in preparation, fuller details of which will be shared nearer publication.

Titles include:

- 'British Aircraft Specifications' covering 1950 - 1976.
- Vickers VC10
- Bristol Beaufighter
- Bristol Fighter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have digital/IT skills that could help Air-Britain?

With Air-Britain becoming increasingly dependent on our digital presence we are looking to expand our team dealing with the running of our website and other digital platforms. People with some practical knowledge of **supporting website operations** would be preferred, but training can be provided if required.

We are looking specifically to expand the team who support the website, its content and other digital services. We need more people to help share the workload and help us keep the website up to date and secure. We are **not** looking for really **technical skills** but for individuals who are familiar with website monitoring and content management. The technical stuff we will leave to the professionals. A few points to note are:

- Your location is irrelevant, as remote working will be possible from anywhere, providing there is internet access.
- Training will be provided.
- You will be part of a team who will mutually agree what and when actions are required.

If anyone is interested or they know someone (they don't have to be AB members) who might be willing to help our charity for any of the aforementioned vacancies, please ask them to contact Phil.Kemp@air-britain.co.uk, then we can arrange a discussion at a mutually convenient time.

Digital Librarians

As part of our re-organisation of our digital files, we are looking for **Digital Librarians**, who can take responsibility for certain areas of the existing files. The role will include

- Reviewing existing Air-Britain digital files, held on various electronic sites.
- Checking with the file originators, for updated versions where relevant and for their permission to place in public area of Air-Britain website.
- Adding files to the website when appropriate permissions given.
- Reviewing website content from time to time to see if it needs refreshing.

If you are interested, or would like more details, please contact Steve.Mitchell@air-britain.co.uk



Your chance to help create a great Air-Britain book about a legendary aircraft!

For some while a small Air-Britain team has been gathering data for a book on the Curtiss C-46. It has been led by Steve Ozel, but because of work pressures he has had to stand down. We desperately need a volunteer to step into Steve's shoes and take this exciting project to fruition.

Most of all, you would need heaps of enthusiasm and drive. Members of the Publishing Committee will be at hand to provide practical advice and support.

If you would like to take on this challenge, in the first instance please send an email to C-46Project@air-britain.co.uk, if possible including a phone number.

(Photo © Don Hewins/ABPic)

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

We are no longer issuing annual membership cards. Please keep a copy of the insert that comes with your magazine (containing your address and membership number) as proof of your membership. Once the lockdown is fully rescinded, this

will apply to sales by third-party vendors who sell to Air-Britain members at discounted prices. Those of you who plan to join us at the AGM (see below) will need this information to gain entry.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The Air-Britain Annual General Meeting will be held in the new hangar at the de Havilland Aircraft Museum, Salisbury Hall, Shenley, London Colney AL2 1BU on Saturday 10th October 2020 commencing at 2.00pm. Further details and a voting form will be available nearer the date.

AIR-BRITAIN FLY-IN

Sadly, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have had to cancel our Annual Fly-In, which was scheduled for June 2020 at Turweston. Looking on the bright side, our team are already planning next year's Fly-in for the same airfield - the date for your diaries is the third weekend of June 2021.

AIR-BRITAIN TRAVEL

Unfortunately our planned trips to Friedrichshafen and Oshkosh were both cancelled due to Coronavirus, and it looks as if we may also have to cancel the planned long weekend to Düsseldorf.

THE AIR-BRITAIN SECOND-HAND SALES LIST

The second-hand book and magazine sales department has been suspended for the duration of the pandemic. However, you can download our latest sales list from

the website at https://air-britain.com/pdfs/AB_Aeromart.pdf to peruse at your leisure ready for the time when we are able to restart sales.

We have also acquired a large number of Aeromodeller magazines from the 1940s and 1950s. Since these are not what we normally seek to sell via the second-hand sales department, please contact Malcolm Fillmore directly at m.fillmore@athertonbailey.com.

Air-Britain News and its electronic sister eABN



The May edition of *Air-Britain News* is at the printers. But did you know that we also publish an electronic version, which is released on the same day that the paper version is despatched to the printers? This means you can read it up to 2 weeks earlier than the posted copy, saves postal costs and all the illustrations are in colour? Single back issues (from January 2010 onward) are also available. For more details go to

<https://pocketmags.com/air-britain-magazine#>

If you do decide on an electronic subscription, activate your Air-Britain membership by going to: <https://www.air-britain.co.uk/actmembers/acatalog/AddOn.html>

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 600,000 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. We are adding production lists to our Message Board offerings: they can be found under Aviation History > Aircraft > Sub-Boards. Recently added are production histories for Tiger Moths (an ongoing listing due to the size and detail of the entries), Diamond Aircraft, Mooneys and the Tecnam P2006T. A guide on how to register can be found [HERE](#)

In addition we have

- [AB-IX](#) - Open to members only, AB-IX is run as part of groups.io. An online discussion forum for aviation research topics only. Members can set their own message preferences (single messages, daily digest or read on the web) within groups.io. For more details contact the [group owner](#)
- The [Air-Britain Facebook](#) page - where we share details of Air-Britain happenings, as well as other selected items related to aviation.