

FOSTER WIKNER WICKO

- 1 Construction commenced 14.4.36 as prototype Wicko Monoplane, [85 hp Wicko F converted Ford V8 as FW.1]; built at Lusty's Furniture factory, Bromley-by-Bow. Regd **G-AENU** [CofR 7350] 18.9.36 to The Foster, Wikner Aircraft Co Ltd. AtoF 100 issued 19.9.36. Ff 21.9.36 at Gravesend (or Stapleford), flown by GN Wikner; engine found to be too heavy. Last flight with Wicko F 22.11.36. Fitted with 90hp Cirrus Minor (as FW.2 Wicko Minor) & CofA application made 28.12.36; reflowed 11.3.37. Approved for CofA but not issued and continued to operate under Authorisation to Fly. Regn cld 1.1.39 as sold at census. For sale 2.39 by John Keane Flower, Iver, Bucks (based Denham) [also 6.39]. Regd 16.8.39 to Sydney Edward Cummings, London SW15 (based Brooklands). AtoF lapsed 15.8.40 and probably sold to Birmingham 39/40 (Cummings was killed in crash of ATA Mohawk AR666 at Hawarden 29.8.40). Cld & regd 26.5.42 to Arthur Henry Wallis, Birmingham [notionally based Castle Bromwich but probably stored Rearsby]. Cld & regd 14.12.45 to William Horace Leadbetter, Birmingham (based Elmdon). CofA 8456 issued 6.9.46 (possibly overhauled Rearsby). Cld & regd 12.11.46 to Laurence Blackburn, t/a Blackburn's Sales & Service, Coventry (based Baginton). CofA lapsed 6.4.49. Cld 31.12.49 & regd 16.1.50 to Sqn Ldr John Thornhill Shaw, RAF Thornaby. CofA renewed 5.5.50. Cld 17.7.50 & regd 17.8.50 to Air Navigation & Trading Co Ltd, Squires Gate. Cld 8.2.52 & regd 19.2.52 to William Stevens, Exeter. Cld 15.3.52 & regd 1.4.52 to Gerard Simyan Scali, Plymouth. CofA lapsed 17.2.53; open store at Embankment Road, Plymouth [5.53]; later to garage (Embankment Garage?) at Stoke, Plymouth. Regn cld 6.3.59 as reduced to spares.
- 2 Regd **G-AEZZ** [CofR 7993] 22.7.37 to The Foster, Wikner Aircraft Co Ltd and fitted with 150 hp Cirrus Major (as Wicko Major). CofA 6042 issued 8.9.37. Flown in Kings Cup 10.9.37 by Flt Lt HRA Edwards but forced-landed with engine trouble [entered by CS Napier on behalf of Cirrus Aero Engines]. To A&AEE 10.37 for approval testing but criticisms required attention. Fitted 11.37-1.38 with 130 hp Gipsy Major (becoming Wicko GM1) and fitted 2.38 with Bendix brakes, elevator trim system, enlarged 30-gal fuel tank. Returned to A&AEE 2.38 and approved for aerobatic CofA. Deld 7.38 & regd [CofR 8708] 16.8.38 to Cardiff Aeroplane Club Ltd, Splott. CofA lapsed 1.2.41. Regn cld 10.7.41 as wfu. Impressed as **ES943** 10.7.41 and used by ATA White Waltham. Soc 3.9.42 as scrap.
- 3 Wicko GM1 ff 30.6.38. Flown to Luton Airport 14.7.38 for official opening. CofA 6367 issued 10.8.38 to The Foster, Wikner Aircraft Co Ltd. Shipped to New Zealand; arr 30.9.38 and reflowed 10.10.38. Regd **ZK-AGN** 10.10.38 to Clyde Engineering Co Ltd. Regd to Hawkes Bay Aero Club. Regd 8.39 to Middle Districts Aero Club. Impressed as **NZ580** 6.10.39 and used by Central Communications Flight. Struck radio mast and crashed during bad weather landing at Johnsonville, near Wellington, North Island 26.11.42 and written off.
- 4 Wicko GM1 (and used as Type Design aircraft). Regd **G-AFAZ** [CofR 8035] 17.8.37 to Foster, Wikner Aircraft Co Ltd, Southampton. CofA 6396 issued 19.9.38. Regd [CofR 8804] 14.10.38 to Bristol & Wessex Aeroplane Club Ltd, Whitchurch. CofA lapsed 18.9.39. Sold/passed 11.39 to HO Keeling, Keynsham, Bristol for storage. Regn cld 21.5.41 by Secretary of State. Impressed as **ES924** 21.5.41 and used by ATA White Waltham. To Lundy & Atlantic Coast Airlines 23.6.42 for major inspection. Soc 13.8.42 as reduced to components.
- 5 Wicko GM1. Regd **G-AFJB** [CofR 8662] 15.8.38 to The Midland Aero Club Ltd, Castle Bromwich [presented to Club by NB Graham of Wolverhampton Express & Star]; named "Wulfrun II". Ff 26.10.38 and CofA 6417 issued 1.11.38. Cld 3.7.40 & regd 4.7.40 to Rolls-Royce Ltd, Hucknall [*note Wilfred Sutcliffe, CFI of Midland Aero Club joined RR on outbreak of war*]. Regn cld 23.4.41 as sold. Impressed as **DR613** 31.5.41 and used by ATA White Waltham. To 15 Ferry Pilot Pool, overturned while taxiing in gusty conditions at Andover 11.12.41; repaired. Ferried White Waltham to Ratcliffe 16.3.42. To Air Ministry and operated by Col Turner's Department [camouflage and decoy airfields etc], Heston 1.6.42. To Cunliffe-Owen Aircraft Co Ltd, Eastleigh 8.42. To 5 MU Kemble 16.6.44 for storage and disposal. Regd **G-AFJB** 16.10.45 to Geoffrey Neville Wikner, Romsey, Hants (based Eastleigh). CofA renewed 7.2.46. Cld 4.46 & regd 24.4.46 to Miss Philippa Mary Bennett [later Mrs PM Booth], Eastleigh, used in Air Taxi service. Damaged when fell over cliff and into sea on landing Walney Island 8.9.46. Rebuilt by Martin Hearn Ltd, Hooton Park and CofA renewed 23.6.48. Sold 11.5.49 and regn lapsed. Regd 30.3.50 to Mrs Philippa Mary Booth, Eastleigh & Eleanor Lettice Curtis, Salisbury; CofA renewed 5.4.50. New CofR No. R439 issued .50. CofA lapsed 28.7.53. Cld 5.1.55 & regd 11.1.55 to Michael James Dible, Gerrards Cross (based Denham). CofA renewed 5.2.55. Cld 16.10.56 & regd 18.10.56 to George Edward Conrad Eddowes, Geoffrey Herbert Gladney & Arnold Clayton Brewer t/a Southport Aero Club, Hesketh Park. For sale 4.58 at £650. Cld 10.10.58 & regd 28.10.58 to Norman Beal Stephenson, William Henry Stephenson, Frederick Stephenson, Thomas Guy Stephenson, Thomas Norman Stephenson, Deryk William Stephenson, Guy Dixon Stephenson, Thomas Andrew Stephenson & Robert Frederick Stephenson, t/a TA Stephenson & Sons, York. Cld 6.11.61 and regd 6.2.62 to Thomas Nicholson, Hull. Regn lapsed on sale 20.2.62; reportedly to Shoreham. Regd 7.11.62 to Midland Autocar Co [Warwick] Ltd, t/a Warwick Autocars, Warwick (based Baginton) following a trade-in against a sports car. CofA lapsed 12.7.63 and stored in Devonair hangar at Baginton. Seized by Devonair Ltd/Light Aircraft Servicing Ltd in lieu of outstanding costs and offered for sale by Udazones Ltd (believed to be connected to LAS) at auction 26.10.63. Sold 27.10.63 for £500 (or £200) outside of the auction to Kenneth Woolley, Berkswell Forge, Coventry. Regn lapsed 27.9.66 following notification of sale 4.64. Regn cld 6.12.66 as pwf. Regd 2.1.73 to Kenneth Woolley and preserved at Berkswell Forge, painted in wartime markings as DR613. Sold at auction and regd 29.12.98 to John [Joe] Dible, Sandyford, Dublin (son of 1955 owner) & rebuilt [99-.05] by Ron Souch at Hill Farm, Durley. Reflowed 2.9.05.
- 6 Wicko GM1 Regd **G-AFKS** [CofR 8784] 5.11.38 to Foster, Wikner Aircraft Co Ltd, Southampton. CofA 6482 issued 5.1.39. Temporarily (and unsuccessfully) fitted with ski undercarriage 1.39. Cld 12.6.39 & regd 21.6.39 to Nash Aircraft Sales & Hire Ltd, Croydon (Nash were appointed sales agents for type). CofA lapsed 4.1.40. Fate unknown although inspected for impressment at Croydon 1.9.39 and possibly to Foster, Wikner for communications. Regn cld 1.12.46 by Secretary of State.
Note: Not the Warferry HM574 as often recorded - see c/n 10 but possibly some parts may have been used to complete that aircraft.
- 7 Wicko GM1 Regd **G-AFKU** [CofR 8786] 9.11.38 to Foster, Wikner Aircraft Co Ltd, Southampton. Cld 9.6.39 & regd 13.6.39 to Frank Longueville Dean, Caerleon, Monmouth and operated by Cardiff Aeroplane Club, Splott.

- CofA 6648 issued 14.6.39. CofA lapsed 13.6.40. Regn cld 1.6.41 by Secretary of State. Impressed as **ES947** 24.8.41 and dd Hurn same day. To 6 MU Brize Norton 10.9.41; to Cunliffe-Owen for repairs. To 24 Squadron, Hendon 23.4.42. To Northolt Station Flight 3.11.42. Collided with barrage balloon cable and crashed in sea off Cardiff 26.11.42; pilot Grp Capt Cizek [of Czech Air Force] killed and passenger injured.
- 8 Wicko GM1 To A&AEE 7.38 for aerobatic approval at 1,810 lbs auw. Regd **G-AFKK** [CofR 8774] 6.10.38 to Foster, Wikner Aircraft Co Ltd, Southampton. CofA 6668 issued 3.7.39. CofA lapsed 2.7.40. Flown prior to impressment in camouflage as "KK". Regn cld 3.5.41 as sold. Impressed as **ES913** 3.5.41 and used by ATA White Waltham. Tested by Wikner at Hamble 23-24.10.41 with 200 lbs overload for Warferry development. To 24 Squadron, Hendon 23.6.42. To Lundy & Atlantic Coast Airlines 12.42 for major inspection. Soc 29.12.42 as reduced to components.
- 9 Wicko GM1. Regd **G-AFVK** [CofR 9144] 13.6.39 to Foster, Wikner Aircraft Co Ltd, Southampton. No CofA issued. Regn cld 10.41 by Secretary of State. Impressed as **HM499** 31.10.41 and to ATA White Waltham. To Foster Wikner 19.12.41 for major inspection and overhaul. To 1 Signals School, Cranwell 23.6.42. To 27 Group Communications Flight, Cranwell. Taxying accident with lorry at RAF Seeming (Leeming?) 26.8.44. To instructional airframe **4962M** 21.12.44 and issued to 1457 Sqn ATC at York.
- 10 Warferry **HM574** This was a modified 3-4 seater version designed for use by the ATA; probably designated GM2. First flown 18.11.41 but found to be under-powered (possibly flown earlier since FW letter of 11.11.41 states 'flight performance under all loading conditions proved to be quite satisfactory'). To RAE at Staverton 2.1.42 for tests. Allocated 30.6.42 to Foster Wikner Aircraft Co for communications; later stored Eastleigh. Advertised for sale 2.46 by GN Wikner [with G-AFJB/G-AGPE] and sold to Philippa Bennett as spares.
- 11 Wicko GM1. Not regd and stored. Impressed as **HM497** 30.10.41 for use by Foster Wikner Aircraft Co; assembled by Cunliffe-Owen and ff 1.4.42 (by Wikner at Eastleigh). To 24 Squadron, Hendon 14.4.42. Nosed over on landing Heston 16.9.42; repaired. To 93 Group Communications Flight/27 OTU, Lichfield 17.11.42. To 81 OTU, Tilstock 8.8.43. To Lundy & Atlantic Coast for maintenance 12.11.43; to 5 MU Kemble 25.11.43 for storage. Soc 12.4.44. Sold .45 to GN Wikner, Eastleigh & collected from Kemble 25.6.45. Regd **G-AGPE** 8.6.45 to Geoffrey N Wikner, (now based Sherburn; to White Waltham 10.10.45). Authorisation to Fly A166 issued 22.8.45-20.10.45. CofA 7278 issued 4.4.46. Regd 24.4.46 to Miss Philippa M Bennett, Eastleigh [later Mrs PM Booth], used in Air Taxi service. CofA lapsed 1.7.48. Sold 11.5.49 and regn lapsed. Scrapped at Eastleigh c.54.
- 12 Laid down but not completed.

See also article in Archive Spring 2003