



Issue 16 -Jan-Feb12

Contrails

Newsletter of the Christchurch Aviation Society

Members Social and Quiz

As a complete change, in January our Members took part in a quiz night fortified with an excellent range of snack food. Teams of 3 or 4 got people talking especially when the specialist starter questions appeared of 'When was the first flight of the Airspeed Ambassador' followed by 'Who was the test pilot.'

The multiple choice questions gave a sporting chance for guessing the answers which became more general but never easy such as 'What was RJ Mitchell's middle name' and 'Which was the year that the Schneider Trophy was won permanently for Britain.' Mitchell's middle name was the same as the first name of his successor Joseph Smith.

Most people have heard of the B52 bomber but less well known is the XB51 made by Martin, and the answer to the question of how many engines was 3. Designed to a USAF requirement for a light bomber and close support aircraft, it lost out to the English Electric Canberra in a fly off competition. However, Martin did not lose out as it then made the Canberra under licence as the B57 and further developed the design into the RB57 for high altitude reconnaissance work.



Questions that could be answered with ease if a photographic memory of previous newsletters was had revealed that the first operator of the Islander was Glos-Air which became the well known Guernsey based Aurigny Airlines. Aircraft recognition was included with snapshots of small parts of aircraft resident at Brooklands museum and silhouettes from a recognition training book.

Meetings List

07Mar12, 'Aerial Surveillance – and how does it affect the price of fish?' by Phil Nelson

02May12, AGM and talk (tbc)

05Sep 12, Operating the Sea Vixen, Paul Kingsbury

A section on radar showed that Soutbourne hosted one of the units in the wartime Chain Home radar network and Concorde questions tested people's knowledge of the location where the droop noses were made.

Of the 32 questions the highest score was 25 with the most results around the 16 mark. Full marks were awarded to Baggies who supplied the snack food.

A380 wing inspections

The A380 is in the news again for all the wrong reasons - during the investigation following the engine failure incident last year, easy access to inspect the wing showed that some hairline cracks had developed in the L shaped brackets that connect the wing ribs to the wing surface. There are approximately 4000 of these in each aircraft. Further inspections of other aircraft have revealed more cracks which can be fixed by replacing the bracket.

The wings are made at Airbus's Broughton plant in Wales and the fault is due to a particular assembly technique which has now been changed.

Snippets

The planned Southampton waterfront museum building Aeronautica, to include aviation, maritime and transport exhibits, has been put on hold whilst development plans from Morgan Sindall are considered.

In February 1962 Gary Powers was exchanged for a Russian spy and John Glenn became the first USA astronaut to orbit the earth.

Visits

RAF Hendon 24th March - Solent Coaches - 01425 473188

Sea Vixen - Date tba - Names to Steve Robson

Other Events

Bournemouth Aviation Museum, Vintage Transport Day 4th March

RAF Ibsley Revival, 3rd June, Moyles Court School
Bournemouth Air Festival 30Aug - 02Sep