

Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee
Tuesday 20th March 2018
Briefing Rooms Headcorn Aerodrome

Present: James Freeman – Chairman
Brian Bristow – Smarden PC
John Mather – Headcorn PC
Lester Gosbee - Frittenden PC
Terry Hodges – Private Aircraft Owner
David Parker – Headcorn Parachute Club/Skydive Headcorn
Jane Buckle-Hopkins – Headcorn Parachute Club/Skydive
Headcorn
Chris Yates – Headcorn Special Events Ltd
Martin Round – Maidstone BC
John Haffenden – Weald Air Services Fixed Wing Instructor
Keith Perkins – Aero Legends Ltd
Lyn Selby – Headcorn PC
James Tuke – Thurston Helicopters
Gerald Hodges – Thurston Helicopters
Susan Line - Secretary

Apologies. Alan Marsh., Christine Dyer

Planning & Events

Jamie Freeman circulated the aerodrome calendar to the Committee Members and confirmed it could be passed on to others.
The Non Aerobatic Days were highlighted in Red.

First event at the aerodrome would be on 1st and 2nd June, comprising an Outdoor Cinema, an event put forward by Keith Perkins MD of Aero Legends Ltd. He said that there would be music, food, an air display and a cinema show. This would be held in the evening between 7pm and 11pm. The film would be the Battle of Britain.

On weekend of 30th June and 1st July a Battle of Britain Show was planned which ideally would include the Dakota DC3 subject to planning. There

would be 12 aircraft displaying and Keith Perkins was trying to get hold of some German aircraft. Jane Buckle expressed concern about how this would affect Headcorn Parachute Club.

Chris Yates raised the issue of the Schools and Seniors Day on Friday 29th June and explained that the aerodrome was funding OAPs and Schools to come along on that day. The aerodrome/museum are funding people to come over to the show on the Friday as part of making flying inclusive. The museum has applied for a grant to cover the cost and the RAF have noted that weekend as an official RAF 100 Event in the South East. The BBMF would be here during the weekend and this would be a good PR opportunity for them and for the aerodrome.

In the evening there would be a 1940s Hangar Dance supported by John Haffenden's Big Band, The Clefhangers and singers, The Patriot Girls. Keith Perkins was hoping to have the last surviving pilot of his own Spitfire aircraft at the event as he wants to be at the aerodrome with his family. John Haffenden, a Flying Instructor at Weald Air Services Ltd., was introduced formally to the Committee at this point. Chris Yates would speak to Terry Hodges on the subject of insurance.

There was a further discussion on the subject of the DC3 Planning Application. The Parish Council had not objected but has asked questions about the Environmental situation, and questions had been answered, it was thought, in a satisfactory manner. Somehow this application had become delayed but was now believed to be under way. However Lyn Selby said that the Parish Council would like a maximum of 10 flights a month, not 20 as previously noted. Martin Round confirmed that the matter went to Planning last Wednesday and things have been updated. Martin Round will follow this up. Jamie Freeman appreciated that there had been many changes of Planning Officer and support staff over the past months.

The Combined Ops Show and the Southern Model Shows had been held many times before and there were effectively no changes.

Chris Yates said that the plan would be for 2 x DC3s and they were trying to get a third. He explained that there would be no Herne Bay airshow this year, but that the Biggin Hill is going to be bigger. Eastbourne will be the same and obviously the aircraft are shared between the shows, known as sharing assets.

Jamie Freeman said that Combined Ops from next year 2019 would be moving its date so that it does not clash with the Biddenden Village Tractor Fest. In fact Jamie Freeman had offered the Tractorfest to come to the aerodrome but that offer had not been taken up, although they were moving location to Woolpack Corner. The aerodrome dates for Combined Ops this year, 2018, would be the same at 18th and 19th August. There was a discussion about trying to get non-conflicting dates.

Lyn Selby raised the issue about Adventure 001 as they caused all the issues last year. Jamie Freeman said that he had asked them to extend the flights and use points of the compass. They were not permitted to do ‘exciting’ flights which were noisy, and he had also told them that if they were being a nuisance they would be scrubbed. Chris Yates suggested that we monitor what happens. Jamie Freeman explained that Adventure 001 used Castle Air last year (they did not run their own helicopters and pilots). Martin Round confirmed that MBC had not received any official complaints during that period.

Jamie Freeman reiterated that if complainants would phone at the time of the issue we could take action.

Any other business.

There was no other business.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 5th June 2018 at 2.30pm