



# BNAPS News September 2011

BNAPS News Vol 1 Iss 4 – September 2011

## Propeller Inn "Summer BBQ" 21 August 2011

The Summer BBQ at the Propeller Inn on Sunday 21 August was a joint effort by the Propeller Inn, BNAPS and the Vectis Gliding Club and proved to be an enjoyable event. Luckily the weather improved from earlier somewhat ominous forecasts to give a good summer's day. We were able to meet up with several BNAPS Supporters Club members, friends and other interesting and interested people. BNAPS had set up the display about "Charlie November" and the BN-1F in the superb marquee kindly organised by Dave "the Hobbit" from the Propeller Inn. Peter Gatrell was in attendance to answer questions and to help with his first hand knowledge of the origins and history of Britten Norman and the airport.



View of BNAPS display area and sales stand at the Summer BBQ

Norman Hobbs ran the visitors registration list, sales stand and raffle. One lucky winner, if not the luckiest, was Jim Birnie who won the IoW Flying Club mug (chipped) that he had donated. Although sales of books and B-N memorabilia did not reach expectations, the raffle was a great success and saved the day thanks to Norman Hobbs backed up by John Kenyon's impressive salesmanship efforts with the help of one of the young ladies from the Propeller Inn.

John Kenyon brought his microlight Thruster aircraft over from Sandown and impressed all with a smooth landing in moderately gusty conditions. BNAPS supporters club member Pete Jenness managed to bring his Piper Arrow in having successfully navigated it from Sandown to Bembridge. Several visiting aircraft had availed themselves of the reduced landing fee for the day and with other visiting aircraft and frequent Vectis Gliding Club operations there was plenty of action on the airfield - almost like old times?

The Propeller Inn BBQ, run by Helen and Dave and a willing band of helpers, offered a tempting menu and was kept busy all afternoon. Thanks go to Helen and Dave at the Propeller Inn and all their staff, without their efforts it could not have happened. Also thanks to Vectis Gliding Club for sorting out PPR requests for the BBQ fly-in. All in all a good day was had by all.

Some useful lessons have been learned from the event and we hope to put on something bigger and better another day, hope you will be able to make it next time.

### **Newsflash - Lucky Escape for Island Pilots**

*Island pilots Laurie Garaghan and Jim Birnie were unhurt following a successful forced landing made in a farmer's field on Hayling Island when their N3N vintage bi-plane developed engine problems on the way from Sandown to Goodwood on Sunday 4 September. A full account can be seen in the Portsmouth News:*

[http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/local/east-hampshire/plane\\_makes\\_emergency\\_landing\\_in\\_hayling\\_field\\_1\\_3027165](http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/local/east-hampshire/plane_makes_emergency_landing_in_hayling_field_1_3027165)

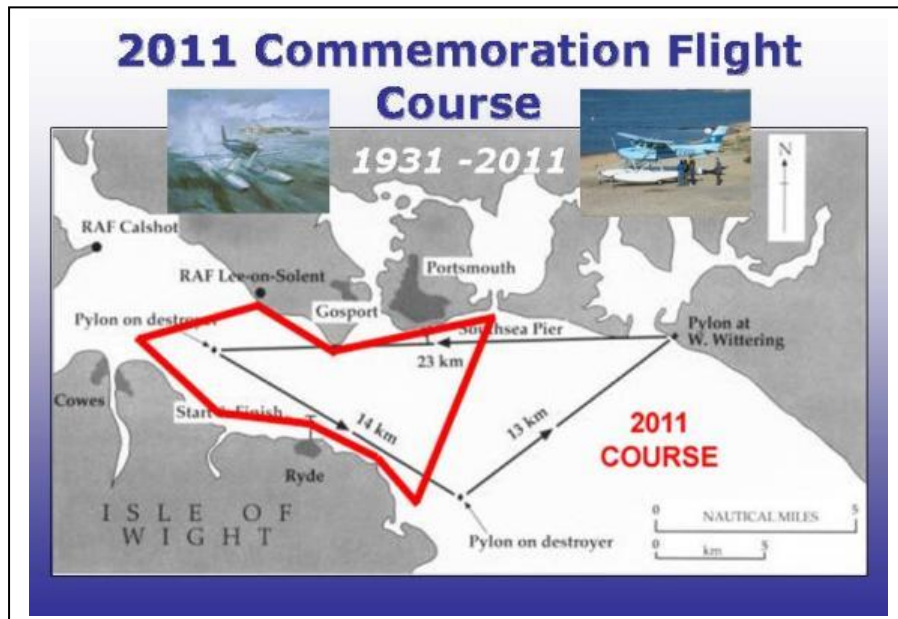
### **More BNAPS Supporters Club Members Needed**

*If any BNAPS Supporters Club member knows of anyone who would be interested in joining please pass on BNAPS contact details as given on page 4.*

*As a point of clarification, whilst BNAPS has contact with B-N Group from time to time as a charitable trust BNAPS is a completely independent organisation.*

## **BNAPS Supports Schneider Trophy Contest 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flypast**

On 13 September 2011 the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last Schneider Contest, held in 1931, will be celebrated by a seaplane fly past around the Solent. The event has been inspired by Capt John Russell who operates his Cessna 182 seaplane G-ESSL with Euro Seaplane Services and the associated Seaplane Club. G-ESSL is often seen flying in the local area from time to time. The Schneider Trophy contests spurred on the development of aircraft and aero engine technology from the first contest in 1913 with aircraft barely able to achieve more than 100mph, to the triumphant Supermarine S6B and its magnificent Rolls Royce "R" type engine that enabled the Schneider Trophy to be won outright for Britain in 1931 and shortly afterwards won the World Air Speed record at a speed of 407mph. The 1931 contest required the competing seaplanes to fly around a course over the Solent with the finishing line off Ryde Pier. It is reckoned that over half a million spectators turned out to view the contest.



The commemoration fly-past will consist of 5 or maybe 6 seaplanes making three circuits of a slightly modified version of the 1931 course in the period from 12 noon to 2pm on Tuesday 13 September. If weather conditions are unsuitable on the 13 September, then the fly-past will be held on the following day, a go/no go decision for the fly-past will be made at 09:00 on the day.



BNAPS Supporters club members Pete Jenness and Noel Stimson will be supporting this event by manning the Schneider 80 fly-past co-ordination centre set up at the Ryde Hovertravel Terminal. BNAPS Trustee Bob Wealthy has been helping John Russell with publicity and local contacts and will be at Ryde Pier Head along with John Kenyon as the Schneider 80 reps on the day. The participating seaplanes have an amphibious capability and will be operating from Daedalus Airfield, Lee-on-the-Solent. Sea conditions permitting the participating seaplanes may elect to make water touch downs off Ryde Pier and Calshot and possibly come ashore at Calshot. It is anticipated that there will be coverage of the event by BBC TV and other news media.

## **East Wight Workshop Refurbishment Now Well Underway**

Despite various setbacks and difficulties with conflicting demands on their time, a small team of BNAPS volunteers has made significant progress with the refurbishment of the East Wight Workshop.

More hands are needed to complete the task to ensure that we have the right conditions for the work of restoring "Charlie November". Please contact Bob Wilson or any of the BNAPS Trustees if you are able to spare some time to help. (see contact details on page 4).

## **VCN Parts Cataloguing and Condition Survey Nears Completion**

Concentrated effort has been applied to this task over the past 2 months and the end is in sight. From the initial condition assessment it appears that a higher proportion than anticipated of the detail parts may have suffered during outside storage to an extent where it is better to replace than attempt re-use.

The cataloguing exercise is absolutely vital to minimise wasted effort downstream such that immediate action can be taken to seek out replacements in anticipation of the stage when they will be needed later on in the restoration programme

## **Charlie November "Fly or No Fly" Restoration Policy**

The question of whether "Charlie November" should be restored to flying condition is the subject of intensive study by the BNAPS Trustees with advice being sought from the CAA and those with direct aircraft engineering experience of working with B-N Islanders.

Whilst the essential nature of the Islander's design means that the airframe has for all practical purposes an indefinite life, the implications of present day regulations that now apply to aircraft construction and operation are of major concern with regards to the cost involved and the time needed to do the work with relatively limited facilities and resources.

BNAPS Trustees recently met with Robert Fleming of the Vulcan to the Sky Trust who came over to the Propeller Inn and gave a comprehensive briefing on the trials and tribulations of getting a historic aircraft back to flying condition. This opportunity arose as a result of the BAPC meeting in May this year and BNAPS is very grateful that Robert Fleming was willing to take the time out to help in this way.

From the investigation work done so far, involved initial discussions with CAA contacts, consultation with experienced B-N aircraft engineers a restoration to fly could be considered as technically feasible. However it is apparent that BNAPS would have to turn into a different type of organisation with access to substantial finance to achieve this aim.

BNAPS Board of Trustees now has much of the information required to declare the basic principles of the restoration policy for "Charlie November". A fundamental part of this policy is the intention to have the aircraft ready in time for celebration of the Prototype Islander's first flight 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June 2015. In parallel with the restoration work a BNAPS working group will be set up investigate possibilities to identify suitable premises that would allow the restored "Charlie November" to be put on public display as a tribute to the imagination and enterprise of John Britten and Desmond Norman.

## **BNAPS on the web**

In the near future it is envisaged that BNAPS will create and maintain its own website covering news, progress reports, related articles and on-line sales facilities. A members-only access facility will enable BNAPS Supporters Club members to view heritage photo galleries and articles and other documents related to B-N and local Isle of Wight heritage as well as up to date aerospace news that may be of relevant interest.

In the meantime the following links give access to information that may be of interest:

[woottonbridgeiow.org.uk/social/?cat=69](http://woottonbridgeiow.org.uk/social/?cat=69)

[asp-gb.secure-zone.net/v2/index.jsp?id=58/112/2749&startPage=23](http://asp-gb.secure-zone.net/v2/index.jsp?id=58/112/2749&startPage=23)

[bnhistorians.co.uk](http://bnhistorians.co.uk) (note that back issues of BNAPS News can now be viewed on the BNH website)

[islandheartcareclub.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/tickertape/tt0701.pdf](http://islandheartcareclub.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/tickertape/tt0701.pdf) Article by Peter Ward

## **BNAPS Items for Sale - Price List September 2011**

1. Trislander 40<sup>th</sup> book (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) @ £3.50\*
2. Islander VCN restoration book – "The Story So Far" (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) @ £3.50\*
3. Nymph and Freelance book (1<sup>st</sup> Edition) @ £5.00\*
4. Britten Sheriff book (1<sup>st</sup> Edition) @ £3.50\*
5. BN-1F Finibee book (2nd edition to be released in November 2011) @ £4.00\*
6. Trislander lapel pins @ £2.50
7. Aviation at Bembridge book (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition planned for end of 2011) @ £6.50
8. BNAPS "Charlie November Restoration" mug @ £6.00\*
9. Postcards depicting B-N Islanders and Trislanders @ 50p each or 3 for £1.00
10. Islander 40th pens @ 50p
11. BNAPS enamelled lapel badges @ £2.00
12. BNAPS sew on patches @£1.50
13. Islander 40th key rings @ £1.00
14. Islander 40th mugs @ £2.50
15. Islander VCN A3 colour print @ £2.00
16. B-N Caps (original style logo) @ £3.50
17. BNAPS polo shirts blue or grey L, XL £15.00 each

Items marked \* are available to BNAPS Supporters Club members at 50p off marked price

*Above items are normally on sale at BNAPS events or place an order by e mail or by writing to the address below. UK post and package will be in addition to prices shown above.*

BNAPS is actively seeking more people to join the Supporters Club. Anyone with an interest in local aviation heritage is welcome. If you can help with workshop refurbishment and VCN restoration work, please contact Bob Wilson or any of the other trustees, see contact details on this page.

### **Forthcoming BNAPS Events in 2011**

20 September – Due to a change of arrangements there will not be a talk on this date

25 October – Talk and video presentation by BNAPS Trustee Bob Wealthy "40 Years of Aurigny Air Services Trislander Operations 1971 - 2011" at the Propeller Inn

22 November Details to be advised nearer the time

Talks will be held at the Propeller Inn unless otherwise advised, please arrive by 19:00 for a start at 19:30. Talks will generally finish by 21:00.

Entry charge for talks is £1.00 for BNAPS Supporters Club members and £2.00 for visitors.

Events later in the year and for 2012 are at the planning stage and will be announced in due course.

### **BNAPS Trust**

BNAPS is a Registered Charity, No. 1100735, set up to "preserve the history and aircraft of Britten-Norman with the support of members' subscriptions, sponsorship and donations"  
BNAPS registered address is:  
The Great Barn,  
Nether Wallop,  
Stockbridge,  
Hampshire,  
SO20 8EN  
Trustees are Peter Graham, Bob Wilson, Guy Palmer and Bob Wealthy.  
Peter Graham is the present chairman of the board of trustees.

### **How to contact BNAPS:**

**E mail:**

solentaeromarine@hotmail.com

**Telephone:** 01329 315561

**Post:**

BNAPS (Dept NL)  
c/o The Propeller Inn,  
Bembridge Airport,  
Sandown Road,  
Bembridge,  
Isle of Wight,  
PO35 5PW.