

Spitfire Club News August 2011

So where are we?

After the initial article in Pilot magazine the idea went global with people from all over the world wanting more information. It surprised even me, how much the Spitfire is an Icon to so many people. I suppose when you have grown up, (well nearly), with Spitfires around you in one form or another you think it's normal. Well it's not! It's a very special aeroplane to a huge number of people, some love the project idea and some hate it! But most love it thankfully, I shall work on the others and hopefully they will see the project for what it is...**a squadron for the many not just the very lucky few that get to play with the other marks of Spitfire.**

I have been astonished at the generosity of many of the people wanting to get involved; we have:

- 3 Spitfire pilots wanting to help the Squadron pilots with their formation flying.
- An RAF aircraft painter who will teach us how to paint the aircraft.
- Retired engineers who worked on Spitfires, to
- Current engineers working on Typhoon, airbus and formula one cars.
- Specialised planners.
- NASA people . . .

The list goes on and on and is being added to almost every day. It has been fantastic and we have only just begun.

Enstone Airfield

We are still here! There was an attempt by one of the landlords to close the main runway; whilst this would have had little immediate effect on the Squadron, longer term it could have been a problem. The planning proposal was refused and failed on just about all the main planning requirements. Hurrah! There are still some rumblings from the landlord but I think the runways are safe for the foreseeable future, if I win the lottery then we will be OK forever; *I really must start doing it again!*

I have done several presentations to various organisations about the squadron, I think most have been well received and new members have joined up, if you would like a presentation for your interest group please let me know. I also do weddings, funerals and christenings!

As a result of one of these presentations the "Zero to Hero Program" came into being. It has been created to give the opportunity for someone who has never flown before, to start the training to gain the private pilot's licence, then tail wheel conversion on our Super Cub and Chipmunk and finally on to the Spitfire which they will have been helping to build throughout the program. How cool is that?

If you would like more information on this program click this ["zero to hero"](#) link. Enjoy.

Banbury Business Innovation Award 2011....

Having got through the first round of online entries, the idea was then scrutinised by a team from the BBIA who visited me at Enstone. The project was then shortlisted along with 5 others, in a 'Dragon's Den' style competition each of the finalists got to pitch their idea to the Banbury Dragons.

I was first up and felt that I had blown it by running over time, the finalists then had to wait a week as the judge's decision was to be revealed at a VIP presentation with the local MP, press and radio present.

Each finalist gave an outline of their idea to the gathered VIPs, I was first up again. This was the first time I had heard what I was up against as each gave their presentation I felt I was in the wrong place. There were some really great ideas and I felt I had no chance. It was Pilots in the Pub that particular night and I was looking forward to a pint of the local Hooky brew and something to eat. I have to say I wasn't really listening and didn't hear the local MP announce the Spitfire Project as the outright winner; the poor lad had to say it twice!

With the award came some great prizes: the selected prizes have allowed me to get legalised contracts for the syndicate groups and a contract between those syndicates groups and the Spitfire squadron. Sadly it has taken much longer than I anticipated however there are some huge benefits to the syndicate holders.

There is also a possibility that we may be able to use an HMRC investment scheme whereby the individual shareholders will be able to reclaim up to 30% of their investment as tax relief, the team here are exploring this avenue and will be in contact with the HMRC to verify that this scheme is available for this project. If this idea is successful each syndicate would need to become a limited company. I would arrange for the incorporation of each company.

Spitfire 1 Kit 73

The first Kit arrived here at Enstone last week. She is a part-built kit, which we will complete in the main hangar; there will be plenty of opportunity to come and have a look as the build takes place. If you would like to get involved in helping build (even if you are not a share holder) this first kit please let me know.

There will be regular photo updates and we are working on a web cam set up to record the build progress with an uplink to the Squadron pages on the website. [For better quality images click here](#)



Unloading begins



Spitfire Kit 73 arrives at Enstone hangar



Big Girly isn't she!! Not sure this new high tech. covering is up to much though!

Shares in the aircraft

Some of the original prospective share holders for various reasons are unable to take up their share option for our current kit, I have some fine fellows on the waiting list who will be contacted directly, but if you are in a position to move quickly and are looking for a 1/12th Share in the above Kit 73 please give me a call. 01608 678204.

I am also looking for share holders for the next batch of three MK26s, with a three month lead time we need to get a wiggle on. I have some prospective shareholders on the waiting list for these aircraft too, but it would be good to have an update. You can use the prices on the web site as a guide, the move to America and the currency fluctuations have had a small effect but they are a good basis for you work from. I am in the process of updating all these prices.

Sponsorship

I am talking with Barclays Bank who may offer a special rate on the syndicate bank accounts in exchange for sponsorship! I will be looking for sponsors shortly, so if you have any expertise in working with and getting sponsors I could do with some expert advice.

There is a long list of what we may need, some is required now others much later. Immediate requirements are for:

- Lighting
- Electrical distribution
- Web cameras
- Air tools
- A compressor and
- A secure storage solution for the aircraft parts

If you, or your company could benefit from an association with this unique project please get in touch: -

Tel: 01608 678204 or Email: Skipper@enstoneflyingclub.co.uk. As Dumbo once said, "I am all ears"

Squadron Markings

I have been in touch with the RAF and we need to produce our ideas for squadron markings and paint scheme before they can give us a decision on whether they feel it appropriate. Below is an idea for paint scheme plus the squadron flash which I had designed for us.



This is a possible paint scheme and depicts a Spitfire in post D Day markings which is the idea for the Squadron; this will allow us a bit more flexibility on the living history front and with the military vehicles. D Day invasion stripes can be removed as required.

Current Marketing material

These are four advertisements that have recently appeared in Pilot Magazine. We will have them as recruiting posters at events and they will be for sale as a collection in various formats. I hope you like them as much as I do.



Our design team, who were responsible for the above, are working on a spitfire Club logo to go on the all club merchandise. We will have all the usual Sweat, Polo and T-shirts. Members will have special versions not available to the general public. For squadron events, in the living history area where everyone will need to be in authentic dress, it will be the City of Oxford style but to keep it realistic there will be very little required. Some ideas of what you will need to look like.



Great hair girls! How do you get it to stay like that?!!!

HQ launch Open weekend of 17/18th September.

We are holding an open weekend here at Enstone, it **will be an invitation only event**, limited to 100 visitors per day, sent to those who have registered on the site. It will cost a Tenner per person this will include lunch (Spit roast, obviously) Plus I will be inviting all the current Mk26 kit owners including the completed kits that will hopefully fly in. It will be an opportunity for you to come and meet Kit 73 and its owners and chat about all things Mk26 Spitfire. Would you like to book in for this event.

[To book for Saturday 17th September click here](#)

[To Book for Sunday 18th September click here](#)

For the non-flyers looking to join the squadron there will be the military vehicle and living history sections that will be recruiting for members. The ground-based part of the squadron will play as important a role as the airborne section. We want whole families to really get involved, portraying a squadron on the move will require lots of different trades, some are more obvious than others, but I feel confident that everyone will find something of interest. All these roles will have to be conducted in authentic dress whether in uniform or civvies including the children. There will be no place for mobile phones; I pod buds, designer watches or glasses in the living history area. If you don't fancy this side of squadron life, you can volunteer for the squadron of today section, where we will have the recruiting stand, a possible spitfire simulator, club merchandise, press office, information centre plus anything else we can come up with.

I am planning to have representatives from Supermarine, MT (the propeller people) plus other potential suppliers to the squadron at this event.

If numbers allow we will hold a BBQ or what's left of the Pig roast to celebrate the official launch of the Squadron the evening of the 17th September and for those wanting to stay over; I have negotiated a special deal with one of the local Hotels. [Click here to go to their site](#)

It would be very helpful to know what numbers we could expect for both events, if you could register your interest by the links below.

[To book for Saturday 17th September click here](#)

[To Book for Sunday 18th September click here](#)

Full details will follow after booking.

Membership Options

Further newsletters will be sent to subscribers. If you would like to keep in touch with developments and receive detailed information you can. [To subscribe click here](#) . Apart from the aircraft shareholders there are four further levels of involvement:

[Correspondent members](#): Receive the newsletters and invitations to certain events and access to the members only group on the web site.

[Supporter members](#): Receive the same as the correspondents, plus unlimited access to squadron facilities 364 days a year at HQ Enstone and priority invitations to all squadron events. Where possible, discount entry to events where the squadron is displaying.

[Ground Crew members](#): If you decide to become a member of the ground display team, you will receive all the benefits of the Correspondent and Supporter members plus free entry to all events **(must be in period dress and taking part in the particular display)** discount on any period dress supplies. Kids of families are automatically members until they are 16, they can then join as members in their own right.

[Auxiliary Wing members](#): this is for pilots with their own Spitfire; you can join the auxiliary wing and take part in squadron events, with the appropriate training of course! You will also receive the same membership benefits as ground crew members. It will be necessary to sign the squadron contract before you can take part in any squadron events.

Share Agreement and Squadron Contract

You can view the Syndicate share agreement and Squadron contract by [clicking this link](#).

The syndicate agreement is one that has been operating successfully here at Enstone for many years, the Squadron contract is something unique to us and is necessary for the long-term viability of the Squadron. It will allow me to negotiate with event organisers, TV and film companies, all have already shown a great deal of interest.

Events

The RIAT (Royal International Air Tattoo) organisers have been in touch, to see what we could offer. It would be great to offer them the full Squadron package for 2013!

70th D Day celebrations 2014, the full squadron has been invited to display at the 2014 event. Over a million men landed on the beaches at Normandy, less than a thousand survive. This may well be the last time that veterans of the event will actually be present as most are 90 years old. The event takes place over a weekend for the first time in many years, with the 6th June falling on a Friday. It will be a spectacular event to be part of.

Several TV production companies have made enquiries about making a program or series about the Squadron, could be interesting if it come to anything. My mother said I had a face for radio, but hey Alan Sugar is doing great and he is no oil painting either.

The local radio station Banbury Sound would like to do a radio diary of the story of the squadron.

Networking

I am looking for contacts at any of the glossy magazines, preferably the editors of these publications. Do you know any of these people? I have articles about the squadron that I would like to get in front of these people. Let me know by e-mail skipper@enstoneflyingclub.co.uk

Thank you for your continued interest in this unique project; remember that you will need to join at some level to continue to be involved and receive further newsletters and access to the members only area on the website.

Cheers

Paul Fowler

Skipper