



The Old Fliers' Group

Attached to the Royal Aero Club of WA (Inc).

Coordinator: Brian John, Ph 9883 8001

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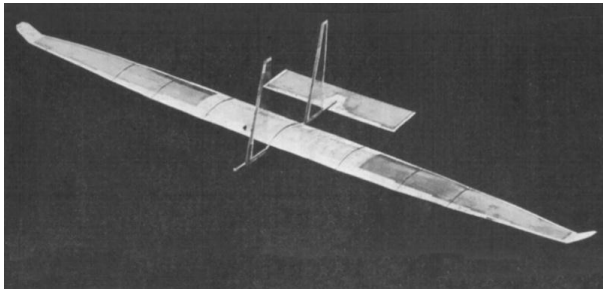
May Meeting

Those who attended the May meeting were entertained by our two speakers who impressed all with their display of knowledge and keen interest in their chosen subjects.

Mini Speaker.

Tom Saggars, a collector of antique and vintage cars, spoke on the inventions of Dr Frederick Lanchester who built the first four-wheel, petrol engine motor car in England. Lanchester was also noted for his later inventions that were incorporated in motor vehicles: disc brakes, engine balancing systems, worm gears, epicyclic gears, steering improvements, etc...

It is not so widely known that Dr Lanchester conducted a great deal of research in the area of aeronautics. Prior to, and during, WWI Lanchester wrote papers on: aerofoils of high aspect ratio, stability of flying machines, the effect of wash on tailplanes, torsional vibration in the tail of an aeroplane, instability in aeroplanes, power to weight ratios, etc...



A Lanchester glider from 1904.

Lanchester was making and flying model gliders as early as 1895 and by 1907 had published a comprehensive paper on "The Laws of Flight". Over the years his inventions and patents were incorporated into all manner of aircraft and motor vehicles.

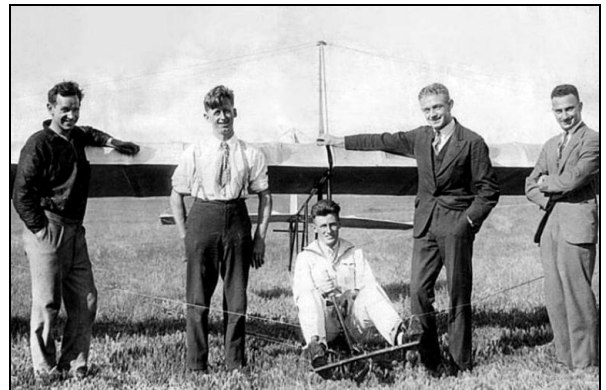
Tom's talk was both interesting and informative.

Speaker of the Day

The *Speaker of the Day* was Stephen Hunt who, with Gloria Baird, wrote and published "On Silent Wings" – a detailed coverage of the history of gliding in Western Australia.

After being introduced to the sport in 1962, Stephen became a proficient glider pilot and instructor before taking on powered aircraft and becoming a tug pilot for many years.

Stephen's talk covered the history of gliding in Western Australia, which dates back to 1930 when the first flight of the Perth Gliding Club took place at Maylands Aerodrome.



Harry Baker at the controls of the first glider. Others are (L to R): Edward Kinnear, Gilbert Ford, P. Rockingham and A. Page.

During his talk, it became apparent that Stephen had left no stone unturned as he gathered information for his book. He spoke of the early days at City Beach and West Subiaco, as well as other metropolitan and country centres.

"On Silent Wings" which can be obtained from him on: sariushunt@hotmail.com for the cost of \$20.00 plus postage.

Dennis Gorton moved a vote of thanks to both speakers for their much-appreciated efforts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on this Friday, June 26th. The *Speaker of the Day* will be Marion McCall who will talk on her flying experiences. The *Mini Speaker*, Peter Yates, will talk about flying into Oshkosh.

Hope you can make the next meeting at the Royal Aero Club at noon on this Friday, June 26th.

Brian Hernan