



The Old Fliers Group

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

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Next Meeting
Friday September 27th

Report on our last meeting

First Speaker

John Hinton was the first speaker at our last meeting. John had previously spoken to us about the history of the de Havilland family and the company, up until WW2. He returned to continue with a follow-up talk titled “Triumph to Tragedy”, which covered the period when piston engines were reaching their limit and the jet technology was rapidly taking over. He told us that early de Havilland jet aircraft were powered by the Goblin, Ghost, Gyron and the Gnome jet engines.

John also covered the development of de Havilland aircraft in Canada which included the Chipmunk, Beaver, Twin Otter and Caribou, etc. He also covered the post-war designs in England that included the Dove and Heron.

Naturally, his talk covered the story of the ill-fated Comet passenger jet which suffered structural failures in its early years.



The Comet passenger jet.

John’s breadth of knowledge on the de Havilland Company was outstanding.

Second Speaker

Our second speaker was Chris Boyes who had previously spoken to us on the “Research and Development” of the Concorde during the years 1974 to 1978 when he worked on the project. At this meeting he covered the “Ground and Flight Testing” during the same period.

Chris told us of the twenty-minute full-thrust test with after burners engaged. The Concorde bucked and shuddered on its wheel brakes and chocks. He said that some called the episode “the brown trousers test”.

At Filton, near Bristol, Chris, and others, stood about 30 metres from the runway to note the

touch down and take off spots on the runway during tests.



The Concorde on takeoff.

Chris also covered the test flights flown by the late and famous Brian Trubshaw.

Thanks

Sadly, we report the passing of Brian John, who died on August 30th, on the morning of our last meeting, the 169th. In October 2003 Brian John and Roy Hamilton invited a couple of long-time flyers to the club for lunch. All enjoyed the get-together and Roy suggested that Brian organise follow-up meetings on a regular basis – hence the OFG lunches and talks that we now enjoy.



Vale Brian John.

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting will be at the Royal Aero Club, starting with lunch at noon on Friday, 27th September. Richard Moore, whose grandfather flew with Norman Brearley in 1921, will tell of his family’s interest in early aviation.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan.