



BNAPS News July 2012

BNAPS News Vol 2 Iss 4 – July 2012

“Charlie November” Restoration Moves Ahead

In the last 6 months BNAPS’ workshop facilities have been refurbished and progressively equipped with tools workbenches and other facilities that have been acquired through kind donations and occasionally from being in the right place at the right time together with the purchase of new equipment and consumables, mainly from local suppliers.



Corroded area of rear fuselage skin removed (left). Tim Barton installs the rudder control rod (right).



Since April work on the airframe has been concentrated on sorting out areas of the fuselage where some corrosion was evident, particularly on the starboard side rear skinning. Earlier repair work on the skin where panels that had been secured by skin clips that had now corroded solid meant that these had to be removed by angle grinding. Remarkably the corrosion protection applied some 40+ years ago had done its job and the internal structure is actually in good order. Repairs were also made to the top edge of the rear fuselage, where damage had occurred when a DC3 was blown into VCN during a hurricane when it was in Puerto Rico. A replacement fuselage section, that had been made available by Cormack Aircraft Services and brought down from Scotland by Tim Barton, has been fitted.



Bob Ward working on the floor panels (left). BNAPS Trustee Guy Palmer casts a critical eye over some of the work. (right).



Corrosion on the top section of the rear fuselage required fabrication of a new panel and a repair scheme was devised to replace the panel using two repair sections made from sheet metal to hand rather than incurring significant expense by purchasing a large sheet of aluminium for a one piece repair. (Continued on page 2)

Temporary floor sections that were installed about 10 years ago have been removed. This revealed a significant amount of corrosion in the belly skinning which will be completely replaced. However, the skinning is of a relatively simple shape with no compound curves such that fabrication of a new skin is not seen as a major problem.



Paul Thomasson (left) and Keith Winter (right) working on the roof skin repair

What we all want to see in June 2015 or sooner



Airframe Assemblies over at Sandown has provided invaluable assistance by allowing use of their sheet metal bending and folding equipment together with the loan of skin clips. With the work done so far and after cleaning out a considerable amount of debris in the fuselage, VCN is looking somewhat different from the way it looked at the beginning of the year and we are now seeing real progress for all the efforts of the restoration team. As work proceeds a comprehensive work log has been maintained together with photographic records. In accordance with the agreement for use of the workshop we stand down during August, all BNAPS supporters will no doubt wish to join with the BNAPS Trustees in offering their thanks to the restoration team for giving up their free time to advance our restoration project.

New Order for B-N Announced at Farnborough 2012

B-N announced an order worth \$6m for 2 new build Turbine Islanders at the recent Farnborough Air Show. The aircraft will be fitted out with some of the latest refinements available from B-N, including Garmin G600 'glass' PFD / MFD cockpit along with Garmin GTN 750 / 650 touch screen avionics. They will also be equipped with fully integrated S-Tec 55X autopilots. Delivery of the aircraft is scheduled for 2013.

BN2A ISLANDER
 G-AXUB. S/N: 121. Hrs: Airframe: 19753. Port Eng: 1336. Stbd Eng: 451. Port Prop: 34. Stbd Prop: 125.
 Inspections: SB 190: Due: April 2013. Annual: Due: April 2012. 1000 Hour Inspection: Carried Out April 2011.
 ARC: Expires 28 April 2012. The aircraft had a substantial amount of work carried out in May 2007. This work returned the aircraft to a very high level of serviceability and structural integrity.
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Long lived Islander G-AXUB, ff October 1969, 2 owners from new.

Saunders-Roe Princess First Flight 60th Anniversary 22 August 2012

A commemorative event will be held at East Cowes starting at 12 noon on the waterfront alongside the Columbine Works. An informal reception will be held in the East Cowes Town Hall followed by a talk given by Eric Verdon-Roe about the life of his grandfather A.V. Roe. All are welcome to attend, more information under: www.eastcowestowncouncil.co.uk/index.php/saunders-roe-princess-60th-anniversary/ BNAPS plans to support the event with a display area at the Town Hall presenting the contribution made by East Cowes to the Islander project when 360 Islander fuselages and wing sets were delivered from the production lines at the British Hovercraft Corporation's Falcon Works from 1968 until 1973. Some 40 years on many of these Islanders are still in service around the World (see above).

Nostalgic Reunion for John Kenyon – From NAPS to BNAPS

BNAPS supporter and special adviser to BNAPS Trust, John Kenyon, admitted to being a bit emotional when he visited the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry recently. There he came face to face with a 1928 Avro Avian 111A G-EBZM which he had helped save for posterity when he was running the Northern Aeroplane Preservation Society (NAPS) some 40 or more years ago.

John has played a major role in the UK's aircraft preservation community and was in at the beginning when he was instrumental in formation of the British Aircraft Preservation Council and as its first Chairman in the mid 1960s.

BNAPS is fortunate in being able to call upon John's extensive knowledge and experience to help with the work of getting "Charlie November" into safe-keeping and re-starting the restoration project together with fund raising and helping run the associated supporters club.

New Historic Aviation Display Section at Ryde's Heritage Centre

The Historic Ryde Society has recently opened its new heritage centre in the once disused cellars of the Royal Victoria Arcade in Union Street, Ryde, and is well worth a visit.

To mark the 80th anniversary of the opening of Ryde Airport in June 1932 the displays now include something about Ryde's place in aviation history when the cross Solent air service from Portsmouth was set up in 1932 and an airport for Ryde was constructed on part of Barnsley Farm, now better known as the location of Tesco's store.

The other aviation related claim to fame for Ryde included in the new exhibition is use of the Unity Hall in Star Street by B-N as a workshop in the 1950. Here B-N undertook conversions of Tiger Moths for crop spraying, produced the Micronair rotary atomisers and constructed the wooden airframe of Turbi G-APFA.



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At the recent Goodwood Festival of Speed Aviation Show BNAPS had the pleasure of meeting up with Proptech's MD Andy Featherstonhaugh and Customer Engineer Ali Mant. As the leading propeller specialist in the UK, Proptech has kindly agreed to assemble a pair of non-flight prop assemblies for VCN.

BNAPS on the web-The following links give access to information that may be of interest:
iwcp.co.uk/news/news/flight-salute-to-island-aircraft-34589.aspx
woottonbridgeiow.org.uk/social/?cat=69
asp-gb.secure-zone.net/v2/index.jsp?id=58/112/2749&startPage=23
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 Article by Peter Ward
bwavg.co.uk/The_Islands_Oldest_Islander_on_the_Move_BNAPS_News_Release_2010_001_V2a.pdf

New Book "The Last Great Adventure in British Aviation" by Derek Kay, available from BNAPS

Derek Kay has kindly offered BNAPS a special price for copies of his book. A batch will be ordered as soon as we have a 6 more orders to make up the minimum order quantity required.

Books supplied by BNAPS will include an insert signed by Derek Kay and are priced at £9.99, plus p&p. Each sale will also contribute to BNAPS fund raising.

Visit to Land's End Airport

During a short break in Cornwall in June, BNAPS News editor felt there was a good opportunity to visit the Isles of Scilly Skybus operation at nearby Land's End Airport. Contact was made with Mick Yould, Skybus Engineering Manager, and a visit was arranged for 0730 as the Islanders were being moved out of the hangar for another busy day. Skybus currently has three Islanders in its fleet which operates all year and during the summer months supports a high density shuttle service for the 15 minute flight to St Mary's Airport.



Islander G-SSKY waits ready on the ramp at Land's End Airport ready for the first flight of the day.



Land's End Airport will soon undergo major refurbishment including a new control tower.

In a year the Islanders each clock up about 500 hours of operation and are seen as being ideally suited to Skybus services. With the Islander's reputation for rugged dependability it is difficult for Skybus to see how they could be replaced.

Mick also took an interest in what BNAPS is doing and would welcome being kept in touch with progress. Many thanks go to Mick for his hospitality. There will be more about Skybus and its Islander operations in the next BNAPS News

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. Anyone with an interest in local aviation heritage is welcome.

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.

Forthcoming BNAPS Events

BNAPS Social Evenings 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 is £1.00 for BNAPS Supporters Club members and £2.00 for visitors.

25 September - First of the 2012-2013 season's social meetings. The evening will include an illustrated presentation covering a Review of BNAPS Activities from March 2011 and View to the Future.

Details of further meetings later in 2012 and in 2013 will be advised.

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:

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Trustees are Peter Graham, Bob Wilson, Guy Palmer and Bob Wealthy.

Peter Graham is chairman of the board of trustees.

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