

Pilot Notes

News and whatever else strikes our eye this month

OLYMPIC RESTRICTIONS

Stop press! The Government announces significant concessions to GA, cutting the duration to one month p.10



SK-105 Skylander to fly next year

Assembly of the first Sky Aircraft SK-105 Skylander STOL twin-turboprop will begin later this year, according to Serge Bitboul, Chairman and CEO of GEI International Group (of which Sky Aircraft and Reims Aviation are both subsidiaries). Maiden flight is scheduled for the summer of 2012, with certification expected in the first half of 2013 and first customer deliveries in the third quarter.

The P&WC PT6A-65-powered Skylander, originally co-designed by the late Desmond Norman, has "a new, cleaner design which has eliminated the need for wing struts, and an extended, more

aerodynamic, nosecone," says Bitboul. "It is a very simple and robust aircraft... There are just 4,000 parts in the structure instead of the typical 15,000-20,000 parts for a comparably-sized aircraft."

Initial production will focus on a 19-seat passenger version that is also designed to carry LD2 freight containers. Combi, VIP, medevac, freight versions and floatplane versions are also planned. Bitboul believes a production run of 1,500 is possible between 2013 and 2030, and says that the Skylander's simplicity will make it ideal for special missions and border and maritime patrol missions.

Enstone Spitfire Club update

Since Enstone 'skipper' Paul Fowler announced his plans to assemble a squadron of 90% scale Spitfire Mk26Bs in the December 2010 issue of *Pilot*, interest in the project has 'gone global'



There was a hiatus while Mk26 kit manufacturer Supermarine moved production from Australia to the USA. However, Paul has secured the first airframe, which is shortly to be moved to a designated build area at Enstone. The aim is form twelve build syndicates, each with twelve to twenty members. Expressions of interest have been received from hundreds of pilots and enthusiasts (flight training will be part of the package) and the membership of first syndicate is fully paid up. For further info, see www.spitfireclub.co.uk

'Visit ATC Days' to continue

Pilots are once again being invited to take part in 'Visit ATC Days' during October to view operations at Air Traffic Control units at a dozen or more civil and military aerodromes throughout the UK.

The scheme, now in its third year, aims to increase mutual understanding between pilots and controllers. All visits require prior registration and are open only to holders of pilot licences (NPPL, PPL, BGA certificates and students). Those attending will be required to show their licences or evidence that they are learning to fly. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so those who have not pre-registered or cannot produce their licences or other evidence on the day will not be admitted.

There will be no charge for the events. For a full list of participating ATC units, dates and contact details for pre-registration, visit airspace-safety.com/content/news.asp