

CLUB AND GLIDING NEWS

The Czechoslovak L.13 "Blanik" high-performance two-seater sailplane — familiarly known as the "Cadillac" to western observers at the St. Yan contests last year.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Armstrong Siddeley Flying Club "for finding an original excuse for a party" were voiced by Mr. Basil Meads of the Kemsley Flying Trust at the club's dinner and dance last Saturday, May 11. The excuse was the final repayment of the K.F.T. loan which had assisted in the purchase of the club's Topsy Trainer G-AFSC. Mr. Meads recalled that the A.S. club had been the first of the private-ownership groups to obtain such a loan and, not only was the club the first in—it was also the first out.

Other speakers at the dinner included Edward Felce, first chairman of the club, who reviewed its history; Ron Christmas, the present chairman; and Maurice Imray, secretary of the Popular Flying Association, who presented a new cup for the club's most outstanding pupil of the year to Frank Hudson, for his rapid progress towards his P.P.L. After the dinner, which was held in the Coventry Aeroplane Club's club-house at Baginton, members and guests thoroughly enjoyed the evening's dancing, in which the agility of the younger members was matched by the distinguished rocking and rolling of the energetic Basil Meads.

ELSTREE'S At Home and air display on Saturday, May 25, is planned to include a club formation flight, parachute jump, sailplane display, instructors' race and demonstrations by members of the Tiger Club. Aircraft types to be put through their paces include the E.P.9, Chipmunk and Comper Swift.

Pleasure flights will be available. Admission for members of the general public will be by programme, price 1s at the gate; visitors by air are asked to arrive before 2.30 p.m. The programme should end at about 5 p.m.

THE Armstrong Whitworth Flying Group recently completed a successful first year's operations. Flying Tiger Moth G-ALWW, the group's 60 members logged a total of 270 hours. W. Johnson gained his P.P.L., and first solos were logged by F. Wheeler, O. Shorthouse, J. Rose, T. Elliott, M. Hunt and A. Thomson. The group's flying rate, determined on a non-profit basis, is 36s per hour. Membership of the group, which for social purposes is affiliated to the Coventry Aeroplane Club, is confined to employees of Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd., and since its conception in September 1955 there has been a waiting list to join. The group is fortunate to have the voluntary services of three instructors, the C.F.I. being N. Slater, assisted by B. Woolston and (when his duties with Coventry Aeroplane Club permit) B. Lavell. The year's excellent serviceability record on the Tiger stands to the credit of N. Roper, the ground engineer.

LAST month's landmark competition of the Scottish Aero Club, Perth, was won by T. Nicoll and D. Young, with D. McLennan and D. Rhind as runners-up. Private Pilots' Licences have been obtained by three of the A.T.C./C.C.F. cadets at Perth.



ORKNEY Flying Club is being disbanded, and its Tiger Moth has been sold to the Edinburgh Flying Club. The Orkney secretary said recently that the island's population was too small to support the club.

FROM the industrial West Riding comes news of the first flight of the Halifax Gliding Club. On April 28 the first four launches were made in a Kerby Kite sailplane from the private airfield at Crosland Heath, near Huddersfield, which is owned by Mr. David Brown of Meltham. Shortly after its formation in January 1956, the club purchased a Slingsby Tutor from a private owner for £60. Since then members have been hard at work stripping and re-covering the machine at the club's workshop in Halifax—an operation adding an extra £40 to the original cost. It is to undergo an inspection for a new Certificate of Airworthiness this month. The Kite, at one time the property of the Midland Gliding Club, is privately owned by a member who has placed it at the disposal of the club for a time.

APRIL'S good gliding weather resulted in a total of 540 hours being logged at the Lasham Gliding Centre. Launches numbered 2,210 and 2,551 cross-country miles were covered. During the Easter week-end Col. Anthony Deane-Drummond flew to Land's End, completing his "Gold C"; Derek Piggott's series of cross-countries during April and early May were reported in *Flight* last week.

AN unofficial gliding speed record for the 100 km triangle, set up by Peter Scott and Peter Collier of the Bristol Gliding Club on May 6, has not been confirmed, because no barograph was carried in the sailplane. The aircraft was the third Slingsby T.42 Eagle two-seater, owned by Mr. Scott, and the speed achieved was 36 m.p.h., which would otherwise have been a British national record.

THE constitution of the various Royal Aero Club committees for 1957-58 has recently been announced. Details are given below, together with names of stewards, timekeepers and other competition officials and F.A.I. representatives.

The Committee

President.—Lord Brabazon of Tara.

Vice-Presidents.—S. Kenneth Davies, Capt. Sir Geoffrey de Havilland, Lord Gorell, Viscount Kemsley of Dromore, Sir Frederick Handley-Page, Whitney W. Straight, The Duke of Sutherland.

Chairman.—S. Kenneth Davies.

Vice-Chairman.—Air Chief Marshal Sir John Boothman.

Committee Members.—Capt. K. J. G. Bartlett, Maj. A. J. Michell-Clarke, J. G. Crammond, Lt-Col. C. F. H. Gough, E. S. Greenwood, S. Scott-Hall, R. E. Hardingham, R. G. Kent, E. H. W. Lucas, L. A. Morgan, G/C. C. S. Morice, Maj. H. A. Petre, Maj. J. Stewart, L. Swan, J. C. C. Taylor, Capt. R. H. Walmsley, F. Woodhead.

Other Committees

Finance.—Air Chief Marshal Sir John Boothman, J. G. Crammond, Maj. A. J. Michell-Clarke, E. S. Greenwood, Capt. R. H. Walmsley, F. Woodhead, L. A. Morgan.

Aviation.—Air Chief Marshal Sir John Boothman, S. Scott-Hall, R. E. Hardingham, Maj. H. A. Petre, J. C. C. Taylor, F. Woodhead, B. F. Collins, H. Best-Devereux, J. J. Dykes, W. I. Scott-Hill, F. N. Hillier, A. F. Houlberg, V. A. M. Hunt, N. Jones, H. B. Lindsay, G/C. E. L. Mole, B. J. Snook, J. N. Somers, P. A. Wills.

House.—Maj. A. J. Michell-Clarke, J. G. Crammond, R. G. Kent, E. H. W. Lucas, Maj. J. Stewart, L. Swan, Capt. R. H. Walmsley, F. Woodhead, L. R. E. Castlemaine, E. J. Earnshaw, G. B. Fellows, S/L. W. A. R. Harris, S/L. C. K. Turner-Hughes, G. H. Wilkinson.

"Royal Aero Club Gazette."—G. Dorman, J. J. Dykes, R. G. Kent, E. H. W. Lucas.

N.B.—The chairman of the Club, Mr. S. Kenneth Davies, is an *ex officio* member of all committees.

Stewards of the Club

Lord Brabazon of Tara, Lord Gorell, Maj. H. A. Petre, The Duke of Sutherland, Lt-Col. C. F. H. Gough, F. Woodhead.

Officials for Records, Races and Competitions

Timekeepers.—P. B. Mayne (chief timekeeper), Maj. J. W. Barber, Maj. A. L. Ebblewhite, A. J. Gibbons, Maj-Gen. A. H. Loughborough, L. H. Lumby.

Handicappers.—F. Rowarth (consultant), D. J. Lyons (chief handicapper), C. M. Britland, W. J. Charnley, Miss I. J. Ferguson, W. S. Johnson, D. R. Murrin, L. R. Wilson.

F.A.I. Representatives

Capt. K. J. G. Bartlett (president), S. Scott-Hall (sporting), P. A. Wills (gliding), Maj. T. W. Willans (parachuting), A. F. Houlberg (models), Col. R. L. Preston (touring), Sir Harold Whittingham (medical).

Other Representatives

British Gliding Association.—M. O. Imray.

Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers.—M. O. Imray.

Popular Flying Association.—J. C. C. Taylor.

Surrey Flying Club's "Taxi Tiger" features an enclosed front cockpit for passenger comfort and is the work of Rollasons, Croydon.