

FROM THE BRITISH FLYING GROUNDS.

Brooklands Aerodrome.

On Monday, last week, Mr. Harry Hawker made a fine flight to the Isle of Wight, carrying with him as passenger Mr. Boger, the journey being made in the good time of 55 mins. Mr. Hawker came back from Cowes in 50 mins., flying at an altitude of 5,000 ft. all the way.

On Friday, Mr. Beevor, a pupil at the Vickers school, passed his *brevet* tests in most brilliant style, reaching an altitude of nearly 1,200 ft., from which height he effected landings on the mark—a pupil's record of which both he and his instructors, Messrs. Barnwell and Knight, may well feel proud.

There was some good flying on Saturday. Mr. Barnwell made several good cross-country trips on Mr. Hamel's old single-seater Blériot monoplane, recently acquired by the Vickers Co. Mr. Ronald had an excellent test flight on the new Sopwith tractor biplane, which he handled very well. Mr. Merriam and Mr. Bendall were out on the Bristol biplanes.

On Sunday, Mr. Hamel was just starting from Hendon for Brooklands on his new double-seater 80 h.p. Blériot monoplane, with his mechanic as a passenger, when one of the chassis wheels caught up a piece of wood, which was thrown into the propeller, breaking the latter, the pieces falling into the motor, and rendering the same *hors de combat*. As a result the trip on that machine had to be abandoned, but, determined not to disappoint his Brooklands friends, he was successful in borrowing one of the school Blériot monoplanes, on which he set out for Brooklands, where he gave several good exhibition flights, ultimately flying back to Hendon on the machine. Several flights had been booked on Mr. Hamel's new two-seater, and these, of course, had to be postponed until next Sunday, when, in addition, Mr. Hamel will take up the lucky person who shall win that day's ballot for the free flight.

Mr. Harry Hawker added to his laurels by annexing the British Altitude Record with two passengers (Mr. Dukinfield Jones and Mr. Simms) on the new Sopwith tractor biplane (80 h.p. Gnome), the machine climbing easily with its load to 8,580 feet (approx-

mately) or 180 feet better than the previous best of 8,400. The sky was absolutely cloudless and everyone had an uninterrupted view of the machine the whole time, which presented a most fascinating picture with the sun glistening on its bright parts from time to time as it turned during its steady climb. But for engine trouble the machine would have added another couple of thousand feet to its total. Mr. Hawker's feat was warmly applauded by the large number present. Another attempt will be made in the near future at Brooklands by Mr. Hawker, when he will essay the British Altitude Record with one passenger, and anyone desirous of making this trip with him should communicate with Mr. Sopwith, who has an interesting proposition to make in connection with the flight.

The winner of the ballot for the free flight was Mr. J. H. Brownrigg, of 15, Quarry Street, Guildford, who was, however, obliged to postpone his flight until next Sunday.

Mr. Barnwell was again flying the single-seater Blériot monoplane. Messrs. Merriam and Bendall were out on the Bristol biplanes. Mr. Hawker made several trips with passengers on the Sopwith tractor biplane. The competition arranged for pupils and instructors had again to be postponed owing to the gusty wind until next Sunday.

Mr. Salmel has taken up his quarters at Brooklands with a new machine to which he is now putting the finishing touches and of which great things are expected.

Bristol School.—Bendall for test first thing on Monday last week, then up behind Mr. Richard Powell on straights, afterwards giving Mr. Bernard Howard two circuits as passenger. Too bumpy for further flying. The weather was too bad in the afternoon and evening, and flying was impossible.

On Tuesday and Wednesday blowing hard all day, and all busy in the sheds.

Merriam for test on Thursday, then up with Mr. Richard Powell, Lieut. Newton (new pupil), and behind Mr. Skene. Too bumpy afterwards for further flying. Merriam for solo, then up with Lieut.



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Some pupils and pilots at the British Deperdussin Monoplane School at Hendon.—Reading from left to right: (seated) Messrs. R. Jaques, N. C. Spratt (pilot), J. G. Barron, Capt. J. C. Halahan (School Manager), E. B. Bauman, Col. N. M. Smyth, V.C., E. R. Whitehouse; (standing) Lieut. H. le M. Brock (R. Warwickshire Regt.), Messrs. Denis Ware, D. G. Murray, W. D. Thompson (Sec., British Dep. Co.), and in the pilot's seat Mr. W. Brck (pilot).