

# PRIVATE FLYING

A Section of **FLIGHT** in the Interests of the Private Owner, Owner-Pilot, and Club Member

## AN AERO CLUB FOR LIVERPOOL

THE endeavours at Liverpool to attract the aviation enthusiasts to the pleasure and importance of the light aeroplane movement have suddenly blossomed into great promise. It seems likely that a Liverpool Club will shortly start flying with at least two machines, if not four, and its advent will be entirely independent of official subsidy.

On January 26, a meeting was held in the Town Hall during the luncheon hour. Although this particular time of the day is usually given up very willingly to a certain enticing purpose quite 200 people attended the meeting, although it clearly meant that in many cases there had been sacrifices for the worthy cause of aviation. They came from as far as St. Helens, Wigan and Warrington, as well as from the more immediate Merseyside areas.

Sir Sefton Brancker and Brig.-Gen. P. R. C. Groves were present to support the Chairman, Mr. F. J. Marquis.

Sir Sefton Brancker made it clear that according to the present means available for subsidising the flying clubs no new clubs could hope for assistance. There were thirteen clubs now being assisted, and there was simply no more money left for others. The Treasury policy, he stated, was not to continue the subsidy beyond the three years which the current grants would run. But although it was hopeless to approach the Treasury for money there were possibilities in other ways, and they could count on the Air Ministry being in their service. He said that ten of the thirteen subsidised clubs were flying and the total membership was now 1,108 flying members and 853 associate members.

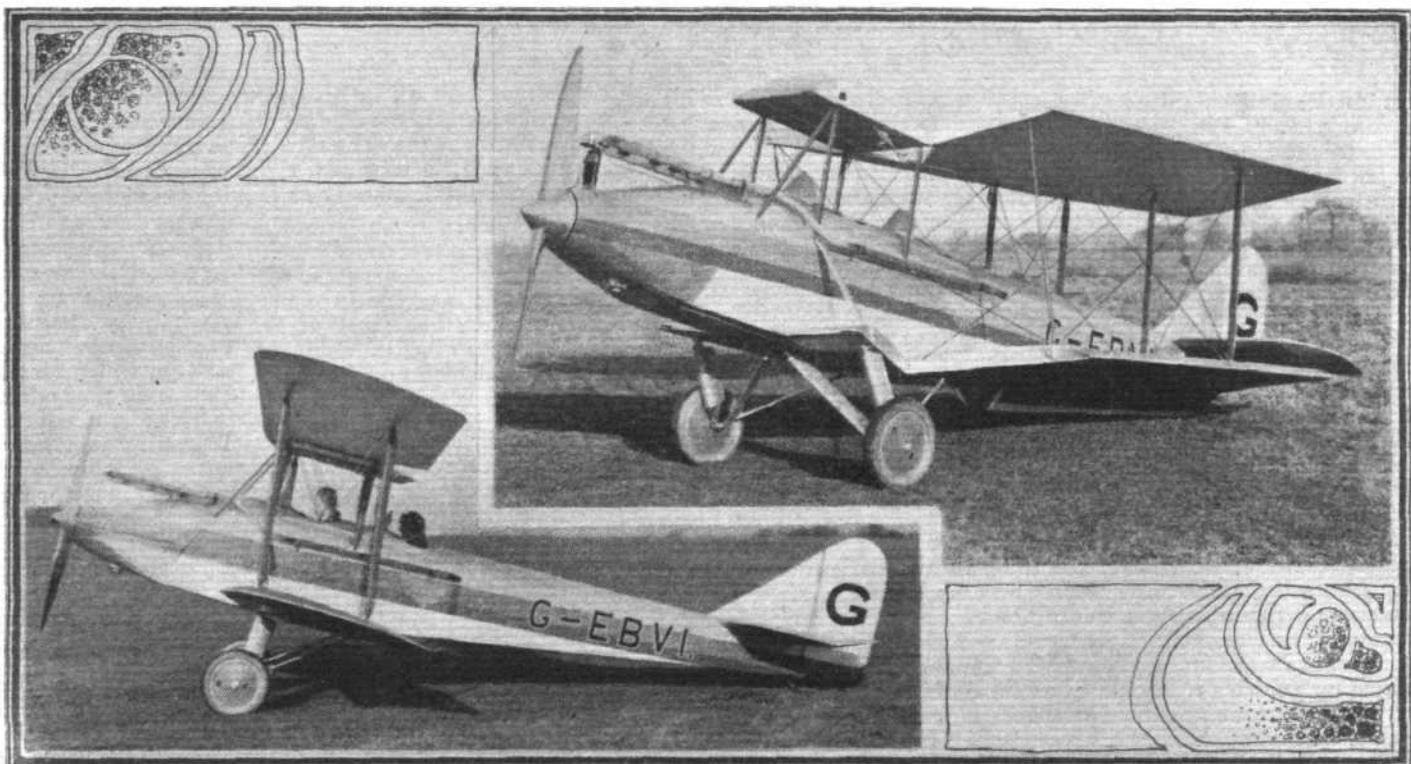
Other speakers were Brig.-Gen. Groves and Mr. H. Lewis, who obtained his pilot's ticket during the war when he was

over fifty years of age. An ex-Mayor, Sir Arnold Rushton, supported the proposal to form a club. A committee was elected with Sir F. C. Bowring as president; Lord Sefton and Lady Bailey as vice-presidents; and the following agreed to accept other positions:—Sir Benjamin Johnson; Sir A. Rushton; Mr. J. A. Tinne, M.P.; Mr. F. J. Marquis; Col. J. J. Shute, D.S.O.; and Mr. M. Anderson, who has done much to help the movement. The secretary, *pro tem.*, will be Mr. F. Davison, a member of the Lancashire Aero Club.

Mr. John F. Leeming also supported the meeting on behalf of the Lancashire Aero Club. About seventy people announced their intention of joining the club.

Two days later, January 28, the club held a small air meeting at the Hooton Aerodrome, which was attended by about 200 spectators, and heavy rain. Well-known pilots gave interesting flying exhibitions in the afternoon in spite of the bad weather. They were Lady Bailey, Capt. Broad, Capt. Stack, and Capt. Blake, the Blackburn Aeroplane Company's new pilot. Flying started about 2.30 p.m., when Capt. Stack took up Miss M. Hughes in a D.H. "Moth." This was the first official flight by a member of the new club. Flights were also given by Capt. Stack to those who had won the prizes in the competition for guessing altitudes held the day before. Some of those who became members during the afternoon were given free flights in an Avro "Avian." Capt. Blake flew the Blackburn "Bluebird," and Capt. Broad a D.H. "Moth." The Lancashire Club sent from Woodford, three of their pilots to lend their support. Mr. John Lord, of A. V. Roe and Co., was also present.

In the evening a dinner was held at which fifty guests were



This is the Avro "Avian" which A. V. Roe and Co. have supplied to the Hampshire Aero Club. It is fitted with the new undercarriage which is automatically swept back when the wings are folded, bringing the machine nearer the ground. Thus the engine is more accessible for inspection and adjustment. Also a good deal of weight is taken off the tail skid, thereby facilitating the manœuvring of the machine. These photographs were taken at Woodford Aerodrome, Cheshire, after the machine had been tested.