

the Leicestershire and Ipswich Aero Clubs. Guests included the Lord Mayor of Norwich (Mr. H. N. Holmes), who is the President of the Club, and the Lady Mayoress. The Sheriff of Norwich was also present. The band was the London Adastral Dance Band. Large models of the Club aircraft were suspended from the ballroom roof and the floor was decorated with chrysanthemums and cryptomeria.

LEICESTERSHIRE AERO CLUB

During the month of November 39½ hours were flown, of which 31 were flown in the first 13 days of the month, which figures are proof of the weather conditions experienced. The few visitors by air included Lt. R. R. Bentley, the Midland Aero Club, the Liverpool and District Club, and Mr. Micklethwaite, a private owner, struggling back by easy stages to Yeadon. Messrs. D. G. Henderson and T. S. H. Bailey made their first solo flights. On November 17 Mr. C. Hedley Briggs gave a lecture on "Magnetism and the Compass," and Flt. Lt. Stringer gave a lecture on "Map-reading"; both lectures were well attended. On December 2 the Club held their first dance of the season at the Palais-de-Dance, Leicester. A very enjoyable evening was spent, during which a replica of a "Puss Moth," illuminated, was drawn across a darkened floor (it is to be hoped it complied with the latest Air Ministry modifications). The Club "Jazz" orchestra supplied the music, and are open to accept engagements. Visitors came from the Castle Bromwich Squadron, the Nottingham and Northampton Clubs, and one, Mark Diamant, by air from London.

READING AERO CLUB

In spite of inclement weather during the past few weeks, there has been an increase in the number of flying hours; in fact, compared with the same period last year, the average has increased, which speaks volumes for the popularity of the Club, and the airmindedness of its members. The week-end has been a busy one. Messrs. Colingwood, Bishop, and W. L. James flew over to Brooklands and reported enjoyable trips. The date of the next dance has been fixed for Saturday, January 7, and it is hoped that a cabaret will be staged.

YORKSHIRE CLUB

Four new members have enrolled during the past week. Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Micklethwait made a trip to the Paris Aero Show in their "Moth" G-ABHM, but bad weather delayed their outward journey. The club's annual ball was held on Friday, December 2, at the Hotel Majestic, Harrogate.

SURREY AERO CLUB

The added comforts to the Gatwick club house have proved very welcome on these cold and dismal days. The lounge is generally full during the evenings and during week-ends. Several new members have lately joined the club. Sunday proved to be a really good flying day, and three machines were kept in the air most of the day. Mr. John Speyer has just renewed his "A" licence and is putting in hours at a good pace. Another pupil commences a two-year course with the Redwing Co. on Monday next, and there is also a ground engineering pupil. The club are organising a dance for members and their friends early in the new year.

MAIDSTONE AERO CLUB

On Thursday, November 24, Mr. Victor Smith, while flying from the Cape was forced down near Maidstone airport, and the club sent a machine and refreshment to his assistance. Mr. Smith complained that the English weather was the worst he had experienced during his flight. A.I. has now been repaired after its crash and is in constant use. The monthly average hours are well above normal. The club membership is now over 220, but again let it be pointed out that the entrance fee, which is going to be imposed in 1933, may still be avoided by joining now. On Sunday, December 10, the club's annual dance will be held, and it is hoped that many visitors will take the opportunity of visiting the club. On Sunday, December 4, from 3 p.m., Mr. W. Colyer-Fergusson was "at home" to welcome members and their friends. The club will be open throughout Christmas, and on Tuesday, December 27, there will be a children's Christmas tree. Arrangements have now been

completed to extend the club premises by the addition of a further room, which will serve as a lounge bar, which should, when completed, make the club premises some of the cosiest and most compact in the country.

HERTS AND ESSEX CLUB

At Broxbourne aerodrome last Saturday the club held the first competition for the "Woodside" challenge cup; apart from a high wind the conditions were excellent. The contest was in the form of a "pin pointing" competition over a course of about 40 miles, finishing with a forced landing on the aerodrome, and by lunch time ten competitors had completed the course, three club machines being in action. By 2 p.m., however, rain was falling heavily, the velocity of the wind had not decreased, and the visibility at 500 ft. was nil. The last competitor to take off at 3.30 p.m. was Mr. J. A. Macdonald, the club's youngest member, who completed the circuit at a height of only 200 ft. Mr. G. H. L. Curtis was the winner, with Mr. E. M. Gill a very close runner-up, Mr. L. Walters was given third place. Flt. Lt. Duncanson presented the Woodside cup to Mr. Curtis, who will hold it for six months; he also received another silver cup as a result of his winning a "forced-landing" competition the previous week.

THE SOUTH DOWNS AERO CLUB

Ford aerodrome presented an animated spectacle when we visited there last Sunday. Since the formation of this club the number of members has grown considerably, and there are now some 60, of whom 20 are constantly flying.

The club house is a comfortable building, while the hangar space is, of course, unique. At the present time beside the club aircraft there are also many belonging to the fleet which accompanied the National Aviation Day on its tour of this country, and as well five Ford machines which, although they are well looked after in the hangar, seem somewhat pathetic, standing as they do, and not flying more than very occasionally.

Few aerodromes are situated in more delectable spots than is Ford; and we were not a bit surprised to learn that many of the members came from London, finding it both profitable and pleasant to get away from the City to fly at this peaceful club near the sea.

VICEROY'S CHALLENGE TROPHY

The Committee of the Aero Club of India and Burma are arranging for the annual Air Race for the Viceroy's Challenge Trophy to be held in Delhi on February 10, 1933. This is a handicap speed race, and the course will be over a distance of about 700 miles, to be flown in one day. In addition to the Challenge Trophy, several other trophies and cups can be competed for and about £300 will be distributed in prize money. The race is open to all pilots and any type of civil aeroplanes, and entry forms can be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Aero Club, 119, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

As the race attracts a great deal of attention, it is hoped that owners and aircraft firms from other countries will enter machines. The Aero Club of India and Burma are quite willing to arrange for fully qualified and experienced pilots to fly any machines; also the Club can arrange for the erection of such machines.

LONDON GLIDING CLUB

On Sunday, November 20, the wind blew obliquely to the line of the hill, later changing until it was parallel with it. Hiscox soared for 20 min. in the "Hols," Dewsbery for just over an hour in the "Wren," Collins flying her down twice. Williams flew the "Professor," Buxton soared the "Scud" for about 10 min., and Maj. Petre flew her down; various other people made descents, many of them in ploughed fields.

On Saturday, November 26, Maj. Petre and Dewsbery each did a 20-min. flight. On Sunday, the 27th, the south-west wind was full of vicious bumps, and Collins, doing his first soaring flight in the "Professor," 750 ft. up, was so jerked about in his seat that both belts came undone, and he deemed it prudent to land. The "Cassel" two-seater and the "Wren" were also up for short periods, and F/O. Mole practised approaches for hill-top landings. The Club is extremely grateful to the Maharajah of Jodhpur for his generous and substantial gift to the Club funds. Owing to the absence abroad of Mr. Ashwell-Cooke, Maj. Petre has been unanimously and gratefully elected as his successor in the chair.