

# ABINGDON FAYRE 2005

**S**unday 1st May 2005 saw the skies over Oxfordshire filled with aircraft once more. The Ridgeway Military and Aviation Research Group joined the many other participants in order to raise money for the Douglas House Respite Centre, Oxford, in what has now become an annual event.

Whilst there for a very good cause, it was also an opportunity for RMARG to show its public face and provide awareness of the group's activities in showing off its recently recovered



*Polish Navy M28 Bryza*

P-38/F-5B wreckage that had been flown by the celebrated second World War II pilot Wing Commander Adrian Warburton.

Static Display Aircraft began arriving on the Friday before the show began and without doubt the "Star" guest was the Polish Navy M28 Bryza 1R, from 30 Naval Air Squadron based in Gdynia, Poland. This proved to be a very interesting aircraft and a great coup for the organiser.

The Bryza is a Patrol and Tactical Reconnaissance aircraft with a normal crew complement of five.

Typical duration of the Bryza on a normal sortie is four hours, cruising at around 190 knots.

## Bright sun brings out the crowds

**S**how day dawned through a slight mist but soon burned off as the sun warmed up the air. The heat of the sun and the beautiful day all helped to bring in the biggest crowd to this event so far.

The organisers estimated that a crowd of

between seven and nine thousand people attended and had a glorious day with all the aircraft on show. Buffs spent many happy hours watching, examining and, naturally analyzing all aspects of the aircraft on display and enjoying the flying



De-Havilland Fox Moth

Bae Hawk from RAF Valley and a Sepecat Jaguar from Coltishall.

815 Naval Air Squadron also returned again this year with the Lynx Helicopter flown by Lts Glyn Owen and Steve Aitken who displayed the unique qualities of the Lynx.

The Main Flying Display started at 1.45pm with a home based Grob Vigilant motor glider from the RAF 612 VGS demonstrating what they do virtually every weekend at Abingdon whilst promoting the Air Cadet Organisation in general. It was flown by Flt Lt Peter



Hawker Hunter



Jet Provost T5

Mockeridge, a senior Chief Flying Instructor with the Squadron. Then followed Flt Lt Dave Harvey returning in the 100Sqn Hawk T1 jet trainer, one of the two ex RAF Abingdon types to display.

Peter Metcalfe displayed a former mount of Denny Dobson, a Pitts Special S1A. The display with a very enjoyable mix of loops rolls and flicks.

The Piston Provost, a former basic trainer within the RAF in the 1950s was next flown by John Fairey, giving a nice graceful aerobatic display. It is immaculately maintained which is full credit to its owners.

Neil Whatling gave us his first ever performance in the Hong Kong coloured T67 Firefly trainer which certainly added a splash of colour to the proceedings.

The following item was the RAF Chinook. This big twin rotor heavy lift helicopter was flown by Flt Lt Carl Zarecky and really was impressive to say the least with tight turns, high pitch ups and a "corkscrew" type manoeuvre.

Unfortunately, two thirds through its routine and whilst performing a backwards hover taxi along the display runway, its right hand side rear wheel detached itself and Carl brought the big helicopter into the hover almost immediately - a great piece of flying. He and his crew returned to RAF Odiham safely...

Denny Dobson was flying his Extra 300L to great applause - a truly agile display and his "party piece" was to fly down to within 3 feet of the runway and to "limbo" under 10 ribbons before returning to cut them with his pro-



Westland Lynx

Among the 80+ aircraft flying in on the Saturday morning were two Tiger Moths, a Stampe biplane, a Belgian registered Miles Gemini and a Fox Moth,

De-Havilland Dragon, Pitts Specials and various Microlights, EV-97, Extra 230, Nanchang CJ6, Yak 52, Robinson R22 and R44 helicopters, Pembroke C1 (open to the public), PA28's, Chipmunks, Austers, Pietenpol Air Camper, Rans S6, Piston Provost, P51 Mustang, Delta Jets Hawker Hunter T7 and 2 Jet Provosts..

The services exhibited an R.A.F. Merlin from Benson and a Chinook from RAF Odiham. The fixed wing aircraft involved in the display were a

pellor. With this manoeuvre he succeeded in breaking a record which has been recorded on TV - and of course what better place to do this than at Abingdon!

Peter Teichman provided his beautiful P51 Mustang. Peter really looks after all of his aircraft with the Mustang being no exception - it was really impressive and the sound of the Merlin powered World War 2 fighter was fantastic.

Then more Merlin power from the World War 2 era came in the form of the RAF Memorial Flight Avro Lancaster Bomber, probably the highlight for many and truly moved people as this really is a glorious sight to see. 28 (AC) Sqn RAF was next up



B-V Chinook HC2



P51 Mustang

with the mighty Merlin Helicopter who is no stranger to Abingdon as these are often seen training here during weekdays.

Sqn Ldr Mark Beardmore who displayed the Merlin in 2002 once again had put together a cracking routine with plenty of fast passes (one complete with red smoke!), high pitch ups and low hovering... full credit to him and his crew for an excellent routine.

The final item was a fitting tribute as this type is also an ex RAF Abingdon type which was maintained here for 17 years, the Sepecat Jaguar Strike Fighter. The Jaguar is now unfortu-

nately starting to be phased out of RAF service to be replaced by the Eurofighter Typhoon. Flown by Flt Lt Derek Sington of 41Sqn, he put on a great display showing all aspects of the flight envelope which started with a fast pass and ended with a fast pass in full reheat and zoom climb!!



Sepecat Jaguar



W/S Augusta EH101-Merlin HC3

I would like to express my sincere thanks to those members who gave of their time in supporting the exhibition. We entertained a steady stream of visitors throughout the day resulting in good sales of our in house magazine which will hopefully encourage new membership.

This event resulted in £4,000 being donated to Douglas and Helen House Respite Centre which, over a five year period has seen donations totalling £13,000

Congratulations must go to the organiser, Neil Porter and his team for a wonderful collection of aircraft from across the ages and we look forward to 2006 where I am sure there will be another fine collection of aircraft on display.