



PFA Young Eagles day at Filton
27 September 1997

Organised by the Bristol Strut, a total of 47 young people from local schools and from the Bristol Childrens Hospital, were offered free flights in private aircraft, mostly owned and operated by Strut members. Pupils were selected by inviting them to submit a simple project on aviation; it was considered that those who took the trouble to do a little research and put pen to paper were the ones who would benefit most from an aerial experience, so every entry was sent an invitation to fly.

Children from the Hospital were identified by working closely with the GreenHawk Trust, a charity which promotes Aviation in the Community, and is dedicated to organising flying events for disabled and life-limited children.

As each new Eagle arrived back at base, the official certificate was presented by their pilot to mark the occasion. Although the number flown was not large compared to similar events run recently by other Struts, the air-experience day was voted a success by all who participated. In addition to the 47 Young Eagles, nine 'Older Eagles' were also treated to a first-time taste of aviation. With the objective of the exercise being public awareness as well as fun, parents and youngsters alike now have a much enhanced view of flying. Indeed, several of our pilots received thank-you letters from excited Eagles shortly afterwards.

Grateful thanks were extended to all participating pilots for their generosity (some managed as many as five sorties!) and especially to the staff at Filton who gave their time and expertise so willingly on their weekend off.

Aircraft participating were:

G-AYYT Jodel 1050 Steve Kent
G-CZCZ CAP 10 Paul Moorhead
G-NINE Renegade Spirit Frank Bond
G-BSVE Smaragd Ron Perry
G-BGMV SF-25 Peter Turner
G-BVAF Piper Cub Nigel Hitchman
G-BAIL Cessna 172 Brian Oke
G-BPPD PA-38 Pete Hill
G-BRTD Cessna 152 Clive Greenland and friends who brought it from Popham
G-BSSW & PA28's Bristol Aero Club with pilots Dave Reynolds,
G-BCDJ John Pearce, Geoff Kent and George Brown

Ian & Mary Leader
Bristol Strut

Photo: Ed Hicks

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