



# LFC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Limerick Flying Club

[www.limerickflyingclub.com](http://www.limerickflyingclub.com)

Jan 2012



On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 a legend in the Aviation scene in Ireland has departed on his final flight. **Pearse Cahill** has been an icon and a kingpin in the flying

life of many of us older people who learned to fly in the 60s and 70s, at a time when Iona National Airways Dublin, was a huge force in light aviation both for charters and training.

## Obituary

By Harry McNamara

I have just had a text from former club member Michael Traynor advising of the sad news that Pearse Cahill passed away peacefully in his sleep this morning at his home in Skerries. While the older members of the club will have known Pearse very well, the newer members will not have.

Pearse was the owner of Iona Airways at Dublin Airport and was the approved Cessna distributor for many years until his retirement. When Limerick Flying Club was founded circa 1970 he provided our first aircraft, the straight tailed Cessna 150 EI-AOO which was known affectionately as "Double Oscar". It was in fact the first Cessna 150 on the Irish register and the aircraft upon which several of us learned how to fly.



Pearse was a regular visitor to Coonagh and in fact passed through Coonagh several times in recent years. He was also a great supporter of the Atlantic Air Venture project in Shannon for

having donated memorabilia and photos.

The support provided by Pearse in the early days of our club was instrumental to the formation and launch of Limerick Flying Club, something for which we should always be grateful.

✠ May he Rest in Peace

We wish to extend our sympathy to Pearse's family, many of whom are still actively flying in other organisations, and do also give great support to younger people who are in training at present in various locations. ED.

TG4 did a fine interview with Pearse, which was broadcast on 23 January 2011, under the title 'IONA'. If you would like to view it follow this link <http://youtu.be/8JJqTTYMx1s>

Atlantic Air Venture in Shannon also has recent interview footage with Pearse under the series 'The timeless voices of Irish Aviation'.

Michael Traynor has also published a very fine book outlining the history of Iona National Airways. A review was carried by the Irish Times recently, with details of where the book can be had. That information is on the web at <http://www.ionairways.com/ionairways.php?page=welcome>

## All happy at the Ardhú...



Photo by Gerry Doyle



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## Congratulations...

Mr Denis McNeilis on completing his first solo on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Mr Sean Byrne has been on a first solo also in early December.



Previous to all that IAA examiner Des Deeney attended Coonagh and Jeff Walton succeeded in gaining the standard for a JAA PPL. Wow because that man has many hours and also an Instructor Rating from his native New Zealand, but of course in Europe we have be sure that he is able to fly 'the right way up!' However congratulations are still deserved Jeff, because as many of us know, each flight test has to be passed on the day, regardless of how many successes you have had previously.

Slightly of a flying theme congratulations must also go to Revere Richardson and wife on the birth of their new baby recently.

## Memory of 'Christmas Eve' rip-off...

By S N Walsh

A very young Paul Keane flew with me and I deemed that he was ready for his first solo, which like most of them went off without a hitch and we could use the aircraft again after he was finished. That happened to be on a

Christmas Eve, which unlike this year, was often quite a busy day at the Club. However my duty was to assess that the person was ok on safety for his solo flight not to examine what he was wearing before departure.

After the landing however the day took a rather disturbing twist. As was the custom at the time some item of clothing was forcefully removed from the successful pilot, a tradition which went back to much earlier times when ties were cut off. However as the years progressed very few wore ties any more, so the tradition evolved where the shirt collar was cut off instead. After Paul's landing that task was carried out very quickly and efficiently by Peter Egan long before John Keane (RIP) could intervene, although he did immediately express a large wave of anger when he reached his son. It seems that the shirt in question was a very expensive designer garment which was given as a Christmas present, and of course it was completely ruined in less than a couple of hours after being handed over.

What is a little sad though is that virtually all our first solos nowadays go ahead without any special ceremony to mark the occasion. Even another tradition of a few jars at the 'local' also seems to be gone. However a welcome change is that we now get pictures of most of the successes, so at least the advancement of technology has given us some nice outcomes.

## Housekeeping advice...

By Bob Martin

When giving temp membership forms for 'intros' remind the purchasers to fill in the voucher numbers on the said document. The same goes when receiving the document back from them. Could the section on the voucher number be made bigger or highlight its importance better? And finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year with plenty of blue skies for flying.



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## For Conor Quinn...

By S N Walsh

Recently it seems one very new member did some research which led to me getting a 'blast from the past' on arrival at the club recently. In case there is no evidence at the point of your research I can help with the scene, which I myself have almost forgotten. Time moves on!



## Inis Meán revisited...

During a very hot and calm July evening many years ago one of our aircraft did not make it off the island in the normal fashion. The reason is fairly obvious I imagine, but the good news is that nobody was hurt, and the plane flew again.



Thanks must go to Captain Hayden and Aer Arann, who observed the incident from the air and returned to the island to render assistance. Our member and his guests were airlifted to Galway on the evening and some weeks later the aircraft was recovered and brought back to the mainland at Doolin on a boat belonging to O'Brien ferries.

I remember that while passing down through the main street of Ennistimon at about 23:45 on a Saturday night that many of the revellers did actually look twice to assure themselves that what they actually saw was an aircraft loaded onboard Michael Fitzgerald's truck.

The aircraft was repaired by Bruton Aviation in Abbeyshrule and subsequently did fly again, but never afterwards with Limerick Flying Club.

## Groundschool resumes...

For the attention of the students who are attending this year's groundschool, please note that classes will resume on Monday Jan 9<sup>th</sup> at 19:30 in the usual venue. The start-up subject will be meteorology and on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Neil will start the course on Radio Navigation.

## February Deadline...

Please note that the deadline for the February issue of the Newsletter is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. It would be great to hear from everyone. Your article may not be published immediately but do please believe that there is a database of material that can be used from time to time and hopefully that will be kept replenished.

## Happy New Year...

Here's wishing you all a continued happy new year and we are wishing everyone success in whatever endeavour that you may be following. We would hope of course that some of that will include passing exams and getting licences.



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Some things don't change really...



This Tiger Moth aircraft when taking off from Coonagh Airfield, Co.Limerick, crashed and was wrecked. The pilot, Mr. Christopher Humphreys, of Cappamore, Co. Limerick, had a miraculous escape. Mr. Humphreys later said that the plane had a power failure on take-off and he tried to bank and gain speed but field. The plane was recently pur swept off his undercarriage. The aircraft then dived into a nearby could not get elevation and a hedgechased by a new charter company who intended operating from Shan- non Airport. (Echo Photo Service)

Thanks to Gerry Humphreys for this picture and caption. The report is a bit convoluted but we know what it is meant to say. We don't know what subsequently happened to that machine, but in any case it is a very long time ago. The pilot however continued on to have a long and varied career.

To EICN from the water...



This lake amphibian was a recent visitor to Coonagh and was flown by Gerry Humphreys.

## Articles

The LFC Newsletter is published in the first week of the each month. Articles, letters, etc. must reach the Editor at least two days before distribution. Club members, and non-members interested in our club, or flying are invited to write. Please email it to [newscoonagh@gmail.com](mailto:newscoonagh@gmail.com) or give in person or by post. You chose the subject you wish, information, gossip, fun, logistics, or anything else.

## Disclaimer

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