



## NEWENT & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

**John Weeden; Chairman**

Tel: 01531 820530 Email: jwandmdw@gmail.com

**Fraser Gunn; Honorary Secretary**

Tel: 07960 463462 Email: fraser.gunn@live.com

---

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD via ZOOM

**TUESDAY 11 MAY 2021 @10.30**

**Chairman:** John welcomed members to his first club meeting as chairman. He informed the meeting that Fraser had fallen ill with some dizziness and had been treated in hospital, so he could not attend.

**Apologies:** Julian Oxley

**Minutes of last meeting:** Held on 13 April 2021 by Zoom and previously displayed on the club website. Agreed

**Matters Arising:** None

**Finance:** Jim had nothing to report other than the fact that some 6 members had so far failed to renew their subscriptions. He urged that they did so

**Webmaster:** In the absence of Ray at the start of the meeting, John F confirmed that there was nothing specific to report

**Speakers:** John confirmed today's speaker on flying, and next meeting's speaker on heraldry. Fraser had the necessary arrangements well in hand for the rest of the year

**AOB:** None

**Speaker: Ron Jeffries on "Why flying is so safe today".**

Ron entertained us (from his home in Spain) with an extensive and fascinating tour around current aviation, and why flying commercially was now so safe. He took us through a history of avionic systems and the design and build of passenger aircraft.

Starting with Frank Whittle's amazing development of the first jet engine he briefly tracked the design improvements which have resulted in today's power plants such as the Rolls Royce Trent 75000.

He then dealt with avionics, stemming from the design of early computers by Tommy Flowers at Bletchley Park to the modern GPS systems in use now. Following a BOAC Hermes crash after an incorrect sextant reading over a desert, the company was known by some as "Better On A Camel".

He then spoke about modern communications, including the ACARS (Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System) system of communication between an aircraft and its HQ, the engine data link which transmits every 3 minutes to HQ with detailed

engine performance figures, and TCAS (Traffic Collision Avoidance System) which relies on computers to ensure air to air collisions are avoided. He covered Radar Altimeters and Flight Simulators. He also talked about international enforcement of the necessarily high servicing and training standards through both ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) and IATA (International Air Transport Association).

There were numerous questions and the presentation was very well received.

**Birthdays:** There were 4 birthdays this month. Fraser's notes said that 3 were on the same day, May 18, but Mike W insisted he was born on 20 May so only 2 shared a date. Richard, John F, Mike and Mike T were all wished many happy returns.

Inevitably Fraser had forwarded a story for the Chairman to read out. It was one of his better ones, much to the Chairman's relief.

**Next Meeting:** 25 May 2021

**Speaker:** John Bromley will be helping us to understand Heraldry