

At the Bournemouth Air Festival a never to be repeated sight, in the Sea Vixen's current ownership, was seen in the Heritage Fly Past comprising, as we see below, the "Foxy Lady" with Hunter "Miss Demeanour" and another set of Avon engines in the form of Midair Squadron's privately owned Canberra PR9. "Foxy Lady" will be changing ownership when she moves to the Royal Naval Historic Flight at Yeovilton on 16th September. From a first flight in May 1955, that is not far short of 60 years of the twin boomer at Christchurch and Bournemouth.



LIGHTNING 60TH ANNIVERSARY AT BRUNTINGTHORPE

During John Ward's talk on the Lightning at our June meeting he mentioned that the first flight was 4th August 1954 and so the nearest weekend this year the Lightning Preservation Group held a 60th anniversary at Bruntingthorpe. A QRA (Quick Reaction Alert) shed has been acquired from RAF Wattisham and reassembled to give a true Cold War experience and such a scenario was acted out with a realistic scramble call for the first aircraft out followed by the roar as the Lightning in full reheat hurtled up the 2 mile long runway to simulate a live scramble. Then a radio report was heard that necessitated a second target to be identified and the next Lightning launched. In due course they returned to pose for a photo shoot in front of the Q-shed. Later in the day the two aircraft were towed to the runway where they did a pairs 'take off' with full reheat and the spectators were allowed next to the runway. Four Rolls-Royce Avons in full reheat really did make the earth move. A video of this is on You-Tube via a link on our web site. Support action was provided by a Canberra with the classic smoke start, fast taxi and return close to the spectators. A truly memorable day.

The left picture shows John Ward with the first aircraft to scramble from the Q shed.



VERA AND THUMPER GO TO THE SEASIDE

On Saturday 12th September, the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum Lancaster KB726 "Vera" and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster PA474 "Thumper" will be using Bournemouth International airport as a base for various displays over the weekend. The aircraft are due to arrive on Friday morning, and then depart at 11.15 on Saturday for a display at Goodwood, before returning at 11.50. They will then depart on Sunday 13th September at 13:30, for displays at Duxford and East Kirkby before landing at Coningsby in the late afternoon. If you can, try and see these two magnificent aircraft together, as those eight Rolls Royce Merlin engines in unison really are music to the ears. "Vera" is due to return to Canada on or around the 22nd September.

Any newsletter contributions, ideas or comments to:

Chris Gilbert-Norton, 12 Meadow Close, Burley, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 4EJ

Home number: 01425 403547

Mobile number: 07977 721503

E-mail: gilbey66@gmail.com