



New Forest Aviation Group.

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2017 TALKS

March 10th AGM (short) - followed by "Charles Rolls and Britain's First International Aviation Meeting"
April 7th - Half a century of military flying - Bernie Scott
May 12th - 'Fleet Air Arm Sea Vixen pilot' by Kim Sharman
June 9th - 'The Wessex Aircraft Industry' by Mike Phipp
July 14th - 'Test Flying' by Rod Sears
August - no meeting
September 8th - tbd
October 13th - Concorde by Mike Marsden
November 10th - 'My life as an RAF Transport Pilot' by Derek Oldham
December - No meeting

Rod Dean gave us our February talk entitled 'Flying and Displaying Vintage jet Aircraft' and it is little surprise that this story starts with the superb Hawker Hunter when Rod was one of a 4 ship displaying at RAF Chivenor in 1967. In 1968 he was part of the Royal Review in a formation flypast of 36 aircraft comprising 24 Lightnings and 12 Hunters all in diamond fours. His talk was interspersed with anecdotes



which provided either humour or lessons about flying (or both) one of which was in theory a simple flypast of a school which he had recce'd previously so on the day, with plenty of time in hand, nothing could go wrong.... On climbing into his display aircraft it wouldn't start, no problem, unbuckle and strap into the spare - that wouldn't start - no problem - unbuckle and strap into the original which the ground crew now had running. Of course the down side was that time had eaten away and what should have been a relaxed flight was now against time, using extra fuel resulting in an unplanned call at an airfield on the return route. This reinforced the point that military jets are thirsty and flying is always done with one eye on the fuel gauge. In 1972 and 1973 he was the Strike Command Hunter display pilot for RAF Chivenor and flew some 50 public displays over the two seasons. In 1972 Rod competed at the North Weald

Air Tattoo and won the first WD & HO Wills Solo Jet Display Trophy. The event became the Royal International Air Tattoo and, whilst Fairford was in redevelopment in 2001, it was held at RAF Cottesmore. Rod led a team of 5 Hunters and the display was judged to be the Best Overall Flying Demonstration and the team were awarded the King Hussain Memorial Sword which he was given to retain by the team. Between those two events Rod served in a number of roles including a period on 229 OCU which in 1973 used 36 Hunters to depict their OCU number for that year's Chivenor Open Day.

