

## Take a tip from Hercules



Hercules Propellers has made a number of "small but significant" improvements to its range of bespoke airscrews. The first innovation is a 'Spitfire Tip' – a slight reshaping reminiscent of the fighter's

wing planform. "Despite popular belief, the Spitfire's wing is not elliptical," says the company. "An ellipse is but a simple oval, but is shaped to produce an elliptical spanwise lift distribution curve – the most efficient. So Hercules's adoption of this tip shape is not only aesthetically pleasing, but should also improve the thrust-to-drag ratio."

Hercules' second enhancement is to their airscrews' embedded polyurethane leading-edge protection strips. Originally cold-cast, these are now hot-moulded in 'Hercuthane' (company proprietor Rupert Wasey wanted to call it 'Herculoid', but that name was already copyrighted, improving their stability over a temperature range from  $-/+50^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and can be colour-matched to the

propeller's exterior paint finish, minimising the visual effect of stone-induced paint chips. For more information and prices visit [hercprops.com](http://hercprops.com) or tel: 01453 885853.

## NATS D&D Centralised

The National Air Traffic Services Distress and Diversion (D&D) Cells at Swanwick and Prestwick currently provide emergency cover for throughout the London and Scottish FIRs. On 12 December the Scottish/Prestwick D&D Cell will close, and the London/Swanwick D&D Cell will assume responsibility for both the London and Scottish FIRs/UIRs. Extensive equipment upgrades and installations will ensure the same level of service. The change most noticeable

to pilots will be the single callsign 'London Centre' covering both the London and Scottish FIRs/UIRs. Any reporting action or enquiries which would previously have been made to the Prestwick Centre should be made through Swanwick, tel: 01489 612406. Further guidance or advice on the changes is available from Flight Lieutenant Ben Cribb on the same number, or by email to [benjamin.cribb@nats.co.uk](mailto:benjamin.cribb@nats.co.uk)

## More Gold for Great Britain



Amid the 'Gold mania' that accompanied the London Olympics, we are happy to announce that Team GBR brought home a gold medal from the European Aerobatic Championships in Slovakia.

Lincolnshire-based Gerald Cooper (above) beat 21 of the best European aerobatic pilots to take gold in the Unlimited class, winning the European Freestyle Aerobatic Championship. Gerald, who has been British number one for the last three years and ranked seventh in the world for the last two years, flew his XtremeAir XA41 "Winning this event in only my second season flying this new aeroplane was a great surprise, but very rewarding," he said. "It is great to get something to show for all the hard work entailed in training and bring recognition to British aerobatics."

## ASI's Visit ATC Days are back

The Airspace & Safety Initiative's popular Visit ATC Days return this autumn, giving UK pilots the opportunity to visit Air Traffic Control units around the country. The scheme, now in its fourth year, aims to increase mutual understanding between pilots and controllers. All the visits require prior registration and are open only to holders of pilot licences (NPPL, PPL, BGA Certificates and students). Attendees will have to show their licences or other evidence that they are learning to fly.

Pilots who have not pre-registered or cannot produce their licences on the day will not be admitted. Entry is free, but places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

All the events are free of charge. ATC units that will participate include Swanwick, Prestwick, Manchester, Farnborough, Bristol, Birmingham, Belfast and Norwich. The following dates, venues and contacts are confirmed as we go to press: Farnborough: 18 and 25 October and

1, 8 18 and 25 November, two 90-minute sessions each day at 1500 and 1730. [david.thomason@nats.co.uk](mailto:david.thomason@nats.co.uk) or tel: 01252 526035. Manchester: 21 October and 10 and 11 November. [chris.walsh@nats.co.uk](mailto:chris.walsh@nats.co.uk) Belfast International Airport: 10 November [conan.butcher@nats.co.uk](mailto:conan.butcher@nats.co.uk)

The full list of participating units, with dates when each unit will be open for a visit and contact details for pre-registration will be updated on the ASI website [airspacesafety.com/content/news.asp](http://airspacesafety.com/content/news.asp)