

# TAKE OFF

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SINGAPORE YOUTH FLYING CLUB



**SINGAPORE YOUTH FLYING CLUB**  
Takes You To Greater Heights  
SINCE 1971

**MAR 2020**  
MCI(P) 30/11/2017



7 - 9 Feb 20  
Bandung, Indonesia



03 Welcome On-Board



07 SYFC 48th Anniversary Celebration



08 Singapore Airshow 2020



11 CCA Events & Activities

# Contents

## Editorial Advisor

COL (NS) Foo Yang Ge  
*General Manager*

## Editors

Mr Daniel Tan  
*Operations Manager*

Ms Pang Mee Ling  
*Corporate Support Manager*

Mr Chan Jee Siong  
*Recruitment Executive Officer*

## Members

Mr Vincent Koh  
*CCA Manager*

Mr Kevin Su  
*Chief Aeromodelling Instructor*

Ms Rilvia Lim  
*Corporate Support Officer*

Mr Ryan Poon  
*Corporate Support Officer*

Take Off is the official newsletter of the Singapore Youth Flying Club. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the Editor, the SYFC and its Committee do not accept liability for any damage, personal or material, arising whether directly or indirectly from any article published in this newsletter. Views or opinions expressed here are entirely the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Editorial Committee.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise - without prior written permission from the SYFC. Copyright 2001 by Singapore Youth Flying Club. All rights reserved.



## Singapore Youth Flying Club

515 West Camp Road  
Singapore 797695.  
Tel: 6483 5621  
Website: [www.syfc.sg](http://www.syfc.sg)  
Email: [info@syfc.sg](mailto:info@syfc.sg)

Pg 3-5	Welcome On-board
Pg 5	FHT Flight
Pg 6	First Solo Flight
Pg 7	SYFC 48th Anniversary Celebration
Pg 8	Singapore Airshow 2020
Pg 9-10	Visit to Pearce Air Force Base
Pg 11-13	CCA Events & Activities

## GM's Foreword

SYFC celebrated our 48th birthday on 10 Dec 19 through volunteering our community service at the Singapore Cheshire Home. The Singapore Cheshire Home, founded in 1957, is a home for the seriously disabled who have no or limited means and whose families, if any, are unable to provide adequate care. It was a meaningful day for our staff at the Singapore Cheshire Home, helping out in the cleaning of the premise, gardening and providing care for the disabled residents. The anniversary day concluded with a visit to The Bicentennial Experience at the Fort Canning Centre, a memory walk-through for all of us from the momentous evolution in year 1299.

In Feb 20, our CCA team participated in the Nurtanio Flying Competition in Bandung, Indonesia. Through our inaugural participation in Indonesia, our team clinched the overall 3rd position in the F-2D control-line Combat category. Well done Team CCA!

Another key event in Feb 20 is the Asia's largest aviation event - Singapore Airshow 2020, held at the Changi Exhibition Centre. Alongside with the RSAF Recruitment booth, our staff and PPL students promoted our Basic Flying Course and the CCA programmes.

With the rapid evolution of the COVID-19 situation, SYFC will take sensible precautions, in alignment with MOH and MOE guidelines, to ensure the health and safety of our staff and students. We will stay calm and help each other to ride through this difficult time together.

*Warmest regards*

**COL (NS) Foo Yang Ge**

General Manager  
Singapore Youth Flying Club

# Welcome On-Board

**BFC 246**



**BFC 247**



**RP8H-19**



# Welcome On-Board

**NP8H-19**



**SP8H-19**



**BFC 248**



# Welcome On-Board

## TP18-19



## BFC 249



## FHT Flight

"You have FHT on 5 Feb 20 Wed. Report at 0830H. Msg fm SYFC. Pse ack", the exact text that was sent by SYFC Operations a day before my Final Handling Test (FHT). All the flights and examination papers have prepared me for the day that I could finally demonstrate my competence as a private pilot.

Entering the compound of the SYFC at 6.30 am on 5 Feb 20, I was preparing all the necessary documents that were required for the FHT and constantly motivating myself through words of affirmation. Even though I was nervous at the time, I came to realise that it was just another General Handling sortie which I had been practising for the past few flights.

"CAA-FO, surface wind 030 10 knots, cleared for take-off", clearance given by Seletar Control Tower. As I took off against the wind, I have grasped the fact that it was going to be one of my final flights before I enter the next phase in life.

Upon take off, the ground below me grew smaller while I charged towards the skies at 140 km/h, carrying out all the necessary examination requirements while embracing the remarkable view of Singapore below me. Out of all the flights, this flight was the one which I wished would last a little bit longer than it already was. It was a bitter sweet moment for me, but I have treasured every moment up in the air till landing and shutting down the aircraft.

Upon completion of all the necessary passing criteria for the Private Pilot Licence (PPL); I was finally informed of attaining the required standards at 5.30 pm the same day. The journey was not impeccable, but it was indeed memorable. Apart from flying, I have developed stronger core values for myself and will use this to push myself even further when joining the Air Force.



**Danial A, TP16H-19**

# First Solo Flight

I remembered being nervous in the days leading up to my first solo flight. It was always something I knew I was working towards but I just couldn't believe that the day finally came. On the day itself, 24 Dec 19, I tried not to overthink it as I still had to successfully complete the solo check before being able to fly solo. Thankfully the weather was good and the solo check went well and I was cleared for my first solo flight. Honestly, even after dropping off my Primary Flight Instructor (PFI), Mr De Witt at A55 parking bay, it still hadn't hit me that I really was going to fly solo. Nonetheless, I carried on and did everything like I had practiced many times before, trying not to give much thought to the fact that the seat to my right was empty. There was a moment after taking off that I finally realised that I had achieved the goal I had set my eyes on the moment I started flying training. The rest of the solo flight went as per normal and I managed to land safely. As I was taxiing back, I saw my friends who had come down to support me and felt extremely happy that I was able to make them and my family proud as they had constantly supported me. I am also extremely thankful to Mr De Witt for always having faith in me and making my experience in flying training fun and memorable!



## Tang CH, BFC 243



"Throttle full power" was the phrase I said to myself at take-off, in command of a plane that I once had little knowledge, experience and control of. I was ready. During that critical moment, a rush of emotions hit me; excitement, confidence, and a rush of adrenaline, none of these however stemmed from anxiousness. The readiness I felt was the result of the endless preparations made during previous flights, realising and correcting every small mistake pointed out by the meticulous instructors. All my training culminated to this flight, this first solo flight where my Primary Flying Instructor sent me off on my own with only a few words of advice, a solid thumbs up and the greatest confidence worn on his face. Little actions that raised my self-belief and confidence, and put a sense of tranquility in my mind. This first solo flight is one of the greatest achievement in my life and despite the sacrifices I have had to make, I have no regrets at all and will gladly go through this entire experience again.

## Sim YE, BFC 244

# SYFC 48th Anniversary Celebration



Team SYFC

On 10 Dec 19, staff from SYFC visited the Singapore Cheshire Home (SCH) where we spent the morning caring for the disabled residents.

Staff from the SCH first gave a short brief about the history of SCH and the role SCH plays in taking care of the seriously disabled. We were then broken up into small groups and assigned various roles to help in cleaning the living areas, gardening and in facilitating handicraft sessions.

The volunteering work not only provided an opportunity for SYFC staff to bond but also gave us a sense of community spirit.

SYFC staff then gathered at YWCA Fort Canning Lodge Café for lunch, where we also commemorated SYFC's 48th anniversary with a birthday cake and song.

To cap off our day of anniversary activities, we attended The Bicentennial Experience at Fort Canning Centre where we all went back in time to witness our country's key moments from past to present.



GM with managers cutting the birthday cake



Helping to keep SCH clean



Clearing the garden



Enjoying the Bicentennial Experience



Enjoying the pre-tour video, the Bicentennial Experience in Fort Canning Centre

# Singapore Airshow 2020

SYFC participated in the Singapore Airshow 2020 - Asia's largest aviation event, which was held at the Changi Exhibition Centre from 11 to 16 Feb 20.

SYFC's booth was sited together with the RSAF's and was manned by a team of SYFC staff and student ambassadors who were all PPL holders. Together, they promoted SYFC's flying and CCA programmes, raising awareness of SYFC's purpose and core activities.

During the public days from 15 to 16 Feb 20, many families and students visited our booth and made enquires on our CCA programme and the Basic Flying Course.

The SYFC team also took the opportunity to explore the exhibits and keep abreast of the developments in the aviation industry. For many of us, the highlight of the Airshow was the flying display, which showcased the Chinese BaYi Aerobatics Team and other combat aircraft types. Of particular interest for the student ambassadors was the flying display of the F-35B Lightning II, which demonstrated its prowess at high speeds then swung to the other end of the speed spectrum by impressively going to a hover at show-centre. The students were not only awestruck but also excited that they could one day be flying this fighter jet when they join the RSAF.



Chief of Air Force, MG Kelvin Khong engaging student ambassadors



Potential CCA students



Potential BFC students



Happy family with student ambassadors



Students enquiring on BFC programme

# Visit to RSAF 130 Squadron at the Pearce Air Force Base

1 Dec to 7 Dec 19

Joining SYFC opens up a wide variety of opportunities. One of these opportunities that I was fortunate to have was the trip to RSAF 130 Squadron in the RAAF Base Pearce. The visit aims to provide the SYFC Basic Flying Course (BFC) and Private Pilot Licence (PPL) students with a better appreciation of the RSAF pilot training system.

Every RSAF pilot starts off their journey here, in 130 Squadron. Trainee pilots graduate with their wings and get streamed to either the fighter, helicopter or transport platforms.

A morning in 130 Squadron starts off with a Start-of-Day Brief (SODB). Pertinent information relevant to flight operations are briefed in the SODB, including weather conditions for the day, the serviceability of the aircraft fleet and of course, safety pointers, as safety is critical in the aviation industry. As part of knowledge development for the trainees, daily quizzes would be crafted by the quiz-master, a senior trainee, who would then call out a junior trainee at random to answer the quiz question. The briefings we attended were all professionally conducted, thorough, complete and yet concise. After the morning operations brief, trainees will disperse and carry on with their daily events. Their daily activities include flying, simulator training, and various other responsibilities that they may be assigned to do.



Group photo at the entrance of 130 Squadron

I came to Pearce with an impression of the RSAF culture based on what I have read and heard. Through this trip however, I realised there is more than what can be portrayed about the RSAF through words. With so many responsibilities that a trainee pilot hold, describing their lifestyle as “busy” is an understatement and just too simplistic. Interacting with the trainees at the Squadron, I found out that flying was only a small part of their daily rigour. Ground preparation usually takes up more time, as thorough preparation prior to their sorties is key to turning in a good performance. A training sortie may only take up an hour, but the preparation, pre-flight and post-flight briefs can easily add up to many more hours. Apart from flying training, trainees are also assigned other responsibilities, from the more challenging ones like taking up leadership roles to simple ones like filling up the water dispenser and delivering lunch boxes to fellow trainees. These serve to develop leadership qualities and other necessary traits such as a sense of responsibility, self-discipline and mental capacity.

The highlight of our visit was without doubt, the opportunity to get close and personal with the Pilatus PC-21, the aircraft that the trainee pilots of 130 Squadron fly. The PC-21 is a single-engine turboprop training aircraft with a glass cockpit. The PC-21 is an absolute Swiss-made masterpiece, combining a sleek, aerodynamic airframe, the powerful and proven Pratt & Whitney PT6 engine and a sophisticated avionics suite, it is a very capable advanced trainer, able to hold its own amongst other jet trainers. To be able to touch and feel the aircraft was an inspiration for us to want to be pilots one day. To top it off, some of us got to fly in it, which motivated us even more!

One observation that left a deep impression on me during my visit to 130 Squadron was how strong bonds are built amongst the trainees. Fellow trainees take care of each other in their course and provide a vital support system for each individual, making the gruelling training course easier to get through. One trainee put it aptly and told me: “When I have a bad flight or when my day ends late, my coursemates would cook for me. Being able to come back from a long day with freshly cooked food gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling that someone cared enough to take care of me.”. It became clear to me that the camaraderie built up amongst coursemates is a powerful motivator that enables a course to pull through the challenges of flying training together.

In all, this visit to 130 Squadron has been inspirational. Seeing the trainees and instructors walk and talk with a purpose, striving towards the common objective of “becoming a better pilot, whatever it takes”, has motivated us to also work towards joining the prestigious cadre of RSAF pilots.

**Siah YL**  
**PPL Graduand, BFC 233**



Enjoying the park view

# CCA Events & Activities

## SYFC Participation In Nurtanio Flying Competition 2020

SYFC was invited by the Federasi Aero Sport Indonesia (FASI) to take part in the Nurtanio Flying Competition 2020 that was held from 7 to 9 Feb 2020 in Bandung, Indonesia. SYFC sent a team of two CCA staff, one CCA trainer and five CCA students to take part in two categories of the competition



SYFC CCA staff and students at Changi Airport for departure



The mechanic supporting the pilot during a practice session



A mechanic (foreground) launching the F2D combat aircraft for the pilot (at the background)



A F2D combat aircraft took to the sky, ready to engage its competitor

### The two categories Team SYFC participated in were:

1. **F2C Control-line Team Race Category.** In this event, a pilot and a mechanic form a team to race against two other teams within the flying circle. The teams have to complete 100 laps, with two pitstops in between. The team that clocks the fastest time for the 100 laps wins the race. In this race format, good teamwork and communication between the mechanic and the pilot is essential to winning the race.

The SYFC F2C team consisting of students Stefanie Lim (Pilot) and Adrian Song (Mechanic) came in seventh out of 20 participating teams. This was an excellent performance by the duo considering that it was their first participation in a F2C competition.

2. **F2D Control-line Combat Category.** In this event, two competing pilots engage in an aerial battle, better known as a 'dog fight'. A streamer is attached to each of the pilot's aircraft. The objective of the battle is for the pilots to out-maneuvre the other and use their aircraft's propeller to cut the opponent's streamer. The pilot who makes the most cut of the other's streamer wins the competition.

The three SYFC F2D competitors were Kevin Su, Lee Ming Xuan and Justin Chua. Kevin won the overall third position, while Ming Xuan and Justin came in seventh and 15th respectively out of a total of 19 teams. Just like the F2C teams, our F2D pilots' performance at the competition was excellent given Ming Xuan and Justin's first participation in such competition.



*SYFC F2D combat pilots together with SYFC CCA trainer and a friendly competitor from the Indonesian team*

The Nurtanio Flying Competition was a successful outing for Team SYFC. While Kevin Su clinched the third position for the F2D Combat category, the other students also did well in the categories they participated in.



*A proud moment for Team SYFC*

*Kevin Su on the podium with his third prize for the F2D category*

After months of training and a successful competition, the SYFC Team took the opportunity on the last day of their trip to do some sightseeing in Bandung before catching the evening flight back to Singapore.



*A visit to the Kawah Putih (White Crater) Volcano*

For the SYFC CCA students, taking part in the Nurtanio Flying Competition 2020 gained them the precious experience and exposure in competing on an international level. For some of them, this experience will be invaluable and will give them the confidence to embark on many more international competitions in the future. Apart from this, the students also forged a strong bond of friendship with the rest of the Indonesian youths who had taken part in the competition. Overall, it was a fun and fruitful outing which the SYFC students will remember for a long time.



*A light moment shared by students from Team SYFC*



*A group photo of all the Nurtanio Flying Competition 2020 participants*