



Maxi Clubvlucht 21.02.2021 naar Bremen en Dortmund

Door: Theo Voss

During the first months of the year, the weather is always the biggest concern for our club trips. The Mini Clubvlucht at the beginning of February must be cancelled due to bad weather and icing. But, in mid-February, warm and sunny days melted the snow and surprised us with stable and good weather for a few days. So as for the Maxi Clubvlucht on February, 21th. With the current restrictions in place, many pilots have not flown much and mostly to destinations inside the Netherlands. Since Theo Voss, who is organizing the trip, is from Germany, he was eager to make a trip to Germany happen despite all challenges.

Quickly, two interesting and controlled airports, Bremen and Dortmund, have been chosen. Landing on controlled airports is always good training for flying, taxing and ATC skills. Theo spent hours on the phone to make all restrictions and NOTAMs are taken care of. Finally, both airports confirmed that as long as we're not leaving the apron, we're good to go. The weather briefing was very promising at this point and all pilots were looking forward to a full day of flying.

Two virtual briefing sessions were held via Zoom the days before the flight to familiarize all pilots with the ATC procedures and the planned routing. On Sunday morning, 5 planes (four Cessnas, one Sport Cruiser and one Fuji) were fueled up and prepared for departure. Flight plans were filed for 10' local time and after a quick pre-departure briefing, we were ready.

The route from Teuge to Bremen was, more or less, a direct line. All aircraft departed, one after each other, and it was nice to hear all the aircraft switching frequencies. All with the same destination. Even though German FIS was very busy handling all the pilots enjoying the good weather, a friendly ATC controller explained to us that FIS (Flight Information Service) in contrast to Dutch MIL does not have the flight plans available.



All planes landed in Bremen and we learned from the marshaller, that we've increased the numbers of aircraft movements per day in Bremen by 50% with just five planes. Due to COVID-19, the whole airport was nearly orphaned and parked aircrafts covered all over. We used the time until EOBT (Estimated Off-Block Time) to have lunch and take some pictures.



At 12', all planes departed Bremen. At least one or two used runway 23, which saved 50% on the departure fee (pro tip for all pilots). The leg to Dortmund was not the longest in distance, but due to a strong headwind, it took us the longest time. While en-route, we – pilots from the mostly flat Netherlands – enjoyed passing the small hills and mountains. Once arrived in Dortmund, we took the chance to go to the toilet, change seats and take a quick rest.



The weather was still very good, blue sky and no clouds. We left Dortmund at 14' and arrived at Teuge about 45 minutes later. In Teuge, we were surprised how many visitors were watching all five planes touching down and were reminded of how blessed we are of being pilots. Later, one pilot wrote: "Thank you for the amazing flight, it felt like a small vacation in these difficult times".