What was the name of the first plane to fly across the English Channel?

In 1908, Lord Northcliffe offered a prize of £1,000 to the first man who would fly across the English Channel.

Over a year passed before the first attempt was made.

On July 19th, 1909, in the early morning, Hubert Latham took off from the French coast in his plane, the 'Antoinette IV'.

He had travelled only seven miles across the Channel when his engine failed and he was forced to land on the sea.

The 'Antoinette' floated on the water until Latham was picked up by a ship.

Two days later, Louis Bleriot arrived near Calais with a plane called 'No. XI'.

Bleriot had been making planes since 1905, and this was his latest model.

A week before, he had completed a successful overland flight during which he covered twenty-six miles.

Latham, however, did not give up easily.

He, too, arrived near Calais on the same day with a new 'Antoinette'.

It looked as if there would be an exciting race across the Channel.

Both planes were going to take off on July 25th, but Latham failed to get up early enough.

After making a short test flight at 4.15 a.m., Bleriot set off half an hour later.

His great flight lasted thirty-seven minutes.

When he landed near Dover, the first person to greet him was a local policeman.

Latham made another attempt a week later and got within half a mile of Dover, but he was unlucky again.

His engine failed and he landed on the sea for the second time.

Bleriot and Latham arrived in Calais on July 21st, 1909.

Though it looked as if there would be a race on July 25th, Latham didn't take part because he didn't get up early enough.

After making a short test flight, Bleriot crossed the Channel in thirty-seven minutes.

A policeman greeted him when he arrived in Dover.

Latham got within half a mile of Dover the following week, having to land on the sea a second time because his engine failed.

It was early morning.

I looked around, but there was no sign of Latham, SO I decided to go on a test flight first.

At 4.15, I took off and flew over Calais for fifteen minutes.

When I landed, there was still no sign of Latham.

At 4.45, I took off again.

This time, I was determined to fly across the Channel.

When I looked down, there was no sign of the ship below, which was supposed to be following me.

I suddenly felt alone and was worried whether I was flying in the right direction.

All I could see was sea and sky.

I could feel the high winds against the plane and the engine got very hot.

Fortunately, it began to rain and the rain cooled my engine.

Suddenly, I could see land ahead.

Dover!

I flew over Dover, looking for somewhere to land.

I saw a field below and brought the plane down.

I was still sitting in the cockpit, hardly able to believe the flight was so successful- just thirty-seven minutes to cross from Calais - when a British policeman arrived.

He smiled broadly at me and said, “Good morning!”

I smiled back and said, “Bonjour!”

What are you looking at?

We have received fifty applications in all.

I happened to meet your friend Tom this morning.

It happened that we were both travelling on the same in.

I suppose you've travelled by plane lots of times.

He is supposed to arrive here by 9.

I wish you had told me you were going to be late.

I'd rather he pretended he didn't know anything about it.

If I can save up enough money, I'm going to buy a car.

You had better leave now if you want to catch the next train.

I find him to be highly intelligent.

John explained the position to me.

I described the film to my aunt.

Not only has he made this mistake before, but he will make it again.

Only then did I realise what was happening.

In Hubert Latham's first attempt to fly the English Channel, his plane developed engine trouble only seven miles after take-off.

When Bleriot made his successful crossing, he had already flown overland the distance across the English Channel.

Lathaim failed at his second attempt because he had to make another forced landing.

The first man to fly across the English Channel would receive Lord Northcliffe's prize.

The first attempt was not made till over a year later.

He, too, had just arrived near Calais with a new 'Antoinette'.

It promised to be an exciting race across the Channel.

Latham made another attempt a week later. This time, he got within half a mile of Dover.

After making a short test flight, Bleriot set off at a quarter to five.

His remarkable flight lasted thirty-seven minutes.