



THE ROTATING BEACON

1983

SPRING NEWS LETTER

OF

THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP
OF FLYING ROTARIANS

UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Although many of our Members in flight display the graceful elegance which is the hallmark of the Swan the activities of I.F.F.R. in the United Kingdom over the last two years have been more reminiscent of the homely Duck. We have either had our heads down in the mud or been paddling like hell below the surface in order to standstill on top.

Nevertheless, I can at last report some forward progress. At the Annual General Meeting in September a new Committee was appointed and a profile of those concerned appears in this issue. It was agreed that although the business difficulties arising from the recession had caused our commitment to the fringe activities of Rotary to take a back place the time had come to look forward and to plan a programme which would appeal to existing Members and would encourage the introduction of more Rotarians willing to devote some of their flying activities for the benefit of Rotary itself.

Details of our suggestions are included, together with a reminder of past events. Remember that the ability to fly an aircraft is a privilege which, like Membership of Rotary International itself, was achieved only by the expenditure of skill, time and financial commitment by all those concerned. The ability to combine the two interests is limited to relatively few in number and should add to the pleasures of life and not be looked upon as just another responsibility. Let us enjoy our flying and our Rotary Membership together through I.F.F.R.

John D. Ritchie

Chairman

I N D E X

	<u>page</u>
Chairman's Comments	1
Events of 1982	2/3
1983 Officers	3
Committee Profile	4
International Affairs	5
Programme Proposal for 1983	6
Letters to the Editor	7
Short Finals	7
ROTAMS	8

E V E N T S O F
1 9 8 2

This was a quiet year for I.F.F.R. in Europe. The principle social event was again organised by the combined efforts of the French and Swiss Sections who arranged to hold their Annual Reunion at La Rochelle on the 11th/12th September and issued an invitation to the U.K. Section to join them. This was warmly accepted and a party of 14 including the members of the Committee and their wives flew in three aircraft from Biggin Hill, Elstree and Jersey respectively to join the Continental contingent.

Aircraft of every size and kind arrived in the warm sunshine and their occupants enjoyed an excellent buffet laid out in the Flying Club hangar after which there was a full social programme commencing with a tour of the City and harbour by coach and on foot, followed by the Reunion Dinner at which the speeches were mercifully few and the food and wine were plentiful. On Sunday morning we travelled by coach and ferry to the Isle d'Aix the scene of Napoleon's surrender to the British Navy before his exile. Some swimming, a little sightseeing and then a picnic lunch under the Olive trees before returning to the airport for the departures home.

In spite of the full social programme the opportunity was taken to discuss with the Members of the French and Swiss Committees the formation of a combined European Section of I.F.F.R. paying only a nominal \$1 per head of Membership to America and establishing a European Membership List for the benefit of Members visiting nearby Countries and Rotary Clubs. Efforts are to be made to establish contact with pilot Rotarians in Holland, Belgium and West Germany and to hold a Spring meeting at Valenciennes in Northern France.

The United Kingdom Annual General Meeting was held at Elstree the following weekend when Ives Branson was appointed European Liaison Officer. It was agreed that with a current credit balance approaching £500 no

increase in the annual subscription was required, which should remain at £5.00 per head for 1983 and that an I.F.F.R. attendance card should be prepared for the use of Members returning to their Clubs after such meetings. In spite of threats from America that we were disaffiliated due to failure to contribute the Membership subscription of \$10 per head, it was agreed to stand firm with our Continental colleagues and to raise the problem again at the R.I. Convention in Birmingham in June 1984 when it was hoped that we should be able to muster support for the overall proposals.

1983 OFFICERS

John Ritchie
84 Broadway,
Letchworth, Herts

CHAIRMAN

Phone - Day Stevenage (0438) 2211
Evening Letchworth (04626) 4941

Frank Collins
Colpak House,
Snowdon Works,
Sandown Road,
Watford, Herts.

SECRETARY/
TREASURER

Phone - Day Watford 38792
Evening Watford 41566

Ives Branson
59 Yew Tree Road,
Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

EUROPEAN
LIAISON OFFICER

Phone - Tunbridge Wells (0892) 29914

COMMITTEE PROFILE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Officers Elected for 1982/1983

CHAIRMAN - JOHN D. RITCHIE - age mid 50's
Solicitor in general practice in
Stevenage, Herts - Private pilot
with single engine licence. Joint
owner of an elderly Cherokee 180
based at Elstree. Participated in
the I.F.F.R. Mediterranean Tour of
1978 and R.I. Convention in Rome 1979.
Wife Mary and two adult children
holding PPL's. Joined Stevenage Rotary
Club 1970 and I.F.F.R. 1974.

SECRETARY/
TREASURER FRANK COLLINS - age early 50's
proprietor of a Company of Contract
Packing Specialists, based at Watford.
Holds a Private Pilot's Licence and
owns Cherokee 6 based at Elstree. Wife
Audrey and two Sons. Joined Watford
Rotary Club 1978 and I.F.F.R. 1979

EUROPEAN
LIAISON
OFFICER IVES BRANSON - age mid 50's Managing
Director of Branson Services Limited
(Carbon & Graphite products). Holds
PPL groups A & B with full Instrument
Rating. Owner of Piper Aztec based
at Biggin Hill. Wife Sheila and three
children (22, 21, 18). Joined
Southborough Rotary Club 1971 and
I.F.F.R. 1978. Speaks and writes
fluent French.

The French Section of I.F.F.R. are holding a "Grand
Kermisse Aeronautique" (French for Fly-in) near Lyons
on a date to be announced in May or June. U.K. Members
are invited to participate and if interest is
sufficient it may be possible to couple this with
a visit to the factory at Dijon where Robin aircraft
are made.

Please inform me if you are interested so that details
can be sent to you as soon as they are received.

The French are also hosting the first European I.F.F.R.
Annual General Meeting on the weekend 10th/11th
September. Venue and details will be circulated.

Contact has been established with a Rotarian Pilot
in Denmark. Please advise me if you have similar
Rotary connections in Belgium, Holland or West
Germany whom I can approach.

Ives Branson
European Liaison Officer

1983 PROGRAMME PROPOSALS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The programme lies entirely in the hands of Members but falls into two categories of events. There are those in which individual I.F.F.R. Members can participate using their aircraft to enable Members of their own or neighbouring Rotary Clubs to attend events of an International nature. Examples might be flights to European contact Clubs to National or district conferences or even taking your District Governor to the R.I. Council on the Legislation in Monaco to be held in June. (You might persuade him to share his expenses with you).

The second category of events are those in which I.F.F.R. unite to attend aviation functions. These may be the proposed trip to Valenciennes, when arranged. Reunions with the French and Swiss Members or a combined Rotary entries to some of the popular Annual Rallies held in this Country. Examples are the Jersey Rally on the 1st May, Biggin Hill Air Show on the 21st May, Duxford on the 19th June, the Scottish Air Rally in Edinburgh 24th/26th June and the Cranfield Business Air Show 1st/3rd September.

In addition to these suggestions we could explore combined meetings with other Rotary Fellowship Activities Groups. The Rotary Caravaners or the Rotary Sailors might welcome a sightseeing flight in exchange for weekend accommodation in caravan or boat. Your ideas are wanted on the form of the Programme and in the case of individual events please give particulars of the date and place. If each individual Member participating in such events could phone or write telling us of their intentions and whether or not they wish for support, others can be informed and we can ensure that you receive the support and the type of programme that you really want from I.F.F.R.

Our late President, Francis Willinger, did much to stimulate the interests of UK Members of I.F.F.R. in using their flying abilities for the benefit of Rotary. He led the Mediterranean Rotary Tour of 1978, attended conventions in Europe and America and encouraged Clubs to hold the introductory flight events for children at one of which he lost his life. It would be a fitting memorial for the UK Section to present an Annual Challenge Tankard to the Rotarian who had done most in the preceding 12 months to fulfil the objects of Rotary through the medium of aviation. May I suggest that the Committee put this suggestion in hand and determine the method of selecting the most suitable candidate.

Yours sincerely,

Denis Bothwick

SHORT FINALS

ROTORACT Member with PPL and use of four seater Spacan seeks co-pilot to share expenses on weekend search and rescue flights abroad. Phone (04626) 4941 and ask for George (Search for Dragons and rescuing maidens)

SHARE in Cherokee 180. Based at Elstree for sale £2,500 - Phone (0438) 2211 daytime for full details.

AS THEY SAY on TV "How are your Ratings?" Ensure guaranteed success by training with the Examiner.

4 Ring Captain/Instrument Rating - Type Rating Examiner based at Southend offers flying instructions of unparalleled quality and personal attention for most flying qualifications on piston and turbine powered aircraft.

Phone - (0702) 526692 and ask Alexena for terms.

R O T A M S

- 83/1 To enable the Committee to maintain a current Membership List please send details of change of address with 1983 annual subscription £5.00 to the Secretary/Treasurer. Members from whom nothing is heard may be omitted from future mailings to limit expenditure.
- 83/2 Invitation received to visit Headcorn for discussion on programme in May, June or July. Contact David Rowe for date and details (0227) 261506.
- 83/3 International Air Tattoo Greenham Common. Please contact Frank Collins at Watford if you can assist with manning the Rotary Hospitality Tent.
- 83/4 A host for the 1983 UK I.F.F.R. Annual General Meeting will be required in September. Most recent meetings have been at Elstree. Are Southend based Members willing to arrange a date and facilities for lunch and discussions? Please inform the Secretary.

Published by John D, Ritchie - 26 Park Place, Stevenage, Herts
and Printed by

