

THE ROTATING BEACON

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS

UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

NEWS BULLETIN

WINTER 1985/86

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Although 1985 will go down in aviation history as the worst year for accidents with a record number of fatalities both on scheduled flights and in general aviation, and with the spate of highjackings still in our minds, nevertheless it was a most successful year so far as IFFR is concerned.

Attendance at our events reached record levels, the membership expanded, and the contacts with both American and European Sections were maintained. The unkind weather which dogged VFR flying for most of the year relented on the three most important occasions allowing for greater numbers of aircraft and members than ever before to attend the U.K. International Meeting at Jersey, the French International Meeting in Strasbourg and the U.K. A.G.M. weekend in the Isle of Wight.

Now we look forward to 1986. Falling oil prices should result in cheaper fuel and we have already been invited to participate in the Jersey Air Rally in May and in the Annual French and Italian Meetings in June and September, details of which will be circulated when announced. At home we would be happy to arrange a Summer Meeting at any U.K. Airfield if members based there would be willing to undertake the ground arrangements.

With Best Wishes to you All for the forthcoming year.

JOHN D. RITCHIE

IFFR PROPOSED GERMAN SECTION

Although we have established IFFR Sections in France (including Belgium) Switzerland and Italy and have contacts in Finland and Norway, there is no established IFFR Section in West Germany. With the 1987 R.I. Convention to be held in Munich, it was felt by those who attended our own A.G.M. that every effort should be made to assist German Rotarian Pilots to establish a Section and Ives Branson agreed to explore the possibility of establishing contacts with English speaking Rotarian Pilots in Germany. It was unanimously agreed that personal contact is the best method of persuading our fellow pilots of the benefits of IFFR and any U.K. Pilot willing to fly to Germany for this purpose, is asked to contact Ives as soon as possible. Similarly, any members with established German contact clubs are asked to pass details to Ives, who can explore whether or not they have Pilots among their membership. Much preparatory work will be needed if this is to be a success and an early reponse from you is essential. A particular advantage to us in England of such a link is the fact that the majority of German Pilots speak fluent English so that contact once made could be readily maintained. They also live a bit nearer than Italy!

IVES BRANSON

0892-29914

U.K. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SANDOWN ISLE OF WIGHT

The event produced another record turnout with 15 IFFR members and their Spouses travelling in nine different aircraft to sample the delights of the island out of season. After a light lunch at the airfield the Pilots with several wives enjoyed an interesting and informative tour of the A.R.V. plant and inspected the latest two-seater metal all British trainer in every state of manufacture from bare metal pressings to the completed air test which was conducted while we watched. Our host did not flinch from answering the numerous penetrating questions on every aspect of performance, manufacturing methods and cost and I am told that at least one of our members has followed up his interest with an order.

In the evening Mike Coy had arranged an excellent meal at the Holliers Hotel where we were joined by the Presidents of the Sandown and Shanklin Rotary Clubs and their wives who went away much better informed about the delights of general aviation in the Rotary sphere.

On Sunday morning while the girls toured the island by coach, the men went to work on a full Agenda ranging from the appointment of officers and finance to the 1986 programme. Frank Collins on standing down as General Secretary, was elected a Vice-President and Peter Gresham agreed to undertake both aspects of Secretaryship. The annual subscription was fixed at £10 per head of which £4 is in respect of the United States Capitation fee and the balance goes to run our own section. The Treasurer Dennis Bothwick reported a credit balance of £325 with funds due from Italy and a small account payable for headed notepaper. It was agreed that the £1 joining fee should be discontinued and that all new members should receive their first IFFR Badge free on receipt of the first year's subscription. IFFR blazer badges, ties and sweaters are available to paid up members on request. Details from Secretary.

Peter Gresham reported that we now had 77 active members and proposed that, subject to agreement by the European IFFR Sections, a new European Directory should be prepared as the existing Directory is now more than 3 years old.

The anticipated cost of £1 per copy would be charged to the European Sections and included in the annual subscription for 1986.

Charles Strasser reported on his participation at the Italian IFFR meeting in Venice and offered an invitation from the Jersey Rotary Club and Jersey Aero Club to participate in the Jersey Air Rally to be held on 2/3/4th May. This is to be open to all European IFFR members and after discussion it was agreed that this should be adopted as the U.K. International Meeting so as to avoid clash of dates, language and air traffic problems. Several members expressed their enjoyment of the 1985 Meeting and sincere thanks were offered to Charles Strasser and Graham Le Quesne on behalf of the Clubs concerned. Full details and application forms for the meeting will be sent direct from Jersey to all paid up IFFR members.

Ives Branson the European Liaison Officer drew our attention to the absence of a German IFFR Section and the forthcoming Rotary International Convention in Munich, Germany in 1987. Discussion followed in which it was agreed that efforts be made to establish contacts.

The meeting concluded with a swift return to the airfield for a light lunch before departing in the face of an incoming frontal system with winds which gave some record speeds on the return home. Our sincere thanks to Mike Coy for his efforts in organising a thoroughly successful weekend.

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GRAND ROTARY EUROPEAN AIR TOUR

Those who participated in the IFFR Mediterranean Tour in 1978 will recall the pleasures enjoyed by the 35 members in 12 aircraft of 5 different nationalities who spent a week touring from Cannes to Venice via Corsica, Sardinia and Tunis stopping each night to visit a different Rotary Club.

Now we want to repeat and expand the idea. Routes, dates and stops will be determined by the extent of European participation, but we look to visit France, Switzerland, and Italy and possibly Southern Germany for a week in June or July. V.F.R. for everyone to eliminate euro-control charges with Rotary Club hospitality at every night stop.

The Committee are ready to do the planning, if you will agree to participate. Tell us now if you are enthusiastic and let us have suggestions of suitable places to visit bearing in mind that they must have both an airfield and a Rotary Club nearby.

JOHN D. RITCHIE

0462-684941

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

You will have received a request from the Secretary to renew your subscription for the current year. At £10 per head inclusive of the International subscription and European Directory as well as three News Bulletins each year, this is a bargain.

Please help to keep costs to a minimum by making a prompt response.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, GIRLS.

Did Christmas live up to your expectations? Did you receive the fabulous perfume you hoped for? and enjoy the foie gras that might have been left under the tree? Like most of us, I expect Christmas DID live up to the expectations but if not never mind-

JERSEY IN MAY - is an ideal place to find all the duty free perfumes, cosmetics, pretty undies et al, that you desire - SO encourage your menfolk to bring you to Jersey for the Rally, it really is great fun for all of us.

IF Jersey whets your appetite, or if you are unable to make it, come to the French A.G.M. (or Beanfeast) where you receive the perfume free!

During the summer the men try and arrange a FAMILY DAY for young and old alike. In 1984 we went to Shuttleworth, Old Warden, Beds. and had a picnic and watched the old aircraft flying. We all enjoyed it very much but would have liked more there.

At the moment, for this year, a Flying Display Day at Duxford is being mooted, but it could be Shuttleworth again. Both these are just off motorways, so even if the weather is not good for our kind of flying come by car. OR perhaps you know of somewhere in your area where we would all like to meet. If so tell me and I will pass it on to the committee (0462-684941). They would like our ideas.

I see John has written briefly on a proposed European Tour. I went with John, and Ralph and Doreen Wagstaff, on the 1978 Tour. We had wondered what we were letting ourselves in for, it was nothing like we expected. We went in the oldest and slowest aircraft, and had a marvellous time. Good flying, fantastic receptions in every port of call, 12 aircraft taking off one after the other from Tunis with us in the lead - I felt like Mother Duck! One extra night when the bus forgot to fetch us all meant a missed stop in Italy, and a quick hop from Sicily to Venice for every one but us, we had to stop for fuel en route, but we still arrived at the Danielli showered and changed, just in time to sit down

to dinner.

I could talk about it for hours (as the men talk flying) but when plans are made come too and make your own very happy memories.

Wishing you many Happy Flying Hours, in 1986.

Mary Ritchie.

WORLD BULLETIN REPORT

The American World Bulletin for November 1985 gives details of the Annual Meeting in Kansas City in May attended by 79 members travelling in 24 aircraft. Fifty applications were received and after the Business Meeting at which the International Secretary - Treasurer reported a credit balance of \$6890 and promised the issue of a new International Directory shortly, an illustrated report was given by two of the Pilots who flew from America to Birmingham in 1984. We hope we may look forward to seeing them again in Munich in 1987.

The Bulletin contains photographs of the Convention and a report on the Oshkosh Rotary Club Pig Roast held during the E.A.A. Convention in August which raised over \$1500 for charitable causes. The Bulletin concluded with extracts from our own publications and details of forthcoming events in America. If you plan to visit America in 1986 we can give you details of contacts now that the new American Directory has become available.

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