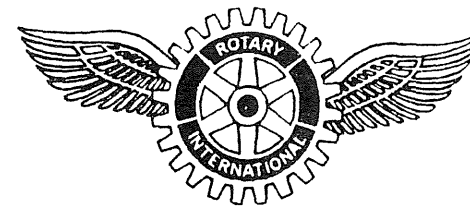


THE ROTATING BEACON



INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS

UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

NEWS BULLETIN

SPRING 1986

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THE EUROPEAN SCENE

Two new projects are planned for this summer. After much correspondence and many telephone calls, contact has been established with some German Rotarian Pilots wishing to know more about I.F.F.R. An informal meeting is proposed to be held at Juist, Heligoland on Saturday, 20th June. Several of the Committee with their wives will be attending and if you wish to join in, please telephone Ives Branson on 0892 29914 to arrange overnight accommodation. Customs are available on the nearby island of Borkum. German speaking Pilots will be especially welcome. Fuel stops in the Netherlands are recommended for economy.

The French Annual Reunion will be held as usual on the second weekend in September (13/14th). The big difference this year is that it won't be in France! At the instigation of Marc and Ruth Bonnet the Swiss Section has invited the French to hold its meeting in Sion some 30 miles east of Lake Lucerne. British Rotarians are most welcome and every effort is being made to hold down costs to ensure maximum participation. Pilots from the flat land of East Anglia need not panic. The airfield is only 1580 feet above sea level and is approached up a wide valley from the Lake. It is a combined Civil and Military field, Customs will be available and we will obtain VFR approach and landing charts for those wishing to attend. Seven U.K. registered aircraft visited Strasbourg last September.

Let us do even better this summer. Spare seats may be available if you would like to come and lack suitable transport so long as we are warned in good time. Ruth Bonnet who was with us in Jersey has promised to make it a particularly enjoyable weekend for the wives on the occasion of our first I.F.F.R. visit to Switzerland.

Telephone or write to any of the officers for more information.

WHAT ARE WE DOING THIS YEAR ?

Really this is a question you should be asking yourself, not asking us. This Bulletin gives details of the events that the Committee have arranged or are hoping to attend this summer, but that should not be all.

Remember, when you signed the membership application form, YOU agreed to promote general aviation through Rotary. This need not mean running a full scale air display on your own, but have you ever thought of speaking to your Club on your flying activities. The speaker finder is always delighted to have a spare up his sleeve to call upon at short notice. If you do not like speaking, then take your President or one of the Service Committee Chairman to attend a meeting at another Club with an airfield.

Above all, let us know what you are doing. A telephone call or a brief note will suffice. If your airfield has an event and you are intending to be there, tell us and we will encourage other I.F.F.R. members to join you. If you are going rallying let us know how you get on. If you have spare seats (or want one), telephone some of your nearby I.F.F.R. friends. We 80 members in the U.K. Section alone and more abroad. Let us keep in touch and so help to plan events which will interest everyone.

A FAIR BREEZE IN THE CHANNEL

For the second successive year I.F.F.R. enjoyed the facilities generously provided by the Channel Islands Aero Club and the combined Rotary Clubs of Jersey and de la Manche for the U.K. European Meeting. Fifteen aircraft flown by Rotarians out of a total of ninety entered the Rally and in spite of marginal visibility throughout much of the day, only two were forced to cancel, one being unable to leave Manchester where IMC conditions prevailed all day.

This year we welcomed Marc Bonnet, President of the Swiss Section with his wife Ruth, who had stopped at Briare to collect Jean Recullet, President of the French Section and his wife Jacqueline. Jean is still restricted from solo flying, but showing marked improvements in health. Their combined journey had an unexpected result, as discussion between them of forthcoming events led to an invitation being extended by the Swiss to hold the French Annual Meeting in Switzerland this year. Details of this are published elsewhere in this issue.

After the Rotary Dinner on Friday evening at which the principal Speaker was Michael Lanyon, the Airport Commandant, on Saturday morning the Rotarians enjoyed a coach tour with a French speaking guide who took the visitors around the Island finishing with a Vin d'Honneur at St. Helier Town Hall. In the afternoon, in winds approaching gale force, 810 Squadron R.N.A.S. from Culdrose gave an air-sea rescue display in St. Catherine's Harbour which offered some reassurance to the single engine cross channel fliers.

The Saturday evening was the occasion of the Rally Gala Dinner and presentation of awards by Richard Noble the World Land Speed holder, and I.F.F.R. Pilots were well to the fore among the prizewinners. Carl Steen, who had again flown his Beach 55 all the way from Hamar, Norway took the trophy for range and endurance and Marc Bonnet won a prize for identifying from charts or photographs 20 different European airfields. Professor Lang from Strasbourg, one of the two French entrants, won an award for his beautifully kept aircraft and even your own Chairman succeeded in making the second best spot landing of the day and was given a decanter to mark this unusual event.

On Sunday morning many of the participants including Carlo and Donna Vanoni of the Italian Section, but now based in Lucerne, Switzerland flew over to Dinan for the Dinan Aero Club Rally. The weather was clear but with 40 knot head winds at 1,000 feet and cross winds reaching limits for many aircraft, our hosts were relieved to see that all aircraft arrived safely and that evening further awards were made. One was to Carlo Vanoni in recognition of his undoubted skill in landing such a large bird (Cessna 421) on such a short wet strip in those conditions.

He had previously entertained several of us with prints from the Meteosat weather recording equipment carried on board his aircraft which gives full satellite weather pictures for the whole of Europe.

Monday dawned bright, clear and windy and after a tour on foot of the old walled city and a final farewell drink at the Town Hall, the visitors departed for the airfield and a swift comfortable flight behind the showery weather to their homes.

Whether or not I.F.F.R. are again invited to participate in the Jersey Rally is a matter for the future, but certainly many who attended this year are already planning for May next year and our sincere thanks are due to our Hosts led by our own I.F.F.R. Director, Charles Strasser for the warmth of welcome and excellent hospitality which we enjoyed.

WORLD BULLETIN REPORT

The May Edition of the I.F.F.R. World Bulletin contains a report on a trip by two Australian I.F.F.R. members from Victoria, Australia to Manila, Phillipines for the Rotary Asian Conference. 8,000 nautical mile round trip, and you think it is a long way to Munich, Germany.

MEMBERSHIP 1986

The Membership Secretary reports that we now have some 80 paid up members for the current year. Only 4 of the 1985 members failed to renew their subscriptions and these are outnumbered by new members joining us. We shall shortly be sending to America the agreed national contribution towards the International I.F.F.R. fees and hope shortly to be in a position to prepare and distribute a current European membership list. At present we are awaiting updated information from some of the other Sections and confirmation that they are again willing to subscribe to the cost of a European list, failing which we will produce our own U.K. list for circulation to our own members.

Consideration is being given to a loose-leaf format to minimise production costs in future years, but the cost of providing a suitable binder may rule this out.

Until such time as the new membership lists can be circulated, the data is held by the Membership Secretary, Peter Gresham and by the Chairman and should you wish to check the current information, please do not hesitate to telephone them.

Fellowship is the name of the game and we welcome members in close proximity to one another, working together to promote I.F.F.R.

You may be interested to know that among our members we have two from the U.S.A. who pay their subscriptions to us as well as to I.F.F.R. in America, two in Finland and one in Norway. Our home based members range from Norman MacLeod in Stornaway to the three staunch members in Jersey, Charles Strasser, Graeme le Quesne and Ian Barnes a member of the new Jersey Club, and from David Rowe at Whitstable in the East to Philip Irish and Barry Paget from Truro in the West. There are several in Wales and even one from County Down, Eire. We welcome them all to our membership and our meeting and will be happy to consider any suggestions which would help to bring the outlying members into more contact with those from the Central and Southern areas.

DIARY DATES

1st - 4th June 1986	Rotary Convention Las Vegas Fly-in to McCarran International Airfield for I.F.F.R. General Meeting
24th June 1986	Muncie, Indiana, 41st Annual Rotary Fly-in with Colonel Chuck Yeager as Speaker
19th July to 16th August 1986	Australian I.F.F.R. Tour of U.S.A. and Canada
1st to 9th August 1986	E.A.A. Fly-in at Oshkosh, U.S.A.
12th-13th September 1986	Mildura, Victoria, Australia I.F.F.R. Fly-in
13th-14th September 1986	Sion, Switzerland combined French/Swiss I.F.F.R. Fly-in
11th-12th October 1986	U.K. Annual General Meeting Venue to be arranged - Exeter and Staverton under consideration