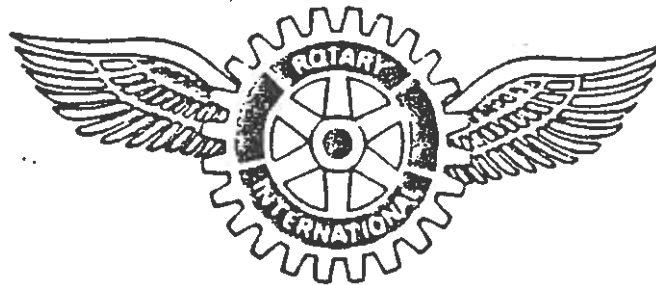


THE ROTATING BEACON



INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS

UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

NEWS BULLETIN

WINTER 1986



*This Certificate*

*is presented to*

**Dudley John Duncan Ritchie**

*by the*

*Australian Pilots' Association*

*12 September 1986*

*for*

*Conspicuous Fuel Economy*

*and*

*Services to Agriculture*

The occasion for the presentation of the Award reproduced above is described in the brief report by the recipient on the facing page. It says much for the resilience and sense of humour of those with whom he shares the ownership of the late lamented G-ATAA, that within days of reporting the total loss after overturning in a field of sunflowers having run out of fuel, one of them called to present this Certificate to commemorate the event.

## FAREWELL TO 'ALFRED'

They say that "if you walk away from it, its a landing" - take it from me it isn't true. After ten years of touring around Europe in our beloved Cherokee C known to one and all from the last two letters of the registration as "Alfred" we have had the unhappy experience of laying him to rest in 'some far corner of a foreign field.'

The story is simple. A sudden unforeseen drop in cloud base and visibility while cruising on top. An NDB approach down to limits; the planned diversion followed by another instrument approach to MDH leading to the unplanned diversion. The relief of the cloud-break on finals and then the awful quiet as the last drop of fuel is used up in sight of the approach lights.

Down into the dusk in a slow full-flap descent into a tall standing crop which cushioned our arrival so that we thought we had it made until the tip-over finally and fatally ruined our trusted steed. Then the trudge in self-recriminating silence across a muddy field to rescue services as relieved as we were to find us intact. A morning with "The Authorities", the final farewell to our machine and then the ignominious slinking home thinking of those better skilled who were enjoying the delights of the planned weekend.

Yet we were incredibly lucky. One tiny scratch on the pilot and not even a laddered stocking on the crew. A sympathetic reception by police and ambulance men who after a swift check-up found us accommodation, and ultimately returned us to Charles de Gaulle for our homeward flight. An interrogation by an accident inspector who appeared to appreciate our problems and the effort made to overcome them. Understanding partners who said "there but for the Grace of God go I" and remain willing to replace the aircraft and carry on. Friends who sympathise.

But still we have a feeling of loss - not so much physical or financial as the loss of treasured memories. Of sliding down the last rays of summer sunshine across the lagoons into Venice Lido at the end of a week's tour around the Mediterranean. Of looking down on the Tower of Pisa and the United Nations Building in Geneva, of the long hot runways of Barcelona and Valencia and the little grass strips along the banks of the Rhine. But the more we look back the more determined we are to try again and to seek out the new places and faces that still await us. Let us only hope that you will be there to greet us.

John & Mary Ritchie

### 1987 PROGRAMME

February 21/22 Winter Meeting  
South Mimms, Herts.

May 4th Spring Meeting  
Duxford Air Museum, Cambs.

June 6/11 R.I. Convention  
Munich, West Germany.

August 1 Summer Meeting  
Caernarvon picnic & swim

October 3/4 Autumn A.G.M.  
East Midlands, Derbyshire.

### U.K. Section A.G.M. Report

This was held at the Crest Hotel, Staverton on 12th October. There were 18 members present (see attendance list) and 13 apologies for absence were recorded. Reports were received from the Officers brief details of which are as follows:

Chairman John Ritchie gave a brief resume of the past year's activities and indicated that while willing to serve for another year, by 1988 he will have served for 5 years as Chairman and did not intend to stand for office thereafter.

Secretary Peter Gresham reported on membership, with 5 resignations and 18 new members making a total of 90 including 5 abroad. There had been one domestic rally at Leavenden organised by Douglas Green attended by 20 members and as many guests in 11 aircraft making it the largest rally to date. He expressed thanks to Douglas for his efforts, to Gordon Taylor for arranging the A.G.M weekend, and to his own Secretary Mrs. Eileen Smith for her help throughout the year.

European Liason Officer Ives Branson reported the successful participation in the Jersey Rally notwithstanding the poor support from the French Section and the establishment of a German Section following the visit to Juist by 4 British aircraft. The Swiss meeting in Sion had been marred by the en-route weather which prevented the arrival of the two singles, causing Graeme le Quesne to spend an unscheduled weekend in Dijon and our Chairman to land among the sunflowers. Those who made it had a memorable occasion. Ives also produced a letter from Charles Strasser, the International Chairman of IFFR, reporting on the formation of a Scandinavian Section from Rotarians in Norway Sweden and Denmark by Karl Steen, one of our own members, which Charles had attended.

Treasurer Dennis Bothwick reported an annual income to 1st October of £1,247, an expenditure of £1,143 and a current bank balance of £369, with a stock of 35 ties and 66 badges. The Italian Section still owed £98.50 for their copies of the European Directory supplied in 1984 and it was agreed that as they had become dormant this debt should be written off. Dennis indicated that due to other commitments he did not wish to stand for re-election, and the Chairman thanked him for his efforts for many years past.

Subscription The Chairman read a letter received from Charles Strasser stating that the newly formed German and Scandinavian Sections had both agreed to pay the \$10 subscription to the U.S.A. in common with most other Sections, and that he found himself in difficulties with regard to our own payment of only \$5 per member. A lengthy discussion followed with several members commenting that the amount was immaterial, but that each section should be responsible for its own costs, and that a world-wide newsletter and membership list were of little value to the majority of European members. To conclude the debate the Chairman put three propositions to the meeting :

(a) that we should pay no contribution to the U.S.A. - This was unanimously rejected.

(b) that we should continue to pay the \$5 previously agreed. This was passed 15:1

(c) that we should contribute \$10 as requested. This was defeated 15:1. 2 members abstained from voting on either resolution.

Election of Officers All officers save for the Treasurer were re-elected unopposed and the Secretary agreed to undertake the duties of the Treasurer. Ron Harrison was elected as Hon. Auditor and it was resolved to amend the Bank Mandate to provide for cheques to be signed by any two officers.

Future Programme  
International

It was agreed that in view of the substantial support indicated by those present for the proposed IFFR Fly-in to the R.I. Convention in Munich in June 1987, no other international event should be arranged for next year, and that we should not participate as a group in the Jersey Rally. Full details of the arrangements for Munich will be circulated when known.

National

Members expressed a desire for a winter meeting, preferably for a weekend in February, at a venue easily accessible by road in view of the likely weather. This should be followed by two summer events and a variety of suggested places were put forward for consideration by the committee.

Publicity In order to bring the existence of IFFR to the attention of more Rotarian Pilots in the absence of any publicity through Rotary sources it was agreed that the Secretary be authorised to explore the possibility and cost of a notice in the Flight Safety Bulletin, or the AOPA magazine.

The meeting closed with the customary expressions of thanks, and members returned to the airfield for a light lunch, only to find IMC conditions prevailing over the greater part of Southern England in consequence of which only 3 out of the 8 aircraft which had participated in the event were able to leave that afternoon. For once Manchester was open while the South was closed to VFR traffic, much to the relief of Erwin Rodgers and Feroz Wadia who had missed the Jersey Rally in May when conditions were reversed.

1986 A.G.M. Attendance

| <u>Name</u>      | <u>Club</u>           | <u>Aircraft</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Ives Branson     | Southborough          | G-ARYF          |
| Peter Gresham    | Southborough          | G-ARYF          |
| Erwin Rodgers    | Marple & Goyt Valley  | G-AYAA          |
| Feroz Wadia      | Edinburgh             | G-AYAA          |
| John Barham      | Southend Estuary      | G-BAIA          |
| David Rowe       | Whitstable            | G-BALJ          |
| David Oakley     | East Brighton         | G-BARW          |
| Graeme le Quesne | Jersey CI             | G-BEYL          |
| Bob Tatlow       | Burnham on Crouch     | G-BHLH          |
| Ron Piggott      | Weymouth              | G-BLEW          |
| Ron Harrison     | Weymouth              | G-BLEW          |
| Cliff Elliott    | Weymouth              | G-BLEW          |
| Dennis Bothwick  | Elstree & Borehamwood | Car             |
| Frank Collins    | Watford               | Car             |
| David Jenkins    | Gower & Llchwyr       | Car             |
| John Ritchie     | Stevenage             | Car             |
| Ray Stebbings    | Hungerford Interim    | Car             |
| Gordon Taylor    | Gloucester North      | Car             |

### SWISS RALLY AT SION

This year the Swiss Section in conjunction with the French Section held the International Rally on 13/14th September. As might be expected the venue and arrangements were superb. After crossing the Jura Mountains and dropping down to Lake Geneva we flew up the river with high ground on each side until reaching the field. After a tour of the town and a brief recital on the oldest cathedral organ still working anywhere in the world, we assembled for the customarily sumptuous dinner, at which books and wristwatches were presented as souvenirs. The next morning we enjoyed the promised "suprise aeronautic" - a helicopter ride to a picturesque village high in the mountains for lunch amid some of the most impressive scenery you can imagine. Our hosts excelled themselves with their hospitality, and we left after lunch regretting only that the unkind weather in France had limited the numbers attending.

### WINTER MEETING

The next Meeting will be held at the Crest Hotel, South Mimms, Herts. on the weekend 21/22nd February. The hotel is at the junction of the A1(M) and M25 motorways (follow the signs to South Mimms after leaving motorway). Alternatively if you choose to fly (and if arrangements for landing at weekends can be made with them) the nearest airfield is Hatfield. Luton, Panshanger (grass) and Elstree (hard) are within easy reach and by prior arrangement local members can collect and return you to the airfield.

We shall assemble on the Saturday before lunch so that the wives can either go shopping in London, at Brent Cross, or visit St. Albans as desired. Dinner in the evening at the Hotel, with dancing for those so wishing, followed on Sunday morning by a talk from IFFR Member John Eames, recently retired from flying Concorde who will tell us of his experiences and how he likes sharing airspace with Microlights, Gliders, and other VFR traffic. The hotel facilities include a health-spa for the energetic, and we have negotiated a special price of £35 per head to cover dinner, bed & breakfast. Bar snacks are available if you do not want a full lunch. To help us determine numbers PLEASE tell the Secretary as soon as you can of the accommodation you require.

### R.I. CONVENTION MUNICH

Further details of the arrangements and costings have now been received from Charles Strasser through whom all bookings MUST be made not later than 30th January. A special rate has been negotiated with the hotel for 5 nights bed and breakfast from 6th-11th June @ DM 160 per double room or DM 95 per single room per night. An exclusive IFFR dinner will be held at our principal hotel on Sunday evening 7th June for all IFFR members, their ladies and passenger (DM 60 per head) and the IFFR International A.G.M. will be held in the afternoon of Tuesday, 9th June. Please apply by letter or phone to Ives Branson who will be co-ordinating arrangements for British IFFR Members and issuing Booking Forms which DO NOT cover Conference registration. Those not able to join the Rally at the proposed assembly point in Jersey, but wishing to make an overnight stop in Luxemburg are asked to indicate accordingly. It has been confirmed that all aircraft will be using the main Munich airport and special IFFR handling procedures will be available but no tax-free fuel.

### HONORARY MEMBER

At an Interclub Meeting of the 11 Rotary Clubs of Monterrey, Mexico held on 21st November the IFFR Chairman Charles Strasser inducted Mat Caparas the current President of Rotary International as an Honorary Member of IFFR. He was in Monterrey for a regional meeting of District Governors and accepted the invitation to attend a fly-in of IFFR members from Mexico the U.S.A. and Jersey organised by IFFR Director Federico Compean and member Esteban Rock.

The President of the Host Club, Eugenio Richer Santos invited the IFFR members to attend the Interclub Meeting and revised the programme to enable Charles to make the presentation immediately after the main speech by Mat Caparas to an assembly of 1,000 Rotarians and wives.

In a short speech, Charles offered to the R.I. President the services of Flying Rotarians anywhere in the world, and presented him with the International Directory, lapel badge, and Pilots cap.

### TALKING "SHOP"

Lapel Badges, car stickers and ties are still available on request from the Secretary, Peter Gresham, prices as follows :-

|       |                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| £1    | Lapel pin badge with wings      |
| £3.50 | Tie (please state navy or wine) |
| 25p.  | Car sticker (blue/gold)         |

He also has on offer to the first two applicants the remaining Swiss IFFR Quartz wrist watches made specially for the International Rally at Sion. They are analogue (hands not digits) with sweep second hand and date, in a non-metallic case with the IFFR wings on the white face. These are available at the attractive price of £14.50 each and would make a nice present to anyone entitled to wear them.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

With this Bulletin comes the current U.K. Membership List. This is a reminder that your subscription for 1987 is now due. The Treasurer has succeeded in holding the subscription at £10 inclusive of the \$5 fee payable to the U.S. This can only be achieved if postage on reminders and acknowledgements is kept to a minimum. Please co-operate by sending your cheque for £10 made payable to I.F.F.R. direct to the Treasurer, Peter Gresham, at Bedford House, Bedford Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent without further prompting, together with the enclosed pro-forma and booking form giving details of any change of address, phone number, Club or airfield so that our records can be kept up-to-date.

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