



THE ROTATING BEACON

AUTUMN 1989 BULLETIN

of the

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP of FLYING ROTARIANS

United Kingdom Section

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Flying Rotarians,

Hasn't it been a wonderful Spring and Summer for flying? The "Jersey" was conducted in immaculate VMC for a change, as was the Alderney Fly-in in June. Only the IFFR AGM at Coventry was not blessed with perfect flying weather.

There were not very many of us IFFR pilots at the Jersey Rally/IFFR-UK Fly-in this year, but the quality was high, and we managed to collect a few trophies in the Rally competitions. There was also very good fellowship and a lot of laughs at the social events and very kind hospitality extended by Charles Strasser in his home on the Saturday morning. Several of us also flew down to Dinan for lunch and more fellowship on the Sunday. It nearly always happens that I unexpectedly meet someone I know whenever I fly off somewhere; on our return from Dinan, due to a misunderstanding over Customs and Flight Plans between Dinan and Dinard, we had to land at Cherbourg to clear out-bound from France; almost the first person we ran into was IFFR member Ron Harrison, who is so busy with his aviation company that he was even working Sundays. We were able to up-date him on the rally and IFFR matters generally.

Weather for the AGM was not so good, nevertheless I managed to fly to it, having taken off with a forecast of "7 at 700" at Coventry. I had arranged to pick up Secretary John Ritchie from Panshanger, but when I arrived at the farm where I keep '-LJ' he had left a telephone message that there was no way I would even find Panshanger, let alone land there, so he had gone by car and suggested I tried to fly to Coventry direct, which I did. There was poor visibility all of the way and cloud underneath for most of it. Fortunately my KNS 80 RNav was doing its stuff and HON VOR was firmly re-located on Bagington field. When the DME counted down to "0.00" I stole a peep over the side, and there was a great big runway, 3,000' below me. The weather had improved to about "5 at 800" and I was able to find my way down through a hole and make an almost completely VMC descent. The flight was actually easier than the Annual General Meeting!

We joined in the Alderney Fly-in in June, where we naturally met up with folk we hadn't seen for a while, and then started a week's holiday in France by flying down to Dinard. As we walked in from the parking ramp we were rudely barracked from the restaurant terrace! Yes, you have guessed right, IFFR members! Ron Piggott and Cliff Elliot, both of the Weymouth Rotary Club. Ron was on his way home from the Italian IFFR meeting, which he and Marjorie had attended by car; Cliff and Joyce are converting a tumbledown cottage near Dinan into what promises to be a vrey desirable country residence; they had met up and decided to go to the aerodrome for a drink, when we happened along. I am happy to report that the spirit of IFFR was much in evidence, we were assisted with finding accomodation and received very friendly hospitality in their respective houses. We also saw more of the real France than might otherwise have been the case; Thank you Ron and Cliff, and your ladies.

After Dinard we flew down to La Baule for a few days, during which we decided to pay a vist to *Belle Ile*, which lies a few miles off the Quiberon peninsula and which is about half the size of the Isle of Wight. We had not been there ten minutes when two Rutan *Vari-Ezes* arrived, one of them flown by one of my patients, a very interesting chap who once organised a visit to GEC Avionics factory at Rochester for the British Medical Pilots Association (BMPA); he also gave us a fascinating talk on the building of his *Vari-Eze*. I took the opportunity to ask whether he might be able to do the same for IFFR one day; I'll keep you posted on this possible event, which would need to start on a Friday, since GEC is closed on Saturdays.

We flew home in perfect weather, which was just as well, since the French *Meteo* was strike-bound and we could get no information beyond what we could see for ourselves.

Good flying and safe landings!

Yours in Flying Rotary

David Rowe

IFFR FLIGHTPLAN 1990
(or Book your slot now !)

This edition of your IFFR Bulletin contains details of several exciting events to which we have been invited this summer, including those yet to be held in France and Germany. In past years it had become our practice to hold our end-of-season meeting in October, incorporating the formal business of the Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately for several years in succession we suffered the hazards and inconvenience of autumnal flying weather with its customary fogs and short daylight hours. Last year we moved the AGM to the Spring but had intended to hold a closing meeting in Edinburgh in September. Our host member, Feroz Wadia, has pointed out that with two invitations already received for September and with the pressures on space from the Edinburgh Festival we are likely to secure a better response if we hold the Scottish meeting in the Spring.

The Programme for next year is already shaping up to be one of the most ambitious we have ever attempted. For the first time in our 25 year history we have one of our IFFR members in office as President of R.I.B.I. and holding his National Conference at Bournemouth next May. In the hope that his fellow pilots will honour his achievement and support him by attending his Conference in force the Committee has decided to hold our A.G.M. at Bournemouth during the course of the Conference. We intend to man an IFFR stall and to organise a suitable flying event to bring IFFR to the attention of those Rotarians with both feet on the ground. With this in mind it is proposed that the Scottish meeting will be held in late April or early May, possibly at a Bank Holiday, when the details of our conference programme can be considered and the final arrangements made.

As if this were not enough, the American Section of IFFR based on the Eastern seaboard of the United States has been invited by John Linford, the President, to provide seats in their planes flying across the States to the R.I. Convention in Portland, Oregon, from June 24th to 27th 1990. This will be a foretaste for those intending to participate in the 1992 R.I. Conference to be held in Barcelona, Spain, when it is hoped that the combined European sections of IFFR can hold a 'Pied-Piper' tour of the Mediterranean finishing at Barcelona. Once again we shall be looking to our Vice-President Charles Strasser to persuade the Air Traffic Authorities that this can be achieved without bringing the airport to a standstill.

None of these ambitious plans can be accomplished without your support and assistance. This starts by attending one of the Conferences, at home or in America, and one or more of the fly-in meetings held by the other Sections in Europe, where you will meet your fellow members. Do not be concerned that you are not able to fly yourself there. Seats are often available, and many members have not been too proud to drive or fly by commercial carrier rather than miss the event. Do remember that IFFR is a real part of the Rotary which you have joined, and that your personal presence at our meetings is needed just as much as it is at your own Club.

With this issue you will find the August edition of the IFFR World Bulletin including a report on the first lady IFFR member. We enjoy having feminine company at our meetings and look forward to receiving the ladies as fully participating members of the Fellowship.

FRENCH IFFR SECTION MEETING
LIBOURNE (LFDI 44.59N 00.08W)

The Official Invitation & Programme has now been received for the meeting. The cost will be approx 800FF per head plus 250FF per head per night at the hotel "Climat de France"; 33500 Arveyres; Tel 010-33-57-51-41-41 TLX 33-541-707

Friday 8th Sept : Arrangements are in hand to welcome & entertain those wishing to arrive on Friday. Please advise ETA for Customs and hotel booking.

Saturday 9th Sept :

10.00 to 13.00 local - Arrival at Libourne using the new HARD RUNWAY 1200m. Customs available. The airfield IS OPEN. Luncheon at the airfield restaurant described as "Super sympa"

15.00 Coaches depart for St Emilion with Commentary/guide in English & French for visit to a prestigious vineyard. Reception & winetasting by courtesy of the proprietors.

Evening Formal Dinner (Lounge suit or tuxedo) at the Chateau de VAYRES, former home of King Henry IV. Aperitifs will be served in the grounds, on the banks of the River Dordogne.

Sunday 10th Sept :

Morning "A special surprise which will be revealed on your arrival".

Late morning Participation in the Official Opening of the new hard runway of Libourne : Champagne Reception hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, followed by Lunch at the Aerodrome Restaurant.

N.B. Before, during, and after lunch there will be a demonstration of ULM planes built on an assembly line on the site. Trial Flights with an instructor.

After 15.00h Aerodrome re-opens for normal traffic movements. Customs available. For those wishing to stay an extra night accommodation can be arranged on request. Fine wines at special prices will be available on site at the aerodrome. Given that the season is very early it is likely that the Vendage (Wine Harvest) will be under way during the weekend - this should add extra interest to your visit.

IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS WEEKEND OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP please reply to Jean Recullet, La Regeasse, 45230 La Bussiere, France
Phone : 010-33-38-35-91-28 (home) Aeroclub de Libourne 010-33-57-24-31-50

WEST GERMAN SECTION MEETING
Saturday 30th September
Marburg-Schonstadt

The outline programme has been received from Peter Huber-Ebert for the Meeting to be held at Marburg-Schonstadt, which is about 50NM north of Frankfurt Airport, but outside the boundaries of Frankfurt TCZ. Details are as follows :

Saturday 30th.

- 12.00h Welcome drinks on arrival of participants
- 14.00h Lunch together, then departure to hotel
- 16.00h Coffee, and introduction by Rtn Freytag-Loringhoven to an Exposition by artist Emil von Behring. Visit to the historic Old City and Chateau.
- 19.30h Evening Meeting, with Dinner held in the Exposition building.

Sunday 1st Oct. : Free programme : return at your own pleasure.

For booking please contact Peter Huber-Ebert, Talstraße 30, D-7528 Karlsdorf-Neu 1, Phone 010-49-7251-80633 or Graeme le Quesne in Jersey 0534-53623 (evening)

IFFR SCANDINAVIA MEETING - ODENSE, DENMARK

11th to 13th August 1989

(Contributed by European Liaison Officer - Graeme Le Quesne)

From the home of that creator of fairy tales, Hans Christian Andersen, to the modern world of created adventure and fantasy for children, LEGO, this was a weekend to remember.

Sixty five Rotarians, wives, friends and children descended on Odense in 20 aircraft from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, France, Italy, England, Scotland and Jersey CI to be greeted by Scandinavian Chairman - (at that time)-elect, Kjell Akerman and his wife Vibeke. The weather held fine for the weekend, but was worse to the west, causing the cancellation of Richard Dupee's flight, and the delayed arrival of Brian Russell.

Friday evening saw the start of our education into the Danish habit of eating every three hours if at all possible, which, when combined with a helping or two of the excellent local ale could well have caused some changes to both weight and balance calculations for the return journey. An excellent supper followed by dancing and a midnight meal gave all the opportunity to make and renew friendships.

On Saturday morning we visited the Hans Christian Andersen house and museum in a charmingly restored quarter of Odense, followed by a short walk through the modern town to catch our riverboat past the Tivoli and Zoo to the forest at Fruens Boge where we were to ? yes! EAT. Another excellent and enormous meal lubricated by beer and Aquavit should have been followed by time to visit the local sites of interest, but most decided on a short stroll after long and fun filled table talk. Back to hotels for the Scandinavian Section AGM, pilots briefing for the Sunday, then a short rest before the reception and, guess what, more food at the Gala Dinner. Rotary Greetings, diary information, and plans were exchanged, before dancing the night away.

Fairly bright and not too early Sunday morning saw 11 Rotarians and one lady pilot transport the majority of participants on the 50 mile journey to Bilund, the home of the Legoland theme park. If you ever thought there was a limit to what could be done with your children's Lego set, then visit Bilund. Towering statues, working models, villages, town scenes, both scaled representations and inventions, ranging from the US Capitol to Vienna's Cathedral, from an airport to a fishing village, and much more, all linked by a passenger railway, and interspersed with various rides and activities guaranteed to amuse children of all ages. Time would only permit a couple of hours, because the homeward journeys had to be started, and it was with memories of a wonderful weekend, that goodbyes were said. Thank you Denmark for the unfailing friendliness and good humour of your people; epitomised and excelled by our hosts Kjell and Vibeke.

On a personal note I must as chief navigation offic(erro)r of YL confess to having missed Lille completely and confused my passengers as to whether Antwerp was Brussels or vice-versa. The return journey stopover finally convinced them all that it had been Antwerp on way there too !!
Range extension record - 14.5 hrs flying and only two passes.

A VISIT TO HEAD OFFICE

By IFFR Vice-Chairman Charles Strasser

As one of the 9 members of the World Fellowship Activities Committee of Rotary International, I received some three weeks before, a call from R.I. President, Hugh Archer, to attend the Committee Meeting of WFA, to be held at Rotary Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, U S A on the 17th & 18th July 1989.

The brief of the World Fellowship Activities Committee is "to advise the Board of Rotary International on ways and means to encourage groups of Rotarians having common interests in recreational and avocational activities for the purpose of furthering acquaintance and fellowship." The Committee has existed for many years and has always done it's business previously by correspondence.

This year's President of R.I. Hugh Archer, is a Past President of R.O.A.R., which is the Fellowship of the Rotary Radio Amateurs. Furthermore, as you know, his motto for this year is "Enjoy Rotary". It is therefore quite natural that he is wanting to expand World Fellowship Activities within Rotary and hence authorised the meeting to be called and held at Evanston and indeed to be held in the Board Room of Rotary International.

Shortly before the date of the meeting, I received a further communication from the Chairman of W.F.A., Rotarian Bob Stuart, to say that in view of the agenda, the meeting had been extended to 3 days, and hotel reservations, flights etc., had therefore been altered to accommodate the new schedule.

I had never in my life been to a Committee Meeting lasting even 2 days never mind 3 days and I must admit I had some misgivings. I happened to be in Paris to celebrate Bastille Day, for the weekend preceding the meeting in Evanston and therefore flew to Chicago direct from Paris and then immediately after the meeting came back to Jersey via London.

The Bailiff of Jersey, Sir Peter Crill C.B.E., an Honorary Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Jersey and the head of our Government, on hearing about my trip to Rotary Headquarters, asked me to take and present to the President of Rotary International, Hugh Archer, a letter of greetings and a most beautiful medal specially struck to present to eminent people who visit Jersey. I was also able to extend to President Hugh an invitation to visit Jersey, both on behalf of the Bailiff and on behalf of the Rotary Club of Jersey, and he accepted this invitation and I have no doubt that when he is nearby, either in the U.K. or in Europe we will see him during his year in Office.

On Monday morning, the 17th July at 8.30 am, the whole Committee with the exception of only one member who apologised for unavoidable non attendance, met in the new 18 storey Rotary Building in Evanston. The Committee Members came from Switzerland, Japan, England, Jersey and the different parts of the U.S.A. The first day's meetings were held inside a recreational vehicle some 34 foot long, which had been provided by the Recreational Vehicle Fellowship and which toured the Rotary Heritage Trail.

This Heritage Trail started in the town of Racine, which is between Milwaukee and Chicago still on the side of lake Michigan. Racine is the birthplace of the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris, and indeed he was born in Racine on April 19th 1868. The house where he was born no longer exists but a model of it is on exhibition in a Rotarian's shop in Racine and the Rotary Club of Racine itself bought the site of an old laundry in the middle of the town, demolished it, and instead erected a rather splendid Memorial Clock and Monument with paving stones showing all the areas of the world where there are now Rotary Clubs. Indeed the Channel Islands have an engraved block of their own on this plaza.

From Racine we travelled to Chicago, which has the club called Chicago Rotary One, since it was the birth place of Rotary in so far that the first meeting was held in the office of Mining Engineer Gustavus Loehr, in room 711 at 127 North Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois. Besides Paul Harris, the other two first attenders at this meeting were Sylvester Schiele who became the 1st President of the 1st Club, and Hiram Shorey. This room, 711, is preserved in exactly the same state, with the same equipment as when the historic meeting took place on February 23rd 1905. The building is due to come down next month but the developers have promised to allocate a room in the same position in the new building to Rotary and some 2000 photographs have been taken to ensure that every piece of wood and every nail goes back in the same position. This has obviously cost a lot of money and will continue to do so, so visiting Rotarians can, for a fee, become members of the 711 Club to help finance this project. The next 40 minutes were spent travelling to Chicago Blue Island, Mount Hope Cemetery, which is the final resting place of both Paul Harris and Sylvester Schiele. The local Rotary Club is in the process of converting the two simple graves to a Paul Harris Memorial and Presidential Walkway and we were shown the plans for this, which again will entail a sizeable amount of money being required, and funding will be through contributions of \$200 and \$500 from individuals and from Rotary Clubs throughout the world whose donations will be inscribed in a Memorial Wall. The cemetery has already agreed to land surrounding the graves, luckily vacant, being made available to Rotary. The day finished at the Chicago Club, and our next 2 days of meetings were held on the 18th floor of the Rotary Building.

Under the very able Chairmanship of Rotarian Bob Stuart, a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago One, and the Past District Governor of that area, we worked solidly each day from 9.00am to 5.00pm resulting in the Board of Rotary International being presented at their next meeting, in October, with 15 pages of recommendations as to how to improve the World Fellowship Activities membership development, and indeed how to make all One Million Seventy Thousand Rotarians in Twenty Four Thousand Rotary Clubs aware of the existence of the various Fellowships.

Hopefully, under the Presidency of Hugh Archer, the Board will accept at least the majority of our proposals, if not all of them, and once they have been to the Board and we know the fate of our proposals we can publish more information.

Whilst in Evanston, I naturally also took the opportunity to visit the top 6 floors of Rotary Headquarters (the other 12 floors are sub-let) and spoke to many of the full-time staff of Rotary, numbering some 400 in Evanston and another 100 in Regional Offices world wide. The administration appears extremely efficient and it should be borne in mind that whilst each Rotary Club is autonomous as regards membership selection etc. we all work to the basic Rotary Creed and this needs a central machinery, which also administers the Youth Exchange Programmes, and the Rotary Student Programmes, not to speak of Polio Plus Campaigns and others.

Also whilst in Evanston, I got in a Rotary attendance at one of the local Clubs, which happened to be a Breakfast Club Meeting at 7.15am. This is my second experience of a Breakfast Club and one I don't want to repeat too often, purely because of timing, of course.

I certainly enjoyed my experience and I hope that I gave sufficient input and made a good contribution to this Rotary Activity.

Charles G. Strasser.

Editors Note. Charles has provided a copy of the Letter of Greetings from the Bailiff of Jersey to the President of Rotary International, but I regret that due solely to pressure on space we are not able to reproduce it in this issue but hope to be able to do so in future.

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