



# **THE ROTATING BEACON**

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**AUTUMN 1992 BULLETIN**

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of the

**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS**

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**United Kingdom Section**

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## MRS MAUREEN STRASSER

It is with the greatest regret that we have to inform members of the death of Maureen, much loved wife of Charles Strasser, the World President of IFFR from 1986 - 88. She was known to many of us from her regular attendance in support of Charles at IFFR Rallies throughout the United Kingdom and the Continent, until her illness, which ultimately caused her death, made it impossible for her to travel. She will be sadly missed, not only by Charles and his family, to whom we send our sincere sympathies, but also by her many friends throughout the Rotary and Aviation World.

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## "CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS"

As you may realise, the anniversary of the voyage by "C.C.", to discover the New World has provoked much interest among various European countries. He was seeking the Western route to the East Indies (navigation problems existed before we took to the air!). Notwithstanding the fact that he had received financial backing from the Spanish Throne, the Italian authorities decided to hold Expo 92 in Genoa to celebrate the quinqu-centenary, IFFR Italy to adopt this for their Rally, and the Scots to fly down to participate.

John Donne, flying his Duchess G-BNTT from Edinburgh went via Le Touquet to Auxerre, for the night stop, before crossing the mountains to Albegna, where he was joined by Carlo Vanoni in his Twin-Commanche from Cannes and Wilfrid Lemmers from Belgium. The landings were exciting, with a 40kt cross-wind into an airfield in the hills, like landing in a gutter.

On the Saturday some 40 people, including a French IFFR couple from Strasbourg travelled to Genoa to visit the Exposition, followed by a boat trip along the coast to Portofino. The three pilots having flown in from Albegna, at about 5.30pm the boat dropped them at Genoa airport, only 200yds from their 'planes and they returned to Albegna for an exquisite Gala Dinner, enlivened by the presentation of plaques and banners, including the award of the Aeroclub of Savona Banner to G-BNTT for the longest distance flown to the meeting.

On Sunday they welcomed Salvatore Massimo, who had flown along the Italian coast from Catania, Sicily, to be present and after lunch at the airport reluctantly departed for home, with happy memories of the warm, if windy welcome they had enjoyed.

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TIES + TIES + TIES + TIES + TIES + TIES + TIES + TIES + TIES + TIES + TIES  
All who have waited so patiently for the new issue of IFFR Ties will be pleased to hear the THEY HAVE ARRIVED. In navy blue, with IFFR emblem, initials and a stripe across the blade woven in gold, they are priced at £5-95 inclusive of postage. Just send a cheque to the Secretary: John D Ritchie, 84, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3PH for your order.

## "THE BELLS, THE BELLS"

Those members who attended the July Meeting at Exeter had sympathy with the Hunchback of Notre Dame. We were not to know that the Cathedral Bellringers were to peal without cease from mid-afternoon until dinnertime.

Russ Thomson, assisted by his wife Janice and fellow Club members had arranged a warm welcome at the Aero Club, with the Airport authorities giving reduced landing fees to visiting IFFR aircraft, and after an interesting conducted tour of the older part of the City lively conversations flew around the dinner table as we enjoyed an excellent meal at the Forte-Crest Hotel.

On Sunday morning the formal business of the AGM occupied much of the time. After approval of the Accounts, the Treasurer produced a Budget which indicated that in consequence of rising cost over the two preceding years, coupled with the increase in the International subscription approved at the Orlando Convention, it would cost £17-50 per head to maintain the standard and frequency of Bulletins and meeting in the coming year.

The Chairman reported on the appeal by the General Aviation Awareness Campaign (GAAC), which is struggling to draw the attention of Government and local authorities to the effect of the closure of airfields and restrictions on G.A. activities, and it was proposed from the floor that an immediate donation of £100 should be made and that for 1992/3 the subscription should be fixed at £20, of which £2-50 would be given to the GAAC appeal.

A report on the Orlando IFFR AGM and social events was given by David Rowe, Graeme Le Quesne, Feroz Wadia and the Secretary, who together with Ron Harrison, the Hon Auditor, had all enjoyed the wider fellowship which attendance at these meetings provides. A full report will be in the IFFR World Bulletin, expected shortly. The Australian IFFR was strongly represented at the Convention and had already planned a week's flying tour of the outback, visiting Ayers Rock and Alice Springs, to precede the 1993 R.I. Convention in Melbourne next June. This attracted much interest from U.K. members, most of whom took the opportunity to obtain free visas offered by the Australian Immigration Authorities, present at the Convention.

After four years devoted service as Chairman, David Rowe stepped down from office amid expressions of thanks from all those who had served with him, and Graeme Le Quesne from Jersey was elected to succeed him. As had been proposed at the 1991 AGM the post of Vice-Chairman was created, with Feroz Wadia from Edinburgh accepting this office. No other nominations being received, the Secretary/Treasurer, Bulletin Editor, Event Organiser and Hon Auditor were all re-elected for yet another year.

A discussion followed on the programme for 1993, it being observed that it was our turn to hold the International Rally which alternates with the German IFFR Rally. A weekend in late June or early July was agreed as being most suitable, with Oxford as first choice of venue if the necessary arrangements can be made; various alternatives being suggested to Irwin Rodgers for consideration.

The meeting closed with sincere thanks to Russ Thomson for his choice of venue and the efforts to make the weekend such a success, and regrets that not more of the members in the Southwest had supported the meeting.

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### BRITONS TO BRITTANY

This year the French Section of IFFR, under the Presidency of Jean Recullet has chosen one  
of the most interesting parts of the French coast at which to hold its Annual Reunion on the  
11th - 13th September. La Baule enjoys all the benefits of a sophisticated resort, with a long  
sandy beach, good hotels and a climate warmer than the Channel coast but less oppressive  
than the Mediterranean. The airfield is well accustomed to receiving aircraft from most  
European countries, and although not equipped with any nav aids, has a long hard runway  
aligned 11/29, a £2 landing fee, Avgas on Carte Bleu (VISA) and Customs on 24hr notice.

The programme as notified is:

FRIDAY AFTERNOON: Cocktails at the Club du Golf and informal dinner at the Hotel  
Royale.

SATURDAY: Tour by coach and then by Pleasure Boat around the coast for lunch at a  
charming little port, typical of the Atlantic coast, at Piriac sur Mer. Your Secretary having  
taken his holidays there for the past ten years can personally recommend it.

SATURDAY EVENING: Gala Dinner at the Hotel Royal. It is hoped that Freddy Compean,  
the immediate past International IFFR President, and the District Governor will be present,  
and some entertainment is under consideration.

SUNDAY MORNING: Either a visit to the celebrated Aquarium, the Director of which is  
a local Rotarian, or if you prefer a tour of the Briere marshes, an unspoilt refuge for the  
local flora and many varieties of wildfowl. At the end of the morning we will assemble for  
lunch at the village of Kerhinet among the thatched roofs and flower-decked cottages. About  
3.00pm we return by coach to the airfield for departure.

No costings have yet been advised, but PLEASE book direct with JEAN RECULLET. FAX:  
010 33 38 35 94 55 as soon as possible. For those without access to Fax please phone  
Secretary John Ritchie on 0462 684941, who will communicate for you. Details required  
in either case are:

NAME

NUMBER IN PARTY with names if known

ROOMS REQUIRED: Single, double or twin for Friday/Saturday/Sunday nights.

REGISTRATION OF AIRCRAFT or CAR, or means of public transport

PLACE OF DEPARTURE

WHETHER CUSTOMS ARE REQUIRED (Aircraft only)

Attendance at events has been sparse this year, La Baule is within two hours of the U.K.  
South Coast airfields; let us make a great finale to the year's flying programme.