

(LOGO)

**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP  
OF FLYING ROTARIANS**

***THE ROTATING BEACON***

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**AUTUMN 1995 BULLETIN**

of the

**United Kingdom Section**

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IFFR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1995

As the World Bulletin contains full reports of the Executive Committee Meeting and the A.G.M. at Nice which followed no further details will be included herein, save to confirm that in line with the decision taken our Accounts will be prepared to cover the calendar year and all new members joining after 30th June will pay a half year's subscription for that year.

U.K. SECTION AGM

This was held in the Pomme d'Or Hotel on 9th June, prior to the Nice Convention. Present : Graeme Lequesne, Chairman; John Ritchie, Secretary; Angus Clark, Events Convenor; and 10 members. Apologies were received from Charles Strasser and Feroz Wadia, and it was noted with much regret that Norman Macleod had been obliged to return home suddenly due to the serious illness of his son. Graeme having been appointed IFFR World President-elect wished to stand down as Section Chairman, and Feroz Wadia was elected as Chairman with acclamation. Ives Branson had been nominated as Vice Chairman and being willing to stand was elected nem con. No other nominations for Office had been received and the existing holders being willing to continue were re-elected. Thanks were expressed from the floor for their past services. The Section Accounts for 1994 published in the Winter Bulletin were approved without comment, and the meeting ended in time for those present to join the coach party to Jersey Zoo.

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AUTUMN FLY-IN TO OLD WARDEN

In spite of an unpromising forecast, and a front over Scotland which caused even the intrepid Feroz Wadia to take to British Rail, the final event of the 1995 IFFR Season for the U.K. Section at Old Warden in Bedfordshire was graced by fine weather which secured a record attendance of members old and new. Among them were Ted Mayhew from Staines accompanied by Phyllis who drove up for the occasion, and we also welcomed one of our newest members, Peter Benmax from Acton bringing his wife Gina came in by helicopter. Malcolm and Jean Bainbridge drove down from Leeds with Roy Poulter and family. Roy was promptly signed up as a member and like the rest of the party enjoyed the fascinating display of aircraft even older than Ted who claimed greatest seniority. Angus Clark had arranged for IFFR to have the use of an enclosure next to the space reserved for visiting pilots which enabled us all to assemble together to renew old friendships and make new ones. He and Alisma had flown in with a fellow Rotarian Brian Midgley and his wife Pat, to be greeted by Bob and Georgie Tatlow from Burnham-on-Crouch who recognised Angus' plane. Hardly surprising, as it had belonged to Bob for some years and has attended many previous IFFR gatherings at home and abroad. Among those who arrived by air were Trevor & Barbara Marriott from Retford, Norman & Carol Beadle, Brian Strawford from Brecon with James Mellor, and Neil & Mary Smith from Barton. Four stalwart members of long standing drove over, namely Ives Branson who as vice Chairman took the opportunity to discuss the 1996 International Meeting at Biggin Hill with the other Section Officers and with Peter Gresham who is helping him and Sheila with the arrangements, Brian McGraw from Sywell, and Bill Jevons from Coleshill accompanied by Dee. It was wonderful to see them all again.

### BENELUX SECTION MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS

A strong westerly tailwind made short work of our journey to the latest IFFR weekend in Benelux (although the return journey was another story !) Two Cessna 172s left Edinburgh with six eager participants - John Donne, Michael Mortazavi, Nigel Beresford, Ian Kerr, and Feroz & Rachel Wadia. We reached Norwich in under two hours. Our longer than usual Channel crossing to Deventer lasted only 1 hour 40 minutes - at one point we were cruising at 160 knots. This was flying !! For the first time ever the Scottish contingent arrived ahead of schedule to join 68 participants from 7 other countries for what proved to be a friendly and busy weekend. Stan's welcome was as warm as the first lager was cool - what a combination.

It was great to meet old friends and new over refreshments at the Airport and after a short drive to the Bilderberg Hotel to sober (sorry freshen) up we were whisked off for a 'wine evening' in Arnhem. A lovely meal in convivial company was followed by a private guided tour through the vaults of the Wine House Robbers and Vanden Hooghe, and an 'educational' wine tasting session. The bus ride home is remembered with a warm glow.

After a hearty breakfast and a civilised 9.30 start to the next day, we were driven through the National Parc Hoge Veluwe to the Kroller-Muller Museum - a famous art and sculpture gallery with a large Vincent Van Gogh collection. A local Rotarian's wife acted as our guide, and delighted even the uninitiated among us with her enthusiastic interpretations - many thanks for opening our eyes to new pleasures.

Lunch was enjoyed by all at the Orangerie of Rosendael Castle, overlooking the beautiful rose gardens. A warm ambivalence was starting to cloak our senses again. However, problems with our bus meant that our stay was prolonged, and this afforded us a much-needed couple of hours rest and/or walk through the grounds. We were delighted to discover hidden and unexpected legacies of previous owners - trick fountains, shell shrines and peaceful water gardens.

After a suitable rest for both coach and passengers, we left for the airport to enjoy cocktails whilst watching a display by the European aerobatic champion Frank Vesteege. In his Extra 300 he performed an unbelievable 'Sky dance' to music. An informal atmosphere allowed those interested (who wouldn't be ?) to study the aircraft at close quarters later and question Frank on the technical aspects of the sport. An impromptu fly-past with a Citation against a background of parachuting and banner-towing aircraft combined to make the evening a memorable one.

The formal dinner later saw a departure from tradition, with no cutlery on the tables and no pre-set seating plans. Each dish was served with appropriate tools and we were invited to move around tables between courses. This meant that those who entered into the spirit of the occasion could sit at five different tables during the meal - a novel idea which allowed us to converse with many friends. Speeches were kept to a minimum - and the entertainment by song and piano added to the relaxed atmosphere. Lily Lemmers was Top of the Pops ! The award for the longest I.F.R. flight was presented to the two C-172s from Edinburgh.

Sunday morning was spent at the Netherlands Open air Museum in Arnhem. We were guided around Dutch homes, farms and shops of different periods and social levels, built against a backdrop of windmills, streams and typical Dutch bridges. A superb traditional Dutch lunch in an old farm steading completed the visit, and set us up for the journey home.

What we had gained in time on the way out we certainly paid for on the way back. Against a very strong headwind, at one point we were trundling along at 56 knots ! We took 2½ hours to reach Norwich, another 2½ to Teesside to refuel and 1 for the night flight home. However, on the positive side the threat of a nasty front did not materialise and flying into Edinburgh by night has to be one of the most beautiful approaches you can hope to experience. A very fitting end to a most enjoyable weekend. Our thanks to Stan, his co-workers and the local Rotary Club. We look forward to returning their hospitality.

*Contributed by Feroz Wadia - Chairman*

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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & GENERAL AVIATION EXHIBITION

Rotarian Tony Hutton, the Organiser of this prestigious event, invited IFFR to take a stand this year, and in view of our non-profitmaking status generously waived the customary charges. The opportunity was grasped with both hands, and with the assistance of four IFFR members living in the vicinity of North Weald Airfield where the Exhibition was held we succeeded in offering an attractive display which drew the attention of the many visitors to the show. The stand was sited on a corner plot, clearly visible from two long aisles inside the huge hangar building set up for the occasion. Our display included large wall maps showing the Australian IFFR FlyRound to Ayers Rock and Alice Springs, and the 1995 Mediterranean Islands tour which followed the Convention in Nice. Each was accompanied by a suitable explanatory sheet and illustrated by photographs and Rotary Banners from Europe and Australia. The warm smell of coffee from the percolator kept on the go drew many callers, and while some of those who visited us were principally interested in coffee we succeeded in signing up five new members, most of whom had never heard of IFFR. In addition, we had taken the opportunity to prepare leaflets drawing attention to the benefits of Rotary membership to business men and women, and no fewer than seven completed details of their name address and vocation, including two from Benelux. Your Secretary, who with the willing help of Mary and borrowed garden furniture set up and dismantled the stand, has since been kept busy writing to the Clubs nearest to those who enquired offering them potential new Rotarians for consideration. It would have been impossible to have manned the stand throughout the four days of the exhibition without the generous assistance of John Williams, Norman Beadle, Bob Tatlow and Michael Pudney, the latter of whom arranged at short notice the compulsory Public Liability Insurance at a premium less than half that demanded by the R.I.B.I. Insurance brokers. While IFFR cannot be present at all the many aviation exhibitions held throughout the year, nevertheless all those involved felt that this was a worthwhile chance to promote both IFFR and Rotary to a part of the business community both national and international.

SCANDINAVIAN SECTION MEETING - SWEDEN AUGUST 1995

*Contributed by Ives Branson, Vice Chairman*

Southborough Rotary Club's collection of banners has a recent addition from Sweden - and a special one at that. It's the new banner of the Scandinavian Section of IFFR, showing a map of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. The District Governor presented one to the Head of each national delegation to bring back to their home Clubs.

We flew to Halmstad for this most friendly occasion. It began as soon as we landed with the marshall who directed the aircraft to its parking slot, holding aloft two signalling bats. The left hand bat read "I.F." and the right one "I.R." Then when we stopped he reversed them to show 'WEL KOM'.

The Governor of the Province of Halland, also a Rotarian, welcomed us with champagne and showed us around his castle at Halmstad. A most interesting and erudite man speaking perfect English, Bjorn Molin was a former Swedish Minister of Trade. We learnt that this part of Sweden once belonged to the Danes until the 1600's. The local people and the Governor himself still call themselves "half-Danish". The area had been very prosperous but declined after the Danes left. In the 1930's its fortunes revived and it is now one of the most prosperous regions of Sweden. In contrast, during the last century conditions were so harsh that most of the Swedish people now in America had emigrated from this Halland province. Today the population of the provincial town Halmstad is 83,000 and it boasts no less than five Rotary Clubs.

A Rotarian from one of these local Clubs who had been given the job of guiding the party and explaining the history of Halmstad was delighted when he heard that we came from Tunbridge Wells. He is now a Consultant Psychologist with his own department, but when a student in the late 1960's he had travelled to Tunbridge Wells to learn English at Concorn College. He made a point of sitting next to us to hear all about the town and any changes which had taken place and in turn regaled us with his fond and amusing memories.

Communication was not at all easy - language was no problem - but we were sitting in a restaurant famed for its Jazz. We had placed ourselves at some distance from the band but failed to notice a loudspeaker hidden opposite us. The evening really took off when one of the Rotarian aviators from Stockholm produced a trumpet and swung into 'When the Saints Go Marching In' accompanied by the resident band and cheers from the audience.

At the Gala Dinner greeting were read out from all over the world. These included a message from Brian Condon, IFFR World President from Australia. Last year we had had the pleasure and honour of flying Brian and his wife Joyce to Holland and back from France. He had visited Jersey in between.

Among the places of interest we visited were a private aircraft and car collection containing some rare examples, an ancient fort on the Kaderac, an art gallery, and an open air folk museum where we were told that the reason why the doorways of houses and farms were so low was so that any visitor had to bend to get through them. If the visitor was unwelcome it

was much easier to hit him over the head in that position ! The beds were small cupboards because people slept sitting up. It was thought to be better for health and more children could be propped against each other end to end.

The Hotel Tylosand was on the seashore - rocks, sand dunes, crystal clear water and acres of clean sand with a view of a small island. We were told that the Hotel belonged to the Pop Group 'Roxettes'. This did not mean a great deal to us two squares, but we were assured that the Roxettes were in the International Top 5. Per Gessler, the lead, is a son of Halmstad and has a house there and is often to be seen on one of the five golf courses around the town.

One big advantage of Scandinavian meetings is that the proceedings are conducted in English. This is the medium of communication so you have Italians talking to Norwegians, and French and Germans talking to Finns, Danes and Belgians, all in English ! It was a weekend of greeting old friends and making new ones - truly the spirit of 'Rotary The World Over'. If anyone should ever wish to accompany us to any of these events and experience the fellowship first hand you would be most welcome.

*Editor's Note : Ives has provided a complete list of participants to this event which regrettably is too long and detailed for inclusion. It lists no fewer than 27 aircraft, including 1 each from France & Italy, 2 from Belgium, 3 from the U.K. and 8 from Germany in addition to 12 from the Scandinavian Section. This really was an International Rally. Next year will be in Bodo, Northern Norway. Details to follow in the Spring.*

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MEMBERS - MEMBERS - MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome no fewer than 12 new members this year :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Base Airfield</u>
Terry Barge	Shepshed Charn	Nottingham
John Barham	Southend Estuary	Southend
Roy Caslon	Harpenden Village	Elstree
D. Gwyn Evans	Brecon	Shobdon
Brian Harvey	Mansfield	Saltby
Maurice Levi	Morley	Leeds/Bradford
Meinard Lundgren	Romney Marsh	Lydd
Keith Manktelow	Rushen & W. Mann	Ronaldsway IOM
Roy Poulter	Headingley	Leeds/Bradford
Ted Runciman	Bishops Stortford	North Weald
Norman Weller	Jersey CI	Jersey
Cyril Witts	Bourne End	-

Several of them have attended IFFR events at home or abroad this summer and we look forward to meeting them all during the coming year. Remember, if you are making up attendance you have a fellow aviator at all of the above Clubs who would be delighted to welcome you to his meeting. We regret the loss of eight who have failed to renew and three obliged to resign - they will always be welcomed back in happier times.

WHY KEEP IT TO OURSELVES ?

*contributed by Russ Thomson IFFR 4124*

My Rotary Club, Dawlish Water, meets in a pub with panoramic views over Lyme Bay, an attractive venue very busy during the summer months. The Rotarian proprietor appreciates our co-operation in arranging outside meetings during his busy season to enable him to cater for the many holidaymakers so the Programme Committee tries to fix activities such as golf, tennis or bowls for the Tuesday evenings during this period.

When I was Vocational Committee Chairman I had arranged a Club visit to the new Terminal at Exeter Airport including the control tower and radar room. This proved very popular so this summer I decided to organise an evening with the Exeter Flying Club to give all our members an opportunity to fly in a light aircraft. Sixteen of them attended and twelve wanted to fly, so with the help of the Club Cessna 172 and a Robin DR400 as well as my own Cessna 172 we provided two flights of about 30 minutes in each aircraft. Leaving Exeter we flew down the River Exe estuary and along the coast to Teignmouth and thence back home. This route passed over every members house

During the day I was concerned about the project, as the Airport was recording surface winds of 20 knots, gusting 28 kts, but by the evening the wind had dropped to about 15 kts straight down the Runway 08, so that apart from a few bumps during the climb out and on finals the flights went well without a single sick-bag being required.

After the flying had finished my two fellow pilots replaced their headsets with chef's hats and with the assistance of my wife Jan and daughter Ellen who had made the salads and puddings we provided a barbecue supper. While this was cooking I gave a short talk on the requirements for obtaining a PPL (not dwelling on the subject of cost as my wife was in earshot), and explained how the Flying Club operates.

All those who attended expressed much satisfaction for such an interesting evening, and one who flew took a video which is now being made into a film for the Club records. The expense was met by a contribution of £15 per head for the shared use of the aircraft plus a small charge for the barbecue food so in aviation terms everyone had enjoyed an interesting inexpensive evening. I can recommend this to any IFFR member and should be happy to provide further information to anyone wishing to run a similar event.

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GRANITE CITY RALLY 1995

Although this was not really an IFFR event the enthusiasm of Ian Kerr, an IFFR member from Aberdeen who sent messages to all the 70 U.K. members on fax resulted in an unprecedented degree of support. Let it be conceded that for the many Southerners the promise of continuing fine weather North of the Border tempted them to sample the delights of the Granite City, and the incredibly low charges for registration, accommodation, and airfield facilities made it an inexpensive weekend. Ten IFFR members in eight planes brought away six trophies - quite a record. A return invitation is promised for 1996 and will be taken up by many keen to enjoy such hospitality again.