



**INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP
OF FLYING ROTARIANS**

THE ROTATING BEACON

AUTUMN 1996 BULLETIN

of the

United Kingdom Section

WARNING

If you have not yet booked for the GLASGOW R.I. CONVENTION do so NOW. Accommodation in Scotland is heavily committed for the Convention period, and any registration received after 1st December may not be allocated to the IFFR Hotel.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ?

The attendance figures for IFFR events this year reveal what we might expect, namely that the best attended events are those held at home with a programme which enables members unable to spend the whole weekend to join in for part of the time. Those hiring aircraft can thus meet those attending by road as well as those coming from afar in their own planes.

Arranging an event takes time and trouble, but if the effort is shared we should be able to hold three or four meetings each summer, at which we can also fulfil the principal Aim of IFFR - to promote a better understanding of General Aviation among non-flying Rotarians.

1997 will see the Committee heavily engaged in the arrangements for the Glasgow Convention in June, but this must not overshadow the need for us to provide a programme for those unable to participate in that or the other Continental activities which figure so much in our Bulletins.

Can four members based in the North, South, East and West offer to arrange such events ? In co-operation with members of your own Rotary Club and your Airport Manager or Flying Club can you provide lunch at the airfield, transport to the local tourist attraction, and then transport either back to the airfield or for members wishing to stay over, to a nearby hotel. Those attending will pay their own way, although discounted landing fees are always an attraction, and can be asked to book their own accommodation if they want to stay over. Non-aviating Rotarians often welcome the chance to join in so long as the transport commitment is limited. If the weather and time permit visiting pilots can take host Rotarians for a brief air tour - Russ Thomson's article in the Autumn 1995 Bulletin shows what can be done with a bit of enthusiasm, effort, and planning.

Offers, please, for May, July, August and September to me. (April weather is often uncertain and June is committed.) How about Newcastle or Tees-side, Shoreham or Southampton, Norwich or Ipswich, Swansea or Plymouth ?

Talk it over with your Club Fellowship Chairman, the airfield or flying club, give me a date and outline programme and I will help circulate our members. Think what successes we had at Old Sarum and Biggin Hill. You can do just as well if you try.

John D. Ritchie

Secretary/Treasurer

01462-684941

IFFR SCOTTISH CONVENTION FLYROUND - JUNE 1997

*You take the High Road, and I'll take the Low Road,
And I'll be in Scotland before ye,
But you and your true love will ever meet again,
On the Bonny Bonny Banks of Loch Lomond*

Even if you are not attending the Convention you are asked to support the Flyround. Details below. Seats are urgently needed for visiting IFFR members and aircraft hire is proving difficult. We shall be using Prestwick as the base airfield with ground transport to Glasgow. If you can offer seats please inform ANGUS CLARK as soon as possible - Phone 01433-631585 or write to him at Folds Head Close, Sough Lane, Calver, Sheffield S30 1XJ.

The post-Convention tour starts on Thursday 19th June with a 170 nm flight up the west coast overflying the many islands including Arran, Mull & Skye. The destination is Stornoway on the island of Lewis where a truly unique Highland welcome will be waiting. In the afternoon a guided tour will delve into the mysteries of our Scottish ancestry. In the evening after a buffet dinner a traditional "Ceilidh" will provide dance, music, and songs by local artistes.

Friday morning departure will be for a 140 nm trip to Aberdeen, providing remarkable contrasts of scenery past sea girt islands, around rugged mountains, along beautiful valleys and over mysterious dark lochs including Loch Ness. A free afternoon will give the option of an en route stop at Inverness or shopping and sightseeing in the delightful City of Aberdeen.

A full day coach trip on the Saturday will tour Royal Deeside, the site of the Queen's summer residence at Balmoral, and include visits to a castle and a whisky distillery before returning to the hotel for dinner.

Leaving Aberdeen on Sunday morning it is a short 70 nm leg to Glenrothes where you have the option of ending the trip, and a coach trip into Edinburgh for those wishing to stay on, with a visit to the Royal Highland Show followed by a relaxed evening in town. On Monday we offer an escorted coach tour of Scotland's historic capital city, including the world famous Castle and Holyrood Palace. In the afternoon a guided walk around the older parts of the city, known as the 'Venice of the North' by reason of its beauty. An informal dinner will round off the Flyround.

Prices quoted in the attached Registration Form cover ground activities, but not hotel or meal charges save for the buffet at Stornoway. Landing fees will be your own responsibility. Hotel particulars will be given on receipt of your registration, and participants will be responsible for their own booking requirements. Room costs are likely to be in the range of £25 to £30 per person per night.

Come on, join in the IFFR SCOTTISH FLYROUND 1997 where the scenery will be magnificent, the flying different from your usual routes, and the Fellowship unforgettable.

Feroz J. Wadia - President IFFR-UK.

LA VILLE EN ROSE

No not the song (Maurice Chevalier ?), but the French IFFR Meeting at Toulouse, known world wide as the 'Ville Rose' from the colour of the many beautiful old buildings basking in the warm autumn sunshine.

As ever there was a truly international reunion, with aircraft from the U.K. predominating among the visitors and a strong contingent of the host Section lead by their President Jean Rapin to welcome us. Our President Feroz brought Rae and Ian Kerr down to collect Mary and me from Henlow, and then on to Poitiers for the night before arrival at Blagnac in good time for lunch, arriving just ahead of the World President Graeme from Jersey.

After lunch the highlight of the weekend, a tour of the Airbus Industrie plant, where after exchanging our passports for security badges we were allowed a detailed inspection of the A320 stuffed full of electronic gadgetry with the help of an English speaking guide who patiently answered the many questions put to him. We saw round the vast pillarless building in which these huge aircraft are assembled, and marvelled at the complexity and accuracy which enabled the engineers to piece together complete units manufactured in four other European plants and brought to Blagnac in a fleet of Guppies, the most unattractive looking aircraft I have ever seen. While the uninitiated gawped, the skilled few enjoyed a session in the A320 simulator, much to their evident delight.

To the hotel for a convivial dinner, old friendships renewed and new faces welcomed. Next morning a coach tour of the city, lunch on the Canal de Midi while cruising gently along admiring the skill of the designers with the foresight to see the benefits of linking the sunshine of the south with the vinyards of the west long before the railway was conceived. For the francophones a lengthy and detailed history of the Aeropostale Service, inaugurated from Toulouse, gave us a rest before returning to the hotel for the Gala Dinner. French cuisine is legendary and this meal needs no further comment save that it alone justified the long journey south.

On Sunday morning a charming young lady guide took us on foot round the more interesting parts of the old city, explaining how the architecture reflected the history, much influenced by religious considerations as well as economic and geographic developments. The river has at last been tamed, but for centuries resembled the Nile in its effect on the city as the Pyrenean snows melted each Spring. Then reluctantly back to the airfield for another lunch before setting off for home.

The weather was kind, the hospitality just as warm as the weather, the programme interesting to both flyers and flown, and those members who have not yet experienced a French IFFR meeting should surely make a note now of the 1997 date - the second weekend in September.

WATCH OUT - BEADLE'S ABOUT !

During the period 28th July to 1st August, the French Coast, Normandy Beaches, and the Channel Islands were overrun by the Airborne Division of Wickford Rotary Club, Essex, on a 'totally extravagant and unnecessary spree'.

The Wickford Club boasts no fewer than four active IFFR members who decided with five other members to tour the Channel Islands taking in 3 Rotary meetings in order to gain lots of points towards winning (for the 2nd year running) the 'Don Corder' Trophy awarded by District 1240 to the Club making most Rotary visits within RIBI. Points are determined by the number of visits and the distance travelled. The aircraft used were 3 PA28s and a Rans RV6.

I'd been communicating with the 3 Clubs, who were all very enthusiastic, especially the Jersey Club with Charles and Graeme (IFFR Presidents Past and present) as members, and stressed that a Go : No Go decision would be made on Friday 26th July in case of bad weather. The five day forecast showed only Sunday as a problem day, with a weak cold front lying N/S across our route from Southend to Le Touquet and then on to Guernsey, Alderney, Jersey and back to Southend via Sandown Isle of Wight.

All the pilots are IMC rated and a GO decision was made subject to a good METAR at Le Touquet. True to forecast Sunday dawned overcast with 8km and cloud scattered at 1000 ft, deteriorating (as usual) across the Channel but Le Touquet reported all the nines and scattered at 3500 ft, so we set off IMC and cleared the clouds on reaching the French coast. After a good lunch, as Guernsey was still below SVFR minima due to sea fog we set off to Caen where we found on landing that Guernsey had now become OK, and 6.30 pm saw us all safely on the ground and on the way to St. Peter Port.

Early Monday morning brought a breakfast meeting at the St. Pierre Hotel with the Guernesais Club and a live interview with the local Island radio. The Club hospitality was excellent and they arranged to join us for dinner that evening. The day was spent touring the island with visits to the wartime museum and a castle/fort. Dinner that evening was one to be remembered, a restaurant opened specially for us and a dozen or so of their members joined us for an excellent meal with wine flowing freely !

Next day we flew to Alderney where we spent an enjoyable day touring the island on bikes and in the evening we were entertained by the Alderney Club at their 5th Tuesday Fellowship Meeting which included a tour of the Forts & Harbour.

The following morning dawned foggy. Nothing was scheduled to fly until 14.00 so we amused ourselves around the town before walking to the Airport and making a leisurely departure to Jersey, which was very busy with commercial arrivals and departures. There was just time for a brief swim at our hotel before it was off for a two hour visit to the Jersey Zoo followed by a wonderful barbecue organised by the two Rotary Clubs, at which we enjoyed good fellowship and lots more wine (after making allowance for 8 hours between Bottle and Throttle !) For the 4 IFFR pilots it was a special honour to meet IFFR President Graeme and Past President Charles (yes - we all use his NAVTOR PLOG).

It had been our plan to fly the next morning to Sandown for lunch with the Shanklin Club, but in the event this proved impossible as due to the Prevention of Terrorism Act the airport could not accept arrival from a non-EEC country on less than 24 hours notice ! (None of us had realised that Jersey was not an EEC member). So it was back to Southend the pretty way, along the French coast. Seven hours flying, about 600 miles, and 3 Rotary Meetings had made it a tiring but thoroughly enjoyable trip.

*contributed by Norman Beadle - IFFR #4824
President - Wickford Rotary Club*

TREASURER'S COMMENTS

Five new members joined us since the last Bulletin. Details as follows :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rotary Club</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
James Alexander	Kendal South	Catherine	Hotelier
David Humphreys-Evans	Kimbolton Castle	Wendy	Flying Instructor
Ron Spencer	Holbeach	Vicky	
Mike Stockley	Ashford	Dee	Company Director
John Waters	Wadhurst	Diana	Training Captain

We welcome them all and hope they will enjoy membership of IFFR as much as they already enjoy Rotary itself. We look forward to meeting them, their wives & family at our forthcoming meetings.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's a sad fact, but money makes the donkey go ! Running IFFR whether at International, European, or Section level costs money - chiefly in printing and postage, and to simplify bookkeeping for all it was agreed that the IFFR year should run from 1 January to 31 December. Those whose dues are not received by 31 January get one reminder, I have to account to the International Treasurer by 31 March at the latest, and any outstanding by 30 September are deleted from the records. I enclose your subscription request form with this Bulletin. Please help me by returning it amended if necessary with a cheque for £20 payable to IFFR-UK as soon as you can.

John D. Ritchie - Secretary/Treasurer

UK INTERNATIONAL MEETING - BIGGIN HILL

This was such a success due largely to the untiring efforts of Ives & Sheila Branson, ably supported by Peter Gresham and John Bowden, that if I publish a full report with details of those attending, the fascinating programme, the superb meals and entertaining talk by Air Commodore David Leppard, who is himself an IFFR member, there would be no space for anything else in this Bulletin. Well earned compliments and congratulations were received from many of those attending which included a particularly strong and welcome contingent from France headed by past and present Presidents Jean Reculet and Jean Rapin, and several from Germany lead by Karl Heinz Netsche their incoming President. Our thanks are due to the airport manager at Biggin Hill and the members of the Rotary Clubs who provided vital ground transport to all those arriving by air.

The weather was unusually warm somewhat to the surprise of the hotel staff unable to restrain the central heating at night, but which made the day at Greenwich especially enjoyable. The true spirit of Rotary was reflected by the thoughtfulness of the Bransons, who had purchased from the Kent Air Ambulance Trust some amusing souvenirs for the ladies and items sold or raffled to such success that once the accounting had been completed they, accompanied by your Secretary making one of his now rare solo flights down to Rochester where the Air Ambulance is based, presented a cheque for £200 raised at the weekend in addition to the cost of the gifts purchased.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL JUNE 1997 CONVENTION
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, U.K.

IFFR REGISTRATION FORM
(PLEASE PRINT BOLDLY)

NAME.....NATIONALITY.....
 ADDRESS.....IFFR#.....
 CITY.....COUNTRY.....
 PHONE.....FAX.....
 ACCOMPANIED BY:.....
 ARRIVING BY: AIRLINE.....OWN A/C.....ROAD/RAIL.....
 OWN A/C - TYPE.....REGISTRATION.....ARR. DATE.....

Please complete or delete these entries

I WISH TO TAKE PART IN THE SCOTTISH FLYROUND. I OFFER/NEED.....SEATS
 I WOULD LIKE DETAILS OF ANY FOLLOWING GERMAN OR BENELUX FLYROUND.....YES/NO

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IFFR REGISTRATION FEE	£10 per head	£.....
GALA DINNER/DANCE June 15.....Tickets	£35 per head	£.....
SCOTTISH FLYROUND (excl accommodation & meals)	£65 per head	£.....
PILOT PACK FOR FLYROUND (1 per aircraft)	£15 each	£.....
EDINBURGH EXTENSION (excl accommodation & meals)	£30 per head	£.....
CHEQUES : PAYABLE TO "IFFR-GLASGOW 97"	TOTAL	£.....
CREDIT CARDS : ACCESS, MASTERCARD, VISA, AMEX #		

Expiry Date.....Name on Card.....

Signature.....

Debit will appear on your statement as OSBOURNE HOTEL, EDINBURGH

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Return this form as soon as possible to Rotn ANGUS CLARK, Folds Head Close,
 Sough Lane, Calver, Sheffield S30 1XJ. - Phone And Fax : 01433-631585

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NOTE : THIS FORM REGISTERS FOR IFFR ACTIVITIES ONLY. FOR THE CONVENTION
 YOU MUST REGISTER WITH ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DIRECT ON THE R.I. FORM MARKING
 THE HOTEL AT THE TOP IN LARGE LETTERS "IFFR HOTEL ONLY".

