



**INTERNATIONAL  
FELLOWSHIP  
OF FLYING ROTARIANS**

**THE ROTATING BEACON**

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**SPRING 1997 BULLETIN**

of the

**United Kingdom Section**

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## EDITOR'S EXPECTATIONS

In the United Kingdom private flying is largely confined to the months between Easter and the day the clocks are turned back. Many of us are VFR pilots and our aircraft are not equipped to contend with the weather conditions prevailing during the winter. Gale force winds have been much in evidence over recent weeks, and icing is best observed on the Christmas cake and not on wings or carburettor. Now we look forward to an even wider and more interesting programme of events at home and in Europe than ever before. Dates and places are set out in this Bulletin, and we know from past experience that each one will provide a memorable weekend of fun and fellowship.

Unhappily too many of our members do not take the opportunity of taking part in these festivities, and only a hard core of enthusiasts is usually found on the airfield or in the bar ! In common with Rotary membership worldwide our members are growing older and must take their pleasures while still young enough to enjoy them. Do appreciate that whether at home or abroad language is no problem, some form of English is universally spoken, even North of the Border. For those without aircraft readily available seats can often be arranged on a cost sharing basis, thus providing a cheap weekend for both parties. We notice that those who have once sampled IFFR activities regularly reappear, but too many others confine their support to sending a cheque and, perhaps, glancing through the Bulletins.

In recent years the 'super-safety-syndrome' which seems to pervade every activity in which officialdom can intervene has precluded us from running what the French so graphically describe as *Bapteme de l'Air*, or flight experience to the underprivileged young, and the age restriction imposed by the C.A.A. excludes many experienced pilots from offering such flights to the public in any manner for which payment is made to anyone, even by purchasing a raffle ticket. Did you realise that cost sharing is limited to aircraft with no more than four seats ? How many more silly rules help to maintain the fiction that general aviation is the perquisite of the privileged classes. The miracle is that it still survives in such a hostile environment.

IFFR membership is too small to make a significant impact, but for several years past we have contributed to the General Aviation Awareness Campaign, now incorporated as a limited company, which will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26th March at the Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Place, London W.1. Any IFFR member is welcome to attend and hear what is being done to keep airfields open for General Aviation, and to listen to the guest speaker Prof. Heinrich Beder of AOPA Germany telling us of the problems being encountered by G.A. in that country.

In conclusion may I thank the many members who add a note of greeting with their subscription renewals. There are too many to acknowledge individually but I appreciate them all. Contributions to the "Beacon" are most welcome and I should love to start a Correspondence Column if someone cares to write in. Tell me what you want, have done, or propose doing, and we can share it with the rest of our members. Hoping to see you all this year,

John D. Ritchie

PROGRAMME OF I.F.F.R. MEETINGS - 1997

The World Bulletin of IFFR gives details of events worldwide - if you are there at the right time and place make contact - this is Rotary Fellowship at its best. For convenience we have listed the European Events below. Remember, your only obligation of membership is to participate, try and attend at least one activity this summer, more if you can. Ladies and other Rotarians are always welcome, and we treat friends as potential members !

March	14-16	Rattvik, Sweden, Scandinavian Section Fly-in
April	05-06	Hawarden, Chester, England, UK Spring Meeting
April	26-27	Portimao, Portugal, Iberian Section Fly-in
May	24-25	Wurzburg, Germany, German Section Fly-in
June	15-18 19-24 25--	R.I. Convention, and IFFR AGM, Glasgow, Scotland UK Section Fly Round Scotland, Prestwick. IFFR Fly Round into Europe
August	08-10	Pori, Finland, Scandinavian Section International Rally
August	22-24	Luxemburg, Benelux Section Fly-in
September	12-14	French IFFR Section Fly-in, destination unknown
October		Caribbean Cruise : IFFR & IYFR Benelux Section

Energetic efforts are being made to resurrect the long established Italian Section, and to establish a new Hellenic Section on mainland Greece. Any member with personal contacts in either country is asked to inform me, and I will advise dates and venue of any meetings which these Sections hold.

Booking forms, hotel and airfield information available on request :

UK Spring Meeting - Neil Smith, Phone 01270-878298  
Glasgow Meeting & Fly Round - Angus Clark, Phone 01433-631585  
Continental Events - John D. Ritchie, 01462-684941

Contact phone numbers for direct bookings :  
Portuguese Meeting - Luis Henriques - Phone 00-351-89-27644  
German Meeting - Wolfgang Kapferer 00-49-6261-8080  
Scandinavian Meeting - Gustav Rosenlew FAX :00-358-2641-5235

Please note that guaranteed reservation dates have probably passed by the time you read this, but late bookings can usually be accommodated if you let the organisers know as soon as possible.

Those with spare seats, and those wishing to attend but without transport, please contact me BEFORE EASTER after which I may be away.

John D. Ritchie, 01462-684941 - European ViceChairman - IFFR.

### Mission Impossible Achieved !

The article "Watch out - Beadle's About !" in the autumn 1996 edition of "The Rotating Beacon" finished by saying that unfortunately the visit to Sandown and the Shanklin Club proved impossible and was not carried out.

Not so ! The visit was completed but by another I.F.F.R. Pilot.

By sheer coincidence on the same day, Thursday 1st August 1996, Past R.I.B.I. President Len Smith flew his Piper Cherokee 180 from Fair Oaks to Sandown with a prospective new member of his Club - *some people will go to great lengths to get new members* - and landed at Sandown shortly after one o'clock. As he flies to Sandown quite frequently Len is well known there and on his arrival was greeted with "I assume you've come to the Rotary Meeting". "What Rotary Meeting?" was the reply as Len had no knowledge of the intended Wickford Club visit which had been cancelled.

When this was explained, Len and his passenger immediately jumped into a taxi and arrived shortly at the Shanklin Club Meeting. There they were greeted with "Oh, our Flying Rotarian Visitors have arrived after all!". Len explained that "Flying Rotarian Visitors" had arrived but not the ones they were expecting.

As one would expect, Len and his passenger were given a very warm welcome. Len said a few words of thanks, gave a plug for the R.I.B.I. Conference in Blackpool in 1997 as he is Chairman of the Conference Committee, gave greetings from Twickenham R.C. instead of Wickford, and the Club President drove Len and his passenger back to Sandown after the meeting.

Rotary fellowship was great, and Len's passenger experienced this at first hand as a result of a completely unexpected and unannounced visit to another Rotary Club. Again by chance, he is of the same classification as the Club President. He has now been inducted as a member of the Rotary Club of Twickenham, hopefully due in part at least to the very warm welcome received at Shanklin, and to Wickford and I.F.F.R.

*Editor' note - Len has been an active member of IFFR for as long as we can remember and at his RIBI Conference in Bournemouth in 1990 did us the honour of a special slot to promote Rotary Fellowships including IFFR.*

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### ROTARY MEMBERSHIP

This is a subject which concerns the majority of Clubs, including Round Table which was founded by a Rotarian and from which many of our members have come on attaining their age limit. You can see from the above article what can be done to interest potential members. Have you ever considered giving a flight or asking a contact to accompany you to an IFFR meeting ? Even those with no aircraft available can often find an empty seat, sometimes at short notice. Not only Rotary, but IFFR itself, may wither away from lack of interest.

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS  
United Kingdom Section

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT : JANUARY-DECEMBER 1996

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions		780.00
Prepaid 1995		<u>2402.00</u>
Received 1996		3182.00
Less 1997 subscriptions prepaid		<u>1102.00</u>
	1916.00	2080.00
Sales of ties, badges etc	377.00	86.50
Bank interest	<u>40.44</u>	47.07
Surplus on Biggin Hill Rally		<u>215.16</u>
Total income	<u>2333.44</u>	<u>2428.73</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
International Subscriptions (net)	1303.21	1278.72
Insurance - Stand North Weald	82.00	
Purchases - Ties 1995 - Badges 1996	357.20	147.14
- Computer software		116.33
- Address labels		20.61
General Aviation Awareness Campaign	200.00	
Kent Air Amnbulance Trust		200.00
Printing : Bulletins	189.36	153.16
Postages Phones & Fax	<u>127.05</u>	<u>211.80</u>
Total expenditure	<u>2258.82</u>	2127.76
Deficit/surplus Income over expenditure	54.62	300.97

BALANCE SHEET 1st JANUARY 1997

	1/1/96	1/1/97
Balances at Bank		
Treasurers Account	2088.51	2821.49
Stock of ties at cost	<u>47.00</u>	0.00
	2135.51	
Less : Subscriptions prepaid	<u>780.00</u>	<u>1102.00</u>
Net Assets Carried forward	1355.51	1719.49

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BUDGET 1997

Income :	100 Subscriptions @ £20	2000.00
Expenditure :	International subs 100 x \$20 @ \$1.60=£1	1250.00
	Section Operating Expenses	500.00
	G.A.A.C	<u>200.00</u>
	Total	1950.00
Projected Surplus		£50.00

% %

Treasurer's note : At the date of this Bulletin the above Accounts are awaiting audit - any major variations will be advised in the next Bulletin. The surplus is due to the late payment of the annual contribution to the General Aviation Awareness Council, which will now fall within the current year.

