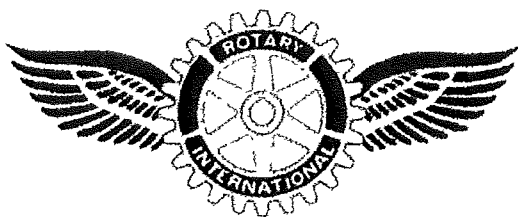


INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS



THE ROTATING BEACON

THE WINTER 2000 BULLETIN

Of the United Kingdom Section

EUROPEAN IFFR MEETINGS 2001

The 2001 UK International Meeting will be at Perth, Scotland, on the 25th-28th May and an outline program can be found in this issue. Please book now as judging by the success of the 1997 Scottish FlyRound a strong attendance is anticipated.

The Italian Section tell us that they will be meeting at Bergamo on April 28th-30th and again at Capua on June 24th-25th. Unhappily the latter will clash with the World RI Convention at San Antonio, Texas, to be attended by many European members.

The French Section always meets on the second weekend in September, and in order to encourage participation by members of the Iberian Section are contemplating meeting at Biarritz, just north of the Franco-Spanish border.

The Iberians themselves, presumably to encourage the attendance of both German and British members who enjoy the Balearic Islands, are proposing to meet in Majorca.

For those with a penchant for the sauna, the Scandinavians will be meeting at Aland, Finland in August. No news yet received from the Benelux or German Sections

CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS

The end of a year is a time to look back as well as to look forward. The year 2000 was certainly a year of the long trips. The Millennium Tour of Europe was our most adventurous enterprise since the 1997 tour of Scotland. John Ritchie's excellent article in the October edition of the Rotary Magazine, not only did full justice to it, but also provided a first class 'plug' for IFFR.

The other major trip, for some, was the combination of the Iberian meeting in Braga, Portugal with the French meeting the following weekend at Chambéry. Alisma and I enjoyed some excellent flying during our ten days getting down as far as the Algarve before returning North to Chambéry. This we did by way of a detour to Geneva to refuel as Chambéry was dry due to the French fuel protests. Landing at Geneva on a grass strip parallel to the busy main commercial runway after an approach through a mountain pass is an experience I would recommend.

So much for the long trips – enjoyable as they are they are only a part of IFFR. I do not believe that they should be the major part. I have written previously of my wish that we build up a programme of informal day/afternoon events. The late notice meeting at Kirkbride earlier in the year was an excellent example. It is through these that we can build up fellowship involving the majority of our members who are not looking, for a variety of reasons, for the greater commitment of the long distance meetings.

Mike Pudney, the events co-ordinator, is well advanced with putting these into the programme for next year. The mid-week meeting at Northampton Sywell is a new departure for us. It comes directly from a member's suggestion that a mid-week meeting would suit not only retired members, but also those who have difficulty in securing an aircraft at the weekend. Northampton is well placed, close to the M1, for those who are grounded! The Duxford meeting in May is an opportunity to share in the wider fellowship of Rotary while at the same time enjoying an excellent flying day out. May is a busy month for, on the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, we have "Scotland II" (as the film world would say) at Perth - a follow up to the memorable fly around the Western Isles in 1977.

I know very few of our members will be able to make all these meetings and the others planned for 2001, but that is unimportant. The informality of our organisation means that one is just as welcome to attend one meeting or half a dozen. For those who haven't been along recently, or haven't been at all, try and make a meeting. I look forward to seeing you.

In finishing this end of year ramble I would like to thank all those who have contributed to making 2000 a particular success. I would especially like to thank John Ritchie who has been ably assisted by Mary. The success of IFFR (UK) and, indeed, IFFR Europe has over the years been a tribute to John's dedication. Our most ambitious event of the year – the Millennium Tour - was result both of his vision and his hard work. We could not hope for a more effective secretary. Thanks John.

Finally to all of you and your families – A Merry Christmas and a 'Guid New Year'
ANGUS CLARK

A TREAT FOR RENTERS & RENTERS- A MIDWEEK MEETING

In the hope of meeting the problem experienced by members obliged to rent aircraft who find it difficult to attend weekend events, we have arranged a lunchtime fly-in to Northampton (Sywell) on **Wednesday 25th April**. Just give Brian McGraw a ring on 01933-225409 to tell him how many for lunch and, if you know it, the aircraft registration. No formalities, but a good look at all that goes on there. Don't forget to cancel if the weather or aircraft let you down. Airfield chart available on request.

A SPECIAL DATE FOR YOUR 2001 DIARIES 6th MAY – DUXFORD FLYING DAY

The Rotary Club of Cambridge is planning an extra special event to mark the official opening of a Rotary Room in the American Air Museum at Duxford for visiting Rotarian and other American war veterans to use to relax quietly and find out about their wartime airfields and their nearest Rotary Club.

The event will take place on the first 'flying day' of the season and promises to be a wonderful day out. It is planned to have a Rotary marquee, with refreshments available, in a prime position for viewing the flying and a special 'all in' Rotary privilege admission ticket

Full details will be circulated to Clubs in the New Year but, in the meantime, get this date in your diaries. We plan to make this an IFFR event with a display of the Fellowship activities.

DOLLARS & \$ENSE

With this Bulletin comes a request for your subscription renewal, and an enquiry proforma about future meetings. Please return these with your cheque for £20 payable to IFFR-UK to the Treasurer at 84, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts SG6 3PH. At the IFFR AGM the Executive Board of IFFR agreed that as from 1st January 2001 the International subscription should be reduced from \$20 per head to \$15, but that in order to meet the expense of handling 'Badge Collectors' who join the Fellowship for one year but never renew their membership an initial fee of \$10 should be levied on all new members.

This reduction is intended to benefit the Sections by enabling them to retain more of the amount that they collect, although at the current rate of exchange the benefit to us will be minimal. The UK Committee has accordingly agreed that the subscription for 2001 should remain at £20 and that the first year's subscription for new members should be £25. A member joining after 30th September will be credited as paid up for the whole of the following year.

Programme for Perth, Scotland

Have you ever Reeled an Eightsome, Dashed a White Sergeant, Stripped a Willow or joined the Gay Gordons ? Whether or not you have, come and join us at the Spring IFFR Meeting in Perth, Scotland, next May. The highlight of the arrival day will be Scottish Country Dancing in which YOU must take part. (Full explanation of the steps given in English). An attractive program at a most economic cost A bottle of Scotch Whisky will be presented to the pilot of the aircraft making the longest journey and the one landing closest to his ETA on the Friday afternoon. But book now, the hotel won't hold that price for long ! See below for program and hotel reservation.

Friday 25th May

10.00 onwards Arrive Perth Airport (EGPT). Transport to hotel by car will be provided on arrival.
19.30 Dinner and Ceilidh (Scottish dancing)

Saturday 26th May

08.45 Flight-seeing tour of the west coast of Scotland
(Advise Ian if you want seats in aircraft for this)
Or depending on weather :
08.45 Depart by coach for day in Edinburgh
19.30 Dinner by the Forth Bridges

Sunday 27th May

10.0 Visit by coach to Scone Palace and Pitlochry,
Gateway to the Highlands
16.00 Return to hotel to change
19.00 Depart for Gala Dinner at Kinfauns Castle Hotel
22.00 Return to hotel

Monday 28th May

10 00 Coach to airport for departure home

REGISTRATION FEE

£80 per head Includes all ground transport, dinner on Friday and Sunday
(£40 per child) and entry to Scone Palace

Please book direct with the hotel: Isle of Skye Hotel, Perth, Scotland
Telephone 01738 624 471 Fax 01738 493902

Mention IFFR when booking
Special IFFR Room Rate: £39 95 per room per night, Single or double

Give Ian Kerr a call on 01569-764989 or email when you have booked to help him assess the demand for coach seats and meals

JERSEY AIRPORT IS GA RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT FRIENDLY

Through the untiring efforts of Charles Strasser, the chairman of the Channel Islands region of AOPA and past World President of IFFR, the Airport Authority, after 9 months of negotiations, accepted his "AOPA Action Report". This detailed report showed how massive savings could be achieved when the Jersey Aero Club moves to new premises and the parking of visiting private aircraft, up to three tonnes, to a new area immediately adjacent to it. Additionally the report also required further negotiations with Customs, Immigration and the Police who all agreed to a new entry/exit point to the airport through the Jersey Aero Club. Thus a GAT enclave in the Southeast corner of the airfield would be formed.

So the good news is, that from 01.01.2001 GA recreational aircraft, under three tonnes and not flying for hire or reward, will enjoy

1. A landing fee of £3 per half metric tonne. This means that the popular group of aircraft in the 1 - 1.5 tonne category, such as Piper Warriors or Cessna 172's who this year pay £23.68 will pay only £9
2. Seven days (actually 168 hours) free parking,
3. Going landside through the Jersey Aero Club, who will administer all the streamlined procedures on behalf of the Airport and Control Authorities, instead of as now being bussed to the main terminal building and mingling with airline passengers,
4. Temporary membership of the Jersey Aero Club and immediately be welcome to use all the facilities in their new clubhouse including the bar and restaurant,
5. The availability of prebooking or booking on arrival by club reception of hotels and hire cars parked outside for immediate use, one days hire being cheaper than the return taxi fare to St. Helier,
6. Purchase of Shell 100ll Avgas at probably the lowest price in Europe, as it is permanently duty and tax free,
7. Purchase of equipment at VAT free prices from the pilot shop,
8. Servicing at VAT free prices from the club engineering department.

For further information phone Charles Strasser 0044 (0)1534 851681.

(Everyone involved in General Aviation owes an increasing debt of gratitude to Charles for his unceasing efforts to reduce the cost of using airfields, whether for emergency or pleasure purposes. He really earned his OBE. Ed.)

HANGAR ASH

(The fag ends of gossip which we pick up from time to time)

Glossary For those who have forgotten, Hangar Rash is the term used by Airfield Operators to explain the dents and scratches suffered by your aircraft while in their care

(This is an item intended to give members a forum in which to pass on bits and pieces of information from you of interest to others - please tell the Editor for inclusion in future issues)

1. Note the Press Release from Charles Strasser telling of the substantial reduction in cost for G.A. aircraft using Jersey Airport. Congratulations !
2. Congratulations also to Brian McGraw IFFR# 4102 on reaching his 80th Birthday He is an active member who regularly attends flying events at home and abroad. Meet him next Spring at Sywell. Date as above.
3. New members: We welcome three new members since the last Bulletin
 - i. .Gordon Elston, a Marine Engineer from Onchan R C. Isle of Man. (We now have an IFFR member in every Rotary Club on the island - Rotary Clubs on the Isle of Wight please note!)
 - ii. Eric Harrison, a past Governor of District 1050 from Gatley R.C.
 - ii. Raymond Symmonds, a Company Director from Burnham-on-Crouch R C who flies out of Southend. There is quite a nest of members based in Southeast Essex.
4. John Sealby IFFR#5908 from Cockermouth has recently left us for the delights of Australia. As soon as he finds a Rotary Club willing to accept a 'Pommie' he will transfer to the Australian Section of IFFR. We wish him every success down under.
5. We are sorry to report the recent death of Tom Lloyd IFFR#4334 from Ashford, Middlesex who was for many years a keen supporter of the Jersey Air Rally.
6. Are the children short of an idea for your Christmas present ? Why not ask them to give you a new IFFR tie, dark blue with gold stripe and badge, price only £5.50 from the Treasurer, 84 Broadway, Letchworth. Just add the cost to your subscription. Badges available at £2 each
7. Those members with access to the internet can find the latest news on the IFFR site at <http://members.tripod.co.uk/iffr> europe, or the World IFFR site www.iffr.org