INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF FLYING ROTARIANS

United Kingdom Section



THE ROTATING BEACON

DUXFORD SPECIAL EDITION BULLETIN

<u>Programme</u>

10.00 am Marquee open for Registration coffee and biscuits

Souvenir Brochure available.

10.00 - 11.00 am Time to look at the American Air Museum

11.00 – 11.30 am Official Opening of the Founders Room [This room will be

available for all Rotarians visiting Duxford at any time]

12.30 pm Lunch....Picnic either in the Marquee or the Enclosure if you

have brought your own - or by purchase from the many

catering outlets serving food and drink both inside and outside

the Marquee.

2.30 pm Air Show commences – viewing from the privileged position

of the Rotary Enclosure and Marquee.

5.00 pm Air Show ends.

Please take the opportunity to sign the Visitors Book presented by IFFR to the Imperial War Museum on behalf of the Cambridge Rotary Club

IFFR MEETINGS - UK & EUROPE 2001

- 12-13th May Kassel, Germany. Talks on electronics, engines & maintenance. Contact Dr Wolfgang Teich fax 0049-4832-7202 for registration form
- 12-13th May Reims French visit to Air Navigation Control Centre & wine cellars Contact Jean-François Rapin at seic@dactyl-buro.fr for details
- 25-28th May International Meeting, Perth, Scotland. Program in Autumn Bulletin Contact Ian Kerr 01569-764989 immediately
- 24-25th June Italian Section meeting at Capua, Italy.
 - Contact Cesare Cardani at cesare.cardani@polimi.it for details
- 17-19th August Scandinavian Section meeting at Mariehamn, Aland Islands, Finland, the place in Finland closest to the British Isles. Program available on request Contact Bengt Hellsten, -358-1812961 or email bihellsten@alcom.aland.fi
- 31 August-2nd Septr. German Section meeting at Carlsbad, Czechoslovakia. Program available on request Contact Wolfgang Teich as above.
- 7-9th September French Section meeting Biarritz Contact J F Rapin as above

Members interested in any of these events should contact the Secretary for the names of other members taking part, with a view to mutual flight planning.

SYWELL IN THE SPRING

It has been suggested that IFFR should this year be renamed UFFR, the Underwater Fellowship of Flying Rotarians! Once more the weather did its best to spoil an otherwise interesting and enjoyable event. No fewer than four members who had indicated their intention of flying in were obliged to abort their visit, Graham Browning from Old Sarum being unlucky enough to arrive overhead after an early morning enquiry as to the state of the airfield to be told that further rain had rendered the grass runways unfit for use and that the airfield had been closed. For those who drove Brian McGraw had laid on a warm welcome which after a substantial meal took the form of a tour of the airfield conducted by Chris Parker, proprietor of the Northampton School of Flying, who told us of the history of Sywell stretching from a private strip in 1927, through the wartime use as a maintenance base for Wellington and Lancaster bombers, to its present status as a very active base for training on fixed wing, microlight, and helicopter aircraft. A tour of the hangars produced aircraft as varied as DH Moths of various vintages, a Dominie, Sea Fury, Provost, Wilga, Miles Messenger and a veritable infection of microbes (sorry- Microlights). Sywell like many other grass airfields is battling to instal a single hard runway in the face of the customary uninformed local opposition, and at the conclusion of the visit Angus Clark, our Chairman, presented a donation on behalf of IFFR to the Supporters Group by way of appreciation of the hospitality we had received.

WHO SAYS THERE ARE NO OLD, BOLD PILOTS?

A reprint from the Newbury Weekly News of Thursday 16th November.

"Former pilot takes another Mustang spin after 55 years"

A Hungerford fighter pilot was given a ride in a Second World War plane on Friday, 55 years after he had to bale out of one while flying over Germany. Mr Ray Stebbings (IFFR #65) aged 83, of Bearwater had to bale out of his Mustang following a mid-air collision over the Ruhr in January 1945. Last week Mr Stebbings flew in a Mustang once more, after being invited by his friend Mr Robert Lamplough.

Mr Lamplough, an East Garston based aeroplane enthusiast, had converted the fighter into a two seater. This enabled Mr Stebbings to accompany him on a flight to Bristol. Mr Stebbings said: "It was a great thrill for an old pilot. It brought back memories; it was a marvellous and great event after all these years. Rob Lamplough knows me, and he knew that I flew a Mustang in the war. At my age there's not much chance of me going off in a single-seater unassisted. The last one I didn't bring back!" he quipped.

When Mr Stebbings had to bale out during the war he was knocked unconscious. His plane had split in half during the collision but he managed to escape from the gyrating cockpit. He said: "I must have pulled the release. I then knew nothing more about it until I woke up face down in blood on the ground"

Your editor would welcome any similar stories from IFFR members who flew aircraft in combat in any theatre of war. We regret that this arrived too late for inclusion in the Winter Bulletin

Welcome to our latest recruit: Dr Josephine Walker from Retford R.C. Notts. She is our second lady member and we look forward to meeting her and pilot-husband Colin who flies the family Rockwell Commander.

BOTTLANG OR BUST !

Pilots - Remember that your subscription includes access to the European VFR Bottlang plates held by IFFR which are updated monthly. Phone or fax John on 01462-684941 or email for those you need to john@ritchieiffr.freeserve.co.uk.

HAVE YOU BOOKED FOR PERTH? A MONTH TO GO AND IT'S A SELL OUT

Dates: 25-27th May. The registration fee of £80 per head (£40 per child) includes all ground transport, dinner on Friday and Sunday and entry to Blair Castle. If you have not already booked with the Isle of Skye hotel please give Ian Kerr a call immediately on 01569-764989 so that he can try to find alternative accommodation for you. IFFR members from Belgium, Germany and Scandinavia will be there in strength. If you have to cancel tell Ian at once so that someone on the waiting list can be accepted.

Programme

Friday 25th May

14.00-17.00	Arrive Perth Airport (EGPT). Transport to Isle of Skye hotel by car
	will be provided on arrival.
19 30	Dinner and Ceilidh (Scottish dancing) at the hotel

Saturday 26th May

08.45	Depart by coach for day in Edinburgh Or
	Flight-seeing tour to Mull on the west coast (depending on weather)
19 30	Dinner at the Isle of Skye hotel

Sunday 27th May

09.30	UK Section Annual General Meeting - Isle of Skye Hotel
	Depart by coach for visit to Blair Castle and Pitlochry
19.00	Depart for Gala Dinner at Huntingtower Hotel, Perth
23.00	Return to hotel

Monday 28th May

10.00 Coach to airport for departure

NEWSFLASH

Charles Strasser reports that he has persuaded the Ministry of Defence to waive landing and parking fees for non-commercial General Aviation aircraft for a precautionary landing in the case of a genuine emergency. However there are still 25 airfields excluding the six largest have so far declined to agree to this important safety policy. Six of these are in Scotland where both airfields (and it seems incomes) are scarce. The 'defaulters' are: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick & Scatsta in Scotland, and Biggin Hill, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bristol, Cardiff, Carlisle, Crowfield, Earls Colne, Exeter, Filton, Gloucester, Humberside, Leeds/Bradford. Liverpool, Norwich, Plocton, Sheffield, Teesside Wolverhampton Intl. Anything you can do in the interest of safety to persuade these airfields to join the 180 others who have agreed would be appreciated.

It could be you next time.