



International
Fellowship of
Flying Rotarians

September 2022

Issue 118

The newsletter of the UK Section of IFFR

The Rotating Beacon



Sola Historic Aircraft museum

Enjoy our reports insides from around UK, Europe and USA

Help us make membership to IFFR awesome

You provide the transport, we provide the refreshments and the sights!

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A letter from the President

President's musings

As we get to the end of the flying season it is interesting to see how participation in our meetings has changed. Prior to Covid and Brexit restrictions we flew to meetings in Europe without a second thought and rented aircraft in America, Australia and New Zealand.

Now just a couple of years later we need to land at the few customs airports left in France and have our passports stamped both in and out of Schengen countries. As mine is a kitbuilt aircraft I now also need to get permission to fly it into some countries.

However all is not lost as we have enjoyed attending meetings in Europe and the flyaround in Texas with relative ease. Whereas we used to rent an aircraft in the United States this year they required a minimum of three hours rental per day. As the flying programme was restricted to Texas with only a few days of flying this was uneconomical.

The welcome answer was that the Americans offered us seats in their aircraft and these were always available for those who wanted to fly. I was therefore happily able to fly in a glider, a Piper Dakota, a Beech Bonanza and a twin Beech Baron.

Two flights to German IFFR meetings were also made. One involved taking the SportCruiser to the Allgau area on the Austrian border while for the second Angus Clark very kindly picked me up from Sandown. We flew via the Mohne and Sorpe 'Dambuster' dams to the meeting in Hof-Plauen. By starting a couple of days early we stopped in Memmingen, rented a car and then walked across the dams in order to appreciate the full story.

I am writing this shortly before the Swiss Section meeting. George and Caroline Ritchie will be flying to the meeting in Bern in their Cherokee Six, G-IFFR, and have kindly offered to take us. As World President of IFFR, George is going to be attending most of the European meetings over the next two years. I know he is happy to extend an invitation to

all our members to join him and Caroline on their travels, so if you like the look of a forthcoming meeting but can't get there yourself, why not ask him if he has seats available?

The recent meeting in Stavanger, Norway was another well organised event. Once again the British contingent were the largest attendees and perhaps for the first time more of us flew there commercially than in our own aircraft. Raye and I took a cheap flight from Gatwick on a Norwegian Airlines Boeing 737 and were there in one hour and twenty minutes. We therefore had no worries about the weather up north, the heat wave or where to stop en-route overnight.

The French meeting which is always held during the second weekend of September will be just south of Paris and I hear that some are taking the Eurostar to Paris and then on to Melun-Villaroche. Why not do the same ?

We now have more members using alternative methods of getting to the European meetings and also driving to our local get-togethers. Please do email me with any questions you may have and with ideas for our section.

Yours in Rotary.

Feroz Wadia

chairman@iffr.org.uk



Swiss Fly in

August 2022

Tony Flinn
Past President



The beautiful capital of Switzerland, Bern was the location of this year's Swiss Fly in. The hotel was conveniently located close to the City Center and was situated within a bend of the river Aare, and with panoramic rooftop views of the City and the Alps beyond. 50 IFFR members and guests participated and 12 GA aircraft flew into Bern-Belp airport. The UK was well represented and the (few) meetings conducted in English.

The weekend began with a gathering at the Airport followed by a tour of the Parliament building. Rotarian and member of the Swiss Parliament Melanie Mettler gave a fascinating perspective on Swiss government and representation. Presentations were given in the two chambers and the lobby. Toward the end of the presentation Esther Brönnimann-Zellweger (wife of Rotarian Markus) sang a very moving Yodel, then described how this form of communication had developed in the mountains.

Dinner was in the restaurant at the Zoo located close to the middle of the city.



*World IFFR President George Ritchie
with delusions as Swiss President*



View of Bern at night from the hotel

On Saturday, we separated into groups and were treated to a not to be missed, walking tour of the old town in glorious sunshine. This medieval federal city is deservedly a UNESCO World Heritage Site, oozing wealth and immaculately kept. Rosi and I took our son Richard and partner Emma as guests for the trip. In the afternoon, Richard went for a swim in the river echoing a pastime beloved of Bern residents. Not for the faint hearted or weak swimmer in this fast-flowing river though. As usual, Rosi and I visited an art gallery (Bern

Fine Art museum) in our free time before the Dinner, with an exhibition of Vuillard and Bonnard paintings.

Self-selected Rotarians then listened to a talk by Dr P Messerli, director of the Wyss Academy for Nature with a talk entitled "Creating a new relationship with nature."

The Gala Dinner took place on the panoramic terrace of the hotel with stunning views over the city while we drank aperitifs and ate petit fours.

Our outbound flight from North Lincs in the UK was pretty awful, delayed due to the passing line of thunderstorms and in IMC until the Kent coast. Thereafter good conditions via Albert Bray to refuel and go through customs for us before the second leg to Bern. Happily, we had a less eventful return journey in CAVOK conditions once we were out of Switzerland, on the Sunday, via Le Touquet.

If you haven't been on one of these trips (Flying GA or commercial) you must next year!



G-BOMP flying out of Bern on the way back

Thanks are due to the Swiss section and in particular Nik Amman, President and to Feroz Wadia for the photographs.



Hof Meeting - German/Austrian Section IFFR

8th - 10th July 2022

Angus Clark



Alisma and I, together with Feroz, were the sole UK members at this meeting. For some time, we had planned to link a Continental European meeting with a tour of the Dams of Dam Buster fame. Although Hof is at the eastern extremity of Germany the trip gave us the chance to do that on our way there. This, however, is an article about the Hof meeting. The story of our Dams' visit will have to wait for another day or another article.

After the two-day Dams' tour, we arrived at Hof-Plauen airfield slightly later than planned due to low cloud. No matter we were welcomed by Rotary members and were soon in the centre of Hof on a walking tour. The town exudes Bavarian charm. The parish church of St Michaelis stands out. The Heidenreich organ there,

completed in 1834, is considered one of Bavaria's finest. The stained-glass windows and the altar carving are simply stunning.





Prior to dinner, we were enthralled by a talk from a Past District Governor – now that must be rare!!! PDG Thomas Fink described his solo German record-breaking ascent in a hot air balloon to 29,920 feet. Thomas went on from there to achieve other records and German and World championship victories with a partner. His talk was delivered in a totally unassuming and understated manner.

On Saturday morning we were off on a minibus ride to Mödlareuth, 10 miles away. This village is situated partly in Bavaria and partly in Thuringia. From 1949 to 1990, the northern part was in East Germany and the southern part in West Germany. It was called "Little Berlin" because the wall that divided it was like the wall that divided Berlin. There was no checkpoint and for 37 years it was not possible to cross the border from one part of the village to the other – indeed it was forbidden to wave to others on the West side of the border. It became a symbol of separation between the West and East. The Deutsch-Deutsches Museum there shows the history of the village and the two Germanys of that time.



The highlight of the visit was a talk by Gunter Wetzel who in 1979, with great courage and ingenuity, escaped from East Germany to the West by hot air balloon. In the one and a half years of preparation he, and his fellow conspirator, constructed three different balloons and had one unsuccessful attempt. The two families, 8 in all, made the 25-minute flight to freedom. They only realised they had been successful when they saw that the police car that greeted them was an Audi and not a Trabant!

In the afternoon we went back to Hof-Plauen airfield for an Air Festival that the Rotary Club had organised. This included static and air displays, numerous food stalls and live musical entertainment. Rotaractors, dressed in air stewardess costumes, did their bit by



selling air experience flights. The star aerial attraction was, undoubtedly, the Red Bull aerobatic team who wowed the large crowd with its display.

On Sunday morning it was time for home. After initially a low-level bumpy flight we got above the cloud and had a smooth journey at 7,500 feet. The bonus came in getting a clearance to cross Belgium at 8,000 feet. We landed

at Lille to refuel, but probably being lunchtime, we had the French 2-hour wait for the bowser. It was then on to Sandown to drop off Feroz and home to Netherthorpe.

While this was not a large IFFR meeting in terms of attendance it was one of the most varied and enjoyable I have attended. The local team had put together a comprehensive programme. The two formal presentations were among the most fascinating that I have enjoyed in my time in the Fellowship. Our thanks go to the members of the Rotary Club of Hof-Bavaria and in particular their 2021-22 President Werner Kropf for their hospitality and hard work.

To IFFR UK Members for ACTION PLEASE

(To Friends of IFFR UK for information)

The majority of members join IFFR following a recommendation from an existing member – so now is your time to help, please:

And this is a good time for new members to join because they get up to an extra THREE MONTHS FREE – their first subscription is valid right through until 31 December 2023. Special application form attached.

The qualification for membership of IFFR UK was changed unanimously at the Annual General Meeting in June and is now open to the full Rotary Family.

For the purposes of these guidelines the Rotary Family shall be defined as follows:

Rotarians and past Rotarians of at least five years standing as a Rotarian.

Spouses, partners, children and grandchildren of Rotarians and past Rotarians of at least five years standing as a Rotarian.

Rotaractors.

Interactors.

Rotary International Alumni (definition at)

<https://my.rotary.org/en/exchange-ideas/club-connections/alumni>)

Please think whether you know anyone interested in aviation who is now eligible to join IFFR UK

With this additional eligibility, it has been decided not to accept any further applications to become Friends of IFFR UK

Are you an expert in social media promotion?

If so, please contact me if you could help with promoting IFFR UK which is currently under-represented

Rodney B. Spokes, Membership Secretary

IFFR (UK) Ltd - The UK Section of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians

E-mail: membership@iffr.uk Mobile: +44 7785 343833

Web sites:- UK: www.iffr.uk



International
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IFFR (UK) CHRISTMAS LUNCH

14 DECEMBER 2022

The IFFR(UK) Christmas lunch will once again be held at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, London.

After gathering at noon for a drink's reception in the Churchill Bar, lunch will be served at 1300hrs in the Sovereign's Room on the first floor.

Our Christmas Menu this year will be:

***Cream of parsnip, celery and apple soup
honey and chive sour cream***

Roast Norfolk Turkey

Christmas pudding and brandy sauce

Coffee, mince pies, and stollen

The cost of the meal including the welcome drink and wine with the meal is £85.00 per person.

After lunch Neil Cloughley, CEO & Founder of Faradair®, will speak to us. For over 20 years Neil has been a passionate entrepreneur in the aviation sector. Faradair® has established itself as one of the most exciting new aerospace companies in the UK. It has been a pioneer in the hybrid/electric flight sector through its development of a multi-role aircraft called the 'BEHA' (Bio Electric Hybrid Aircraft). We look forward to hearing from Neil.

All UK members and their guests are welcome, as are members from Continental European and other International Sections of IFFR.

If you wish to attend the Lunch, please complete the registration form at www.iffr.org.uk

Note: Places will only be secured by payment in advance. All applications must be received by 1400hrs 1 December 2022.

For those wishing to stay in the RAF club on the night of 13 December, they should coordinate bookings with John Davy john.w.davy@icloud.com. I will host an unofficial Dinner at the Club on that night and will advise on costs for those wishing to attend if they contact me at ferozjwadia@gmail.com

Please Note that the RAF Club requires the following rules of conduct to be followed by guests using its facilities.

Attendees need to sign in at the front desk on arrival.

Any bags must be left at the front desk, not stored in the cloakroom.

Dress code is informal; jackets /lounge suits and ties for men; no blue jeans or trainers.

Attendees should not remove jackets while dining.

Whilst dining, attendees should wait to start their meal until those on the Top Table have started theirs.



Stavanger Fly-in

2022

Tony Flinn

Over 60 Flying Rotarians and guests attended the Stavanger Fly-in. With about a third of the participants, the UK Section was well represented, mostly flying in with commercial airlines but two came in their own aircraft. The meeting started with greetings and lunch at the Flying Club at Sola Airport.

Stavanger is the Oil and Gas capital of Norway and on Friday we visited the Norwegian Oil Museum. This was an interesting visit however instead of celebrating the technical issues overcome in North Sea Oil and Gas production and the innumerable benefits to mankind both in Norway and the rest of the world, the exhibits and our guide seemed to concentrate on the negatives.

Whether these were production disasters or adopting current fashionable environmental issues. Norway is a wealthy country as consequence and has the highest take up of electric vehicles.

Later that day we took a cruise to the stunning Lysefjord and viewed the towering Hengjanefossen waterfall. Dinner was then taken in the Restaurant Hellenen.



Saturday saw us initially at the Sola Historic Aircraft museum. On display were a number of military and commercial aircraft crammed into a large hangar. Lunch and a walk on the beach for the adventurous few at the Solastrand Hotel was followed by a very successful informal Gala Dinner. Here Past World President George Chaffey was presented with the Nordic Aviation Trophy.





The trophy was instituted by the organisers of the Scandinavian Annual Meeting in 1994. Since then, It has been awarded annually to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the success of the work and activities of the Scandinavian Section.

Special thanks go to Tollef Myrvang and Svend Anderson and the Scandinavian team for organising the event.

These events are just great fun and any UK member considering attending one of the weekends – don't hesitate and join in the next one!



***A restored ME109 at the
Sola Historic Aircraft Museum***

Melbourne here we come!

2023

We are delighted to invite you to join us next year for the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, and on the Tango Round the Outback flyaway tour following the Convention. This is going to be a really exciting tri-state tour, a unique, virtually all-inclusive 8-day voyage experiencing the sights, sounds, faces and places of the outback in a flyaway where our journey is as important as our destination. Melbourne is a wonderful city to visit for a Convention and Australia is a fantastic place to fly, so we have been working hard to ensure your Rotarian and pilot dreams can come true in 2023.

The Melbourne Convention.

The Convention runs from Sunday May 28 to Wednesday May 31. We will be staying in our first choice of hotel, the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

We have a block of 30 rooms at the Sofitel for the nights of Saturday May 27 to Wednesday May 31, and a smaller number of rooms on Thursday May 25 and Friday May 26. It's First Come, First Served! If you want to be with the party in the IFFR hotel, you need to act NOW. We expect the block to sell out.

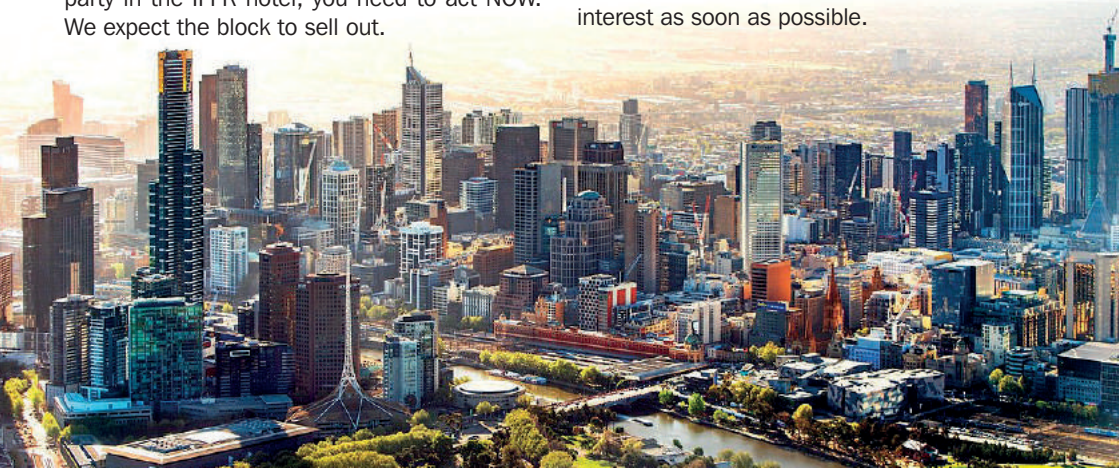
Deadline: Friday October 14th is the last date for cancellation.

Tango Round the Outback

A tri-state tour experiencing the sights, sounds, faces and places of outback Australia in a fly-A-way where our journey is as important as our destination. Safety is our first and foremost consideration. Comfort and Style are our secondary tour guiding principles.

The Mother Vessel is a luxury 48 seater coach providing a comfortable way of seeing the outback if not flying. It is proposed our GA aircraft and a chartered Chieftain will lead the way acting as Satellites returning to rejoin the mothership for each night's stay. They may take the Long Way Around each day exploring wider afield, increasing the aviation experience for all by sharing the joy; swapping a seat in the bus for a seat in the air on a fair-time in the air rotation basis built into our cost.

If you are potentially interested in coming, please email mike.mcf@bigpond.net.au expressing your interest as soon as possible.





2023 Weekend Away

Just a quick heads up that we are organising a Fellowship weekend away in Cambridge.

The final dates have not been fixed as the availability of hotels in the area is limited due to University recruitment and awards weekends, the committee are working on it!

PROPOSED PROGRAMME: -

Arrive Duxford by plane or car on Thursday, lunch locally.

Afternoon visit to National Stud or vineyard tour with afternoon tea & wine at Chalford Hall. After to hotel and evening meal at 7:30pm.

Friday: Coach to Duxford for guided tour plus options to fly (need bookings) Spitfire, Rapide, Tiger Moth.

Evening gala event at Westminster College.

Saturday: Guided tour of Cambridge plus punting on river Cam, then free time.

Return to hotel & dinner at a restaurant in Cambridge.

Sunday departure.

"This will be a full programme to provide everyone with something of interest and enable us to have a great social time together"

Booking forms and online booking link will be published in the December edition of the Beacon for your completion.

Feedback most appreciated before commitments are made and have to be paid for, let us know.

Past Chairman of IFFR UK - Peter Jude
peterfjude@gmail.com

or

Duncan Moffatt
duncan.moffatt@hotmail.co.uk



Outgoing and Incoming Presidents

IFFR

At our IFFR Annual Banquet at the Houston Convention, and continuing onto the "Waltz Around Texas," World President 2020-22 George Chaffey had an extended farewell, and incoming World President 2022-24 George Ritchie had an extended welcome.

The last group dinner George 1 attended was at a Tex-Mex restaurant in San Antonio, so we had a good "adios," and the first group dinner new WP George 2 attended after George 1's departure was at a biergarten in San Antonio, with a "Willkommen" banner at the entrance.

Now ... we review and report on a great time we had in Texas as we gathered together in person for the first time in 3 years.

Houston RI Convention and House of Friendship

We had a great IFFR booth, which was busy. we signed up many new members, and we met a lot of old and new friends. Olha Paliychuk, from our new Ukraine Squadron, was at the booth and also made a presentation at a General Session of the Convention. Go Ukraine!

IFFR Banquet

Situated on the 49th floor (higher than we sometimes fly) of the Shell Plaza Building, the IFFR Banquet at The Houston Club was a wonderful gathering of old and new friends, including Olha Paliychuk (from our Ukraine Squadron) and her son, Pavlo, Dave Daniels and his son who flew in from the El Paso area just for the banquet, Al Clayton from Alaska, Dirk Klüppelberg from Germany, Feroz & Rae Wadia from UK and many others from all around North America. Opening remarks by Vicki Puliz, current Rotary International Director, and past Southwest Section Chair, set the tone for a fun evening. The Presidential Citation was awarded to Olha Paliychuk for her unrelenting efforts in helping to establish the new Ukraine Squadron. The 2022 Flyer of the Year Award went to Alaska Section

Chair, and incoming Americas VP, Al Clayton, for his ongoing leadership in coordinating work by various aviation organizations to improve rural airports in Alaska.



George Ritchie receiving the Chain of Office from IFFR President George Chaffey.

"Waltz Around Texas" Fly Away Fort Worth

The first stop after leaving Houston was Spinks Field in Fort Worth. Known as "Where the West Begins," Fort Worth lived up to its reputation. The evening of our arrival we experienced the Stockyards, a steak dinner for the group at Cattlemen's Steakhouse, and after a short time there decided we needed to come back. Thanks to PWP Sam Bishop's quick eye, we found the perfect Fort Worth drink for WP George, as Wing Leader of the Low & Slow Squadron ... Slow and Low Rock & Roll Rye. The next day was spent in art museums, mostly notably the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, which contained many examples of the western genre. A short visit to the famous Water Gardens capped our day together. To Dallas the next day to visit the George W. Bush Presidential Library, which contains an exact replica of the Oval Office at the time of President George W. Bush, where of course we photographed our President George with IFFR members. Our last day we headed for glider flying in Midlothian, which are the only airfoils that seem

to be slower than WP George's Lady Bird. Great fun! Then a return to the Stockyards to check out the daily cattle drive, unusual hangouts, Longhorn cattle, and bull riding (OK, more like bull sitting).



The next morning it was on to San Antonio's Stinson Field, with a stop in Waco for lunch and the Texas Ranger Museum.

San Antonio via Waco

Monday, we flew to San Antonio, with a stop in Waco for both fliers and coach to enjoy a lunch of TexMex at Ninfa's and to tour the really interesting Texas Ranger Museum.

The Tuesday tour of the Alamo was fascinating, as was a tour of the other area San Antonio Missions that are part of a National Historical Park and have been designated a World Heritage Site.

On Wednesday we all visited the CAF Hangar at the San Marcos Airport, seeing some fascinating mostly WW2 era aircraft. A very nice collection and knowledgeable guides there. Then it was into the Texas Hill Country and the town of Fredericksburg. Since we arrived by bus we didn't go to the airport to check out the Hangar Hotel or the 1940s Airport Diner there, but instead had a quick lunch and then nearly 3 hours to visit the National Museum of the Pacific War also known as the Nimitz Museum. We arrived back at our hotel in time to get ready for our one hour River Walk boat ride with beverages.

A delightful boat ride on the famous Riverwalk (San Antonio River), followed by a TexMex dinner at Casa Rio and a presentation by WP George Chaffey to Fly Away Chair Jack Welge As the head of the "Waltz Around Texas," he was dubbed "the dancing cowboy" and presented with a quality "Tombstone" cowboy hat, with feather flourish, and a walking stick to complete the dancing cowboy ensemble. Very dapper-looking cowboy, indeed. This was also George 1st's

"adios" to our group, as he had packed away his Luscombe in a hangar at San Antonio to return there in a week's time after having to go back to California for a meeting.

We had decided on Wednesday that all who wanted to fly would fly to Corpus Christi on Thursday, and have a self tour of the USS Lexington WW2 era aircraft carrier that is moored in Corpus Christi Bay. The bus would take us to Stinson Airport then continue with those not flying to a tour of the Austin area hosted by Jack and Ava Welge, who feel that Austin is their second hometown. With decent VFR conditions, we had 12 of us in 4 aircraft fly to Corpus Christi, then had a quick snack on board the Lexington. We didn't stay long enough to have a great tour, but it's good to want a reason to go back. It was quite interesting, and an IMAX movie about carrier operations was amazing.

Friday was our final full day of the "Waltz" and it was a free day up until dinnertime. There was a lot to see and do within a 20 minute walk from the hotel. I tagged along with the Welges to visit the Museum of Texas Cultures - learned a few things. Our finale dinner was at Beethoven's, a German-style Biergarten in the heart of San Antonio, only a 5 minute bus ride from our hotel. I heard some lieder there but no symphonies. We had an inside private dining area in an older house located on the property - we wound up having to set up the tables and chairs ourselves, reminded me of my own Rotary Club meetings when we're not at a restaurant. Plenty of beer and malt products available as part of our admission price, and the buffet line included chicken schnitzel, bratwurst, sauerkraut and several other items. We carried our food back inside and enjoyed it. We also had the opportunity to celebrate George 2nd's birthday (maybe a couple of days early), so Jack and Ava had procured a chocolate / mousse cake for the occasion. Outside it was hot, but we had a wind band playing "oompahpah" music, some suitable for dancing. The area was becoming shaded so not so hot as before, so we stayed and had some fun.

Saturday the coach went to San Antonio International then Stinson. A few of us got off there, with the remainder headed back to Houston on the coach. I gave a ride to Dan Radtke to Hooks, and after eating lunch there, headed home. Just 1:15 for me from there. George 1st adds: "And then, after a great fly away and fascinating tours of Texas, we all headed home and will look forward to the next Convention Fly Away in Australia."

The International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians (UK Section)

Chair/President:

Feroz Wadia

Email: chairman@iffr.uk

Editor:

Duncan Moffatt

Tel. 0115 948 3318

Email: duncan.moffatt@hotmail.co.uk

Company Secretary/ Treasurer:

Paul Howell

Tel. 01325 485098

Email: paulhowell8@gmail.com

Membership Secretary:

Rodney Spokes

1 The Spinney,

Thurnby, Leicester, LE7 9QS

Tel. 0116 241 5895

Email: flyer@spokes.biz



Aviation Enthusiasts

If you enjoy this magazine, why not join our fellowship.

Full membership is open to all Rotarians.

Organised events are held throughout the flying season and valuable help is on hand from members if it's your first time anywhere.

Just visit our website for more information

www.iffr.org.uk

We look forward to meeting you!

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