# FLYING FARMERS ASSOCIATION LTD.

## NEWSLETTER - JULY 1980

### INTRODUCTION

After a very busy summer for the Association the time has now come to set out the details of the events which have been planned for the remaining months of 1980.

### COMPETITION DAY AT WELLESBOURNE - 9 AUGUST

Fly-in and competition day at Wellesbourne Mountford organised by The Wellesbourne Flying Group.

Programme:

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| 1100 - 1200 | Arrive Wellesbourne |
| 1230 | Briefing and lunch |
| 1330 | Short navigational excercise, followed by spot landing competition. |

### VISIT TO FRANCE - 22 - 24 SEPTEMBER

This is a two day visit to La Baule, France, to visit the Sambron factory and a local farm or vegetable research station.

The programme will be as follows:

Monday 22 September

1900 local time (1800 BST, 1700 GMT) - all aircraft to have arrived at La Baule airfield.

Reception - after arrival transport to hotel(s), followed by a reception at La Baule Aero Club, of which Club the Sambron chairman is a member.

Tuesday 23 September

Visit to Sambron factory.

Wednesday 24 September

A.M. - visit to Research Station, or local farm, followed by lunch.

P.M. - official visit ends, but members are recommended to consider planning a visit to Belle Isle, Quiberan, Isle de Yeu, or similar - this part of Brittany is particularly attractive.

Aviation details

La Baule airfield (LFRE) is Customs on request, HJ, at 12 hours notice.

Members must carry (obligatory), the latest French charts, 1:500,000 charts OAC1, Sheet 1 (CAEN) and Sheet 3 (NANTES). These charts show Low-level V.F.R. routes, and Danger Areas. The French authorities are particularly sensitive to infringements of D82 and D575 on the Cherbourg peninsular.

Peter Lipiatt's farm is 900 acres of intensive grain, Winter Wheat and Winter Barley being occasionally alternated with Spring Barley. It seems as though he has literally kicked traditional grain growing methods out of the door and started all over again. We were amazed to hear that some of the land had been growing grain without a break for 20 years.

Cleanliness, timeliness and attention to detail were emphasised by Mr. Lippiatt. Winter Wheat had four applications of Nitrogen, the first in November, the last about mid April.

There was very little evidence of disease in any crop we saw. Even the Spring Barley looked very healthy, certainly better than any I had seen in the South.

The whole farm is run with the help of three men. The machinery is very specialised and kept to the minimum. We learnt that the farm had a gross output of about 200 tons of grain per month, which gives an idea of the yield per acre. As usual on these occasions I went home thoroughly disgruntled at my own efforts!

Our thanks must go to Mike Cuttell who organised this really worthwhile visit, and to Bart Woodall for his administrative back-up.

VISIT TO NOTHUMBERLAND - JUNE 25 - 26 - A REPORT BY OUR CORRESPONDENT, JOHN WILLIAMS-WYNNE

One of the most satisfying features of the Farm Walks which our Association organises is that we seem always to land upon far above average farms. Peepy Farm, sixteen miles west of Newcastle is no exception, and the character of its incumbent, Mr. J. Moffitt CBE FRAgS is in keeping with it.

We assembled in a field which had been carefully marked out for us, with a mown strip running across two fields which had been specially knocked into one for us, and marked with a series of large white markers. As we had been sent photocopies of the OS sheet for the farm there was no problem finding it. Within minutes we were in cars being driven off to the farmhouse for coffee and a look round the buildings. Mr. Moffitt milks 160 cows which live in winter in a large, clear span, shed with roomy cubicles and central troughs for feeding. The highest-yielding cows are set aside from the crowd, with plastic collars from which hang transponders to identify them when they go to feed at special mangers; these transponders monitor the exact quantity of feed to be poured down in given periods. Any cow which does not clean up the ration allotted to it is shown up on the computer print-out and thereafter inspected to find out what might be wrong with her.

We were a fairly widespread representation of the F.F.A. with members from Surrey, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Warwickshire, Cleveland, Oxfordshire and Nothumberland, twenty-odd in all with nine aeroplanes (though seeing them there, acting as decoys do, another arrived with two visitors before we left!). I think that we all wished there had been a larger number because on these occasions the hosts tend to push the boat out a bit for us, as we are still rather a novelty, but we made a fair crowd and got more than our money's worth from the trip. Mr Moffitt is not larger than life but he moves at least ten times faster and his ingenuity knows no bounds. For example the computer developments at Peepy Farm on his Hunday Herd led him to start a separate company making dairy computers; the determination to make full use of another farm led him to start a Farm Museum, now run as a separate unit, whilst his CBS Emryos Ltd. has brought embryo transplanting in one step from the laboratory to the commercial field. The first day, with Mr. Moffitt as our host, was both stimulating and thought-provoking.

FINALE

After reading all the above, I am sure members will agree that 1980 has been, and will continue to be, a vintage year for "events". In spite of the atrocious weather which we have all suffered since mid - May, none of our events have been cancelled - although the A.G.M. was attended only by those who came by road.

Now we need ideas and suggestions for the 1981 season of visits - both winter and summer. Please let Bart Woodall have your ideas. How about a Scottish tour, perhaps centred on the Royal Highland Show? Or a trip to the Emerald Isle?

Finally, the membership and airstrip lists are now ready for printing and circulation. I suspect that we are still awaiting airstrip details from several members - so if anyone who has not yet sent in airstrip details now does so by return of post, his details will be included in the first print run.

Airstrip maps will follow in a month or so. Airstrip details, please, to:

Hon. Secretary, D. U. Corbett Esq.,
Ox House,
Shobdon,
LEOMINSTER,
Herefordshire.

Suggestions for future events to:

B. J. C, Woodall Esq.,
Rushett Farm,
CHESSINGTON,
Surrey.

(03727-22702).

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REPLY SLIP - PLEASE TEAR OFF

MEMBERS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

1. SATURDAY 9 AUGUST WELLESBOURNE YES _____ NO _____

2. *MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER LA BAULE YES _____ NO _____

3. WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER "DRILLS FOR THE 80's" YES _____ NO _____

* Please send large SAE if you have not already done so.

Reply only if YES for any one of the above, to:

B. J. C. Woodall Ltd., Rushett Farm, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 2NQ

NOT LATER THAN 4 AUGUST 1980

Please note - for your convenience, an addressed self-adhesive label is enclosed for your use when returning the above reply slip.