FLYING FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter - June, 1981

Scottish Visit - Week commencing 22nd June

Sir William Roberts has very kindly agreed that we may visit the Strathallan Collection on Wednesday 24th June, which is the last available occasion for members to visit the collection before the dispersal sale on 14th July.

We have been looking at possible additional organised visits to combine with this event, but in the end have decided not to organise a co-ordinated trip, but to leave it to members' discretion as to whether they wish to visit the Royal Highland Show, or somewhere else of their own choice. However, out of our investigations has come an invitation to visit Elbar Growers, a large vegetable and produce co-operative based at Eyemouth, at a more suitable time of year. In June, they have very little going on, other than the growing of their various crops for processing later in the year.

The Royal Highland Show is open at Ingliston (adjoining Edingburgh Airport - use the General Aviation Terminal) - for the four days 22-25 June. The principle attractions of the Royal Highland Show 1981 are as follows:

(i) Extensive displays of beef cattle - including the largest UK entry of both Aberdeen Angus and Hereford cattle.

(ii) Large parade of heavy horses - principally Clydesdales.

(iii) S.A.I. (Scottish eqivalent of I.C.I) have demonstration plots adjoining show ground.

(iv) Meat and Livestock Commission have demonstration unit adjoining show ground.

(v) The Royal Highland Show is used by many machinery manufacturers - both English as well as Scottish - to introduce new ranges or items of machinery in advance of the Royal Show at Stoneleigh.

(vi) Early access, and compact show ground - much easier to get round than the Royal. Courtesy bus from Edinburgh airport terminal (Use BAA courtesy mini bus to transfer from GA terminal to main terminal).

Details for arrival at Strathallan are as follows. Members are asked to be on the ground by 1200: snack lunches are available. The radio will not be manned - take care when landing.

Two local hotels are recommended for those who wish to make their own overnight arrangements - both in Auchterarder. They are:

(i) Ruthven Towers - 076 46 2578

(ii) Collearn House - 076 46 3553

(iii) For those who enjoy a touch of luxury, there is also of course Gleneagles Hotel - 076 46 2231

A reply slip for this trip is attached - please return to Bert Woodall by 19th June. This reply slip also deals with the Fenland Competition Day.

Fenland Competition Day

This event is being organised on our behalf by the Fenland Aero Club - to whom we are most grateful for their invitation.

All members attending must be on the ground at Fenland in time for a detailed briefing at 1100. Fenland radio (123.05 m/cs - FENLAND) will be manned. There is an NDB on 395 k/cs, coding SLN.

Please complete the attached reply slip.

Report on Events held this year

(i) AGM - 10th April

This was held at Aviation House, London, and was followed by a most interesting lecture by a CAA officer. Unfortunately the attendance was very disappointing, there being only about 12 members present.

(ii) Visit to Roy Sanderson's factory

There was a much better attendance for this trip - in spite of low cloud in the Midlands which prevented many from attending. By 1000, there were 12 aircraft, and by 1200 there were 16, with a passenger total of some 40. After a most interesting tour of the factory, including working demonstrations, lunch was organised in Skegness by Roy. There was then a tour of Bateman's Brewery at Wainfleet.

Only one member stayed overnight for the Flower Festival - Bert Woodall - but when he took off for Fenland next day, he entered cloud at 200' and therefore went straight home I.M.C.!

We are most grateful to Roy for organising this most excellent event, and for so generously providing the lunch.

A more detailed article about this trip will appear in a later newsletter.

(iii) Survival Course - Plymouth

Many thanks to Mike Cuttell for organising this event - which was most informative, and we hope, of benefit to members, and which was attended by about 20 members. An article will also appear later about this event.

Dawn to Dusk Competition

After a false start on Monday 8th June, this event took place on Wednesday 10th June. Charlie Shea-Simmonds, accompanied by his navigator Julie Hanks and his dog Boomerang, set off at 0430 from Redhill on a glorious morning. Your correspondent met them at Stop No. 2 at Hook (Hampshire) at 0455, and by the end of the day, they had visited 40 out of 42 of the planned farmers' airstrips. Charlie apologises for having to by pass Chris Freeman at Headcorn (Kent) and Richard Chandless at Ripe (sussex), but was running out of time. Having landed back at Redhill at 2050, he immediately took off to fly to Netheravon for a party at Army Parachute Association there. What a glutton for punishment, but what a magnificent achievement by him!

Charlie has asked me to say how very much he appreciates the fantastic support and help he has received from all our partaking members - he will be writing to each individually very shortly. He will also be writing us an article for a future newsletter.

Let us hope that the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus will have raised a substantial sum from the sponsorship of this event.

Maps

We apologise that the maps have not yet been circulated - these will be forthcoming fairly soon now. A further newsletter will be published as soon as our autumn visits are finally planned.