FLYING FARMERS ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 1978 - NEWSLETTER

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 4th DECEMBER 1978

Notice is hereby given that the Fourth Annual General Meeting of The Flying Farmers Association Limited will take place at 1600 hours on Monday, 4th December 1978, at Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report, Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March, 1978.
5. To re-appoint Messrs. Keens, Shay, Keens & Co. as Auditors for 1978/79 in accordance with Section 14 of the Companies Act 1976
6. Election of Committee and Officers for 1978/79
7. Election of Members of the Company
8. To discuss the programme of visits for 1979
9. Any Other Business
10. To receive an address by Mr. T.D. Guilbert and Mr. Thompson of the Airworthiness Division of the Civil Aviation Authority. Their talk will be entitled "Airworthiness of Light Aircraft - Who's Responsible?", and will take the form of a discussion with our Members. The new Light Aircraft Maintenance Scheme will obviously receive much attention.

2. CHANGE OF SECRETARY

With effect from 30th September, 1978, the long-promised change of Secretary has taken place.

Tony Poulsom has been Secretary since the Association was founded in 1974, and has had all the hard work of the formation, building up the membership, and organising our many visits, throughout our first 5 years, as well as carrying out the duties of Treasurer, with all that that entails.

I feel we owe Tony an enormous debt of gratitude, which I have no doubt all Members will echo at the forthcoming A.G.M. I am very happy to say that Tony will continue as a Committee Member, and will continue to act as Treasurer.

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I will act as Secretary for a short (I hope!) while. My name, address and telephone number are as follows:-

David Corbett,
Ox House,
Shobdon,
Nr. Leominster.
Herefordshire.

Telephone: Kingsland 351

I have a permanent Secretary at the above number, who will always take messages in my frequent absence.

3. NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At present your Committee Members are:

Chairman	-	Col. J.F. Williams-Wynne
Secretary	-	David U. Corbett
Treasurer	-	A.E. (Tony) Poulsom
Members	-	B.J.C. (Bart) Woodall
		M.J. Cuttell

The Association's rules lay down that a maximum of five members may be elected to the Committee annually, but give the Committee power to co-opt other members of the Association as necessary.

As Committee Members should be formally elected - or re-elected if we are good enough! - at the A.G.M. each year, we would be glad to hear in advance of the A.G.M. whether any other members would like to volunteer to help with Committee work - perhaps as Regional representatives, or similar. Committee work is not very demanding - only a limited number of meetings are held each year, usually at one of our fly-ins.

If anyone is interested in joining or helping the Committee, could you please let the Chairman or myself know in advance of the A.G.M. (The Chairman's address is: Peniarth, Tywyn, Merioneth, N. Wales).

4. VISITS - AUTUMN 1978

Since the last Newsletter, there have been three visits - one to Defford in Worcestershire, which neither Tony Poulsom or I were able to attend, followed by a trip to Ipswich to visit Fisons in early August. For the second time running, this trip was almost a washout, but I understand that five or six members did get to Ipswich, by car or aeroplane. Fisons looked after them well, but the chief memory for those who flew was the exhorbitant landing fee.

The third visit was to Old Warden on 27th September, to view the Shuttleworth Collection before lunch and to visit the Shuttleworth College of Agriculture after lunch.

Penny and I arrived by car, having been in London the previous night to see "Evita" - which I can recommend as an absolute "must" for everyone to see as soon as possible.

The day was excellent, although with very strong winds. Twenty aircraft flew in, with 54 members and friends in attendance. Thanks to all those, both at Old Warden and the College, who made this day such a success. Even Penny, who had brought a book to read, admitted afterwards that she thoroughly enjoyed the Collection, with all its fascinating and wide-ranging coverage of everything to do with transport.

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5. PROGRAMME FOR 1979

So far, no firm plans have been made for 1979 - but two events with an aviation, rather than agricultural, flavour have been tentatively arranged.

i. Mr. Ian Bullock, Secretary of National Air Traffic Management Advisory Committee, has agreed to give us a talk on "Off Airways Direct Routing and the NATCS".

The venue for this lecture can be either in London (preferably at Aviation House, Kingsway, which is Mr. Bullock's office, and at which we can get the use of a suitable room), or at the NATS school at Bournemouth (Hurn) Airport. The suggested date is sometime in March.

ii. A visit to British Aerospace at Filton has been arranged to see both their Lower Airspace Radar Service in operation, and to look around the factory, hopefully to see the last Concorde in the final stages of construction.

I suggest a date in April or May for this event.

We do not at the moment have any suggestions for "fly-ins" with an agricultural flavour - nor have we made a start at planning our second overseas trip.

I am enclosing a questionnaire with the newsletter for each member, and I would be most grateful if members would indicate on this questionnaire any suggestions they have for farming flying for 1979. We will follow up all suggestions, although we hope to get so many that some will be held over for 1980 and beyond!

As far as foreign trips are concerned, France, the Channel Islands and Eire are all obvious close choices - with Denmark, Belgium and Germany all being a slightly longer trip. Again, all suggestions will be welcomed. Our Chairman is currently discussing with Edward Long, lately of Farmers Weekly, but now with John Deere in Germany, the possibility of a trip to their Headquarters at Mannheim. More about this at the A.G.M.

6. QUESTIONNAIRE

As mentioned above, I enclose a questionnaire which I would be grateful if all Members would fill in and return to me as soon as possible, and certainly no later than the A.G.M. The questionnaire has several different purposes, as will be obvious, but I hope this will help to enable the Association to give you, the Members, a better service. Therefore, the more suggestions you can return to me, the better!

Very briefly, the information I want from the questionnaire can be summarised as follows:

(i) Membership details

I am anxious to get the Membership list up-dated and reprinted, and therefore I want confirmation that the details we have, and our interpretation of them, are correct. Corrections of addresses is important, because I shall be using an addressing machine for mail in future.

(ii) Location Map of Members' strips

I feel that now that our Membership has stabilised from its initial rapid growth, the time has come to produce a better map for internal use by our own members. I am currently exploring two possibilities:

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(a) To get the block of the Pooley's guide airstrips map to print an outline, with our strips filled in on their present scale, which is approx. 1:2,000,000 (23" x 17" overall size). Their map does show major airports, which is helpful for location purposes, as is the grid of latitudes and longitudes, although these are only at 1° intervals.

(b) To issue to each Member, free-of-charge, a current Danger Area map. (Scale 1:1,000,000, size 46" x 36" overall). This map has latitude and longtitude lines printed at 10' intervals, and it would therefore be very easy for Members to plot strip locations themselves if we issued a list showing the latitude and longtitude of each strip.

Your views on these ideas for maps, or any alternative suggestions, will be welcomed.

(iii) Future events

Obviously, we want as many Members as possible to make suggestions for future events for the Association.

(iv) Other services

I feel the Association can and should provide other services for Members - and we would like to know what you feel we can do to help you. For instance, I believe that we should work with National Event and Show organisers to organise landing and transport facilities at various events and circulate this information to Members.

(v) Attendance at Fly-ins

As a Committee Member, I have been very concerned at some fly-ins that I have attended, that, on arrival at our destination, no one has known which Members are going to attend, or in some cases, how late they are going to be! This is sometimes particularly embarrasing when, for instance, we have booked a bus to take us to a host organisation some way away, and we do not know how long to wait for latecomers.

I therefore have two suggestions to try to improve this situation:

(i) One Committee member should be appointed to be "in charge" at each Fly-in - not necessarily to have organised the event in advance, but to be responsible for arrangements on the day at the event. This Committee Member will have been given the necessary administrative details in advance by whoever has organised the event, in the event that the organiser cannot attend himself.

(ii) Members should be asked to return to the Secretary, before the event, pre-addressed and pre-printed post-cards, saying whether or not they expect to attend each event (weather permitting). This will give the Duty Committee Member some idea of whom to expect, and, on some occasions, will help with catering arrangements.

FLYING FARMERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS' QUESTIONNAIRE - 1978

1. Name, address, and telephone no. Any corrections required?	Our records show:	Corrections, if any:

2. Your Airstrip. (please write NONE if none available).

(i) Latitude and longtitude .....

(ii) Runway headings, surface, length .....

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(iii) Any special safety features .....

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PLEASE NOTE - the information in this section, if "published" at all, will be as a list available only to members. The information above is not intended to be sufficient for members to fly straight in - we believe that all members should ring strip owners first before using their strips, in order to get exact details.

3. Airstrip Location Map - please delete or comment as follows:

(a) The present hand-drawn or photostated map is good enough:

YES/NO

(b) An overprint onto the existing Pooley's Guide map would be sufficient - even though it will cost something:

YES/NO

(c) I would be prepared to plot airstrip positions for myself, using a Danger Area map and a list supplied by the FFA:

YES/NO

(d) My alternative suggestions for an airstrip location map are

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4. Future Events.

(i) Mr. Bullock's lecture. I would prefer to attend this in LONDON/HURN, in MARCH/APRIL.

(ii) Flying with agricultural purpose - locations and subject matter.

(a) Suggestions for visits in my own area .....

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(b) Suggestions for visits elsewhere in U.K. .....

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(iii) Non agricultural flying: suggestions .....

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(iv) Foreign visits - suggestions:.....
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(v) Other activities. Any comments on - Annual Dinner, Competition Flying, Rallies, Use of Charter Flights, etc., etc.
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5. Services to Members.

(i) I have got / I would like details of the Airstrip Insurance scheme for Members.

(ii) Shows, Demonstrations, etc. I would like the Association to try to make arrangements to fly in to, or get transport from the nearest airstrip to, the following Shows, Demonstrations, or other events:
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(iii) I would like the Association to consider providing the following additional services:
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6. Attendance at Fly-ins.

I would /would not be prepared to send pre-printed postcards to the Secretary before each Fly-in, indicating whether I do or do not intend to be present.