

**Proceedings of the
Eighth Annual General Meeting
of
The Helicopter Association of Great Britain**

President E MENSFORTH, C B E , M A , M I M E C H E , F R A C S

The Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Place, London, W 1, on Friday, the 8th May, 1953, at 6 p m The Chair was taken by the President

THE MEETING

The Honorary Secretary read the notice convening the Meeting

The Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting having been circulated to all Members present, it was agreed that they be taken as read and, being unanimously approved they were signed by the President

Group Capt CUMMING referring to the previous minutes, asked what progress had been made in the memorial to the late Mr Alan Marsh

Mr Norman HILL explained that one of the donors having been abroad matters had not reached finality, but the project is very much alive, and he expected to report upon it to the Executive Council at a very early date

The result of the Ballot for election of Members to the Executive Council was announced as follows

O L L FITZWILLIAMS	}	<i>re-elected</i>
R HAFNER		
R H WHITBY	}	<i>elected to fill vacancies</i>
W R GELLATLY		
H ROBERTS		

On the proposal of Mr H Le SUEUR, seconded by Mr S D DICKSON the composition of the Council was unanimously approved as follows

R A C BRIE	R HAFNER	H ROBERTS
C COLIN COOPER	NORMAN HILL	N E ROWE
J S FAY	G S HISLOP	J S SHAPIRO
O L L FITZWILLIAMS	A McCLEMENTS	W STEWART
W R GELLATLY	J W RICHARDSON	R H WHITBY

The President said that it was encouraging to note that the number of Ballot papers returned had considerably increased in comparison to last year

In the unavoidable absence of the Honorary Treasurer the Honorary Secretary said that he would draw Members attention to the former's remarks in the Council's report and to a chart which was before them This chart had been prepared by the Honorary Treasurer and showed comparative details of Expenditure and Income for the years 1948—1953

On the proposal of S/Ldr W R GELLATLY, seconded by Mr COLIN COOPER, the Yearly Accounts for 1952/53 were unanimously approved The Honorary Secretary was asked to convey the Meeting's compliments to Mr Leslie

The Annual Report, having been sent to all Members, was taken as read

At the President's request the Chairman of the Executive Council, Mr NORMAN HILL, then surveyed the past year as follows

SURVEY OF 1952/1953

By the

CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

As you will have seen from the report and as I am delighted to again mention, your Council were unanimous in the election of Mr E MENSFORTH as President, and I am happy to say that Mr MENSFORTH has accepted the invitation to serve for the continuing period 1953/54

On another note, we regret that JUAN DE LA CIERVA died on the 2nd February of this year, and so we have lost the one Honorary Member of this Association, who

being the son of the inventor of the autogyro, was certainly a link with the early days of successful rotary wing aviation

There has been an increase in membership during the year, but I think that we still have cause for dissatisfaction with ourselves with our efforts as reflected in the figure of recruitment

On the other hand, we may well be proud of the esteem with which this body is held in the industry of this country and in America, a degree of esteem which reflects great credit upon the Editors of our Journal, for we have to remember that our communications in a world-wide sense with overseas members depend almost entirely upon their efforts, supported by those of our Honorary Secretary, in terms of the everyday correspondence. While on this subject I might also mention that whilst those members who are doing the work of the Association all *give* their time and effort, in addition to paying their subscriptions, there are a few among our ranks who, though enjoying the privileges of membership, are very dilatory in the payment of their just dues, or perhaps through forgetfulness have not yet done so

It is a matter of great satisfaction that we have reduced our recurrent expenditure this year considerably, and you will see also that the Journal again shows a much more satisfactory figure than last year, but there was a smaller sum for donations and special items and this reduces the net improvement in our income, but our Hon. Secretary has already dwelt upon this matter

I am happy to say that our Librarian has been able to overhaul the numerous copies of books and papers, many of great historical interest, and we now have an extremely satisfactory though very small library, from which members may borrow

With regard to the Cierva Memorial Prize Essay, it gives me great pleasure to speak of the generosity of our Vice-President, Mr JAMES WEIR, and the original donor, Mr A G DOUGLAS, who having decided that the Memorial Prize shall continue, have re-established the fund, and in regard to our friend, Mr Douglas, I might mention that under pressure he has finally agreed that we should disclose his name as the founder of the Prize Fund by his first contribution some years ago. As you will have seen, the terms of the award have been revised, and it is hoped that we shall now engage the interest of a greater number of entrants from the younger age groups

A number of your Council members have, during the year, secured appointments abroad, and to them we send our congratulations and wish them every success. There come to my mind, the names of Mr L S WIGDORCHIK, Dr J A BENNETT, and more recently, Mr W STEWART. We wish them all happiness and success in their new appointments

Among the many interesting events during the year the Bristol 171 has been granted its Certificate of Airworthiness, the Westland Aircraft Company have embarked upon a programme of production for the British-built S 55, and contracts have been awarded by foreign nations, to both Westland and Bristol, the Saunders Roe "Skeeter" is undergoing handling trials by the Ministry of Supply, and we know that the Fairey Aviation Company and others in the industry are making great progress in their plans to meet the British European Airways Specification for the "Bealnebus"

Another extremely important event has been the first public appearance of the Bristol 173 twin-rotor, twin-engined Helicopter. Technically, I feel that this development was perhaps one of the greatest importance during the year, and it is hoped that shortly, along with the Westland built S 55, we shall see other bigger machines built in this country and flying all over the world. Of some other events your President will later be speaking

The President then invited Mr A McCLEMENTS, Honorary Technical Editor, to survey the Journal's progress

Mr McCLEMENTS said that the Journal's finances had been greatly improved. This was due partly to the increased number of advertisements, but in addition the Association was greatly indebted to the Journal's business Editor, Mr C COLIN COOPER, who not only was largely responsible for bringing about the improved finances, but in addition for ensuring that the material was collected in time to enable the Journal to be published on the correct dates. Members would have noticed that the timing of the Journal's appearances had improved. Mr S H PILTON, the publisher, continued to render most valuable and willing services, for which we are all most grateful

Those responsible for the Journal were always keen to improve the publication, and the Technical Editors invited Members to forward to them any ideas they had on how this might be done

The President then addressed the Meeting

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

I thank you for the honour done to me through the Council's invitation to continue for a further year in office. I look forward during this year to the continued active development of the Association in fulfilling its aims.

The Chairman has reviewed the affairs of the Association during the year and it is pleasant to see how these have been so greatly strengthened both financially and in Membership. The work of the Association, which is vital if this new vehicle, the Helicopter, is to be made available to fulfill its many potential public services, is still largely carried on by the enthusiasm and hard work of a relatively small number of people. It is hoped that a more general appreciation of our important functions will lead to a continued expansion of Membership.

The year has been particularly important in a number of physical developments, notably the much larger number of Helicopters carrying out important duties with the Armed Forces, the very gallant rescue work carried out particularly by British built Helicopters flown by the Royal Navy in the Dutch Flood disaster, involving the saving of over 800 people, and towards the end of the year, the first flights—of course in a British built Helicopter—of a Member of the Royal Family, His Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, as an integral part of his tour of Germany.

I mention with pleasure and with pride that the Association has received an informal approach from the Royal Aeronautical Society, indicating that they consider the Association's work important and asking whether there are any additional ways in which the Society can help the Association. Your Council will be considering this and at the appropriate time seeking general suggestions and views from Members.

I desire to emphasize on behalf of all of us our gratification with the increasing support we have received from the Industry both through the new Companion Membership scheme and by advertising in the Journal. It is not only the direct help given to us in thus pursuing our aims which is important but the support to our enthusiasm in knowing that our work is appreciated.

G/Capt W N CUMMING in proposing the adoption of the Report said that he wished to express the thanks of all Members to the Honorary Secretary, and to the other voluntary workers whose efforts made it possible for the Association to maintain the high standard which it has achieved.

In reply to a question the Hon. Secretary read a list of those firms, and others, who had supported the Association during the past year by means of direct donations to its funds. These were as follows:

Rotol Limited	Dowty Equipment Limited
British Messier Limited	Sabena
D Napier & Son Limited	Laycock Engineering
Saulsders Roe Limited	Sperry Gyroscope Company Limited
Short Bros & Harland Limited	Iberia Spanish Airlines
British Aviation Insurance	Brown Bayley Steels
Shell-Mex & B P	De Havilland Aircraft Limited
Skyways Limited	Alvis Limited
Decca Navigator Company Limited	Fairey Aviation Limited
British Timken Limited	E Mensforth
Blackburn & General Aircraft Limited	Birmetals Limited
Dunlop Rubber Company Limited	American Helicopter Magazine

The Hon. Secretary asked Members to bear in mind that a large measure of support is also received from those who advertise in the Journal.

Mr A E BRISTOW asked for an assurance that the Association would not be allowed to become absorbed by any other body, such as the Royal Aeronautical Society. The President replied that to the best of his belief this was not what anyone had in mind. The Society's representatives had indicated that in principle the

Society is willing to lend its friendly support to the Association. Occasional joint meetings had been suggested as a possibility. This matter was at a very preliminary stage and should it develop all Members will be given the fullest opportunity to discuss it.

There being no further questions or comments upon the Report, G/Capt W N CUMMING's proposal was seconded by Mr J S SHAPIRO and the motion to adopt the Report was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr A E BRISTOW and seconded by Mr COOPER that Messrs W B Keen & Company be re-appointed as Auditors, Accountants, and Registrars to the Association for the year 1952/53 at a fee to be agreed. This proposal being carried unanimously the official proceedings were declared closed.

NOTICES

The Seventh Annual Dinner of The Helicopter Association of Great Britain

The Association's Seventh Annual Dinner will be held on Friday, September 11th, 1953, at the Dorchester Hotel, W 1, and will follow the opening Lecture of the 1953/4 Lecture Programme.

It is hoped that this year will see an even larger gathering of Members and their Guests and the Dinner Committee would appreciate early notification from those Members who wish to invite large parties of guests.

HELICOPTER REFERENCE TABLES

A most commendable booklet entitled "Two Decades of Helicopter Design" has been published by the Temple Press, Bowling Green Lane, London, E C 1, and may be purchased direct from them at a price of 3s 6d.

The Booklet includes most interesting pictures and reference tables of technical information covering the widest range of past and present helicopter designs, and should prove to be a most valuable asset to all who are interested in helicopters.

RESIGNATION OF A COUNCIL MEMBER

On account of his transfer to the British Joint Services Mission in Washington, D C, U S A, the Council have reluctantly found it necessary to accept the resignation of Mr W STEWART, B Sc. On behalf of Members we wish Mr Stewart every success in his new post.