

The Journal of
THE HELICOPTER ASSOCIATION
OF GREAT BRITAIN

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Third Annual General Meeting
OF THE
Helicopter Association of Great Britain

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CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

At this, the Third General Meeting and the Second Annual General Meeting of the Helicopter Association, it is my privilege to present to you in this address some information which I hope will be of interest

General Remarks—Membership Firstly, I am happy to say that the membership of the Association continues steadily to increase. Although this means an increased income, the actual running expenses of the Association have increased even more, there are however, two ways of meeting the extra load placed upon the Association's funds. The first and obvious thing for your Council to recommend would be an increase in the annual subscription and although we may be forced to place before you within the next few months a proposition to this effect, we are anxious to defer the matter as long as we can conveniently do so. The second—and to my mind the better way of easing the burden, would be to aim for a still greater increase in membership between today and our next General Meeting in 1949, and so I am hoping that each and every member will take it upon himself to recruit at least one new member during the coming year, remembering that the new members must be persons who carry the clear qualifications set out in the Rules and Regulations of the Association. More especially we wish to encourage the recruitment of the younger entrants, for with the industry expanding as it is every encouragement and aid must be given to those who only now have their feet upon the first rung of the ladder. Our aim should be to double our membership and this can only be accomplished if every member will do as I have suggested.

Finance On the subject of finance you will have seen from the printed Annual Report that although our financial position is sound, our reserves are slender. The sound position today is due mainly to the generous response from the industry to the appeal for funds. The funds received in

the form of Foundation Grants total more than £1,000, and the Council wishes to record its appreciation of the action of the Directors of the Bristol Aeroplane Co, Ltd, The Cierva Autogiro Co, Ltd, The Fairey Aviation Co, Ltd, and Westland Aircraft Ltd, who have each generously donated the sum of £250. These sums have been placed to a Special Reserve Fund, but it has been necessary to transfer £400 from that account to the Income and Expenditure Account for the year to February, 1948.

Journal I will now refer to the Journal of the Association. The high quality of the matter delivered by the lecturers during the year demanded an improvement in the method of presentation over that provided by the earlier publication known as the Bulletin, and the Council feel that their action in improving the form of the Journal has been fully justified, although there has been an unavoidable increase in the cost of printing and publishing. It is interesting to note that the Journal is now circulated throughout the principal Government Departments, many Universities and other scientific and educational institutions throughout the world. The heavy burden of the expense of printing and publication has to some extent been eased by the token advertisement scheme to which the industry has given very satisfactory support. New applications for space continue to come to hand together with applications to subscribe from manufacturing concerns throughout the aircraft industry.

Cierva Memorial Prize Essay It will be remembered that an anonymous donor has given a prize of £100 for a paper or papers to be written on any subject connected with helicopters, and with the consent of the donor this sum forms the nucleus of the Cierva Prize Essay Fund. The standard of entries for this competition for the year 1946/47 were disappointingly low and, therefore, the Committee dealing with this matter recommended that the award be withheld for that year and this decision was endorsed by your Council.

Your Council has considered a change of subject for this essay for the ensuing year and suggestions from members will be welcomed. An announcement will be made as soon as a decision has been reached. The entry for the session 1947/48 is now under consideration. You will note that I deliberately said entry, and the Council do hope that a better response will be forthcoming for this year.

Lectures I will now turn to the subject of lectures. During the year seven papers have been delivered to the membership by such well known helicopter engineers as Messrs IGOR SIKORSKY, H B SQUIRE, J S SHAPIRO, R HAFNER, O FITZWILLIAMS, A McCLEMENTS and Major SILTANEN, U S A A F. Each lecture has been followed by an informal discussion, and refreshments and every opportunity for getting together and discussing the various helicopter developments and events has been taken by members.

Emblem A great deal of thought and careful consideration has been given to the problem of a suitable emblem for the Association and finally your Council has selected the Dragonfly as the most suitable object in nature having as it does all the flying characteristics of the helicopter. The Emblem Committee headed by Major NELSON has devoted much time and labour to the preparation of sketches and designs, and the result is the badge which you will shortly see reproduced in black and white on the cover of the Journal and other documents. It will be used for an experimental period of twelve months and members are invited to submit their criticisms.

Annual Dinner The success of our first Dinner in March, 1947, suggested that it should be made an Annual event. As you know, it is being held this year in Londonderry House which is rapidly becoming a centre of aviation activities, and I should like to record our thanks to the Secretary General and House Secretary of the Royal Aero Club for the use of their excellent premises and the kindly advice given in organising this function.

Rules and Regulations On the subject of the Association Rules and Regulations, I think you will agree that certain aspects require clarifying and generally straightening out. Membership qualifications in particular call for revision in the light of experience and in due course your Council will place the proposals before you in detail.

Council I should like to take this opportunity of extending a warm welcome to the newly elected Members of Council and to those who were not successful. I would say, do not be disappointed, and better luck next time.

The absence of four of our Council Members is to be regretted, but at the same time they are much to be envied. Captain LIPROT, Dr BENNETT and Messrs HAFNER and FITZWILLIAMS are on a visit to the U S A, and taking part in the Fourth Annual Forum of the American Helicopter Society which is just about to close. No doubt they will return with much information about recent developments in America.

Staff As you will have seen from the report, the Council has appointed Miss SHEILA MACPHEE as Assistant Secretary. Miss MACPHEE has approached her work with great enthusiasm, and I know that should any member be in need of advice and information on Association matters it will readily be provided by her.

Liaison with Official Bodies Your Association now enjoys full recognition by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Supply, and is represented on numerous Committees and Working Groups dealing with the Regulatory aspects of helicopters and the conditions of issue for Helicopter Pilots Licences and Instructors Certificates, Certificates of Airworthiness and Landing Area Requirements. The appointed members are collaborating closely with such important bodies as the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Air Registration Board, the Society of Licensed Aircraft Engineers, the Guild of Air Pilots and the Royal Aero Club.

Outstanding Events, 1947/48 The year under review will be memorable in many ways. In June, 1947, the Westland Aircraft Company announced their intention to manufacture the Westland Sikorski S 51 in this country. Two British helicopters, the Bristol 171 and the Fairey "Gyrodyne," commenced their initial handling and prototype trials and great progress is being made in the development of both these types.

On the operational side British European Airways have successfully established the experimental postal delivery unit, and the mail carrying will shortly start in earnest. In Scotland the Irvin-Bell organisation has inaugurated the first civil Helicopter Training School, and at Cambridge the Pest Control Company is carrying out experiments in crop-spraying by helicopter on a large scale.

A notable demonstration took place for the Elder Brethren of Trinity House at Dungeness, Kent. The demonstration was designed to prove the suitability of the helicopter for coastal rescue and relief work, and early this year the opportunity came for a full scale demonstration under the

worst possible flying conditions when Trinity House requested that aid by way of provisions and stores be delivered to the men of the Wolf Rock Lighthouse, which operation was successfully accomplished by the Westland S 51 helicopter

Landings have been made in the London Area by the Westland S 51, and a Bell helicopter. The pilots of both these aircraft are members of the Association, and from members point of view probably the most interesting landing was that made within 50 yards of this building on a small space adjoining Broadcasting House

CONCLUSION

Finally, I should like to commend and express appreciation to all those Council and other members who have given so unstintingly of their time and labours to the furtherance of the Association's work and aims. Particular mention should be made of our Vice-Chairman, Mr NORMAN HILL, and the Honorary Secretary, Mr STOKER, who between them have been responsible for the major part of the day to day work of the Association during the past year

Our thanks are also due to the Secretary of the Society of Licensed Aircraft Engineers for his real help and advice, and last but not least to the firm of Messrs W B KEEN & Co, who have acted as the Association's auditors and accountants during the past year and supplied other services as well

