

The Tenth Annual General Meeting
of
The Helicopter Association of Great Britain

The Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Helicopter Association was held at Londonderry House, 19 Park Lane, London, W 1, on Friday, May 20th, 1955, at 6 15 p m The Chair was taken by Mr ERIC MENSFORTH, the retiring President

The usual routine business of the Meeting was completed and the result of the ballot for election of members to the Executive Council was announced The composition of the new Council was approved as follows

B H ARKELL	R HAFNER
J A J BENNETT	G S HISLOP
R A C BRIE	A McCLEMENTS
J A CAMERON	F T MEACOCK
C COLIN COOPER	F O'HARA
O L L FITZWILLIAMS	J W RICHARDSON
L G FRISE	H ROBERTS

R H WHITBY

The President's Address

The President, having declared the formal business to be at an end, addressed the meeting as follows

This is our Tenth Annual General Meeting, these ten years have been eventful in helicopter development, to which the Members of this Association have made very full contributions The Association is greatly honoured to have received a message from His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, sent to me as your President

(The President read the text of the Royal message which is reproduced on the opposite page)

I know you will all be greatly encouraged by His Royal Highness's words, as by the regular use of helicopters made by His Royal Highness and by other members of the Royal Family I suggest that the message be acknowledged in the following terms

Yesterday I had the privilege of reading to the Council and Members the Message from His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh sent to our Association for the occasion of the Tenth Annual General Meeting

All Members ask that their sincere thanks be conveyed to His Royal Highness for this gracious expression of interest in a young Association The words of His Royal Highness will be a great encouragement to all those working on the development of Helicopters

The President went on to say that during the past year further marked advances had taken place in the helicopter world, particularly in the public understanding of its ever widening specialist spheres of usefulness

Interesting events included the recent formation of a joint experimental unit to study Army supply and transportation problems equipped initially with two Bristol Mark 14 Sycamores. Statements in Parliament had indicated an increase in Government expenditure on research and development, tangible evidence of which was the award of a research contract for an ultra light Army helicopter to Fairey's. We all looked forward to the outcome of work at Saunders-Roe and at Percival's while, in the medium and large field, work was proceeding on the Bristol 173, on the Fairey Roto-dyne, and most recently, on the Westland twin turbine Westminster. Following distinguished earlier pioneering, British European Airways were inaugurating a service from the South Bank to London Airport using two Westland S 55 Whirlwinds and, following research work by that Company, these will be fitted with specially silenced engines, a matter which many of us in the Association have long considered a pre-essential to operation in cities. The formation of Fisons-Airwork Ltd was also important and they, Rotorfilms Ltd and Autair Ltd are to be wished every success. Recently a Westland Whirlwind had been ordered for experimental Civil Defence work. A number of demonstrations had been given to the Police. Several whaling expeditions in the Antarctic had been equipped with British helicopters, following earlier pioneering from this country. The importance of the helicopter for Defence roles had increased with important work with the Royal Navy, and in Malaya and East Africa. Its humanitarian usefulness for rescue and ambulance work had been demonstrated during a number of disasters.

Leading engine makers, Alvis, Blackburn, Napier, Rolls-Royce, were now interested in power plants, including turbines, specially adapted or designed for helicopter use. Abroad, commercial operation had steadily developed, notably in Europe with Sabena, and in the United States. New world records for both speed and height had been set up.

Members would all join in congratulating the following, Mr IGOR SIKORSKY on the award to him of the James Watt International Medal and Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Dr HISLOP on the award of Fellowship of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and Mr ROWE on taking over the Presidential Chair of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

We mourned the death of LOUIS BREGUET on May 4th, 1955, in Paris, at the age of 75. In 1907 he built a helicopter which in all probability was the first full size machine to leave the ground with pilot, although it had no means of directional control in flight and was tethered.

A Memorial Trust to another great pioneer, ALAN MARSH, had been established by the Association, and already a number of small and large subscriptions had been received to a total of over £1,300. It was hoped that many members of the Association would contribute to this very important Trust.

Calling attention to the satisfactory financial position, he emphasised how much we owe to the supporting firms, to whom there had been some notable additions during the year (a list of these firms follows after the Membership List in this Journal).

The Association would be very glad to arrange for Lectures at any centres where supporting firms are located, and where they feel that such would be reasonably attended.

The Association was considering the holding next year of an International Forum, and it was hoped that this will meet with great support from all concerned, as it should be an important medium for carrying out the Association's aims

The PRESIDENT then said

I now have great pleasure in welcoming, on your behalf, as our new President for the coming year, LORD DOUGLAS OF KIRTLESIDE, Chairman of British European Airways. As mentioned earlier, he has, with his colleagues and staff, carried out most important pioneering work in the commercial use of helicopters, and through this, is well known to all of us

LORD DOUGLAS in reply said. It is a great honour to me to be elected your President for the coming year and also a great pleasure, as most of the people here I already know. I look forward very much to working with you in this Association, which has a most important job to do. As you know, I am intensely interested in helicopters, not only from the point of view of B E A but I have a personal affection and liking for the helicopter as such. I do hope that I will be able to fill this office with diligence, and advance the cause of this Association

The Vice-President, Mr NORMAN HILL, addressed the Meeting as follows. I would like to say a few words on the really wonderful work which our past President, Mr MENSFORTH, has performed on behalf of the Association. He has given us the benefit of his wise guidance and his enthusiasm for a period of three years whilst he was President and for some time before he was elected and, we hope that his enthusiasm will not allow him to depart from our midst for many years. ERIC MENSFORTH was a wonderful example of energy and robustness of character which has at all times been most refreshing. I know all members of the Council and the Association have enjoyed meeting him, and his advice upon our problems has been freely and wisely given. Now in LORD DOUGLAS we have a fine President who will have our loyal support. Our members and members of our Council experienced pleasure in hearing of his election and we hope he will enjoy his period of Presidency and that it will be for him of great interest to reflect upon when he relinquishes the office in due time

The meeting was followed by the showing of a film "The Helicopter Goes to Town" which was kindly loaned for the occasion by the United Aircraft Export Corporation, and was very much enjoyed by those present. Mr COLIN COOPER also showed a short colour film which he had recently taken in the United States of the aircraft display held in conjunction with the American Helicopter Society's Eleventh Annual Forum

An Extraordinary General Meeting of

The Helicopter Association of Great Britain

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held at Londonderry House, London, W 1, on May 20th, at which two Special Resolutions were unanimously adopted to make changes in the wording of those paragraphs of the Memorandum of Association setting forth the Objects of the Association and of those Rules setting forth the qualifications for membership. Since all members entitled to vote have received the full text of these Resolutions we are not repeating them here. A handbook of the new Memorandum and Rules will be sent to all members in due course