

# The Second Annual General Meeting of The Helicopter Association of Great Britain

## REPORT

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in the Lecture Hall, Manson House, 26, Portland Place, W.1., on Saturday, 22nd March, 1947, at 2.30 p.m.

After reading the Notice convening the Meeting the Hon. Secretary read apologies for absence and the following ship's telegram from G/Capt. LIPTROT, Dr. BENNETT and W/Cdr. BRIE, who were on their way to the U.S.A., was read:

"Many Happy Return First Anniversary. Best Wishes for successful Meeting and Dinner—Doc., Reg. and Loopy."

The Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting were read and adopted.

The CHAIRMAN then presented the Annual Report, and since it had been circulated to Members prior to the Meeting he asked those present to take it as read. No comments were made nor objections raised, and the Report was unanimously adopted.

The HON. TREASURER then presented the Annual Accounts, and called the attention of Members to the fact that the Association had ended its first financial year with a credit balance of some £50.

Mr. M. S. HOUDRET moved the adoption of the Annual Accounts, and Mr. G. A. FORD seconding, these were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN presented the audited statement of the result of the ballot for election of the Council for the year 1947, and the following Members were elected:

H. A. MARSH, A.F.C., A.F.R.Ae.S. (*Chairman*); J. A. J. BENNETT, D.Sc., F.R.Ae.S.; C. G. PULLIN, F.R.Ae.S., M.I.Mech.E.; F. F. CROCOMBE, B.Sc., F.R.Ae.S.; R. A. C. BRIE, A.F.R.Ae.S., A.F.I.Ae.S.; H. M. YEATMAN, M.A.(Cantab.), A.F.R.Ae.S.; A. CARPMAEL, A.I.A.E.; N. J. G. HILL, A.M.I.A.E., A.R.Ae.S.; S/Ldr. F. J. CABLE, R.A.F.; G. C. TURNER, A.F.C.; F/Lt. J. E. HARPER, A.F.C., R.A.F.; R. HAFNER, R. N. LIPTROT, G.B.E., B.A.(Cantab.); O. L. L. FITZWILLIAMS, B.A.(Eng.)Cantab.; B. H. ARKELL, A.R.Ae.S. *Hon. Sec.*; M. J. B. STOKER, *Hon. Treas.*; G. C. TURNER.

Mr. C. G. PULLIN moved that Messrs. W. B. KEEN & Co. be appointed Auditors for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Mr. K. WATSON and unanimously agreed.

After the CHAIRMAN'S speech Mr. M. STOKER proposed on behalf of the Members a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Council for the work which they had done during the past year. This proposal was seconded by Dr. THURSTON and carried unanimously.

Some discussion ensued on the question of an Association emblem, and it was finally agreed that a small sub-committee should be formed to examine suggestions and make their recommendations to the Council. The

following Members expressed their willingness to serve on the sub-committee: Major NELSON, Mr. DIXON, Mr. J. ROGERS together with two Members of the Council to be appointed.

Further discussion followed on the question of a programme of activities for the year 1947/48 and the Meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.

## CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

Gentlemen,

As you will have seen from the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, membership of the Association has increased in a very satisfactory way and is, I think, a very good index of the interest being shown in the development of the helicopter.

Applications for membership continue to come to hand but I urge you to exert every effort to persuade those who, in your opinion, are qualified in accordance with our Rules to make application for membership. Every new member means increased income and although the Balance Sheet shows that the Association is solvent, we have by no means reached the goal for which we aim, that is to say, sufficient income to provide funds for the establishment of a full-time Secretary, together with office accommodation, staff, etc.

We have received, as you will observe from the Balance Sheet, several substantial donations from Members and others, and I wish to express the keen appreciation of the Council to all donors of such gifts.

In addition, the Association has been given by a member who wishes to remain anonymous, the sum of £100 to be devoted to prizes for essays covering various aspects of helicopter activities and it has been agreed that this sum should be split up into four annual prizes of £25 each. You will be aware of the conditions and so on of this current year's competition and it is hoped that we shall be able to establish this as an annual event, and possibly introduce other prize competitions of similar interest.

With the completion of the first year of its existence, a few words on the working of the Association may not be out of place. Your Executive Council have met on 17 occasions in order to conduct the general business of the Association and five very successful lectures have been organised in addition to an informal discussion and film display in the House of Commons, which was given at the request of certain Members of Parliament.

An invitation was received during the year from the Ministry of Civil Aviation to criticise and advise upon the helicopters Civil Specifications, and also the proposed regulations for the operation of helicopters and the issue of Licenses to Pilots.

In other directions, several of our members have a place on the various committees sets up by the Ministry and Aeronautical bodies to consider problems associated with general development.

Very satisfactory relations exist between the Association and all other aeronautical bodies and in our work we have received every assistance from

the Royal Aeronautical Society, Royal Aero Club, Guild of Air Pilots and the Society of Licensed Aircraft Engineers, and we continue to work in very close harmony with all these bodies. We have also received every encouragement from the Helicopter Society of America and some of their members have already joined our Association. A very close liaison with this Society is maintained through one of our Council members, who represents the Society over here.

You no doubt remember the formation of another body with somewhat similar aims to our own, and you may also remember that we discussed the possibility of a merger with that body at our First General Meeting in March of last year. A merger sub-committee was formed by us and several meetings took place with an equivalent committee from the other body, but unfortunately after much patient work it was found impossible to continue with the negotiations, which have therefore been terminated.

The Helicopter Association Bulletin has been published on two occasions and a third issue would by now have been in print had not the present fuel and power emergency arisen. It is hoped, however, with the resumption of more normal conditions to despatch the third issue to members in a very short time. In its present form the Bulletin is a very modest production, but as our membership grows and funds accrue, it is hoped to improve and add matter to it so as to widen its interest to members generally.

In order to relieve the general funds of the cost of publishing and preparing this Bulletin, an invitation was recently extended to certain concerns engaged in and around the aircraft industry asking that they take space in the form of a token advertisement in our Bulletin, in return for a small fee. The response to this invitation is most encouraging and it is intended that we shall continue with this form of publicity.

While on the matter of finance, I am able to say that although our membership continues to grow—totalling as it does at the present day 161—the working expenses of the Association have been kept to a very low level only by the energy and enthusiasm of the Members of the Executive Council, who have at considerable personal inconvenience given up time and gone to considerable expense in the execution of certain duties which, as your Chairman, I have had the honour to allocate to them from time to time. These conditions can only continue for a very short time, because with the growth of the helicopter movement, individuals who have given up so much of their time will be unable to devote as much time to the Association's affairs as heretofore. Therefore, the appointment of a permanent Secretary with office accommodation, etc., becomes more and more urgent and you are again urged to do all you possibly can to increase the membership so that our aims may be accomplished.

Also on the subject of membership, I am sure you will all be glad to hear that your Council has unanimously elected the first Honorary Member of the Association in person of JUAN DE LA CIERVA, the eldest son of the late Senor de la Cierva, as some small token of the esteem in which the memory of his father is held.

The Council have for some time given thought to an Association emblem and members have been requested to submit designs. We do not wish to rush this matter but I think we are all agreed that an emblem is desirable and we shall therefore welcome any further designs or your views upon this question.

Before closing, I desire to place on record the Association's appreciation of the work carried out by our Auditors, Messrs. W. B. Keen & Co. The partnership has taken a great interest in the Association since its formation and, further, their interest has been reflected in the kindly manner in which they have permitted the Association to make use of the premises at Finsbury Circus House, and the very low fees charged for professional and other services.

I desire also to say how we appreciate the advice and guidance which has been given so unstintingly by Mr. E. C. Rogers on the many occasions when it has been necessary to approach him. It is hardly too much to say that our finances would look anything but healthy except for the amount of gratuitous work put in by Mr. Rogers and his Staff.

#### THE FIRST DINNER, 1947

Following the Second Annual General Meeting the Association held its first Dinner on the evening of March 22nd, at The Old Red House in Bishopsgate in the City of London. The hope had previously been expressed that this would become an annual function, and such was the enthusiasm which greeted the proceedings, that there seems little doubt that this hope will be fulfilled. In all, some 75 members and guests attended.

Among the guests present were Captain J. Laurence Pritchard of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and Colonel R. L. Preston of the Royal Aero Club. The presence of directors of four of the major aircraft companies now projecting helicopters in this country was indeed very welcome, as was, of course, the presence of the technical press.

In replying to the toast of "The Guests", Colonel Preston stressed the importance of the Association being represented at the meetings of P.I.C.A.O. and very kindly offered the Association use of the facilities available at Londonderry House.

Captain Pritchard, following with the toast "The Helicopter Association", made some witty and very entertaining comments on the dangers of flying fixed wing aircraft, and welcomed the enthusiasm of the Association in embarking on the problems of rotating wings. He extended an invitation to the Chairman of the Association to use facilities at 4, Hamilton Place.

The Chairman, Mr. H. A. Marsh, thanked the guests on behalf of the Association, expressing his keen appreciation of their good wishes and further, for their very practical offers of assistance. He said that the

Association would be very glad indeed of all these offers, and hoped to be able to take advantage of them in the future.

A radio cablegram from mid-Atlantic was read to the assembled company from Doctor Bennett, Wing Commander Brie, and Captain Liptrot, who incidentally was recently elected to the Council. They sent their good wishes to the meeting, expressing regret that force of circumstances prevented them from being there in person.

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

"The Journal of The Helicopter Association of Great Britain" is the Official Technical Publication of the Association and is issued free to Members. Published Quarterly in June, September, December and March (15th of month).

Subscriptions: 25/- per annum, post free; single copies 6/6 post free.

"The Bulletin of the Helicopter Association of Gt. Britain" containing notice of events, fixtures and other matters of current interest will be issued (free to Members) from time to time.

## EDITORIAL NOTICES

Papers submitted for publication in the JOURNAL should be submitted to the CHAIRMAN, PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE, FINSBURY CIRCUS HOUSE, BLOMFIELD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

The submission of matter for publication will be understood to imply that it is offered to this journal alone.

If accepted for publication, the copyright of papers becomes the property of the Association; but they may be re-published by permission of the Council, provided due acknowledgement be made of their having appeared in the JOURNAL.

Papers should, if possible, be typewritten; they should be concisely written with subject matter logically arranged and sub-divided; and with indications of the position, in the text, of illustrations, tables, etc.

TITLES should be as brief as consistent with clarity; and in many cases the value of a paper is enhanced by a short SUMMARY at the end.

CHARTS, GRAPHS and DRAWINGS should be, if possible, in Indian ink on white board or strong paper; with detail and essential lettering large enough to be clearly legible after reduction if necessary.

ILLUSTRATIONS—if the number sent in is considered excessive, the author may be informed and given the opportunity of contributing to the cost.

COLOURED PLATES are made only at the author's expense.

Blocks made for illustrations may be purchased by the author at half cost price.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

In order to augment the funds necessary to publish the BULLETIN, the Council have inaugurated a scheme whereby the support of the aircraft industry and other interested bodies has been enlisted in the form of name space advertisements.

The Council would like to take this opportunity of thanking those firms who have already accepted the offer for their generous co-operation, and hope that others will follow suit.

All matters relating to Advertising should be addressed to the Publisher, (S. H. PILTON) at the Offices of the Association.

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