

THE HELICOPTER ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

EDITORIAL

At the monthly meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 31st May, one important aim was to inaugurate some means of keeping Members fully informed of the Association's activities. It was decided that a start could be made with the publication of a small news bulletin, and this issue is the first practical result.

It is possible to visualize a period ahead when, with adequate funds and a full-time secretarial staff, a more comprehensive publication will be a regular feature, worthy of the Association's activities. For the present, however, we must be content with a more modest outlook, and economy in the disbursement of funds must be the keynote.

The date of the next issue is therefore problematical, but that it will appear is certain, and as the Bulletin is intended mainly for the benefit of Members, suggestions and ideas for future issues will be welcomed.

As a matter of historical record, and for the benefit of those who were not able to be present at the First General Meeting held on 23rd March last, it may be of interest briefly to recapitulate here the story of why and how the Association came into being.

Before the late war, early pioneers and enthusiasts of rotating wing flight, both amateur and professional, kept interest alive and sharpened their

wits at informal, and usually impromptu, gatherings. September 1939 brought about the suspension of these activities and scattered far and wide those who had participated in them. However, the original flame was kept alive by the creation in May 1940 of an R.A.F. Autogiro Unit in Fighter Command, known later as No. 529 (Rota) Squadron, R.A.F., for active and important duties in connection with the calibration of the coastwise chain of R.D.F. Stations which formed a first line of defence against enemy air attack.

During the war period rotary wing research and development were conducted on a small scale in this country, but it is well known that great advances in the evolution of a practical helicopter were made in the United States of America.

News of the formation and activities of the American Helicopter Society, of which two of our members are Founder Members, revived that early interest in this country. After hostilities had ceased and prior to the disbandment of No. 529 Squadron, some of its members considered that it might be in the general interest of furthering the Art if a body on similar lines was formed in this country.

With the object of ascertaining that such an idea would be welcomed the original proposers of the scheme approached personally, or by correspond-

ence, most of those whom they knew to have been in some way engaged in or interested in the rotary wing movement. So enthusiastic was the response that it was decided, with this initial and assured Founder Membership, to undertake the formation of an Association.

As a result The Helicopter Association of Great Britain Limited (an Association limited by guarantee, being a non-profit making body) was formally registered on 27th December 1945.

From its inception the older and well established aeronautical bodies have been kept informed of the Association's existence, aims, and objects, and it is our desire to work in the closest relationship with them.

In this connection we are pleased to be able to report elsewhere in this issue the establishment of cordial working relations with the American Helicopter Society: an arrangement which we feel sure Members will welcome with satisfaction.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

H. A. Marsh, A.F.C. (Chairman)
 J. A. J. Bennett, D.Sc., F.R.Ae.S.
 C. G. Pullin, M.I.A.E., A.F.R.Ae.S.
 F. F. Crocombe, B.Sc., F.R.Ae.S.
 R. A. C. Brie, 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.
 S/Ldr. F. J. Cable, R.A.F.
 G. C. Turner, A.F.C.,
 Hon. Treasurer)
 M. S. Houdret.
 F/Lt. J. E. Harper, A.F.C., R.A.F.
 B. H. Arkell (Hon. Secretary)

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

This Committee was formed by the Executive Council to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Association, and is composed of members whose geographical location enables them to meet at frequent intervals for this purpose.

H. A. Marsh (Chairman)
 J. A. J. Bennett
 F. F. Crocombe
 R. A. C. Brie

H. M. Yeatman
 A. Carpmael
 N. J. G. Hill
 G. C. Turner (Hon. Treasurer)

The Hon. Secretary attends the meetings of this Committee in that capacity.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE AND EDITOR

To be appointed.

LIASON WITH AMERICAN HELICOPTER SOCIETY

R. A. C. Brie.

AUDITORS

Messrs. W. B. Keen & Co.,
 Finsbury Circus House, Blomfield Street, London, E.C.2.