

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
Fifth Annual General Meeting
OF
The Helicopter Association of Great Britain

President : J. G. WEIR, C.M.G., C.B.E., F.R.Ae.S

Chairman : H. A. MARSH, A.F.C., A.F.R.Ae.S.

The Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Place, London, W.1., on Saturday, 22nd April, 1950, at 3.0 p.m.

The notice convening the Meeting was read by the Honorary Secretary, who was then asked by the Chairman to read the Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting. This having been done, it was proposed by Mr. G. A. Ford and seconded by Mr. J. A. Cameron that the Minutes be approved. The resolution was carried unanimously and the Chairman signed the Minutes.

The Chairman announced that Mr. J. G. Weir had been asked to serve as President of the Association for a second term of office and that Mr. Weir had agreed to do so. After those present had signified their approval, Mr. Weir said he appreciated the honour very greatly, but hoped that, when the question of the choice of President came up for consideration next year, it would be borne in mind that he was opposed in principle to the re-election of the President for a continuing term.

The Chairman then announced the result of the election of new Members of the Council, these being : Messrs. O. L. L. Fitzwilliams, R. Hafner, R. N. Liptrot, re-elected. Messrs. N. E. Rowe, H. Grinsted, H. Roberts, and W. Stewart to fill the vacancies on the Council.

Mr. J. G. Theilmann proposed and Mr. C. C. Cooper seconded the approval of the new appointments to the Council, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The Honorary Treasurer then presented his report, and after a short discussion it was proposed by Mr. C. T. D. Hosegood and seconded by Mr. F. T. Meacock that the yearly accounts be approved. The proposal was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then presented the Annual Report of the Executive Council which was in the hands of all Members. The discussion which followed included the consideration of means of widening the activities of the Association so as to increase Membership. The possibility of reducing Membership fees was also raised but no immediate prospect of effecting this could be envisaged by the Vice-Chairman. The choice of subjects for the lectures was also discussed and the Chairman assured Members that every attempt was being made to meet the needs and wishes of the Members in this respect.

It was proposed by the Vice-Chairman and seconded by Mr. L. S. Wigdortchik and subsequently carried unanimously that the Annual Report be approved.

The Chairman then addressed the Members, after which the re-appointment of the Association's Auditors and Accountants, Messrs. W. B. Keen & Co., was proposed by Mr. A. McClements, seconded by Mr. O. L. L. Fitzwilliams and carried unanimously.

In the closing discussion the Chairman was asked for, and gave, the number of attendances of the retiring Council Members at Council Meetings, and stated that the possibility of giving this information on Ballot Papers had been considered by the Council. The absence of three of the newly appointed Council Members from the Meeting was referred to by a Member. The omission of any reference in the Chair-

man's speech to a recently formed consulting firm was queried, and the Chairman pointed out that he tried to list the notable achievements of the past year and not just the firms in the industry.

Finally in reply to a question as to whether those whose Membership had lapsed would be expected to pay entrance fees in the event of their rejoining the Association, the Chairman stated that all cases were considered on their merits.

The Meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.

Those present were then given a short address by Mr. Wigdortchik on his impressions and experiences obtained during his visit to the American Helicopter Society Forum in Philadelphia in March.

The Chairman's Address

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN : I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for 1949 of the Helicopter Association of Great Britain. Our Association has been in existence for five years, and during those years we have grown from a small body to a Society that is increasingly recognised. In this position, we now fulfil the most important aim of our formation—that is the authoritative dissemination of information and discussion on all aspects of rotating wing aircraft. In this field, we have earned for ourselves universal recognition, and we can count amongst our members representatives of all aspects of the art, from the scientists to the aircraft engineers and pilots who put the helicopters to their practical use.

As a background to this achievement, we have established a resourceful administration and office staff who, together with many voluntary helpers, have made all this possible. But it must not be forgotten that we owe the financial means of our progress to the generosity of the industry. We cannot, however, accept such help indefinitely, and your council has resolved that your Association should stand on its own feet during the next financial year. It is true that we had hoped to do this before, but this would have meant curtailing some of the development of the Association which we have believed to be necessary.

I am pleased to report again that our relations with other bodies, particularly the Royal Aeronautical Society, Royal Aero Club and the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators, have been as cordial as ever.

During the year we have suffered a reduction in our membership strength and although this was to be expected in view of the higher subscription rates, nevertheless it is imperative that we regain this loss. In this connection, your Council is doing everything in its power to attract new Members and I earnestly entreat all Members to do likewise.

Some innovations are being introduced such as the Advisory Panel, with the intention of rendering further services to Members and it is hoped that we shall be able to offer further advantages to prospective Members during the year.

In view of the vital importance of maintaining financial equilibrium, your Council is exercising every constraint upon expenditure and is, at the same time, actively concerned in increasing revenue. In this connection, I extend a hearty welcome to those new Council Members who have to-day been elected. Their services will be extremely valuable to us in this coming year.

We were able in the past year to combine the Annual Dinner with the occasion of the first lecture of the season, in the course of which our Guest of Honour, SIR GEORGE CRIBBETT (Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation), made a speech in which he affirmed his faith in the future of the commercial helicopter.

This arrangement of combining the first lecture and Annual Dinner, was found to be most satisfactory to all concerned and we intend to mark the opening of the lecture season in the same way during the coming year. Also, we hope to have some informal meetings during the Summer, although the nature of these have yet to be decided.