

YATES that the Accounts and Balance Sheet be accepted, and this was passed unanimously

The result of the Ballot for vacancies on the Executive Council was announced and it was proposed by Mr C COOPER and seconded by Lt-Col F L HODGESS, and subsequently carried, that the following successful nominees be elected to the Executive Council

Dr J A J BENNETT, F F CROCOMBE, G C TURNER re-elected

J S SHAPIRO, L S WIGDORTCHIK elected to fill the vacancies on the Council

Messrs W B KEEN & Co were re-appointed the Association's Auditors and Accountants for the coming year

The Chairman then said that the lecture programme for the coming session would shortly be under consideration and asked that any Members who have suggestions for this should communicate with the Honorary Secretary. He also asked for suggestions or assistance for the service of teas after meetings in which the Honorary Secretary felt that some improvements might be made over the present arrangements

The Meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

Ladies and Gentlemen In presenting the Annual Report of your Council, I would like to say a few words to amplify some of the points and also remark on some aspects not actually covered. It is inevitable that most of my remarks must overlap the report to a great extent but you will realise that this cannot be avoided. I do not propose to read the report itself as this has been in your possession for some time and it can be assumed that you have read it.

First of all I should like to extend a welcome to the new Council Members, whose names will be given to you later in the meeting. Also I should like to thank those retiring members, Messrs CARPMAEL and PULLIN, who have not sought re-election. These two gentlemen have been a tower of strength and it is with sincere regret that we lose their services.

As regards the financial state of the Association, we are obviously trying to build up our resources, as witnessed by the unanimous vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting to increase our subscriptions. Very careful consideration has to be given to every proposal which entails spending money and certain projects have been shelved on this account. We cannot be content until a really sound financial state is attained and this can be considerably assisted by members doing all in their power to attract new recruits. The new grade of Companion Member should materially assist in this respect.

There were 104 Members elected during the past year and Membership now stands at 320 total of all grades. This is not quite up to the target we set ourselves at the last Annual General Meeting, but it is a big step in the right direction.

The Journal, I am sure you will agree, is extremely well presented, and we have first hand knowledge as to how well it is received both at home and abroad. It is nearly self-supporting and by the end of the year, if progress continues at the same rate, it will be entirely so. The introduction by our Honorary Secretary of a "News Sheet" has also been well received by our Members and should do much to keep members informed of current events.

The outstanding event of the year's working is the acquisition of our own office, together with equipment. This has been made possible by the very generous response to a personal appeal which I made to a number of firms whose names have already been recorded. In connection with the office, I should say that a start has been made to get together a library for Members' use, and our thanks are due to Mr COLIN COOPER for the presentation of literature, etc., collected during his recent visit to the U.S.A. If any Members have suitable material to add to the library, we shall be very glad to accept it.

The Lectures arranged during the past session were very well attended and catered for a variety of tastes. One of the first jobs of the New Council must be to

plan for the next lecture session, and your ideas on any specific subjects will be welcomed. It is hoped to arrange a visit to the Cierva Autogiro Company during the summer, on the same lines as the visit to the Fairey Aviation Company last year.

It has been a year of real progress in helicopter development, both from the manufacturers' and operators' point of view. Crop-spraying has been carried out commercially for the first time in this country and abroad by British-owned companies and personnel. The helicopter world speed record has been captured by the Fairey Gyrodyne, a helicopter flying school has operated at Prestwick, and the first helicopter Air Mail contract given to the B.E.A. Helicopter Unit, which unit has also made great strides in night and blind flying development. The "Hare and Tortoise" operation showed the possibilities of really rapid travel between two great capitals, and, finally, first flights have been successfully carried out by the Westland Sikorsky, Cierva W 11 and Cierva W 14 helicopters.

At our last Annual General Meeting it was decided to give our Emblem a year's trial and, in the absence of adverse comment or better suggestion, it is proposed to adopt this emblem permanently.

The first award of the Cierva Memorial Prize Essay was made during the year for a paper of a very high order of merit and the sub-committee are now considering this year's entries. I would point out that the value of the prize is £25, and ask your support again this year for the essay, details of which will be announced shortly.

In connection with awards, it is very interesting to note that the Royal Aeronautical Society have made two of their major awards to Members of our Association—Mr W. STEWART, the Busk Memorial Prize, and Captain R. N. LIP TROT, the Bronze Medal. Mr ALAN BRISTOW has also been honoured by the Royal Aero Club.

Our thanks are due to Wing Cdr BRIE and members of the B.E.A. Helicopter Unit for the presentation of a framed set of first helicopter Air Mail Covers, which you may see on show here today and which may be studied at your leisure in our office.

I have again to report extremely pleasant relationships with other bodies, notably the Royal Aeronautical Society, Royal Aero Club and G.A.P.A.N., to whom our thanks are due for continued help and guidance.

Finally, on behalf of the Council and myself personally, I wish to thank all those Honorary Officers and Members of Sub-Committees, together with our Auditors and Accountants, who have made possible the smooth working of our Association during the past year. In particular I would mention our Vice-Chairman, Mr HILL, Honorary Secretary, Major RICHARDSON, and Chairman and Editor of the Journal Sub-Committee, Messrs SMETTEM and ARKELL, and, last but not least, our very hard-working and enthusiastic Assistant Secretary, Miss MACPHEE.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the meeting of the Executive Council on the 26th May, 1949, the following officers were unanimously re-elected for the coming year —

<i>Chairman</i>	H. A. Marsh, A.F.C.
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	N. J. G. Hill
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	G. C. Turner, A.F.C.
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Major J. W. Richardson

Mr J. S. SHAPIRO has been elected to serve on the Publications Sub-Committee as Technical Advisor.

Group Captain R. N. LIP TROT, Mr O. FITZWILLIAMS and Mr H. ROBERTS have been elected to serve on the Examining Panel for the 1949/50 Cierva Memorial Prize Essay Competition.