

The Annual General Meeting 2008



Notice is hereby given
for the Annual General Meeting of the
Light Aircraft Association which will take
place on November 22nd 2008
at Turweston Aerodrome
Northants

Admission to the AGM, which will commence
at 2.00pm, will be by production of a valid
membership card, which will be checked at
the door



Turweston Aerodrome's central location midway between Junction 15a of the M1 and Junction 10 of the M40.

From the A43, 1 mile north of Brackley, take the turning signposted Whitfield and Turweston Aerodrome. Follow the road through Whitfield village and continue for a further ¾ mile. The entrance to the Aerodrome is clearly signposted on the right-hand side.



HOW TO FIND US

The Annual General Meeting of the Light Aircraft Association

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Notified Motions
6. Election of Officers of the Association
 - Election J D N (Harry) Hopkins
 - Re-Election The Lord Rotherwick, James Tannock,
Paul Bird and Barry Plumb
7. Date and venue for the next AGM

Awards & Trophy Presentations

Post AGM Presentation

- Question and Answer Session

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Popular Flying Association
held at
Hucknall
01-09-2007**

Present:-

Sir John Allison (President)
Roger Hopkinson (Chairman)
P. Bird (minutes)
J. Brady EC
J. Tannock EC
R. Littledale
B. Plumb EC
S. Jackson EC
J. Broad EC
A. Twigg EC
L. Shaw EC
S. Luck EC
G. McDill EC
S. Robson EC
C. Mitchell EC
F. Donaldson (staff)
A. Draper (staff)
Other Members totalling 69 present

Apologies:-

S. Arnold EC
J. Clark EC
D. Corbett
J Harrison
G. Green
M. Jones
M. Mears
L. Williams
R. Hamblin
L. Benjamin
G. Newby (CEO)
D. Wise
D. Dunn
P. Barker
R. Ashbourne
C. Mort
K. Shelton
Lord Trefgarne
R. Boyton
Lord Rotherwick EC

At the appointed start time there were insufficient members present to form a quorum. In accordance with rule 17h the start was delayed for 20 minutes at which point the Chairman declared the meeting valid.

- 1) **Welcome:** Stewart Jackson welcomed all to the venue and the meeting was declared open at 1400 hrs.

The Chairman expressed good wishes to Graham Newby following his recent operation.

- 2) **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the previous AGM were approved, (proposed H. Hopkins 2nd J. Broad)

- 3) **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman read from a prepared text as follows:-

Welcome and thank you for attending.

Again this year we have made use of modern technology to save expense in delivering hard copy of the AGM booklet by making it available on the website. Hard copy has been available by application to the PFA office. I expect this to be the future format.

No motions or matters not requiring a rule change have been notified. However there are two motions requiring a Rule change. The first relates to a change in name of the Association and the second extending the potential period of tenure for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the National Council. These will be dealt with under item 5 of the Agenda. Once official business has been completed there will be a number of presentations covering our Engineering and Events activities as well as our plan to carry out a "members Survey". If time permits we will run a Q&A session.

When I reported last year we seemed to have a daunting set of issues before us. Worryingly our financial position had deteriorated to such an extent that whilst we were not broke, as we had reserves for our proposed new HQ building, shareholders funds after 60 years of operation had gone negative. The HQ position itself was, to say the least, troublesome. It was costing valuable cash to resolve and we had had, despite the sterling efforts of the support group, another Rally financial loss. Consultation and lobbying, both domestically and particularly in Europe was becoming ever more important in shaping our future and pursuing our overall mission of affordable flying. And to cap all that we were seeing a small but ongoing membership decline.

All that would be a significant challenge for any organisation. I can tell you it is even more so for an Association which relies very heavily on its volunteer effort. Fortunately we have some very dedicated members working throughout the Association as well as an outstanding Staff team.

So where are we now?

Bob Littledale, our Treasurer, will be giving a presentation on the Accounts when I have finished this report. However in summary 2006 saw a turn around from a loss of £19K to a profit of £53K and a return to positive shareholders' funds. I am expecting a similar or better result for 2007 and if that trend continues we should by the following year be able to report on a balance sheet worthy of an organisation of over 60 years standing. It will though require continued vigilance and close financial management to achieve that.

The ongoing saga of the new HQ remains to some extent just that – a saga. I sometimes wonder if we could make hay from the issue by selling the television rights. Though I doubt the audience could stand a new soap. In short the appeals procedure as I write continues its course. However our strategy is clear. Unless we both achieve planning consent and more importantly see at Turweston ongoing development of the site which must be consistent with where we would wish to be and one that will give our association an appreciating asset both in cash and operational terms we should not invest there. We have every expectation that such developments will happen, however until they do the final move to build at Turweston must remain in the pending tray.

One of our very visible changes has been the move to Regional Rallies. Strictly that is not a 2006 activity, though I feel bound to comment. A presentation on this will be given by Steve Robson after the formal proceedings. Something had to be done to deal with the ongoing financial risk and drain of the Rally. The idea of regional Rallies has had mixed reactions - though overall I detect some good things and a healthy initial success. It is a pity the weather has not favoured the events this year. The team have done well and I would particularly like to thank them and the Struts for supporting these events. Some things though need attention. Lessons have been learnt and these will be acted upon next year. In particular there is clearly an issue in respect of airside access to PFA members which Steve will address later.

We are currently setting up an Educational Trust fund to help us promote Educational and Training activities generally. Last year Struts had some success in gaining grants for activities and through a trust fund we plan to do that in a more organised and effective manner. Unfortunately the demands and processes of the Charities Commission are making that a hard road – but we are getting there.

Consultation activity is not formally on the agenda today. It could take up the whole day were we to report on all that is going on. Generally we work with GA Alliance in UK and in Europe with Europe Air sports and well as with other associations both nationally and In Europe, however two achievements note mention. Firstly avoidance of Eurocontrol air navigation charges for VFR flights under two tonnes in open FIR and secondly in UK the current work to address the Avgas duty changes, which could otherwise increase significantly. The latter is in progress though success is close. Both of these have and will save our members significant cost if not actually allowing them to continue flying at all. In Europe the EASA scene is complex but we are on the brink of what will in effect be a European version of the NPPL allowing flying across Europe with sensible medical and training requirements. Then there is the European Light Aircraft category which is expected to be a European Version akin to the US Light sport category but with a wider specification being below 1000 KG – a new category offering flying potential to many in which PFA has been a lead player, influencing directly the regulation. These efforts, though often tiresome, expensive and time consuming, are yielding real savings and potential for our hobby.

On specific areas of interest, after much debate it seems there is light at the end of the tunnel on our efforts to change the over flight restriction applicable to Permit to Fly aircraft. Also Barry will be reporting later on our efforts to promote an “experimental category”.

Finally on the consultation issues I would like to report the recent formation of the European Federation of Light, Experimental and Vintage Aircraft. A grouping of like minded associations in Europe to influence in our favour the interests of our hobby at European political level. There are similar organisations for other aviation communities – and at last we are progressing that to continue to support our interests. I anticipate some significant involvement in this.

On the Engineering support front we have already recorded 8 rather than our normal 6 new types added per annum to our aircraft options. The operation still suffers when a major issue demands their full attention such as an incident investigation and resolution. However the record does show improving service. In that area we are pleased to note the support of new faces. Andy Draper our design engineer, Nigel Bamber who supports design analysis and more recently Malcolm McBride in the airworthiness side. A most capable team to support this vital area. As I said there will be a report on Engineering activities after the formal proceedings.

Before concluding I would like to formally thank those who work to support and progress our Association for our members. The commitment of the full time staff is outstanding. We are fortunate in having a fantastic band of inspectors and pilot coaches. There is much that goes on at Strut level, including National Council and especially in the education and youth area where we lead in educating young people in the delights and educational value of our hobby I would particularly thank fellow EC members and especially the officers of the Association and Chairmen of sub committees for their efforts to progress the association. I would also like to thank our President who is both active and a great supporter. Thank you. (I hope I have not missed anyone out!)

I have one specific announcement to make. After 8 years in post our Chief Executive Graham Newby has decided it is time to reduce his PFA workload and spend more time on other areas of interest in his life. He will not be leaving immediately as we are

managing this over the near future so that Graham will be in place to ensure identification and a good handover to a new incumbent. I suspect he may be here at the next AGM in one guise or another – meanwhile I would like to thank him not just for his exceptional support to the Association, well beyond the call of duty, but also for working to ensure a change at the top is properly managed.

Finally, and vitally I would like to turn to the future. Many of the issues I referred to earlier are being addressed, however one is fundamental to us all – a declining membership. You will soon be having a presentation on the proposed name change and the rationale behind it, so I will only comment briefly. I would though point out that this has been brought forward from a suggestion by the National Council. If we are to grow we must move with the times and progress opportunities that are within our remit whilst satisfying our existing members. We need an image that portrays to potential members what we are and what we do and in doing so make them want to be part of us. The arguments have been debated and explained and will be covered again today. The EC support for this is unanimous and we have a 95% support vote from the National Council, who as I said made the initial suggestion. I have been heartened by the few dissenters who once they have seen the argument take a favourable view. I must make one point though, and make it very strongly: a new image is simply a platform to present existing and new benefits to current and future members our plans will be worthless if they are not followed through and whilst that is largely the duty of the stalwart group of activists and staff it will in fact be up to all of us to take that forward and grow the Association. That is the nature of a Members Association. We might and indeed have had a good year but there is much still to do.

4) Treasurer's Report: R. Littledale presented and explained the Balance Sheet which should be considered part of these minutes.

Questions were taken and answered as follows:

- a/ Cost of proposed name change estimated at £5k
- b/ Interest on HQ account goes into HQ account
- c/ £100k is considered a "fair" reserve.
- d/ £25k written off planning costs

5) Rule Changes: Two rule changes were put to the meeting:

1/ The National Council Chairman's period of office should be for a maximum of 5 years, renewable annually. This motion was proposed by J. Brady seconded by S. Jackson. The proposal was approved unanimously.

2/ Name change of the Popular Flying Association to the Light Aircraft Association. Presentations were first given by James Tannock (EC) and Roger Knights (Marketing Consultant), outlining the reasons for the change. These were followed by a brief but lively debate mostly in favour of the change. James Tannock then formally proposed the change, seconded by Roger Hopkinson. Result, 64 for, 3 against, 2 abstained.

The name change is to be implemented on 1st January 2008.

6) Awards: The following awards were then presented:

Lois Parker Trophy awarded to **Barry Plumb** "for his high level of commitment to PFA and its activity within Europe".

Frank Hounslow Trophy awarded to **John Horsfall**, a PFA inspector from Scotland.

Pete Clark Trophy awarded to **Graham Newby** "for his tireless work on European pilot licensing and other European issues that provide us with a harmonised safe environment for light aircraft".

Chris Paul Trophy (The Presidents Joystick) awarded to **Steve Robson** "for his great effort in arranging a programme of Regional Rallies".

Swalesong Trophy Not awarded this year.

Tiger Club Trophy awarded to **David Mickleburgh** for the design of the "Mickleburgh Sparrow".

PFA/ULAA Diamond Jubilee Award (certificate) awarded to **Rod Ashworth** "Chairman of one of the PFA's most successful groups, The Gloster Aero Group, for over 30 years and has been a source of encouragement to the members of the Gloster Strut since its inception. He was also Chairman of the local branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a member of the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators, and in those organisations helped to raise the profile of the PFA".

7) EC Membership:

The chairman made the following statement:-

Before proceeding with this item I would like to remember Cliff Piper one of the longest serving EC members. I was with Cliff on the evening when he received a Silver Medal from the Royal Aero Club from the Duke of York for his support to our hobby. He was in good spirits; little did I know he would pass away that night. Knowing Cliff he is watching us now!

I would also like to thank Colin Mitchell, ex Chairman of PFA for 6 years who has decided not to stand for re-election. Colin has done much for the association and has always been a willing hand to step in when it seemed nobody else was available. Colin thank you.

Standing for re-election were David Corbett, John Brady and Alan Twig.

Standing for election were Bob Littledale, Brian Hope and Mike Barnard.

All were unanimously elected to serve on the Executive Committee for the ensuing three years.

Vice President:

Stuart Jackson was proposed by EC and unanimously elected as Vice President,

The meeting was officially closed at approximately 1600 hrs and was followed by presentations by subcommittee chairmen.

Rule Change Proposals for Annual General Meeting 2008

Motion 1

Liability of EC Members.

The EC has been informed by our legal advisors, that a risk exists such that EC members who are not Directors of PFA (Ulair) Ltd might be found individually liable for unlimited damages, in the event of successful litigation against the LAA. This is because PFA (Ulair) Ltd, as the operating company is subservient to EC, according to the rules of the Association. EC members who are Directors of PFA (Ulair) Ltd are protected by limited liability, while other EC members are unprotected. At present Rule 7a limits directorships to EC members of more than one years standing, and makes other provisions for the appointment and dismissal of directors which may leave EC members exposed to unlimited liability in certain circumstances. The EC considers that changes must be brought forward as a matter of urgency to address this issue. As an interim measure, it is proposed that Rule 7a be revised.

Note that the EC intends to bring forward more comprehensive proposals for restructuring of the Association, to a future General Meeting.

Present Rule 7a

7a. Appointment and Dismissal of Directors

The directors of the Company shall be appointed by the committee. There shall be not less than three directors from the committee who shall include the chairman and two vice-chairmen of the Association.

Directors shall be:

- 1) Committee members of not less than one year's standing.
- 2) The chief executive officer for the time being of the company.

Proposed Rule 7a

7a. Directors

All members of the committee shall normally be appointed as directors of the Company at the first meeting of the committee following the AGM. The Chief Executive for the time being of the Company shall also be a director. The committee may agree to appoint further directors or to dismiss directors. Decisions taken by, and actions of, members of the committee in respect of the Association are considered as being undertaken in their role as a Director of the Company.

Such appointments shall be made at the meeting of the committee after the annual general meeting of the Association. Casual vacancies may be filled and directors may be dismissed by the committee at any time.

Proposed by: James Tannock - LAA Membership No 026351

Seconded by: John Brady - LAA Membership No 031926

Motion 2

Amendments to the definitions regarding classes and categories of membership.

The committee consider that members should have a choice about their use of the services provided by the association and the subscription they pay for them. It has therefore been proposed that the categories of membership should be changed to allow this.

Present Definition 1

Classes and Categories of Membership, rights and privileges

1. Full Members

Full members shall have all the rights and privileges that the Association shall grant, which will include a free copy of the house magazine, services of the engineering department, the right to vote at general meetings.

Proposed Definition 1

Classes and Categories of Membership, rights and privileges

1. Full Members

There are 2 categories of ordinary full member:

Full Members shall have all the rights and privileges that the Association shall grant, which will include a copy of the house magazine and the right to vote at general meetings but no access to the services of the engineering department.

Full Members Plus shall have all the rights and privileges that the Association shall grant, which will include a copy of the house magazine, services of the engineering department, the right to vote at general meetings.

Proposed by: Mike Barnard - LAA Membership No 028922

Seconded by: Barry Plumb - LAA Membership No 004204