



Swiss Branch Summer Lunch (6 June 2015) Alan Baker

Was it simply good luck to have another sunny and warm day on which to enjoy a boat ride to Yvoire and the ambience of that lovely lakeside village? Certainly, the event organiser had kept a close eye on occasional storm clouds during the days leading up to 6 June and hoped that the D-Day + 70 weather would not imitate that of 1944.

Is the Branch Summer Lunch in Yvoire becoming a tradition? Well, its popularity is such that the 2015 event was fully-booked within a short time of its announcement. RAFA shares the occasion with the Royal British Legion and again extended an invitation to the British Residents Association to join us in Yvoire. After enjoying a lakeside *vin d'honneur*, kindly offered by the Hotel Restaurant du Port, and after raising our glasses in memory of those who had served a common cause on D-Day, guests from near and far were soon seated and engaged in lively chat. Any attempt to honour diets was soon forgotten as we enjoyed a very substantial and delicious meal (including *Salade Fraicheur/Melon & Jambon Cru*, the ubiquitous *Filets de Perches Frits* and a tempting *Tarte aux Framboises*). Indeed, a suggestion was made to follow the American habit of taking home filled “doggy bags”.

Bravo, everyone in the Hotel Restaurant du Port Team for again providing a super meal, in an efficient and friendly manner.

Should we explore new locations and new menus for future years? Some guests spoke up on the day in favour of reserving the same restaurant now for the Summer Lunch in 2016. Nevertheless, your democratic Committee encourages your input. Please tell us about your own preference - your likes & dislikes - and optional locations. A simple email to alanbaker@bluewin.ch is all that's necessary.



Left to right:

Gladys Greinig, Ian Greinig, Brian Wanstall, Margaret Duff, Bryan Pattison, John McKillop, Alain Dardelin, Marianne Wanstall.

L-R: John Spicer, Anne Spicer, Jo Smith, Sonia Heptonstall



Graham Robertson with Margaret Duff



L-R: Alan Baker, Pauline Nicholls, Janine Darphin, Jean Darphin, Brita Baker



L-R: John Heptonstall, Barry Williams



L-R:
Régis Pizot, Simone. Meyer, Nick Meyer, Sandra Darra



Simone and Nick Meyer

Alain Dardelin (from the back), Ian Greinig, Brian Wanstall, John McKillop (from the back), Margaret Duff, Di Robertson



Alan Baker advertising with Pauline Nicholls



This year's Annual Conference held at the Congress Theatre, Devonshire Park Centre in Eastbourne welcomed once again delegates, members and visitors from Branches of the UK, mainland Europe and further afield.

For the second year running, the stage adopted its barren look with participants reduced to a minimum: RAFA Pres-

ident, Sir Dusty Miller, and the Chairman of the Annual Conference Committee (ACC) Mr Anthony "Taff" Rees. They would subsequently invite speakers to join them to deliver their report.



Following the formal opening ceremony made by Mrs Janet Coles, Mayor of Eastbourne, Sir Dusty Miller and the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, Chaplain-in-Chief RAF, the Conference proper could start. The theme for this year was Volunteering and Membership, two of many contributions without which the Association would not thrive.

Various reports were presented. Mr Nick Bunting, Secretary General, reported on the Association's achievements during 2014: increased membership, provision of welfare care and support to veterans, helping serving personnel to keep in touch with their families: Storybook Wings, free wi-fi at selected RAF Stations.

Mr David Prowse, Director of Membership and Operations (DMO), discussed the necessity to recognise the commitment of volunteers without whom the Association would not be able to provide help and support to the needy. He also emphasised the importance that members recruited today maintain their membership in the future to compensate the downward trend observed in the 1970s and 1980s.

During on-stage interviews, Mr Tim Humphries, radio presenter with the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) received the testimony of four volunteers including a 93-year old lady, Mrs Ena Day, who has been a "willing worker" for RAFA for 68 years.

ACM Sir Andrew Pulford, Chief of the Air Staff, provided an update on current RAF activities, capabilities and challenges of the Service. His report was followed by the presentation of Flying Scholarships to successful Cadets.

Unexpectedly, the President declared at 12.15 that it was time to break for lunch before returning to the venue at 14.00 for the afternoon sessions, at which time all delegates were given a handset to enable them to vote electronically at the relevant sessions.



Delivery of reports resumed with that of AVM Nigel Bairsto, Chairman of Central Council who reviewed the achievements of the Association in 2014 highlighting that Wings Appeal raised over £4.5 million and that 3,774 new members were recruited, whilst the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Philip Tagg, gave a comprehensive financial report for 2014.



Conference delegates were then invited to cast their votes on 16 Resolutions using the £8,000 novel gadgets that would make voting by show of hands and cards a thing of the past. However, after test votes were run, it appeared that the novelty did not live up to expectations and the President decided to revert to the traditional voting cards provided in our delegate's pack as back-up. Once again past experience paid off. Out of the 16 Resolutions, nine were carried, three were lost and four were withdrawn or fell.

On the Saturday evening, Sir Dusty presented Awards and Trophies during the Gala Evening at the Floral Hall. Entertainment was provided by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force (which carried out a lively Marching Display), the Squadronaires Band and singing by "Heather Marie" with husband Flt Lt Matt Little.



On Sunday morning, the rain of the previous days gave place to bright sunshine. There was a parade of Standards and Area Flights led by the Central Band of the RAF along the route from the Lifeboat Museum to the Bandstand. The Mayor of Eastbourne and the President took the salute. This was followed by the Service of Dedication by the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, and a flypast by a Spitfire of the BBMF bearing the

black and white D-Day stripes on the wings and fuselage.

The Agenda not having been completed on the Saturday afternoon, we all then retired to the Congress Theatre for the presentation of Parade Trophies and final debate on Resolutions.

SOLAR IMPULSE 2—WORLD RECORD

It is probably the most amazing technological and human flight of the century. Solar Impulse 2 landed at Kalaleoa Airport, Hawaii piloted by André Borschberg at 05.55 local time after a “perilous non-stop flight of five days and nights”.

TIME OF DEPARTURE	28/06/2015 18:03 UTC
TIME OF ARRIVAL	03/07/2015 15:55 UTC
FLIGHT TIME	4 Days 21 Hours



52 Minutes

DISTANCE 7,212 km

MAX ALTITUDE 8,634 m

AVERAGE GROUND SPEED 61.19 km/h

This is the longest exploration leg to date of the Solar Impulse Round-The-World Project. Solar Impulse will take off for its ninth flight from Hawaii to Phoenix. Phoenix Sky Harbor gave Solar Impulse an incredibly warm welcome back in 2013 as Si1 flew across the USA.

The ninth leg from Hawaii to Phoenix is a hefty 4,707 kilometres or 2,542 nautical miles. Just as with the leg from Nagoya, Japan, weather will be crucial. The ‘met’ window will close in early August.

The Project is a more-than-convincing “clean technology” demonstrator. As at July 7, Solar Impulse 2 was undergoing maintenance at Kalaleoa, Hawaii. Swiss explorers Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg are the founders, pilots and driving force behind Solar Impulse, the first airplane of perpetual endurance, able to fly day and night without a drop of fuel. By attempting the first Round the World Solar Flight, they want to demonstrate that clean technologies and renewable energies can achieve the impossible. For the Solar Impulse team, pioneering spirit and innovation can change the world.

The Round-The-World flight started from Abu Dhabi, on March 9. The route included stop-overs in Oman, India, Myanmar and China. After trying to cross the Pacific Ocean via Hawaii, Si2 should fly across the U.S.A. and over the Atlantic Ocean, heading back to Abu Dhabi.

Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg are our intrepid pilots and the driving force behind this “cleantech” project.



One for our diaries – lest we forget

On **Friday 18 September**, BBC Radio 2 will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain with a day of live broadcasts from Biggin Hill, including a Friday Night Is Music Night special, broadcast live on Red Button and cinemas around the UK.

The Fairey Battle

Bryan Pattison

An educational poem was submitted to 'This England' by Vivian Hollands living in Canada. Vivian had acquired it through the estate of a Canadian aeronautical engineer, James Joseph 'Jim' Houston, and is written in the style of Stanley Holloway. The editor for Poets' Corner of This England, Susan Kelleher, did some research and found it to be a light-hearted portrayal of the pre-war aviation industry when the RAF placed a large order for Battle light bombers with the Fairey Aviation Company. The poem was written by someone who signed himself "Hodg" who may well have been an employee of Fairey or perhaps Jim Houston himself.

Battles went into production at Stockport/Ringway in 1937

and the Battle had the distinction of being the first operational aircraft to enter the war with a Merlin engine, and of scoring the first aerial victory. However, they ultimately proved too slow and suffered heavy losses and so were withdrawn from combat by the end of 1940.

As an aside the Fairey Swordfish was a contemporary of the Battle but unlike the Battle saw active service throughout the Second World War.



The Evolution of an Aviation Factory in the Environment of Stockport "Hodg"

You've 'eard what it says in the Bible,
Ow, when a chap 'its you on't cheek
You let 'im take smack at your other
And never say nowt, so to speak.
But if a chap gets bold by such kindness
And wipes both his clogs on your 'at
You can start a rearmament programme,
'Cos the Bible says nowt about that.

Well that's just what 'appenned to Britain
In the year nineteen thirty and six,
They decided 'twas time to sit up like
Instead of just taking all t'kicks.
Then the brass 'ats in London got busy
And said "Put our Air Force in t'sky."
But the blokes in the Air Force said "Nark it,
We've sweet Fanny Adams to fly."

Then someone said "Let's send for Fairey
'Cos 'e keeps an aeroplane shop,
And perhaps we'll get 'old of some cheaply
If we offer to take all 'e's got."
Well then they approached Mr. Fairey,
'E said with a quiet kind of grin,
"I'll build you some beautiful bombers,
Real shiny ones made out of tin."

"Then you'd better get crackin'" said Swinton
"And tell all your men to work fast,
We'll order a couple of thousand,
And we'd like 'em a week before last."
Well the week before last were not long like,
But it didn't cause any dismay,
For they built a new works up in Stockport
And that took a week and a day.

Then Fairey said, "Where's Major Barlow?
I'd just like a word with thee Tom,
They're a gormless lot up there i' Stockport
And they don't know a brick from a bomb,
But I've 'eard they can work like the Dickens
If someone will give them a job."

And Major said "Leave it to me Sir",
Then 'e borrowed a couple o' bob
And ran all the way 'ome to the missus
With 'is V8 tucked under 'is seat,
And said "Get me suit out of pawn luv,
We're off up to Stockport to-neet."

Then things fairly started to 'appen,
And before you could 'ardly say Go
They's drilling machine and six foremen
And a picture of Battle to show.
The pace that they set was terrific
They made twenty-six rivets one week.
There was only ten 'oles where to put 'em,
So the Major said "Buck-up" in Greek.

But nevertheless notwithstanding
The very first Battle was done;
'Twas nowt like designer had thought of
But 'e only draws 'em for fun.
And out of the sweat and the turmoil,
With a few mods to keep the job clean,
With the wind at their backs and freewheeling,
They've turned out the umpteenth machine.

Produced by courtesy of 'This England', Summer, 2015.

A Visit to Shoreham Airport Ian Ferguson

On a recently organised visit to Shoreham Airport we were welcomed by the **Real Flying Co.** and introduced to their small collection of 'interesting' aircraft. First of these was an elderly biplane instantly acclaimed by most with, "Ah, a Tiger Moth; good old Tiger Moth".

"No," said the smiling young lady - with a faint air of superiority - at which point I cut in and said, "No. It's obviously a Stampe - probably an SV-4b". Stunned silence! Finally said young lady managed, "Er, an SV-4c actually." My day was complete. My reputation soared.

I have never let on that when she said "No" to the Tiger Moth I had a flashback to a previous "Roundel" (actually April 2014) and the astonishing story of Mike Donnet, the Belgian ace and his repairing and stealing, under the eyes of the occupying Germans, of a - yes - a Stampe SV-4b. I chanced my luck and as they say - the rest is - a borrowed reputation!

So, yes, hurrah for "Roundel". Proof, if proof were needed, a copy of their souvenir postcard of their Stampe flying. But there's more. Having established my authority, it was easy to move on to another of their 'oldies', a venerable Chipmunk.

For me this called up memories of Southampton University Air Squadron at the old Air Service Training (AST) airfield at Hamble, one of my 'out-station' responsibilities in the early '50s. The instructors were all ex-wartime pilots—a delightful crew—with unbelievable stories, who passed their time trying to find the Chipmunk's limits—as in flying inverted round the Isle of Wight, or buzzing the occasional ship. A particular party trick was bursting balloons with the aircraft's wheels. Prior to Farnborough, Hamble would also host Avro Canada's test pilot who would treat us to sneak previews of what he had in store for the actual air show such as the famous 'Cartwheel' and 'Falling Leaf' evolutions. Yes, we saw it first at little leafy Hamble. Shoreham is also

home to a brace of Harvards, even more indestructible than the 'Chippie'. The South Downs offer a tempting arena for their aerobatics and their unmistakable whining roar is an immediate invitation to stop everything and simply enjoy.



Glières—part 2

In the April "Roundel" we ran a report on the ceremony held at Glières across the border. For layout (space) reasons part of that report was cut. Sadly, the part sacrificed removed any mention of RAFA post-ceremony. We take pleasure in publishing that part of the report here:

"An excellent lunch enabled us to thank Général Jean-René Bachelet and his Association des Glières organising team for their welcome and their hospitality, as well as increasing RAFA's identity amongst veterans of this and other battles now gradually fading into history."

Diary Dates

17-25 July, Basel Tattoo
22 August, Plateau des Daines Commemoration
3-5 September Avenches Tattoo
20 September Battle of Britain, CWGC Vevey
25 October, Montcony
30 October-1 November, European Area Conference, Jersey

New members

We are pleased to welcome as Associate Members:

John Spicer

Laurent Tierque (former Associate—resumed)

After many successful years of producing Roundel our editing team (Brian Wanstall and Eric Dalzell) have decided that it is time to pass on the baton to a fresh team. Is there anyone out there who would like to get involved with producing four editions of Roundel each year? Please reply to me and/or Brian W as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Bryan P Bryan.Pattison@cern.ch and/or WanstallB@bluewin.ch

Our Chairman Bob Hunt started with welcoming the European Area Council with His Excellency Air Marshal Peter Walker, Air Marshal Sir Christopher Coville and Doctor Pattison, two of our Life vice-Presidents. Unfortunately, Air Vice-Marshal Neville Howlett (3rd Life Vice President) was unable to attend.

Our guest speaker Mr. David Prowse, RAFA's Director of Membership and Operations gave a presentation about membership. A welcome was given to the fellow councillors of the European Area and also a special welcome was given to Flt Lt 'Spike' Milligan, our RAFALO Representative on the Area Council. Finally he welcomed our 14 delegates and RAFALOs as well as all our visitors. A warm welcome was also given to Sarah Waugh our new Overseas Area Director.



L-R: AM Sir Christopher Coville, Malcolm Mason, Bob Hunt, HE AM Peter Walker, Mick O'Connell, Peter Clarke.

Congratulations were extended to:

The Republic of Ireland, Jersey and Costa Blanca Branches for recruiting respectively 31, 12 and 11 new members during 2014;

Joint Force Command Brunssum, winners of the Ken Jago Trophy, for the highest net Wings Appeal collection per capita for an Overseas RAF Unit;

The Jersey branch winners of the Trefusis Forbes Trophy, which is awarded to the Overseas Branch with an Air Show, having collected what amounted to £274.51 per member;

The Luxemburg branch winners of the Bill Bailey Trophy, which is awarded to the Overseas Branch without an Air Show, having the highest Wings Appeal net per capita (£138.89 per member).

The Overseas Membership Trophy (Overseas Branch % Membership increase (19%) and The Amodio Trophy for overseas Branches (highest number of new members= 41) both given to Trinidad & Tobago.

The agenda had 23 items, where readers will be able to see details in the minutes which will be sent from Headquarters.

No Resolutions.

Delegates then accepted the recommendations from the Area Council regarding the appointment of our new Area President (Air Marshal Philip Sturley – from October 2015) and Service Vice President (Air Marshal Graham Stacey).

Election of the Elected Members to Area Council - our colleague Sean Brady from Lyon Branch was not elected. Elected Members were P. Clarke-Jersey, P. McWilliams-Republic of Ireland. We also had Reports of Area Council given by the Chairman, the Service Vice-President, the Central Council Representative, the RAFALO Representative as well as Branch Reports and presentation of various Trophies.

The Presentation by Director Membership & Operations, Mr. Davis Prowse, was very interesting, especially graphs which showed the evolution of memberships over the years. Some of the data given (4 new Branches, 3,774 new members in 2014. Total membership today is 58,000, 33% of RAF personnel are members of RAFA. The assets of the Association today are £26m.

The conclusion was given by HE Air Marshal Peter Walker who said that the Council had been very embarrassed some months ago. No Overseas Area Director had been nominated after the departure of Simon Martin who had correctly given notice in advance to RAFA Headquarters. He mentioned that the Council was very angry with CHQ about this point. The Council was therefore very pleased to have Sarah as they had been worried at one stage that they would be without an Overseas Area Secretary.