

CONTRAIL

The Retired Staff Association Magazine for CAA & NATS pensioners <https://caa-rsa.org.uk>

“All Members” Edition

RSA22 AGM and GALA WEEKEND, a great success



(Including the weather)

RSA23 Bournemouth Carlton Hotel 21 - 23 April 2023



All aboard for a Spring Weekend by the sea-side, in the 4-star comfort of Bournemouth's cliff top Carlton Hotel, including Evening Entertainment and Saturday Programme.

Please “diary” the date and lookout for advance details in Contrail and on the RSA website.

PLUS

The return of the RSA Annual Reunion

Thursday 27th October 2022, noon- 4pm

The venue is yet to be announced

Pre-booked only. A buffet lunch and cash bar.

Come along and meet old friends & colleagues.

Further information will appear on the RSA website and in the next Contrail.

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FROM YOUR CHAIR

Andy Maynard

Hello everyone,

This is my first Contrail contribution as your newly elected Chair.

After a two-year gap, April saw the re-introduction of our annual gala weekend and face to face AGM. No-one was more excited than me at this prospect and to be able to speak to you at the AGM. However, just days before, the dreaded Covid struck both myself and our Secretary, Tony Motture. My thanks to Colin Chisholm and John Doig for standing in for both of us at short notice and enabling the AGM to continue as planned.

By all accounts it was a great weekend and a full report is contained within. My thanks to Ted Tilly and Phil Holt who made it possible. Their work over the years is much appreciated, especially with the difficulties caused by two years of Covid cancellations.

Looking forward, we have a new revitalised committee, with a new Chair, Vice Chair, relatively new Contrail Editor, new Membership Secretary, combined with the experience of existing committee members, including Anne Noonan, who remains on the committee. It is good to see that people are still willing to give up their free time to help the Association, whether it be at a National or a local level.

One of our priorities for 2022, post Covid, is to see how we can improve our engagement with members, utilising the tools we have at our disposal, such as Contrail, social media and the Website. Please don't hesitate to contact any of the committee if you have any ideas, suggestions, or queries.

I will also remain overseeing the travel club and social media.

This edition of Contrail is what we call our "All Members" edition as it covers the AGM report. To receive the September, December and March editions, you must subscribe to the £1 per month membership. So please contact our Membership Secretary if you need to upgrade your membership.

Best Regards. - *Andy*

Contrail

Echoing the comments from Andy, if you are having problems receiving Contrail, or you are not receiving the expected quarterly editions, then please email the Membership Secretary, Duncan Boulton and he will check it out for you.
(membership@caa-rsa.org.uk)

If you would like to change to the subscription membership, then contacting Duncan is a good first step. However, if you are happy with working on-line, then the on-line application is readily available at **https://caa-rsa.org.uk/olappf**

(And if you opt for Contrail via email, rather than the post, then it helps keep our printing and distribution costs under control, Ed)

Full details of RSA membership and the benefits are available at **https://caa-rsa.org.uk/membership.html**

Solution for March 2022

Crossword

Across:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Actor | 6. Priming | 12. Shovelled |
| 13. Mir | 14. Sated | 15. Isolate |
| 16. Amen | 17. Pail | 18. Yes |
| 19. Penniless | 22. Brat | |
| 23. Saree | 24. Series | 26. Vinyl's |
| 27. Poets | 28. Kink | 29. Injecting |
| 31. Met | 33. Rune | 34. Tide |
| 35. Abiding | 37. Tonga | 38. Con |
| 39. Beleaguer | 40. Hosiery | |
| 41. Gassy | | |

Down:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Assay | 2. Chameleon | |
| 3. Totes | 4. Oven | 5. Red |
| 6. Pliant | 7. Resin | 8. Idolising |
| 9. Imagery | 10. Nit | 11. Greases |
| 17. Peas | 19. Prescribe | |
| 20. Lank | 21. Selvedges | |
| 22. Bite | 24. Spinach | |
| 25. Rejoins | 26. Vine | 28. Kingly |
| 30. Tuner | 31. Minus | 32. Teary |
| 34. Toga | 36. Boo | 37. Tag |

NEXT COPY DATE

Please ensure all contributions are with the editor by not later than

1 August 2022
for September 2022 issue

EDITORIAL



Welcome to the June edition of Contrail. To those who only receive this "All Members" edition, I am the new editor of Contrail, having stepped in to replace

Bob Connolly after he decided to retire from the post last year. And to those who receive the quarterly editions, hi it's me again!!!

The RSA22 AGM and gala weekend was held in April near Cambridge, and a good time was had by all. A big, big thank-you to Ted Tilly, Phil Holt and the team from the London and Home Counties Branch who organised the weekend and made sure that everything ran smoothly. And a big thanks to whoever persuaded the "Weather Genie" to give us good weather for the whole weekend.

RSA23 will be held in Bournemouth next year and I would encourage everyone to think about attending - it's a lovely way to catch up with old friends and colleagues.

Our request, in the last Contrail, for hard copies of Contrail no's 134, 135 and 136 was successful. This should allow Ted Pillinger to complete his archive of printed editions, from 1984 to date. So thank you again from the both of us.

This is a larger edition than normal as, in addition to reporting on RSA22, we've included articles on the 50th anniversary of the formation of the CAA and (arguably) the Centenary of Air Traffic Control. We hope you enjoy these trips down memory lane and, particularly for the CAA at 50, we hope it might jog memories and encourage more contributions from you.

And finally, we have just received an email from Argos, telling us that our home delivery is scheduled for the following day at 7am.

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE JOKING!!!

Yours, grumpily, Peter

I can be contacted on:
contrailpete@caa-rsa.org.uk

I can also be contacted on:
contrailbob@caa-rsa.org.uk
This will remain active for a little longer, though it no longer goes to Bob Connolly.

Notes from the CAA/NATS Retired Staff Association Annual General Meeting

Held on Friday 22nd April, 15:30, at the Belfry Hotel, Cambourne, Cambridge.

1. The formal minutes of meeting will be available on the RSA website.
2. There were a number of absences due to illness etc so the meeting was chaired by **Colin Chisholm**, and **John Doig** acted as secretary. Thanks were given to the AGM/Gala weekend organisers **Phil Holt** and **Ted Tilly**, to Treasurer **Matthew Baines** for dealing with the associated financial arrangements, and to **Anne Noonan** who is standing down as Chair after many years of RSA service.
3. The 2020 Minutes were approved and there were no matters arising. The 2021 Annual Report was also formally accepted, and thanks were extended to **Tony Cowell**, (who continues to provide advice and guidance to the RSA), **Bob Connolly** (who retired as Editor of Contrail), **Ian Johnson** (who resigned as Membership Secretary), and **David Hobday** (who stood down as Pensions Rep).

The 2021 Accounts were approved. A question was raised on assistance given to the RSA from CAA and NATS. It was explained that neither organisation was able to make funds available for the RSA, although active assistance does come in the form of a close working relationship with CAAPS administration team in Edinburgh, such as the RSA recruitment flyer handed out to CAAPS members as part of their pre-retirement package.

4. The following Central Committee Officers and committee members were elected.

Chair – Andrew Maynard

Vice Chair – John Doig

Treasurer – Matthew Baines

Secretary – Tony Motture

Duncan Boulton

Colin Chisholm

Tony Cowell

Tim Mackay

Anne Noonan

Richard Wright

Vince Pritchard

The vacancy for the eighth member on the committee could not be filled (see later).

Ian Small and **John Coulson** were formally approved as Validators (*aka auditors, Ed*).

5. The new Central Committee then held a special post-AGM meeting, at which **Richard Woodroffe** (Webmaster) and **Peter Haigh** (Editor of Contrail) were co-opted on to the Central Committee. Dates for the next two Central Committee meetings were agreed. The decision on filling the vacant committee position will be taken at the next meeting (*looks like press-ganging might be on the table again, Ed*)

Vice-Chair Report (2021-2022)

Well, 2021 proved another difficult year for everyone, and the RSA wasn't exempt from the impact of Covid-19. Despite that, the Central Committee was able to keep things "ticking over", holding Zoom calls when required.

Changes were affected at the 2021 AGM which was held via Zoom. I replaced Tony Cowell as Vice Chairman and Vince Pritchard joined the committee. Since then, Anne Noonan has been unable to attend any meetings due to health issues and Vince also took ill. Both are hopefully now on the mend; however, Anne is standing down from her position as Chairman at this year's forthcoming AGM.

Not only was Anne unable to attend any meetings post 2021 AGM, but notice was given that the Editor of Contrail, Bob Connolly was going to stand down. In addition, Ian Johnson also gave notice that he would resign from his role as Membership Secretary. We must give our thanks to both Bob and Ian for their hard work over the years. Producing Contrail is no easy task and Bob has done this for longer than I can remember. Likewise, the role of membership secretary is also no easy task, keeping records up to date and compliance with data protection. The RSA wishes them both well for the future and have our wholehearted thanks for their contribution to the Association. Another long serving member, more recently a co-opted member, David Hobday will also be standing down at this AGM. His experience and dedication to the RSA will be missed.

Equally, we are so fortunate to have volunteers willing to take on these difficult roles. Peter Haigh is the new Contrail editor and Duncan Boulton the new Membership Secretary. Thanks to all for the smooth transfer of responsibilities.

The above shows how the Association evolves & adapts to new situations, but we can only do this with the help of members willing to come forward and help, whether it is in a Branch role or a national role.

So, as Vice Chair I would like to thank all the committee members for their support and efforts throughout another difficult year. I didn't expect to be in the "front row" of the Committee so quick, but I sincerely thank the longer serving members of the Central Committee for their guidance and experience.

(Cont'd overleaf)

Vice-Chair Report (2021-2022) cont'd

I give thanks to Richard Woodroffe for maintaining the RSA website. Yes, it is old and clunky, but Richard makes it work and his work on helping in the distribution of Contrail cannot be underestimated.

Finally, on behalf of the RSA I wish to give our thanks to Ted Tilly and Phil Holt for their work on organising the AGM venues and Gala weekends. The events take up to two years to plan, organise & book. With 2020 cancelled, 2021 amended to online, contracts had to be re-arranged and renegotiated. This was achieved without financial loss to the association.

My best wishes to you all - stay safe and well.

Andy Maynard, Vice Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2021 - 2022

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself to all members. I took over the mantle of Membership Secretary at the end of 2021 and hopefully will be able to continue the work of my predecessors and hopefully expand and streamline our database to better serve the members.

Our total membership has fallen to 4454, a net reduction of 188 during the year. However, 66.57% of members now pay subscriptions. There were, happily, 50 new members, but we continue to lose more than we recruit.

Membership

We continue to look at ways to recruit new members. We are making efforts to publicise the Association to existing staff and to retirees who are not members of the association.

We have now introduced an online membership application form which has proved very successful during the past year. I am hoping to extend this facility to allow existing members to use a similar form to advise me of changes to their membership details. I will keep you informed of progress via Contrail and the website.

The membership of the remaining six Branches at the end of March 2022 was:

| | Contributing | Non Contributing | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| London & Home Counties | 1117 | 838 | 1955 |
| Wessex (inc Solent) | 827 | 461 | 1288 |
| Downs | 289 | 197 | 486 |
| Edinburgh (inc W of Scotland) | 440 | 251 | 691 |
| Northern Ireland | 51 | 23 | 74 |
| North West | 241 | 166 | 407 |

Database

There were two updates of the branch membership lists disseminated to all branches, the first in Sep 2021 and the second in March 2022.

Thanks go to all members of Pension Branch for their assistance in implementing the deductions from pensions in respect of subscriptions and also in correcting addresses and contact details. It's a never-ending task as many members assume that we are notified of new contact details if they tell Pensions Branch.

We are not notified routinely due to data protection legislation.

Privacy Policy

No requests for disclosure or data deletion have been received this year.

Our Privacy Policy for the information of all members is published on the website and will be kept under review.

Future Proofing the Membership Records.

Members will be aware that some years ago CAA and NATS stopped supporting the RSA with an annual contribution. An annual fee of £12 was introduced which could be either deducted from pensions at source or could be paid by standing order. Quite a few members (including me) chose to pay a single subscription but although our spouses were also members we did not elect to subscribe a full membership for them. Generally this reflected the view that after we have gone there would no longer be a desire to maintain a link to the RSA. It would help me enormously if those members with a non subscribing spouse could advise me whether they would like the subscription to be transferred to their spouse's pension or be cancelled following the members death.

Succession Planning

I realise that I am new to this job but we cannot ignore the fact that we need to plan for the future. I would like to urge the membership, particularly our younger members, that there is a need to identify a successor in the coming year or so. It is an important role to maintain records but I hope it is seen as a contributing role for the survival of our organisation. I would be happy to hear from any willing successors!

Duncan Boulton, Membership Secretary
membership@caa-rsa.org.uk

WEBSITE REPORT 2021-2022

Over the last year, the website has been stable and has achieved a 100 % up time. There have been no malicious attacks by those who would attempt to hack into web sites.

Because some Internet service providers stopped people from downloading from seemingly insecure sites, this started to give difficulties to members when downloading Contrail. So the RSA website has been changed into a secure website.

The proper address is now <https://caa-rsa.org.uk> rather than <http://www.caa-rsa.org.uk>.

Richard Woodroffe,
Web Master webster@caa-rsa.org.uk



Facebook Survey

A survey was conducted on Facebook recently, to determine what sort of articles you might like in Contrail in the future. Of the 291 members of the RSA Facebook group, 212 responded and the most popular responses were:-

- “Where are they now articles” to balance out the Obituaries.
- The sharing of individual memories of NATS / CAA.

Interestingly, equal numbers favoured more photos/less text, and more text/fewer photos (*that's surveys for you, Ed*)

So do let us have your reminiscences of life in NATS/CAA, and of life in retirement. My full contact details are on page 2, and please do not hesitate to contact me, even if you have an idea but are unsure whether to proceed.

Peter Haigh
Editor, Contrail, contrailpete@caa-rsa.org.uk

RSA22 Photographs

For the Saturday evening, the organisers had kindly arranged for a professional photographer to be on hand to record the event. A small selection of photographs taken at the dinner tables are on the following page and they should tie up with the seating plan given below. I am extremely grateful to Ted Tilly and David Hobday for their assistance in collating the various names and, as always, any errors in identifying the diners are down to the editor.

Table 1

Phil & Diane Holt
John Doig
Clive & Linda Denny
Peter Wood
Mike and Joan Bartlett

Table 2

Ian & Mairi Finlay
Brian & Julie Peacock
Tony & Brenda Brewer
Graham & Carole Sweet

Table 3

Howard & Cathy Thomas
Grahame & Denise White
Paul & Christine Clayton
Colin & Lynn Chisholm

Table 4

Alison & Ted Tilly
Chris & Jocelyn Swinn
Val Aitken
Stuart & Vivien Clifton

Table 5

Duncan Boulton
Richard Wright
Richard & Susan Wynn
Peter & Julie Haigh

Table 6

Matthew & Linda Baines
Bob & Lesley Coles
Tony & Sheena Cowell

Table 7

Tim & Jackie MacKay
Barry & Jean Pratt
Sylvia Walker
Elsie Beach
Martin Halverson

Table 8

Barbara & John Garwood
Douglas Liddle
Dennis Claxton
Margaret & Richard Walker
Keith & Jacqueline Scales

Table 9

Ken & Joan Malcolm
David & Brenda Armstrong
John & Mairie Tierney
Philip Platt
Vincent Pritchard

The photographs, and others of the weekend, are also available on the RSA website (<http://caa-rsa.org.uk/agm.html>). Should you require a full resolution copy then please "hover" over the picture to get the reference number of that picture that you want (for example agm22_xxxx where xxxx is 4 numbers) and then mail me at contrailpete@caa-rsa.org.uk, requesting those numbers, and I will send them as soon as I can.

And it is a big thank you to the photographer from Cambridge, Rob Holding, of “Digital Photography by Rob Holding”, who took the photographs, both formal and informal (www.robholding.co.uk). We really felt for you when, whilst taking the group photo in the afternoon, the wind caught your lighting stand and it hit the ground with an expensive sounding tinkle. Ever the professional, a replacement light was on hand in minutes, firmly secured against further windy gusts (*plus a few fingers crossed, Ed*).

RSA 22 Gala Dinner

Table 1



Table 2



Table 4



Table 3



Table 6



Table 5



Table 7



Table 9



Table 8



On a wing or a prayer: RSA 22's social weekend

Richard Wright



When the CAA/NATS Retired Staff Association was established over forty years ago, its main purpose was to provide a social network so that retired staff could keep in touch with long-term colleagues/friends. How times change! These days we're more independent socially, but much more concerned about whether our company pensions are 'safe', a concept which earlier retirees probably took for granted. So, these days, our RSA has the dual function of working with the pension scheme trustees to represent members' interests, whilst continuing to provide a social function for our members.

"RSA 22" was our first big annual social event since 2019 – and if RSA members were bored of being locked down and prepared to venture out, the strong level of support for the event was really encouraging.

However, for the organisers, it became a bit more difficult in the weeks and days preceding our AGM and event: It's always prudent to have a 'Plan B' to hand, but imagine the consternation at RSA headquarters when Plans A, B, C and D have all sailed out of the window even before any of our attendees set off for Cambridge: Retiring Chairman Anne Noonan had to drop out on medical advice, then Chairman-elect Andy Maynard fell ill with Covid, shortly followed by Hon Sec Tony Motture. I was reminded of the poem "Is there anybody there?" said the traveller" by Walter de la Mare. I'm sure you know it.

I'd checked out the venue 'Cambourne' in advance of getting in the car, in my book on Cambridge historic architecture – no mention - as it turns out the town is newer than my book! Arriving early, I drove around and found the town's social centre labelled "Soul" – something the town rather lacks! But our event organizers Phil Holt and Ted Tilly – ably assisted by LHC Branch Hon Sec Paul Clayton and his wife Chrissie - put up a great 'front of house' at the Cambridge Belfry Hotel, so that all our guests were made welcome, directed to their rooms and the AGM venue. Acting Chairman Colin Chisholm conducted the AGM with his customary aplomb (report elsewhere), with incoming Vice-chair John Doig taking notes. So we're all legal once again. Now for the social stuff:



Friday evening began with a drinks reception, followed by a free-seating buffet in the hotel's main dining room: good food, well arranged and served to the backing of a local acoustic band.

But the real fun began after breakfast on Saturday morning, when the RSA attendees divided into two groups; for the 'techies' a tour of an aircraft restoration workshop at Audley End Airfield, followed by a visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford – or for the more intellectual/ reverent, a walk round Cambridge then a visit to Ely town and Cathedral.

Yet another RSA 22 plan went overboard as we climbed onto the coaches to discover that the M11 was closed. Happily, whilst Cambourne isn't in my book, it's adjacent to the Roman road Ermine Street, so we were able to travel south towards Audley End. Shortly before arriving at our destination, we passed Audley End House, one of the UK's great stately homes, now open to the public through 'Historic England':

'Audley End' was commissioned by Thomas Howard, first Earl of Suffolk, appointed Lord High Treasurer to King James the First. As planned, it would have been the largest house in England. Invited to inspect the building's development, King James is reported to have commented acidly "too big for a King, but I suppose it might do for a Lord High Treasurer". Trying to keep his position (and his head), Lord Howard wisely demolished two-thirds of the uncompleted building – and made sure that the King was aware. He kept his head - but was later imprisoned for embezzling funds to pay for his architectural ambitions.

But our destination was just around the corner – and what a corner it was; it would have been easier to put a hinge halfway along the coach, so full marks to driver Colin for getting us to the airfield without scraping the paint. We arrived at the Vintage Fabrics aircraft restoration hangar to be greeted by owner Clive Denney – and the agreeable smell of 'dope'. The hangar is an absolute treasure trove of ancient aircraft in various stages of maintenance and restoration. Clive and his colleague Pete gave us an excellent and informative tour, explaining the challenges and intricacies of operating old aircraft – including the increasing difficulty of obtaining the correct fuel. Pete introduced us to one aircraft "This is an original Sopwith SE5 – we just haven't found the original bit yet."

My personal hangar favourite was the 1950 Cessna 195 Businessliner, resplendent in maroon and cream, with a matching leather interior complete with chromed ashtrays – imagine a flying version of an old Cadillac and you'll get the picture. It's powered by a 300hp radial engine (the only radial-engined Cessna – just for 'anoraks'), which has a reputation for using oil almost as fast as it uses fuel. Clive explained that the big radial engine blocks much of the view ahead, making it difficult to fly. But it just looks so good – I want one and I don't even fly!

By-the-way, Clive keeps a couple of steam locomotives up on the North Norfolk Railway. What's not to like about this guy? I'm so pleased that he and his wife were able to join us as our guests for dinner that night.

(Cont'd overleaf)

Avoiding the tricky corner, we journeyed to Duxford via the famous market town of Saffron Walden. The town was originally named 'Walden' because the surrounding land belonged to the de Walden family. The saffron crocus was first planted in the area around 1350 and thrived on the local soil. The orange stamens of the flowers were much in demand for dyeing cloth, as well as for medication, food flavouring and colouring. So, the town grew rich on the saffron trade and renamed itself 'Saffron Walden' around 1500. Now, I didn't really 'get' saffron until I discovered (thanks to Wikipedia) that it takes over 4,000 crocus flowers to make one ounce of dried saffron stamens – making it as expensive as gold.

So important was it, that it once had its own market area in London's Clerkenwell district: Ironically, Saffron Hill and Saffron Street are just behind London's 'Gold Quarter' of Hatton Garden. Although you can still buy saffron in Saffron Walden, much of what's sold today is imported from the Middle East.



The Imperial War Museum at Duxford has changed a lot since I last visited: the 'Superhangar' at one end and the American collection at the other. Clive joined us from Audley End to talk us through one of the 'active warbirds' hangars, describing the differences between the various models of Spitfire and what it's like to fly them in a display, before we had free time to explore the collection.

(Boys and toys, as my wife would put it, Ed)

These days, the aircraft collection is so large that I didn't have time to see it all, but I was impressed by the astonishing size of the giant B52 bomber in the American hangar. I've read recently that the US Air Force is in discussions with Rolls-Royce about re-engining the current B52 fleet, which would give them an 'operational service life' approaching 90 years. I know that our (RAF) Canberras notched up well over 50 years, but that must be some sort of record?

Away from the wings and things, my more intellectual friends enjoyed a visit to Cambridge, with its wonderful buildings, shops and galleries. I know that some of you visited the current David Hockney exhibition and what an example he is to us older folk: now in his eighties but painting with renewed vigour and imagination. Well worth a visit if you haven't been already. And then, of course an almost infinite number of pubs and cafes in which to lunch before heading off to Ely for the afternoon.

Ely, or the Isle of Ely, as it was known, was almost entirely cut off by water from the surrounding area and was only incorporated into the county of Cambridgeshire in the 1860s. So, it has a long tradition of independence dating back more than 1,000 years. Now a historic market town, it probably owes its importance to the establishment of a minster church by St Ethelreda, the widow of Egbert, King of the Kentish people. (didn't the Saxons have great names – and anyway, where are saints nowadays when you need them?)

The monks continued to develop the church – eventually designated as a cathedral – but the soft fenland soil made building upwards more challenging than building along (Ely is the third-longest cathedral in Britain). Eventually the inevitable happened and the central tower collapsed (22 February 1322 – so my book says), wrecking much of the central area of the church. Determined to rebuild in God's honour, the monks came up with a solution unique in British church history: build the bottom half in stone and the top half in timber to save weight. The world-famous Ely Octagon was completed in 1342 and remains an architectural wonder to this day.

But Ely isn't just famous for its cathedral; Oliver Cromwell lived here too and some of our team visited his house, which has been restored to reflect domestic life in the 17th century – including a visit to "Mrs Cromwell's Kitchen". What will they think of next?



Back at base in Cambourne we 'pilgrims' and 'techies' enjoyed drinks before dinner then an excellent meal. The table service was almost choreographed – the girls and lads looking after us were all so young – and polite and helpful. Background music throughout and dancing later for those who wished.

Good show from the 'Belfry' team and our organisers.

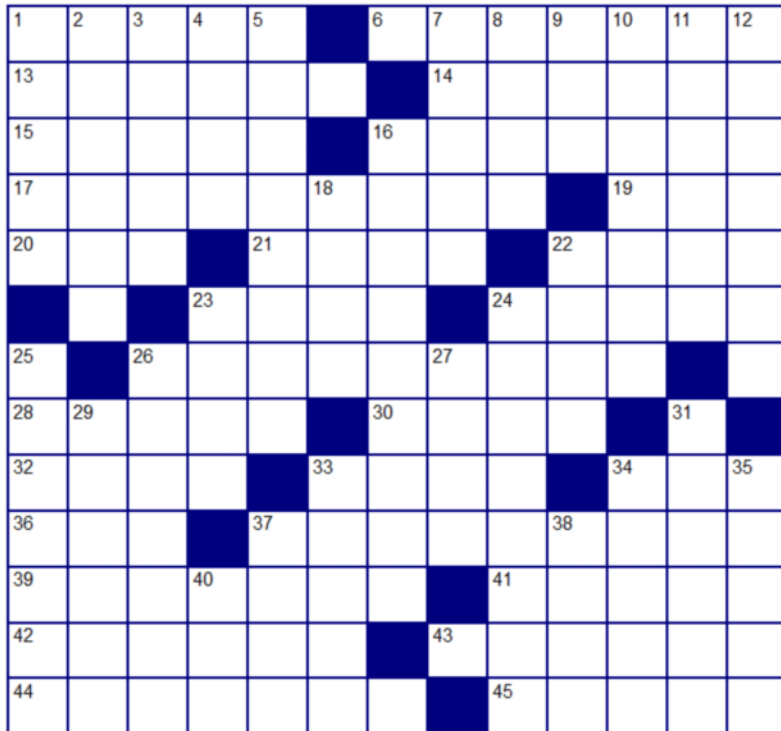
Sunday dawned bright and clear, so after breakfast I dawdled back south down Ermine Street (A1198 then A10) with all the windows open, before heading for the Dartford Crossing. The countryside I drove through was amazing: lovely bright greens from the Spring foliage and acres of yellow from the rapeseed fields.

What a great weekend. Thanks everyone. Phil and Ted are already working on RSA 23 and it promises to be at least as good as this year's event, so, see you all in Bournemouth.

Uncle Roger's Puzzle Page

Roger Myers' Crossword - June 2022

The answers will be available in the next edition.



Across

1. Philosophers (5)
6. Divulges (7)
13. Bootleg (6)
14. Antenna (6)
15. Occur (5)
16. Prickly shrub (7)
17. Faulty (9)
19. Person (3)
20. Born (3)
21. Promise (4)
22. Stench (4)
23. Herb (4)
24. Crowded (5)
26. Rice & fish dishes (9)
28. Checks over (5)
30. Gambol (4)
32. Earpiece! (4)
33. Ritual (4)
34. Thus (3)
36. Recede (3)
37. Banker (9)
39. Mistreating (7)
41. At hand (5)
42. Musical instruments (6)
43. Insufficient (6)
44. Protein substances (7)
45. Awe (5)

Down

1. Country (5)
2. Pilots (6)
3. Complain (5)
4. Comfort (4)
5. Body-building substances (8)
7. Tramp (5)
8. Fuel (4)
9. Equip (3)
10. Bands (7)
11. Claws (6)
12. Sleighs (7)
16. Improving (9)
18. Tooth (4)
22. Look (4)
23. Measure (4)
24. Frenzied (8)
25. Publish (7)
26. Jewish commune (7)
27. Schedule (4)
29. Workhorse (6)
31. Mountain range (6)
33. Wash (5)
34. Blockade (5)
35. Belief (5)
37. Company (4)
38. Scorch (4)
40. Declare (3)

A 'BC' Quiz

Every question/clue given here can be answered using the two letters B & C. As an example, if the clue were: - "Person famous for singing 'White Christmas'", you should soon come up with **Bing Crosby**.

Good luck with all twenty clues, and the answers are on page 20.

1. Delicate porcelain.
2. Tough Military Training Site.
3. Often a culinary dressing, especially on sea food.
4. Cleaning equipment storage compartment.
5. Road position with a restricted view.
6. Corrupt law official (slang).
7. A children's large air-filled item of play.
8. 'The Damned United ', a 2009 film, was about this famous football manager.
9. Elvis Presley seasonal song
10. French for 'Good Luck'.
11. Restores life to electrical items
12. Very dark mouse-catcher.
13. Major UK Sea inlet on the west coast.
14. Ex USA President
15. Famous pair of US gangsters
16. North American province, capital Victoria
17. Area of the West Midlands near Birmingham
18. English/French conflict of 1346.
19. Had a radio 'Band Show' for many, many years ('Wakey-Wakey').
20. Tiny, nippy 1950's vehicles.

Drop Me a Letter Please

Your challenge is to drop just one letter from each word given here, because each one of the following words is an anagram of a living creature plus an extra letter. For example, if you drop the letter 'E' from BLAME it can produce LAMB. Some of the words will produce two creatures: for example, SLOW gives us SOW and OWL. The challenge is to find at least one creature from each of the words.

Forge, Melon, Gaunt, Swaps, Whack, Leafy, Tango,
 Flume, Wealth, Broach, Throne, Brazes, Boring, Clutter,
 Wearing, Opening, Robbing, Storeys, Preloads, Tonsillar, Bonsai,
 Bereave, Consult, Manciple, Alternate, Thermals, Perianth, Grabbed

The answers are also on Page 20.



DOWNNS BRANCH

(Welcome back to the Downs Branch, who are re-starting their activities after Covid, Ed)

Downns Branch has moved our meeting venue from the Hawth to Goffs Park Social Club, Old Horsham Road, Southgate, Crawley. RH11 8PE. We meet as usual 12.00 - 14.00 last Wednesday in the month except December. Food is very reasonably priced. Members are welcome, we would love to see you.

The 41st Branch AGM was held on 23rd February 2022. A big thank you was given to the retiring Chairman Clem Denny who gave many many years of sterling service to the Branch. Also to the vice chairman, the lovely Gaye Wilson who ably assisted for a similar number of years. Both will be sadly missed. Bill Freeman was elected as chairman and Kevin Deasy as vice chairman. The Branch thanked them for stepping into those shoes.

Having only just started meeting again after Covid the only function to have been held so far was a lunch at the Plough, Ifield on 6th April 2022. All went well, and more dates are being arranged.

(I've been promised photos from future events, Ed)

The Branch cannot send out mail shots using the postal service. However, if on reading this report you have no access to email/internet, the Branch have a contact telephone number; as listed under Branch Contacts.

Ann Cox, Downs Branch Sec.

EDINBURGH BRANCH

With the Scottish Government COVID-19 Protection Regulations having eased a fair bit, a Branch Lunch combined with an Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 29 March '22 at the Indigo Yard Restaurant in central Edinburgh. Unfortunately, the number of 'apologies' on the day exceeded the number of attendees, nevertheless the lunch/AGM meeting was able to re-elect a committee to look after the Branch for the next 12 months.

The 2022/23 Committee is as follows: -

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Chair | John Doig |
| Secretary | Colin Rodger |
| Treasurer | Vince Pritchard |
| Committee member | Colin Hicks |
| Committee member | Tom Ward |
| Committee member | John Tierney (co-opted from the dormant WoS Branch) |

Members of this 2022/23 committee all at one time worked at the then NATS Edinburgh Airport, albeit at different times and for different durations. It is made up of retirees from CAA, NATS and HIAL, reflecting the diverse nature of our Branch membership.

Moving on, the Branch had a lunch outing to Bar Leo in historic Linlithgow on the 25th May.

EDINBURGH BRANCH cont'd

Members are reminded that details of Branch events and anything else, are published and updated on the RSA web site, under Edinburgh Branch, and the RSA on Facebook. Emails on events are also sent to members, provided that the RSA hold your current email address.

As mentioned before, regretfully the RSA do not hold email addresses for all Edinburgh Branch members. (Includes some members formally listed under H&I) If you use email and wish your name/contact to be added to the RSA list, or if your contact details have changed, please let the RSA Central Membership Secretary know – **membership@caa-rsa.org.uk**

From the Branch, have good and COVID free Summer & stay safe!

John Doig, Branch Chair

LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

The LHC Branch held its AGM on 27th April via Zoom as there had been difficulties in finding a suitable venue; 11 Members attended.

The Chairman opened the meeting by saying that the past two years had been challenging for the Branch, and noting that Paul Artiss, the Social Secretary, had stepped down. The Chairman thanked Paul for the excellent Social Programmes produced over the years. However, he was pleased to report that a successor, Paul Vidler, had been found and an interesting Social Programme produced (please see Branch Events, below).

Moving on, the meeting approved the Minutes from the 2020 AGM and received various reports from the Committee, namely:

- Membership had dropped from 2048 at the last AGM to 1955
- The Branch finances were healthy
- As a result of Covid there had been little to communicate through the Branch website. However, this would change as a result of the new Social Programme. To make booking easier an on-line Booking System was being developed.
- The existing Committee Members, excluding Paul Artiss, were happy to stay in post and Paul Vidler was voted on to the Committee.

A draft of the Minutes from the meeting will be produced and available on the LHC webpage of the RSA website.

The Social Programme for 2022 is being firmed up and should include the following visits:-

LONDON (& HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH cont'd

Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield, a beautiful Georgian house that dates back to the 13th century. The estate is home to 60 colourful gardens, an Italianate Maze, zoo, restaurant, and a chance to walk with an Alpaca!

Battle of Britain Bunker, Uxbridge. Since we last visited, in addition to the Operations Room, there is now a large visitor centre, exhibition and café. The exhibition hall features state of the art museum displays and an auditorium which provides "virtual access" to the bunker - useful for those with mobility issues.

The Sherlock Holmes Museum, Baker Street. The fictional home of Sherlock Homes from 1881 to 1904, this four-story Georgian townhouse contains rooms which have been maintained to give an insight into the life and stories of the world's first consulting detective.

Tour of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, a beautifully renovated theatre, the oldest theatre on the same site in the world and the birthplace of the musical, modern pantomime, moving scenery and naturalistic acting.

Paul Clayton, Branch Chair

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

(And it is also welcome back to the Northern Ireland Branch, who have similarly re-started their activities after Covid, Ed)



On 31 March the Northern Ireland Branch held its spring lunch and AGM at the Ballyrobin Country House Hotel. Approximately twenty attended and enjoyed the excellent food that the venue always provides.

Following the lunch, the AGM was held with Ruby Erwin, the Branch Chairperson, providing an update. Treasurer, Bill Richardson, also provide a financial report which confirmed the Branch accounts were in a healthy state. Then followed the election of Branch Officers. In the absence of nominations Ruby stated that she would remain in post for a further year but did not wish to extend beyond that time. Bill Richardson was re-elected unopposed to the position of Treasurer.

Members were asked if anyone was interested in attending the RSA22 AGM weekend in Cambridge but unfortunately nobody expressed interest.
(Not the easiest place to get to from Northern Ireland, Ed)

Ruby Erwin, Branch Chair

NORTHWEST BRANCH

The Branch AGM was held at the Griffin, Heald Green in March. The business was completed quite quickly with the existing officers and committee members being re-elected to serve a further annual term. A buffet lunch was enjoyed by all after the meeting.

Eight members (It should have been ten, but diminished by Covid) travelled to Cambridge for the national AGM and Gala Weekend, extending their stay by an extra day to take advantage of the local attractions. Helped by good weather and a choice of two social programmes on the Saturday, everyone agreed that the organisers were to be congratulated on creating an excellent event.

Ely Cathedral and the Cambridge University colleges were on the itinerary for those interested in classical architecture and history, whilst the Aircraft Restoration Facility at Audley End and the Imperial War Museum at Duxford Aerodrome catered for the aviation enthusiasts. In addition to the aircraft housed in the museum a number of classic types are hangared and flown at Duxford and some, including Spitfires, were flying throughout the visit to this famous Battle of Britain location.

As always, walks are scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month. For details of the monthly walks and other events that may be organised, please refer to the postings in the NW Branch Section of the RSA website or contact Andy Maynard, nwrsa@caa-rsa.org.uk.

Tim Mackay, NW Branch Chair

WESSEX BRANCH

Firstly, I can confirm, at our AGM in March that Chris Swinn was voted in as treasurer. Likewise, Ted Tilly was voted in as Secretary. The branch is grateful to them both. The AGM was very positive and enthusiastic for the year ahead.

In May the annual walk was around the Stanpit Marshes. This is within Christchurch harbour bounded on the other side by Hengistbury Head. The pathway crosses an inlet and here the group walked across the prototype Bailey Bridge! Lunch was enjoyed afterwards at the strikingly named "Ship in Distress".

We have lots more to come (please see Wessex Diary Dates).

Phil Holt, Branch Chair

BRANCH DIARY DATES

All dates continue to be subject to any Covid restrictions in force at the time.

DOWNS BRANCH

Wednesday 13th July. 12:00, Toby lunch Manor Royal, Gatwick, 12.00

Wednesday 14th September, 12.00, Brewers Fare, Goffs Park,

Wednesday 14th December, 12.00, Toby Christmas lunch, Manor Royal, Gatwick,

An afternoon tea is being investigated at this moment in time, details to follow.

These dates need to be firmed up after our next committee meeting.

Please note:- Our meetings are now held at Goffs Park Social Club, Old Horsham Road, Crawley. RH11 8PE.

Any queries please contact Ann Cox., pgreen.ann@gmail.com,

EDINBURGH BRANCH

Tuesday 19 July and Wednesday 07 September 2022. These are future dates where the Edinburgh Branch intend to hold a lunch outing or perhaps something else? - The venue, location and other details will be notified to members by email, published on the RSA Web site – Edinburgh page and the RSA on Facebook . Put these dates in your diary!

(For members who do not have access to the internet, please telephone the Branch, (see Branch Contacts) leave a message, or alternatively text a message, and the Branch Chair or Secretary will get back to you)

LONDON (AND HOME COUNTIES) BRANCH

The Social Programme for 2022 is listed below. As dates are firmed up further details (cost, travel directions, meeting arrangements, lunch options etc.) will be provided via the LHC Branch website and in future editions of Contrail.

Visit to Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield, EN1 4RQ, date TBA, venue details at capelmanorgardens.co.uk

Battle of Britain Bunker, Uxbridge UB10 date TBA, venue details at battleofbritainbunker.co.uk

Visit to the Sherlock Holmes Museum, Baker Street NW1 6XE date TBA, venue details at sherlock-holmes.co.uk

Tour of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane WC2B date TBA, venue details at lwtheatres.co.uk

NORTH-WEST BRANCH

Walks are scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month, usually ending at or near a pub where lunch may be taken.

Other social events are at the tentative planning stage and details will be posted when confirmed.

For details of monthly walks and other events that may be organised please refer to the postings in the NW Branch section of the RSA website or contact Andy Maynard, nwrsa@caa-rsa.org.uk

WESSEX BRANCH

Thursday 23 June. Evening boat trip to Wareham with fish n' chip supper

Thursday 28 July. Garden meet

August. No meeting

Thursday 22 September. Coach trip to Lyme Regis & Forde Abbey

Thursday 27 October. Carpenters meeting – speaker TBA

Thursday 24 November. Annual skittles match

Thursday 15 December. Festive buffet lunch

Thursday 26 January 2023. Burns Supper

For more details please contact our Social Secretary – Joselyn Swinn c-swinn@sky.com,



The Travel Club remains open to **ALL** members of the Association, membership is automatic.

The discounts quoted here can't be guaranteed; they can vary, depending on demand for a particular product.

Discount codes are only available to RSA members, and appear in the on-line and printed versions of Contrail.

You may be asked to prove membership by way of your RSA membership number or other kind of proof of being associated with the RSA. Contact the RSA travel rep (**Andy Maynard, email: travel@caa-rsa.org.uk**) if you have any difficulties.

We would love to hear about your experiences of using any of our travel concessions (good or bad), drop a line to (travel rep) Andy or (Contrail editor) Peter.

*Happy Travels...stay safe...stay well and **please use your travel club!!!***

Andy Maynard
Travel Rep.



10% discount. Telephone, **0333 060 9147** – and quote XXXXX
<https://www.newmarketholidays.co.uk>. **Online code not currently available.**



3% to 10% discount is possible. In store or telephone **0330 094 8364**. Quote affinity code XXXX



Register with Touchdown to be able to log into their website.

<https://www.touchdown.co.uk>. Telephone **0333 014 3600** or **01293 425000**

Eligibility varies from offer to offer. When registering with Touchdown, members should select NATS from the drop-down menu. However, when they are making an enquiry, they

should state they are retired as this could have an impact on the products and price Touchdown can offer.



You will need to register with them at <https://stafftravel.voyage/special-offers>. Select your occupation as ATC, you will then receive an e-mail for a second part registration. It is here you can insert "retired" into employer space..

Retired Staff - most hotels and tours will accept retired staff and Freight Agents. Ultimately the decision rests with the hotel. When you register, please state "Retired" or "Other" under

Job Position/Title. When you make a hotel request, the hotel will see your status and if they confirm the booking, you are good to go.



RSA customers will receive **5%** discount on their cruise. Previous customers will also be a member of their Oceans loyalty scheme giving you an additional **5%** loyalty discount.

To obtain the above discounts you must use the RSA code XXXX

Best rates usually by telephone on **0800 035 5108**

Or use the new URL: <https://www.fredolsencruises.com/affinity/caanats>.



Yes, the RSA has its own Facebook Group, currently with 292 members.
If you want to join the FB group then search for CAA NATS RSA.
The group is operated on a closed group basis.



Retired Staff Association - Who's Who



President Bob Coles



Vice-President Leslie Priestley

Elected Officers



Chair
Andy Maynard



Vice-chair
John Doig



Treasurer
Matthew Baines



Hon. Secretary
Tony Motture

Elected Committee Members



Duncan Boulton
Welfare and Membership



Colin Chisholm
Pensions
Representative



Tony Cowell



Tim MacKay



Anne Noonan



Richard Wright
OPA Rep



Vince Pritchard



8th committee post
vacant

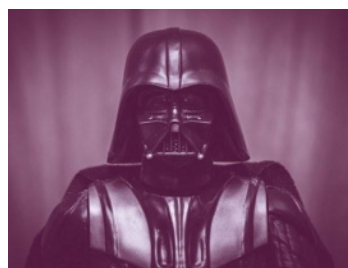
Co-opted Committee Members



Richard Woodroffe
Web Master



Peter Haigh
Contrail
Editor



*(Hang on,
that can't be right, Ed)*

PRESIDENT: R B COLES
VICE PRESIDENT: L PRIESTLEY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| CHAIR | Andy Maynard |
| VICE CHAIR | John Doig |
| SECRETARY | Tony Motture |
| TREASURER | Matthew Baines |
| MEMBERS | Duncan Boulton |
| | Colin Chisholm |
| | Tony Cowell |
| | Tim MacKay |
| | Anne Noonan |
| | Richard Wright |
| | Vincent Pritchard |

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| WELFARE COORDINATOR & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY | Duncan Boulton |
| PENSIONS REP | Colin Chisholm |
| TRAVEL & SOCIAL MEDIA | Andy Maynard |
| OPA REP | Richard Wright |
| WEBMASTER | Richard Woodroffe |
| EDITOR CONTRAIL | Peter Haigh |

(Elected members shown in Bold,
co-opted members shown in normal print)



KEEPING IN TOUCH

The RSA needs to know where you are so that you receive Contrail and details of local activity from your Branch. **Please let the new RSA Membership Secretary, Duncan Boulton, know if you have moved or any other personal details, including your email address, have changed:**
Duncan Boulton

E Mail: membership@caa-rsa.org.uk

Remember to also advise Pensions Administration by post, or email to pensions@caa.co.uk. You need to tell both the RSA and CAAPS as information cannot be exchanged because of Data Protection rules.

Please DO NOT send address or personal changes to the editorial office.

BRANCH CONTACTS

COTSWOLD: TBA

DOWNES

Ann Cox,



✉: pgreen.ann@gmail.com

EDINBURGH

(incl Highlands & Islands, and West of Scotland)

RSA Edinburgh Admin* ✉: admin@edinburghrsa.com

RSA Edinburgh Admin* Mob ☎:

** monitored & answered by a Committee Office Bearer – your email or call will be directed to a specific Committee member, dependant on the nature of the enquiry, their postal address may be given if this is requested.*

LONDON & HOME COUNTIES

For event bookings please contact the Hon. Treasurer,

✉: bookings.lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk

For event information contact the Social Secretary Paul Vidler, ✉: bookings.lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk

For all other matters Paul Clayton,



✉: lhc@caa-rsa.org.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ruby Erwin,

NORTH WEST

Andy Maynard,



✉: nwrsa@caa-rsa.org.uk

WESSEX (including Solent)

Ted Tilly,



✉: Howardtilly1942@gmail.com

CONTRAIL SMALL ADS

Please remember that RSA members are permitted to insert up to two small advertisements in any twelve-month period. These can be submitted by email or post to the editor.

For Sale

3 Dingwall Street, ROSEHEARTY, Aberdeenshire AB43 7NR

See details on the next page

Can be seen on the Aberdeen Solicitors Property Centre (ASPC) website.

The home repost records a £115k valuation before a £3k upgrade.

The RSA Member property owner can be contacted: email njmurdoch@btinternet.com or TEL: 01738441244



Any questions?

Contact us:

Fraserburgh Turrif
Anderson House 10 High Street
9/11 Frithside Street Turrif
Fraserburgh

T: 01346 515797 T: 01888 568950
F: 01346 519168 F: 01888 563031

email: property@brown-mcrae.co.uk

HOME REPORT
POST CODE
GENERAL

Available by request (fee may apply)

AB43 7NR

Electrics were upgraded by Alex Strachan, 30 year timber preservation report, new roof over kitchen, utility room & rear hallway.

COUNCIL TAX BAND
EPC

Band B

Band F (35)

ASKING PRICE

Offers Around £TBC

VIEWING

By arrangement with the Selling Agents.

ENTRY

By arrangement.

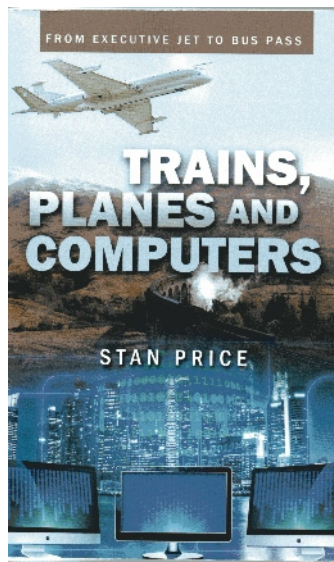
OFFERS TO

Messrs. Brown & McRae (SAB)

NOTE: While the foregoing particulars are believed to be correct they are not guaranteed and all interested parties should satisfy themselves on all points before offering.

Advertorial

Trains, Planes and Computers.



This unusually titled book, is an autobiography by former CAA/NATS employee Stan Price. It chronicles his life up to retirement in 2011, from initial employment in the early 1960s, as an apprentice at Hawker Siddeley Aviation (now an invisible part of BAE Systems), through to his role as an expert witness in computer related litigation, by way of employment as a software engineer in CAA/NATS (he states that he was one of the first in the world to have this job title), a systems manager with the Metropolitan Police, a sales manager at Software Sciences Ltd, and subsequently setting up his own software consultancy. The latter included gaining contracts to monitor large software driven projects, many of which were suffering serious (and publicly embarrassing) overruns, and cancellations in the 1980s and 1990s (*some things never change, Ed*).

Of particular interest to our NATS colleagues is Stan's experiences in the early 1970's, with the implementation of the FAA's NAS/9020 system at West Drayton, and its associated support organisation, and his later involvement as an expert witness in the litigation following the cancellation of NATS's ill-fated contract with EDS to supply an Oceanic FDPS at Prestwick in the 1990s. However, the book also provides a delightful glimpse of life growing up in post-war Manchester, as well as personal experiences of life after retirement, and a lifelong interest in trains (hence the book's title).

At 293 pages, the book is not a difficult read, with technical terms kept to a reasonable level. And for the "anoraks" amongst us (*me included, Ed*) the book contains numerous references to aircraft types and makes of computer that many of us will remember with affection from our childhood and during our early careers in NATS. In separate correspondence, Stan has noted that his views on the NATS/EDS litigation may be controversial to some in the Retired Staff Association, presumably those who were "on the other side", but they are his personal views, so you must draw your own conclusions (*subsequent assessments of the litigation suggest that it was as much about the shortcomings of the Private Finance Initiative, that the government forced NATS to use to finance the project, as it was about the relationships between the two companies, Ed*).

The book provides a welcome look at the early days of software development, and a particular time in the development of air traffic control systems in NATS, which is of significant historical interest and which does not appear to have been suitably documented elsewhere (*please let me know if you know otherwise, Ed*). And the continuing look at life after retirement is most suitably captured in the book's sub-title, "From Executive Jet to Bus Pass". The book is available from everyone's favourite online bookstore, Amazon, priced at £10.99.

OBITUARIES

We regret to report the following deaths, notified since the March issue of Contrail.

In Memoriam

Barry Herbert Dale, PTMG at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 4 January 2022

Anthony Charles Holman, Band 12.1 at Gatwick Regional Office, on 10 January 2022

John Ryder Hallett, ATCO 2 at CATC, Bournemouth, on 1 February 2022

John Dawkins, grade not known, ENG R2C, CAA House, on 8 January 2022

Graeme Campbell Walker, ATCO 2 at Swanwick, on 27 January 2022

Geoffrey Arnold Large, ATCO 1 at Heathrow Airport, on 7 February 2022

Ian David Ward, grade not known at NERL/NSL Swanwick, on 28 January 2022

Kenneth John Camp, Band 11 at Teeside, on 1 February 2022

Lewis Charles Waite, grade not known, at CAA House, London, on 5 February 2022

John Robert Barford, ATSA 3 at Heathrow, on 8 January 2022

Charles Gordon MacLennan Kimber, ATSA 3 at CATC, Bournemouth, on 7 February 2022

Susan Edge, 20 February, grade and location not known, on 20 February 2022

Michael Terence Gorman, grade not known at Barra, on 18 December 2021

William Robert Lane, Band 5.1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 8 January 2022

Richard Michael Randell, JMG 8 at Printing and Publications, Cheltenham, on 19 January 2022

Jack Arthur Smith, ATSA 2 at Control Tower, Gatwick Airport, on 2 February 2022

Kevin McAnuff, JMG 6 at CAA House, London, on 12 February 2022

Peter Frank Richards, grade C at Redhill, on 9 February 2022

Bryan Eckersley, SATE at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 20 February 2022

Robert Stephen Kingan, ATSA 4 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 18 February 2022

Henry Johnston Greechan, ATE 3 at Glasgow Airport, on 10 March 2022

Brenda Grace Bennett, MSG 8 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 9 February 2022

Gordon Hugh Smart, ATCO 2 at CAA House, on 20 February 2022

Kevin Lawrence Cooper, Band 2 at CAA House, on 12 February 2022

Brenda Rose Grainger (Williams), Telephonist at Birmingham Airport, on 16 February 2022

Stanley Scholes, A/SATE at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 20 February 2022

Robert David Edward Slator, 1 March 2022 (no other details available).

Anthony Anderson Morgan, ATCE 4 at Sumburgh Airport, on 3 March 2022

Maurice Robert Kent, ATE 1 at Bletchley, on 14 March 2022

Charles William Hanvy, grade not known at Manchester Airport, on 12 March 2022

James John Baird, Sub Officer HIA, at Inverness Airport, on 3 Mar 2022

Donald Allen Brunton, PPTOA at Gatwick Area Office, on 30 Mar 2022

Michael Dennis Hammond, ATCE1 at LATCC, West Drayton, on 28 March 2022

Charles Ronald Wilson, ATCO 2 at Manchester Airport, on 24 Mar 2022

George Ward, ATE1 at TEE Gatwick, on 10 August 2021

Sylvia Edna Love, Band 3, at CAA House, on 25 March 2022

Donald Hickson, Mgr ATS, at Farnborough, on 10 April 2022

Adrian George Russell Brown, grade not known, at AIS Heathrow Airport, on 2 March 2022

John Edward McDonald, FOI, at Aviation House Gatwick on 2 April 2022

Gladys Audrey White, Band 3, at ERG CAA House, on 19 April 2022

Robert Bert Griffiths, ATE 1, at IOW, on 07 April 2022

Wilfred Pole, ATCE 3, at CTC Whiteley on 25 April 2022

Robert James Ian McIntyre, ATE1, at Heathrow Airport, on 15 April 2022

Lindsay William Royal, CAA Level 6, At SRG, Aviation House, Gatwick Airport, On 22nd March 2022

Search facility

Please note that the obituary archives page of the RSA website now contains a search facility.

This allows you to search the archives for former friends and colleagues and, whilst it only goes back to 2006, it is far easier than manually trawling through the entries.

https://caa-rsa.org.uk/obituary_archives.html

Fifty years of the Civil Aviation Authority

Richard Wright

The early days – what happened and why:

The Civil Aviation Authority came into being in April 1972, although the story of its creation had begun a few years earlier:

Civil aviation had developed rapidly after WW2, and by the 1960s air travel was becoming (almost) commonplace, supported by a growing economy (“You’ve never had it so good” quipped Prime Minister Harold Macmillan). Technical developments led to jet airliners replacing their propeller-driven forebears (and reducing journey times) whilst the development of all-weather operations would improve scheduling and reliability. Supersonic travel was an aim, not a dream. But how was all this to be governed?

In 1967, the Board of Trade appointed a committee to enquire into the British civil aviation industry, and to propose changes to enable the industry to be safely and effectively regulated. The committee was known as the Edwards Committee (after chairman Sir Ronald Edwards) and published its report in May 1969. “*British Air Transport in the Seventies*” recommended bring together several functions then undertaken by separate organisations:

- Economic regulation was the preserve of the Air Transport Licensing Board – but its decisions were frequently overruled by the Board of Trade, latterly the Dept of Trade and Industry:
- Operational safety oversight belonged also to the Board of Trade:
- Safety regulation was overseen by the Air Registration Board, which had achieved a worldwide reputation for high standards:
- The joint civil/military air traffic service provider National Air Traffic Control Services (NATCS) - established in 1959 by a similar enquiry known - after its chairman - as “The Patch Report” was to be incorporated.

(This helps to explain why my security pass for Bletchley Park, issued in November 1973, had Board of Trade (crossed out), Dept of Trade and Industry (also crossed out) and Civil Aviation Authority typed in. Looked home made but it worked. Different times, Ed)

Later that year, the Government accepted the recommendations of the Edwards Report and work to establish the Civil Aviation Authority as a statutory body began. The original aim had been to create an organization free of government interference, but it became clear very quickly that the government had no intention of letting the CAA “off the hook”, so it was agreed eventually that Ministers would continue to formulate policy, whilst the CAA’s role was to execute those policies.

So, how different was it back in 1972?

Cheap holiday in the sun? The economy had faltered, the £ was devalued and there was - for a time – a limit of £50 on the cost of an overseas holiday. Several companies were offering cheap charter flights with accommodation in Spanish resorts, but the licensing rules said that they were only available to groups, not individuals. Hence the rise of the infamous ‘affinity groups’ such as the “Little Snoring Allotment Association” (apologies if there is one...) in which you had to take out a completely bogus ‘membership’ in order to get the cheap deal you wanted. It took a long time to resolve, but CAA sorted it; eventually.

How well-trained is your airline pilot? Just two months after the CAA was established, a BEA Trident crashed shortly after take-off from Heathrow, killing all 118 on board. This remains UK airlines’ worst accident and was attributed to wrongful selection of ‘flaps-up’ when it should have been ‘wheels-up’. Then, a year later, a British-operated Vanguard airliner crashed in Switzerland. *Flight International* published a table showing that aviation safety in the UK lagged behind other European countries. As a result, the CAA ‘beefed up’ the training requirements for UK airlines and their flight crew.

Control, are you receiving me? In the early years, air traffic control was severely constrained in the aircraft handling fees it could generate to support technical development. Eventually, an R&D budget was included in permitted ATC charges.

Since 1972?

At the CAA’s Silver Jubilee in 1997, all former and (as then) current chairmen, CEOs and Group Directors were interviewed - for publication in the CAA’s journal “Horizon”. But for reports on what they said, you’ll have to wait for the next ‘Contrail’ issue... Watch this space.

(Cont’d on page 20)

A Centenary of Civil Air Traffic Control

Peter Haigh

So when did civil Air Traffic Control actually start?

Opinions vary and, unlike developments such as the first powered and controlled flight in a heavier than air vehicle (17 Dec 1903), it is difficult to pinpoint exactly when ATC went operational. One can imagine that procedures were developed to organise the safe departures of multiple aircraft for the massed Allied bomber raids over Germany in the last months of World War 1 but that came to a sudden halt with the signing of the Armistice in November 1918.

Commercial aviation officially restarted on 15 July 1919, with a proving flight across the English Channel, from RAF Hendon to Paris Le-Bourget airport. Flown by a Lt. H. Shaw in a de Havilland DH9, the flight took 2 hours and 30 mins (it now takes 2hrs 16mins by Eurostar), and apparently cost £21 per passenger (which is over £1100 in today's money). Scheduled air services between London and Paris, and into Belgium began soon afterwards, with operations limited to fair weather. However commercial pressures quickly demanded that operations continue in lower visibility and, under the authority of the newly-formed ICAN (International Commission for Air Navigation, the precursor to ICAO), weather reports soon began to be distributed between airports, as an aid to pilots.

Construction of the world's first dedicated control tower commenced in 1920 at Croydon Airport. The overall requirement was to provide an elevated office, with good visibility over the airport, for airport staff to plan for departures and arrivals at Croydon airport, and to generate and disseminate those all-important weather reports. The resulting structure looked not unlike a garden shed built on 15 foot stilts.

Communication with aircraft in the immediate vicinity of the airport was initially via flags, flares and signalling lamps. However, a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) no.61 published by the UK Air Ministry in 1920 required radio to be used for "giving information as to the whereabouts of an aircraft travelling or about to travel along a route", and with suitably equipped aircraft beginning to appear, radio communication was quickly adopted.

The use of radio also allowed direction finding (DF) to be implemented, providing pilots with a bearing to, or from, the airport radio station. By triangulating multiple DF reports, the aircraft position could also be estimated. The pilots initially collated their own position reports, but the responsibilities and workload were quickly transferred to the ground based air traffic officers, who were also better placed to create an overall picture of aircraft in their area of responsibility.

Hence by 1922, Croydon-based Civil Air Traffic Officers and their associated Radio Officers, were manually plotting the positions of aircraft (to within 2 miles accuracy and taking 2 minutes to produce the estimate) and communicating the results, plus local traffic information and weather updates to aircraft; without doubt it was a rudimentary air traffic control service. With the NOTAM no.61 giving Croydon authority over all "air stations" in the UK, this also made it the UK's first air traffic control centre.

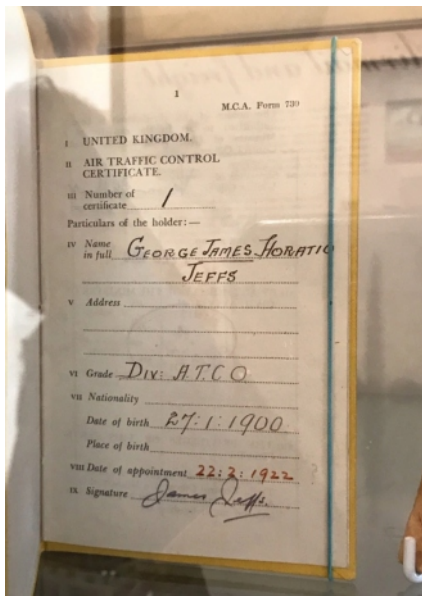
At this stage, commercial aircraft were flying ill-defined, though similar, routes between departure and arrival airports, with navigation by magnetic compass and maps, and confirming position by using visual fixes to geographic features, such as rivers, towns and even railway lines. Safe separations were ensured by operating on a "see and be seen" basis. Sadly, the catalyst to organise the routes on a more formal basis was due to an aircraft accident. On 7th April 1922, a French Farman Goliath, en-route from Paris Le Bourget to London Croydon, and a British De-Haviland DH-18 flying in the opposite direction but on the same route, collided north of Paris in low visibility. All seven passengers and crew on both aircraft died and although the number of fatalities was low, it proved that the probability of a mid air collision was far higher than previously assumed.

A post-accident meeting held at Croydon helped to establish the first rules that would define positive air traffic control. Air routes between France, Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK were clearly defined, and all aircraft were to fly and keep on the right side of defined routes. Aircraft were required to install radio equipment **and** keep in contact with ground stations throughout. A key figure in all this was a certain G.J.H "Jimmy" Jeffs, a Croydon Civilian Air Traffic Officer, who was one of the great innovators in developing the new discipline.

Retrospectively issued with Air Traffic Control Licence No.1 dated 22 Feb 1922, Jeffs developed many of the systems and procedures that were approved by the UK Air Ministry.



(Cont'd overleaf)



As an aside, having established over twenty-five ATC Units in the UK, Jeffs was asked by the USA authorities to take a lead in the establishment of the North Atlantic Airspace. It is only in recent years that the systems and procedures Jeffs helped to develop for the North Atlantic Airspace have been updated, through the use of satellite based communications and navigation systems; a fitting tribute to his distinguished career in civil and military Air Traffic Control, culminating in the awards of the MVO, CBE and the US Legion of Merit.

Many of the developments in air traffic control which took place between 1920 and 1922 could, with some justification, be taken as the start of air traffic control in the UK - certainly the world's first control tower at Croydon airport in 1920 is a strong contender.

Or maybe it is something as simple as George Jeffs appointment as the first UK (and possibly the world's first) licensed Controller, with his licence dated 22/2/1922 (available to view at the Croydon Airport Visitor Centre), which makes 2022 the centenary year for ATC.

Further information on the history of air traffic control can be found at the Croydon Airport Visitor Centre (Airport House, Purley Way, Croydon, CR0 0XZ.) and there is much available online, including at:

<https://www.historiccroydonairport.org.uk/interesting-topics/air-traffic-control/>

<https://atchistory.wordpress.com/2022/04/01/croydon-control-tower/>

Fifty years of the Civil Aviation Authority, cont'd

But perhaps as a taster?

"Bill Semple, former controller then Chief Operations Officer in NATS said:

"With the Boeing 707s, every airline handled them differently: BOAC didn't bring them down very fast but TWA's came down like a lift. Qantas' 707s descended quite slowly but moved forward at a great rate of knots."

This is just a tiny sample of the information we're able to share with you.

But, wherever you worked for CAA/NATS, you will have your own special memories of the projects you worked on, the rules you worked to - and the people you worked with.

So please share them with us, because RSA belongs to **YOU** and we need your input to keep it thriving.

Answers to a 'BC' Quiz

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Bone China. | 2. Boot Camp. | 3. Bread Crumbs. | 4. Broom Cupboard. | 5. Blind Corner. |
| 6. Bent Copper. | 7. Bouncy Castle. | 8. Brian Clough | 9. Blue Christmas | 10. Bon Chance. |
| 11. Battery Charger. | 12. Black Cat. | 13. Bristol Channel. | 14. Bill Clinton. | 15. Bonnie & Clyde. |
| 16. British Columbia. | 17. Black Country. | 18. Battle of Crecy. | 19. Billy Cotton. | 20. Bubble Cars. |

Answers to the Drop Me a Letter Please quiz

- | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| Frog, | Mole, | Gnat +Tuna, | Wasp, | Hawk, | Flea, | Goat + Gnat, |
| Mule, | Whale, | Cobra + Roach, | Heron, | Zebra + Bears, | Robin, | Turtle + Cuttle, |
| Earwig, | Pigeon, | Gibbon, | Oyster, | Leopard, | Stallion, | Bison, |
| Beaver, | Locust, | Pelican, | Anteater, | Hamster, | Panther, | Badger. |

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