The Big Danes
World Newsletter

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Get in touch...

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Welcome to this new format of the world news. The new format is in PDF and therefore we can feature it on our website, print it and it may be saved for the future. We have also chosen to focus on the news which means that all the service information which previously was at the bottom has been removed. All information regarding regional and section contacts can be found at our Web site www.IFFR.org

Since the last newsletter we have also adopted a new member manager system. World secretary Ian Kerr has been burning midnight oil to save our data and set up a complete new system with all our data. The system is termed Membermojo and I recommend that you visit it and when in there, do correct your data if some has changed. By that you may get the latest data in the upcoming PDF directory.

This year’s Annual General Meeting was well attended. The gentle revision of the bylaws was approved as were the budget and accounts from last year. A motion for letting the Executive board decide on dues to IFFR World from year to year, to regulate the reserve funds within a reasonable level, was also approved. Subsequently it was decided by the executive board that the dues for 2017 was set to zero. By doing this the money can stay in the sections. Relevant documents can be found in Membermojo.

DG Hong Kong Eric Chin has been working hard this year both as District Governor and on a project to establish an IFFR Squadron in Hong Kong. Eric presented the status of the project and I promised to be there for the Induction. Hong Kong has many pilots, both helicopter and commercial jet pilots.

World presidents report given at the AGM

World President Svend Andersen’s Report Atlanta June 12th, 2017
Firstly, I would like to thank you on behalf of Carina and myself for the kindness and hospitality we have received on our visits to the section and squadron meetings. We have enjoyed meeting so many engaged members and their families.
After the convention, last year in Seoul, we had our fly out based in Berlin. The event was superbly planned and managed by Gerhard Wrede and his small effective team.
With our base in Berlin we had great day tours with both planes and bus and lots of fellowship.
In August Carina and I joined the Scandinavian fly in at Bodo, north of the Arctic circle.

In September, we joined a one day event organized by Giuseppe Berardo and his team in Castel Nuovo Don Bosco, Italy.

November brought us to LA. Peter More arranged a lunch fly in at Santa Monika airport which he sponsored since it was soon to be his birthday.

In December, we joined the traditional UK Annual Christmas lunch at the Royal Air Force Club in London, really a treat!

In January, I was back in LA, and was able to join the first Squadron meeting in the airport of El Monte, west LA. It was put together by Penelope Cornwall. Never have I felt more presidential; IFFR including my name was in lights, on the billboard, flashing as was our meeting announced with 3 feet high letters in the arrival hall. Great job Penelope.

In April, we had the first European section meeting in Schwabish Hall in Germany. A great and traditional fly - in with good attendance, lots of time for fellowship and catching up after the long winter.

In May, we joined the Benelux fly in at the Oostende seaside in Belgium. We hit the first summer day in Europe having a great time.

Most of the ongoing IFFR business has been to deal with the many motions which were approved at the Berlin AGM. Most was straightforward, others proved to be somewhat more complicated and tedious.

1) The money back to the sections was carried out sending back 30,000 US$, less the dues for 2016 which was subtracted to save the cost of bank transfers. Sounds easy but turned out to require lots of work for our secretary.

   We are still building up funds in the World accounts, so the executive committee has made suggestions which will help us reduce and balance the holdings in the reserve and operational accounts within a relevant level of 25-35,000 US$

2) The motion to safeguard our reserve funds with a double approval turned out to be a difficult thing to implement without changing Bank. We use Bank of America and it turned out that this bank does not have an electronic system in place for this. The result was that the executive committee suggested to the board that we kept the double approval so that all withdrawals from the reserve accounts has to be suggested by the world treasurer and approved by the World President in writing. This method was approved by the board and is now reflected in the guidelines.

3) Gentle revision has been done to the bylaws, bringing it up to date with the latest approved motions. New policies from Rotary International regarding eligibility strongly challenge our by-laws. Thus, a Committee of wise old IFFR members has been given the task of drafting a revised set of by-laws which should bring us in compliance with the RI policies, and adjust the paragraphs accordingly. Draft should be available for a hearing at board level in November to be put before the AGM in Toronto next year. The committee consists of PWP Angus Clark, VP and WPN George Chaffey chaired by VP Ian Jenner.

4) Member Manager has crashed; Ian Kerr has been working hard to replace it and during the last three weeks a new system has emerged. Membermojo is the new system and Ian Jenner will report on this in a moment.

5) The guidelines have been updated with the motions approved at the last AGM in Berlin.

   One of my aims has been to focus on the membership. Not only increasing the number of members but also getting some of the dormant members activated. The squadron idea implemented in the Americas now, is a great way of bringing IFFR to the local areas. Especially when the sections cover a large
geographical area. The local lunch meetings are more attractive for a lot of members to meet up and spend an afternoon or morning together. I am sure this will activate a great number of members who we otherwise do not see.

I do think that our future and justification comes from the generation of local activities and involving members in a fun way. But it also depends on creating awareness of our great fellowship outside our midst.

Use your network within Rotary to spread the word about the fellowships in general and IFFR in particular.

The numbers are up. That is great. We are now approaching about 1400 members in total which is the largest increase in years. Han’s report which is tabled, gives the details in the numbers as of a few days ago.

This year’s fly-out has been put together by Dale Read and his very small team. It has been a lot of work setting up all the destinations, striking deals with the hotels and the events along the route. I do think we should acknowledge all the work and effort which has gone into this project, and I am personally looking forward to less work and more play as we leave on Thursday 15th.

With this I would like to end my report by thanking all members of the Executive board who have been very helpful and patient with the Scandinavian type of leadership.

A special thanks to Ian Kerr for being my trusted spellchecker and hardworking secretary, Lynn Miller for always being there, helping with the administrative complicated world of RI convention, US banking etc.
To George Chaffey and Angus Clark for lending an ear to my challenges and offering good advice.
Bo Johnsson for keeping the web site in the air and assisting with the new member system.
John Bowden for being my “consiglieri” and editor of the bylaw and guidelines revisions.
Finally, a great and warm thanks to my lovely wife Carina for her great support and gentle well thought advice.
Svend Andersen
WP 2016 – 2018
The Banquet
The South-East Fly away fond memories.
Visit http://ifframericas.org/ for all the pictures
Han’s Membership Tips

The Fellowship part of IFF(F)R is in full swing in Europe (and that -still- includes the UK!). At the fly-ins/outs I see and meet not only Fellows, but now also (F)riends! Excellent idea to bring Friends along.

In the last IFFR Annual General Meeting in Atlanta a motion was adopted to reduce the considerable funds in the IFFR "Federal Bank" and give (some of) it back to the Sections to be used in the furtherance of Aviation and IFFR locally. Short of the idea to make membership free for the next year(s) (which I don’t think is a good idea), there are surely several ways to spend it for good causes. Whilst doing this, get visibility and take the opportunity to promote IFFR membership (Rotarian or Friend). Rotary sometimes is a little too shy in telling the world about the good things we do in our community service work.

So here is my call on the Sections: Think of a way to promote IFFR membership opportunities as you make plans to support, donate or otherwise serve the interests of the aviation communities in your area!

As usual, keep the right side up!

Happy flying and safe landings!
Han Klinkspoor
Sali and I have just arrived back from the RI Atlanta Convention and caught up with 40,000 of our “closest” Rotary friends, 300 attending Australian Rotarians and many IFFR members from all around the globe. It was a very full and hectic few days which we thoroughly enjoyed but we were unable to go on the big post-convention USA fly-around as we had commitments at home.

On arriving home and opening up my AOPA “Australian Pilot” magazine, there on page 27 was a lovely article on one of our longtime IFFR members “Ron Dickinson” and his flying exploits over 73 years!! AOPA executive director Ben Morgan presented Ron with the “AOPA Lifetime Achievement Award” at the Australian Beechcraft Society event in Narromine – the article is attached.

So on behalf of our members……CONGRATULATIONS to Ron and his trusty co-pilot Aylsa on your inspirational achievement; I hope I am as spritely and still flying in my 90s!! Cheers.

Kind Regards,

Mike McFarlane
It’s all about safety:

With the Atlanta RI Convention and IFFR fly-out now a pleasant memory, let’s review what was learned from this and past successful and well run IFFR events.

Sam Bishop, past IFFR World President and Senior Member - Advisor of our Safety Committee discussed the safety aspects of our trips in a previous column. As pointed out, the IFFR Safety Committee was formed to help IFFR event organizers run our events safely.

It all starts with (1) initial planning, so the Safety Committee main function is to assist organizers in the original planning on the trip, especially with items that could be overlooked. Sam’s two examples were: (a) events are planned too close together, causing a pilot to fly when he or she would prefer to wait, just to be at the event on time, and (b) the need for a bus (Coach for those outside the U.S.) on longer fly-outs, as an alternate in inclement weather, and to carry excess luggage so you don’t stretch the load capacity of the planes and to take those who cannot or prefer not fly.

Then there are (2) the ever present forms on our IFFR Website that, while possibly a bother to fill out, are designed as a personal checklist to allow flyers and organizers to evaluate the safety of the proposed flight.

(3) Before each segment of a fly-out there is a group weather/planning discussion. Sam Bishop and Dan Radtke effectively used otherwise downtime on the bus to the airport as a venue to focus this discussion and briefing where someone familiar with the area speaks about what to expect, what is unique, the best approach, parking and so on.

While each pilot’s responsibility is to check weather before a proposed flight, the idea is to discuss it as a group.

And remember regarding weather, the flight must be VFR at the take-off and destination airports and you must be able to fly the entire route VFR.

That does not exclude a properly rated and current pilot from filing IFR and each pilot makes his/her own decision as to whether or not they will fly each leg as long as the above minimum conditions are met.

Never is there a “everybody goes or nobody goes” issue, because that puts too much pressure on someone that would like to wait a bit. But indeed, no one goes if the minimum weather criteria are not met.

Your Safety Committee exists for all of us, so if you as an organizer or as a participant have questions, comments or recommendations, please let us know.

Our webpage http://iffr.org/organising-events/ has more detail, documentation and forms which may assist.

Our contact information as your Safety Committee is below.
Jack Welge, Safety Committee Chair, welgelaw@yahoo.com – Americas
Michael Bryant, michael.bryant@xtra.co.nz - Australasia
Christian Denke, brief@cdenke.de – Europe
Sam Bishop Advisor, Safety Committee sambishop@totlcom.com

We wish all of you many years of safe flight and successful events.

Jack Welge

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The mission of this round the world flight is to bring awareness for cancer and raise $750,000 to buy an urgently needed MRI machine for 'Rotary Ambala Cancer and General Hospital' in Ambala Cantt., India.

Founded in 2005, with the goal of bringing free healthcare to a very poor and underserved community, the Rotary Ambala Cancer and General Hospital had a very humble beginning with a nurse, its only employee, going from home to home bringing awareness of cancer to the poor. Since then with the help and incredible generosity of the Rotarians and citizens of Ambala the hospital has grown into a 100-bed hospital.

Much has been accomplished but a lot more needs to be done! One major diagnostic piece of equipment the hospital does not have and needs urgently is a MRI Machine (the very basic tool needed for diagnosing cancer). The equipment costs $750,000, way beyond the hospital’s ability to buy it. Please support me in this endeavor to raise $750,000 for the hospital to buy a MRI machine.

The Pilot Ravi Bansal, PhD a retired entrepreneur with a passion for flying and a wannabe Drummer is the pilot/owner of this Cessna 400.

This mission for me is very personal as it not only is an adventure that I have been dreaming about for a while, but will also help bring awareness about cancer in the rural community around Ambala and get the hospital a needed MRI machine now.

For further information see www.raviworldflight.com Here you can also follow the progress of the flight.

Handiflight a worthwhile general aviation purpose looking for support.

«Handiflight», a nonprofit association, was born in Gruyère (Switzerland) in 2007. It has since become the biggest fly-in of disabled pilots from all around the world: a unique opportunity to share experiences and enjoy flying in the beauty of the Swiss Alps.

After 10 years of solid success, Handiflight is inverting its normal actions: the event will fly around the world and meet disabled aviators in their own skies, explore new horizons and look for new challenges.

Our website: handiflight.org will show you the goals, the itinerary and the planning of our journey which is not a first or a record attempt. The goals are the same as yours: meet, share, dare, inspire, in one word: fellowship. It's why we would be very happy to meet some of your members around the world. We will spend about one month in Australia, in New Zealand and in North America.

For further information contact Daniel Ramseier at dramseier@gmail.com
News from the World Secretary Ian Kerr:

Use of our new IFFR database of all members - it’s called Membermojo

Firstly, from a computer or tablet

1. Go to iffr.org
2. Press the tab at the top on the home page with label ‘Membermojo’
3. On the next page enter your email address and select ‘Sign in with email’.
4. Within a minute you will receive an email - in the email message press ‘click here to sign in’.
5. Scroll down to ‘My details’ and select ‘View or edit details’ to see your own entry. If you select ‘Edit’ at the bottom you can amend any of your details then press 'Save' at the bottom.
6. Now go back to the top and select ‘Your membership’. This then shows the earlier page and if you go down to select ‘Member directory’ you can enter a name of any IFFR member in the world in the box, using last name followed by first name, and when it displays in an orange color press on the name and you will see the member’s details. You can return to ‘Your membership’ page at any time to select another member.
7. Please ignore the ‘Payments’ option as payments are made via your section.
8. If you wish you can select ‘Set password’ but this is not necessary as you can simply sign in using your email address.

Secondly, from a mobile phone

Go to iffr.org
Press the button with lines on the right side of the blue bar at the top
Press the word ‘Membermojo’
Continue as from number 3 above

We are creating a new PDF Membership Directory so now is your last chance to ensure your data is correct.

Ian Kerr