

Air ACES A.G.M. Monday 21st May 2018 8.35 p.m. Chichester Park Hotel.

1]Welcome, Membership update, Chair`s & Talk Co-ordinator`s report – David Batcock.

David thanked the RAF Team for their presentation & the members for staying. He hoped that it would be a short A.G.M. David asked if all attendees had received a copy of the A.G.M. handout? A few had not, and more were circulated. Total membership in 2017 was 153 [down 33 on 2016]. So far in 2018 we have as of April 2018 149 members, however, a lot of former members now attend as guests on a fairly regular basis. The proposed 2018 talk/ speaker list shows 13 Evenings and 14 talks [This includes 2 shorter ones in December]. 2019 has 16 talks from 13 speakers & 2020 is almost fully booked, with Jock Heron being one of those returning. David said that I hope you enjoy our talks as I always try to obtain as good as possible speakers for the pleasure of Air ACES members, with a good variety of subjects. He then discussed talks in the current year and highlighted Don Cameron- Ballooning in June and July`s talk on the History of the Royal Jordanian Falcons Display Team. He thanked and mentioned by name our three Patrons and informed the meeting that John Farley is not at all well and is now housebound. David also thanked his Team without whom these enjoyable evenings would not be possible. Air ACES are now without a doubt the leading aviation talk society in South East England. David Batcock thanked Christine Stevens and Andy Tate our Vice – Chairs for their unflagging support since their appointment in mid 2016. Air ACES have continued to enjoy top notch support from the hotel management & staff supplying the screens, projector, setting up the room and refreshments. David also thanked his wife Alison for her continuing patience and help. This year Air ACES will be at Yapton Village Hall to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of Ford Aerodrome on June the 9th and at Family Day at Tangmere Aviation Museum on August the 26th. There will also be in 2018 the Air ACES members gliding day on Thursday the 9th of August 2018.

2] Vice –Chair`s report & Press updates – Christine Stevens.

Christine said that her and Andy Tate assisted and supported David Batcock and his Team. It has been another great year for talks and the numbers attending are testament to the quality of those talks. Andy T produces a leaflet listing Air ACES talks, which are displayed at Tangmere Museum & R.A.F.A. Bognor. Air ACES receive a lot of press coverage that we do not pay for. David B obtains coverage from the local papers, such as the Observer & the Post in their What`s On and Clubs/ Societies sections, & Ken Nicoll and Christine Stevens obtain coverage in local magazines, village papers, history groups and websites such as Dan Air and British Caledonian. If any one knows of any press source that we can contact, please let us know at item 10.

3]Treasurer`s Report- John Gradwell.

John explained the January to December 2017 accounts explaining that the reduction in funds was largely due to the costs of the Anniversary Event in 2016 being paid in early 2017, whereas the income from this was largely received in the previous Air ACES year 2016. There was not an Anniversary event in 2017 for ticket sales to offset these costs. The accounts explain the situation well and we still have a healthy £3,204 .34 in reserve funds at the end of 2017.

2.

4]I.T. Website Co-ordinators report- Andy Tate.

There have been very few changes to Air ACES website, other than to comply with recent Data Protection law changes. The Air ACES members have now signed to be contacted by Air ACES for their monthly email reminder. In future new members will also sign up in this way. In 2017 only six people have opted out of receiving this. Our new Privacy Policy will be on our website by Friday the 20th of May. If Air ACES members sign up to attend a visit Air ACES have members permission to pass on their details to airfields [such as Yeovilton] but this does not apply this year to the RAF Museum Hendon visit. The talk email goes out the weekend before the Monday talk.

5] Visit Co-ordinator report – Martin Hamilton.

Martin played tribute to the late Fred Barber`s enjoyable trips last September to Old Sarum & Middle Wallop, it was a very full enjoyable day. This year`s visit is to RAF Museum Hendon, originally planned for May. It has been delayed by the museum not being ready in time for the RAF 100 Celebrations, so the trip will now be on the 20th of September. 46 have expressed interest, 7 more can be accommodated on the coach. The basic cost is £18 plus whatever amounts attendees wish to spend on other items. Martin has details of extras available at Hendon, such as sitting in a Spitfire cockpit for £10.

6] Outline of the donation to the cadets at Southdown Gliding Club-Andy Tate.

Air ACES members voted for this in 2017 and thanks to the support for our raffles the S.G.C. will be able to provide their most promising youngsters- that help run the club with gliding training support. This donation will provide for two special days of winch launches, with a maximum of 30 launches per day. With these winch launches students will gain extra experience at low level for emergencies such as forced landings! The most promising youngsters at the Storrington Club are rewarded as an incentive to them. August will see the handover of Air ACES cheque to the gliding club.

7]Outline of the proposed donation to the Sussex Air Ambulance [KSSAAT]- Christine Stevens.

Over the last two years fly2help has been less active, especially locally. Air ACES are proposing to support Sussex Air Ambulance. Please keep buying our raffle tickets to support these two organisations.

8] Charities nomination for May 2018 to April 2019.- Christine Stevens.

It was proposed to the members for a vote that our support this year would be for the Sussex Air Ambulance & the cadets at the Southdown Gliding Club. This was carried unanimously with no abstentions.

3.

9] Election of the Air ACES Team Members for May 2018 to April 2019- Christine Stevens.

2017 was a sad year for Air ACES with the loss of Team Members; - John Stevens & Fred Barber. John Gradwell has decided to stand down as Treasurer after five years and David Smith as Minute Taker after 3.5 years. Both were thanked for their time and effort. Martin Hamilton has agreed to act as Treasurer after a hand-over period. Otherwise with the addition of Peter Bartram as a Team Member all offer themselves as per the list. This proposal was put to the Members present and was carried unanimously with no abstentions. This leaves the position of Minute Taker vacant. If any of our members are interested, please see David Smith, or David Batcock after the meeting for details of this position.

10] Any points/ questions from the members attending the A.G.M.

This year there were no questions.

The A.G.M. closed at 9.07 p.m.