

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010

This last 12 months have probably been the most significant in the recent history of Guernsey Aero Club. The extension project, initiated by my predecessor, opened at the end of May and the benefits it has brought to the Club are borne out by our financial position.

I will admit that I was one of the doubters, but I can see that we now have a more useful, flexible and pleasant space in which to host functions and conduct our business.

The first part of the year was taken up with completing the project and rolling it out to the membership. I must thank Rob Le Page for the time that he has put in to the project to ensure that it came in on budget, and keeping Rihoyo on the straight and narrow.

We hosted a successful open day/Official Opening at which it was good to see Sir Peter Le Cheminant who opened the original building and Lyndon Trott who learnt to fly at GFT. It is hoped that the Open Day will become an annual event.

We have been able to host larger functions and the Clubhouse is receiving more requests for functions from outside of the membership. This is all good news, both in giving us more of a buzz, get our name out to the Guernsey people and (more importantly) helping to pay for the project.

This coming year will see Jonathan Le Moignian and his team extend and refurbish the kitchen, making it a more pleasant place to cater from.

On this subject, I thank Jonathan and all those who have risen to the challenge of cooking for the membership on First Friday Food nights. These are important events for us, both socially and financially.

A fine summer enabled us to host several corporate flying events, including a hugely successful "Summer Party" for Schroders. Several BBQs took place, including an August invitation to Alderney & Jersey Aero Clubs, who took the opportunity to experience our new facilities and legendary hospitality!

On the aviation front, the members' fly-aways have been a little disappointing, although one or two aircraft did make it to Cherbourg, Eggesford and Quiberon, there were no real "Club" excursion.

Mark Dravers ran a successful Inter Island Navex with Jersey in April and the Club Spot Landing competition saw 8 brave aviators battle it out in Alderney in December, with Nick Blakeley walking flying off with the trophy.

September's Air Rally was again a great success, despite some horrible weather on the Saturday, and by sharing the Hangar Ball with the RAFA Battle of Britain event, we managed to keep costs under control and make a tidy profit for the Club. 2011 will see a change of date to June and a freshening of the format, to include a more informal Hangar event at a reduced price, as we attempt to escape the ever escalating costs of outside caterers.

This year has been turbulent on the Manager front. However, we anticipate that our new manager June will be comfortable with all aspects of the job..... make her feel welcome.

The performance of GFT continues to be of concern to the Aero Club Committee and there has been dialogue with the Directors and Trustees to see if we can work to find a way forward to making the operation more profitable. These efforts will continue into the coming months.

As you know, I am standing down as Chairman after a two year stint. It has been an interesting couple of years and not without its problems, but I have enjoyed it and at least I hand the Club on to my successor on at least as good a footing as I inherited it, and that is all thanks to the hard work of my Committee and an active Membership, without whom, extension or no extension, this Club is nothing.

GARY ELSON