



2005 REPORT TO FAI AVIATION & SPACE EDUCATION COMMISSION

General

During 2004-2005 much time was spent addressing some of the regulatory and insurance issues which cause us difficulties in giving aviation opportunities to our young people. It is a slow process and while I will first cover the events which we were able to run, almost as important are the ideas and plans which have yet to be realised and the co-operations which are being developed. In attempting to overcome some of the obstacles, I am grateful for the assistance of several of my CIEA colleagues. Gabriel in Spain, Cary in Switzerland, Gordon in the US, Roland in France and Sachie in Japan have all provided me with information about initiatives in their countries which was most helpful. Thanks also to Klaus in Germany for his 'Help! Youngsters are Visiting the Airfield' document and especially to Debbie Galloway and her colleagues at NASA who were most generous with their time and materials.

Events

- In March we held our 3rd National Air Activities Weekend at Casement Aerodrome near Dublin. This was attended by 120 young people who saw at first hand the work of the Irish Air Corps as well as presentations from affiliates to the National Aero-Club representing aero-modelling, gliding, microlighting and ballooning. We also had support from the Irish police air support unit and Bombardier Aerospace from Belfast who brought their schools 'Flight Experience' show which featured fun practical demonstrations of aeronautical principles. Our closing ceremony was attended by the Irish Chief Scout and the General Officer Commanding, Irish Air Corp, Brigadier-General Ralph James.
- In June I ran a base at our national day for Beaver Scouts (age 6-7) where we had fun with simple demonstrations of air pressure, rockets and toy parachutes.
- In August my Team ran a base at our National Scout Competition (ages 11-16). Over two days we covered topics such as the Phonetic Alphabet, Air Charts, compressed-air Rockets and Kite construction with around 400 young people.
- In September I attended a Space Day event for our Cub Scouts (ages 8-11). I covered some aero-modelling, the achievements of the Wright Brothers and I was able to distribute some materials kindly supplied by NASA.

Ideas, Plans & Co-Operation

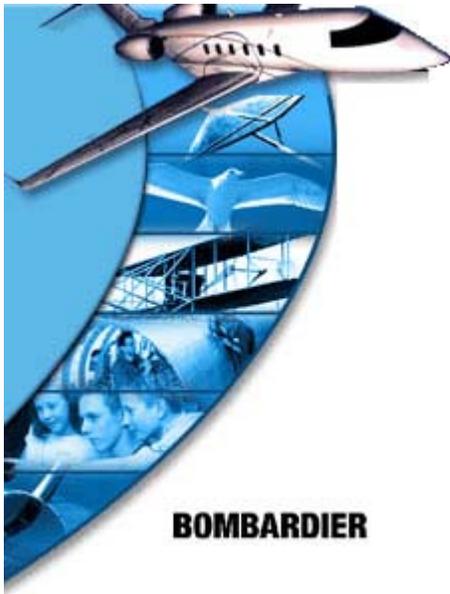
- I have co-operated closely with the Model Aeronautics Council of Ireland over the past year. Aero-modelling is a very useful tool in introducing aviation concepts to young people in their local area, particularly where there is no convenient opportunity to experience full-scale aviation. MACI, through their Education & Information officer, Michael Mahon, have done a lot of work to develop a suitable programme for schools and a challenge competition for colleges. They have also attracted the support of the Irish Department of Education.
- Bombardier Aerospace has provided us with direct support and access to their educational materials. I have attached an appendix summarising their educational activities.
- I have made initial contact with some Irish airfield facilities with a view to ‘twinning’ them with local scout groups to provide these young people with local opportunities to experience aviation. On a larger scale, I obtained information from the FAA about their airport programmes which I hope to bring to the attention of the Irish international airport authorities.
- I continue to maintain close contact with my colleagues at the UK Air Scouts. I and my British colleagues, as members of the Popular Flying Association, helped to establish an Education ‘Strut’ which has done great work in assisting youth air education projects, including Young Eagles which is organised in the UK by the PFA. It is planned to extend many of these initiatives to Ireland.

Finally, I would like to bring delegates’ attention to the following link which publicises the connection of World Scouting to Steve Fossett’s recent record- breaking Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer. It’s not often that we get our logo alongside that of NASA so I am particularly proud of this one. Have a look at www.scout.org/front/0502Fossett_e.shtml . Steve is an elected member of the World Scout Committee of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Scouts around the world were proud to see him displaying the World Scout emblem on his plane, and they were cheering him on! I very much hope that his achievement will serve to inspire many of our young members as did the achievements of other former scouts such as Charles Lindbergh and Neil Armstrong.

CIEA Delegate – Ireland

Paul Lynch





During 2004 – 2005 Bombardier Aerospace (formerly Shorts Brothers) in Belfast sponsored a range of aviation programmes for young people in Northern Ireland under the direction of our Education Liaison Officer, Tony Monaghan. The following are some examples:

- Schools outreach programme working with schools across Northern Ireland in a wide range of programmes. The CD-ROM The Flight Experience is in all schools and is the main resource for the company in terms of making the school community know who we are.
- Website www.theflightexperience.com
- Competitions, current one is to make a self-propelled model aircraft, see web site for details.
- Sponsorship of X2 Flight Exhibit at the Museum at Cultra, and displays at W5 Science Exhibition, Belfast.
- Summer schools programme called High Flyers to promote science, literacy and numeracy. Lasts approx three weeks.
- Familiarisation Flights with a Bombardier Q400. We intent to do several over the summer after doing a few last year. The pupils love it. The pilots talk to the pupils throughout the entire flight as to what is happening.
- Work experience for up to one week within the organisation for pupils in Year 12 & 13.
- Industry Education links programmes such as mock interviews, events to promote enterprise, careers fairs.
- Work with schools promoting flight and careers within aerospace/engineering.