



## **FAI – AVIATION AND SPACE EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2006**

### **Report of the National Aero Club of Ireland**

The following is a summary of the main air education efforts currently underway in Ireland both inside and outside of the National Aero Club. In almost every case, I have added a relevant website where more information can be obtained:

- Planning is underway for our first Young Aviators event this year in co-operation with the Popular Flying Association. P.F.A. have last year parted company with E.A.A. Young Eagles due to insurance issues and have established Young Aviators instead. This is basically the same situation as happened in Spain and Switzerland. We plan to run the event as a two-day camp with a variety of aviation-related experiences surrounding the actual flight. See [www.pfa.org.uk/education\\_ya.asp](http://www.pfa.org.uk/education_ya.asp) .
- Scouting Ireland are currently in the process of reviewing their entire programme, including Air Activities and Air Scouting. This, together with difficulties in accessing some aviation facilities, has meant that 2005 was a quiet year but it is hoped that activity will expand again during the next couple of years. See [www.scouts.ie/scouts/air-scouts](http://www.scouts.ie/scouts/air-scouts) .
- The Model Aeronautics Council of Ireland (M.A.C.I.) have established a schools programme for air education which is proving to be very popular. Attached is a copy of their report. See also [www.maci.ie/Public\\_html/htm/education\\_programme.htm](http://www.maci.ie/Public_html/htm/education_programme.htm) .
- M.A.C.I. are also responsible for the large entry to the 2006 Young Artists competition which they organised. It is hoped that future entries will exceed this year's total.
- During 2005, the National Association for General Aviation (N.A.G.A.) was established here to perform the same function as A.O.P.A. in other countries. This means that, for the first time, we have the potential to co-ordinate the efforts of General Aviation in the area of air education.

N.A.G.A. has already set up a committee for this purpose. I hope to assist them in their efforts. See [www.nagaireland.com/school.htm](http://www.nagaireland.com/school.htm) .

- Bombardier Aerospace in Belfast continue to support a variety of different air education programmes although they note that budgets for such programmes are regrettably being cut compared to previous years. Their report is attached. See also [www.theflightexperience.com](http://www.theflightexperience.com) .
- FÁS is the Irish training & employment authority. The FÁS science challenge is a programme designed to attract students from the age of 10 upwards towards a career in the sciences by exposing them to advanced technology and research through contact with the U.S. space industry and associated companies and educational institutions in Florida and Houston, Texas. It has the support of all the Irish universities, the Irish government and representatives of Irish employers, scientists and engineers. The programme has components aimed at primary school students (ages 7 to 12), university graduates and apprentices. At the older age groups the programme involves project work, internships and work experience managed by the Florida Space Authority and supported by NASA. Further information can be seen at [www.fas.ie/science](http://www.fas.ie/science) . Although not specifically directed at aviation and space education another source of science related careers information is [www.science.ie](http://www.science.ie) .

**Dublin, April 2006**

**Paul Lynch/ CIEA Ireland**



## **Model Aeronautics Council of Ireland**

Since Paris I have visited in excess of 50 schools, with in excess of 1600 students. These visits always prove to be very popular with the children and teachers alike.

Last year we attended several science fairs around the country, all proved very successful and more are planned for this year.

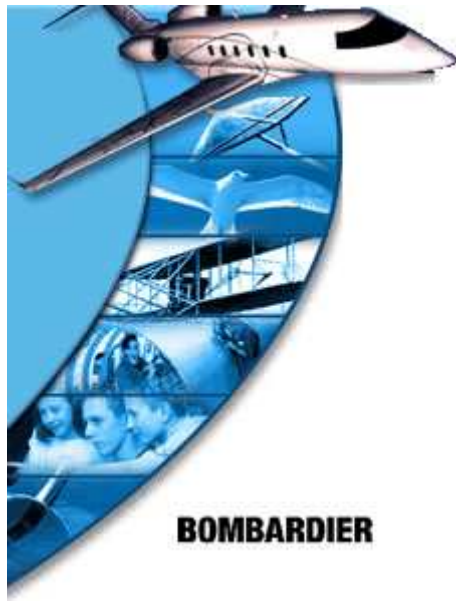
We are currently in discussion with several government departments and semi-state bodies.

The Teacher' Resource is currently being updated.

Entries for the 2006 FAI Art Competition, "Air Sports and Nature in Harmony" exceeded 2000, from 50 schools in Category I and Category II, these were judged by a panel of judges including two (2) professional artists. We are currently awaiting delivery of the prizes. Next year we will need to redress the issue of no entries in Category III.

**Michael Mahon**

Education & Information Officer  
Model Aeronautics Council of Ireland



During 2005 – 2006 Bombardier Aerospace (formerly Shorts Brothers) in Belfast sponsored a range of aviation programmes for young people in Northern Ireland. The following are some examples:

- Your Career in Aerospace
  - 24 groups of high school students (ages 12 to 18) covered
  - Students attend the 'Flight Experience' show and get to hear about careers with Bombardier
  - Students meet an engineer and some apprentices and hear about their jobs and have the opportunity to ask questions
  - Sessions finish with a tour of the museum
- Primary School Project
  - 10 schools being covered initially
  - Focus on science & technology
  - School visit by Bombardier personnel is followed by a visit to the museum where a worksheet is completed
  - A follow up visit includes a competition
- Website [www.theflightexperience.com](http://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.
- Work with schools promoting flight and careers within aerospace/engineering.