



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**
LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH

Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m.

The AGM was held via **MS Teams**. Participants were required to log into the meeting using their own computers.

1. ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 **Those attending:** Ashley van Bruygom, Steve Hogarth, Ben Marshall, Prof. Jim McGuirk, Colin Moss, John Newton, Daniel Nutt, Dr. John Ollerhead, Tom Parkinson, Thomas Steffen, Goff Tearle.

1.2 **Apologies for Absence** were received from: Lily Hope, Dr. James Knowles, Oscar Watson-Maguire.

N.B. 10 persons are required to be present at an AGM for it to be quorate. Hence AGM was quorate with 11 attendees.

2. MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 16TH MAY 2023

2.1 Acceptance of these minutes was proposed by John Ollerhead and seconded by Goff Tearle. They were approved nem con.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM 2023 AGM MINUTES

3.1 Two visits took place during the year in collaboration with the RAeS Derby Branch, one to the National Centre for Combustion and Aerothermal Technology at Loughborough University, and one to the On-Wing Repair Centre.

3.2 Packs containing copies of the 2023/24 season's annual brochure and a poster advertising the Branch's activities were distributed to all libraries within a 15 mile radius of Loughborough and also to other organisations in the area likely to have an interest in the RAeS Loughborough Branch's activities.

3.3 The Branch's finances were confirmed as being in a healthy state to start the 2023/24 season.

3.4 Barnaby Pine from Loughborough University, was the winner of the N. E. Rowe Lecture Competition both at local level. (i.e. Loughborough Branch) and at national level.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

4.1 Lectures

4.1.1 Annex 1 shows a list of our 2023/4 season lectures. The majority of these lectures were again of high quality but it was considered that a minority were below the standard set during previous seasons. It could be concluded that the quality of lectures needs to be established as part of our process for booking lectures.

4.1.2 Once again all of our lectures were given in hybrid format, again in Loughborough University's Brockington Lecture Theatre. The average attendance of 79 was much the same as for the 2022/23 season but again significantly less than pre-Covid attendances which were, on average, in excess of 140. The other difference is that the split between Live and via Teams attendance has changed from 50:50 to 78:22. In other words more people are choosing to come to the lecture theatre to hear and see lectures live rather than via Teams.

4.1.3 More needs to be done to maintain local contact lists and local advertising if we are to increase our attendances.

4.1.4 The most popular lecture was "The Development of the F86 Sabre" and the least popular "Selling Airlander".

4.1.5 It has been noted that there was a propensity for lectures to be shortened to 1 hour including Question Time. This aspect was often closely related to lecture quality.

4.1.6 We are now in the process of organising the 2024/25 season of lectures. The general impression is that it is becoming more difficult to book lecturers for our lecture programme.

4.2 Visits

4.2.1 In April 2024, an evening visit was organised to East Midlands Airport to view the transition from daytime passenger operations to nighttime freight operations.

4.3 Discussion

4.3.1 Comments in 4.1.1 and 4.1.5 above concerning lectures being below our normal standards relate to two lectures in particular. Both were only of about 35 minutes in duration, one lacked technical content but was nonetheless humorous. The other used slides which were so full of text to be read that it was difficult to absorb the text and, at the same time, to listen to the lecturer.

4.3.2 Commented that, given the nature to the RAeS, we are more likely to favour lectures for their technical content rather than their humour.

4.3.2 Suggested that one lecture each year should be given by a local academic from Loughborough University. Each summer the University holds a summer conference during which some of the PhD students each give a 20 minute lectures on their work. The most popular of these lectures could form the basis of one of our lecture evenings. However, it was emphasised that the fact that a lecture is to be given by person(s) from the University does not necessarily mean that it is of interest to the Branch's audience.

Action 1 - Ashley van Bruygom, Ben Marshall, Thomas Steffen

4.3.3 It is more difficult to make contact with secretaries etc. of other Branches via the internet than it used to be via 'phone or via a branch e-mail address, e.g. derby@aerospace.com. In addition, fewer lectures given to the branches are now being advertised in the RAeS's Aerospace magazine. This makes it more difficult to obtain details of lectures which could potentially be given at the Loughborough Branch. This point to be raised at the RAeS Annual Conference.

Action 2 – Steve Hogarth

4.3.4 To increase attendance levels, more needs to be done to maintain our local contacts list of Branch Members and Other Interested Parties. Until recently the Loughborough Branch held a comprehensive list of local contacts including their postal and e-mail addresses. This list was used to send out annual brochures and a letter inviting recipients to attend the upcoming season of lectures and any visits arranged for that season. Methods of maintaining/expanding the Loughborough Branch's local contacts are to be considered.

Action 3 – John Ollerhead and Colin Moss

4.3.5 As for the 2023/24 Season, packs of brochures and posters were circulated to all libraries and other potentially interested organisations within a 15-20 mile radius of Loughborough.

Action 4 – Colin Moss

4.3.6 We are still in the process of booking two of the lecturers for the 2024/25 Season (15th October 2024 and 18th March 2025). An E-mail giving progress in making these bookings to be send out to the committee in mid-June.

Action 5 – Goff Tearle

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

5.1. Refer to Annex 2 for the 2022/23 Income and Expenditure Accounts. They show the following:

5.1.1. The RAeS Grant/Subvention** was £500 for the Branch's 2023/24 Season. N.B. The reduction from the 2022/23 Season is part of the process of reducing our capital to the 2 times annual expenditure level as recommended by RAeS HQ. No grant has been requested for 2024/25 Season but, to smooth the process of reducing our capital, a reduced level of grant will be sought for the 2025/26 Season**.

**N.B. Grants are paid to the Branch in accordance with RAeS HQ's financial year which corresponds with the calendar year. Thus, we will submit an application in December 2024 for a grant to be paid to the Branch during 2025 which will apply to our 2025/26 Season.

5.1.2. Branch Member Subscriptions have reduced from £750 to £540.

5.1.3. Donations have reduced from £333.20 to £204.15.

5.1.4. The lecture theatre hire charges have remained at £900, i.e. £100 per lecture.

5.1.5. Refer to Annex 3 for the 2023/24 Statement of Bank Accounts. They show a funding reserve of £8812.13 with which to commence the 2024/25 Season.

6. NE ROWE YOUNG PERSONS' LECTURE COMPETITION

6.1 A TEAMS-based preliminary session for Loughborough entries was held at Loughborough University on 10th May 2023.

6.2 A TEAMS-based final session was held, also at Loughborough, on 28th June 2023. N.B. There were no Derby entries.

6.3 The Loughborough winner was Morgan Taylor (MEng, PhD) for his lecture "Can Quantum Computing Redefine Aerospace". He received a £100 prize and a certificate for his lecture. He went on to win the national prize of £500.

6.4 An in person preliminary session for 2023/24 Loughborough entries was held at Loughborough University on 3rd May 2024. There were 2 candidates.

6.5 The final session for 2023/24 will be held with Rolls-Royce Derby on 13th or 19th June 2024.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

7.1. Nominations are:

7.1.1. Standing for re-election:

Chairman:	Prof. Jim McGuirk*
Secretary:	Colin Moss*
Assistant Secretary	Dr. John Ollerhead*
Treasurer:	Stephen Hogarth*,
Meetings Secretary:	Dr. Vipran Kannan*
Programme Secretary	Goff Tearle*
Visits Secretary	Daniel Nutt*

Committee Members:

Roger Allton, Ashley van Bruygom*, Ben Marshall, Prof. Adrian Spencer* and Dr. Thomas Steffen

N.B. The following are not standing for re-election: Dr. James Knowles, John Newton*, Francis Maccabee, Lily Hope (Young Persons' Network Rep.), Oscar Watson-Maguire (LU Flying Club Treasurer and Media Secretary)

Action 6 – A new YPN Representative to be found – Jim McGuirk

7.1.2. Persons seeking election:

Dr. Bjorn Cleton
Dr. Rob Watson

* RAeS Members

7.2. All those listed in 7.1 above were elected Nem Con.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 The Aero. Eng. Group Aircraft Design Award mini-lectures are due to be given by final year Aeronautical Engineering MEng students at Loughborough University on Tuesday June 11th 2024. This year's projects are:

Autonomous Air Taxi (AAT)

UAV to Implement Precision Farming Techniques (AUAV)

Heavy Lift Mobility Platform (HLMP)

Tiltrotor UAV (TRUAV)

High Performance Telecommunications Satellite (TSOR)

8.2 Two of the above will be selected to form RAeS Loughborough Branch's 10th and final lecture of the 2023/24 season on 19th June 2024. The selection process will be:

1. All 5 groups have prepared a 1-page image + short description of their projects.
2. Branch Committee attending the AGM to select 2 projects which are thought to be of most interest to Branch lecture attendees.
3. On June 19th the 2 selected groups each present a 20-30 mi. lecture + Q/A as Lecture 10 of the Branch's 2023/24 season.
4. A winner is selected from the two groups and awarded "The Royal Aero. Soc Loughborough Branch Aircraft Design Award".

8.3 Copies of the five one page images and short descriptions have already been circulated to committee members by e-mail.

8.4 Agreed that committee members attending the AGM would each make their selection of two projects from the short descriptions and forward their selections by e-mail to Jim McGuirk by 17th May 2024.

Action 7 - Committee Members attending AGM

Colin Moss

RAeS Loughborough Branch Secretary

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Date	Lecture and Lecturer
17th Oct 2023	The Development of the F86 Sabre by Rod Dean, Aviation Consultant
7th Nov 2023	Silver City Airways by Steve Hogarth, RAeS Loughborough Branch Treasurer
21st Nov 2023 Elfyn Richards Prestige Lecture	Sir Frank Whittle: The Genesis of Early Jet Engines. Lecture by Ian Whittle, son of Frank Whittle
12th Dec 2023	The Buccaneer by Air Cdre. (Ret'd) Graham Pitchfork
16th Jan 2024	Airworthiness in the Context of Unmanned Air Systems by Dewar Donnithome-Tait
13th Feb 2024	Selling Airlander by George Land, Executive Director – Sales, Hybrid Air Vehicles
27th Feb 2024	Lockheed Martin Space in the UK by Grant Lewis, Lockheed Martin
19th March 2024	A lighter View of the Light Blue Pt 1 by Kenneth Moore
16th April 2024	Sustainable Aviation Fuels in Rolls-Royce plc by Ken Young, Rolls Royce

Annex 1 - 2023/24 Branch Lecture Programme

INCOME	2022/2023	2023/24
	£	£
1. RAeS Grant/Subvention	1875.00	500.00
2. Branch Member Subscriptions	750.00	540.00
3. Donations at meetings (in the room and on line)	333.20	204.15 (1)
4. Interest on Capital Account	18.58	83.91
5. IMechE contribution to selected meetings	25.00	- (2)
	Total 3001.78	1328.06

EXPENDITURE

1. Lecture Expenses (Travel, Accommodation)	1345.54	1328.29
2. LU020 Room Hire	900.00	900.00
3. Secretarial and Programme production	52.27	313.59
4. Website/Domain	143.85	71.86
5. Awards N.E. Rowe	150.00	100.00
6. Branches' Conference	-	125.00 (3)
	Total 2591.66	2838.74

Notes:

- 1. In room £192.75, On line £11.40 2. To be claimed for this season £50 3. S. Hogarth attending RAeS Branches' Conference, Cambridge 14th-15th June 2024**

ANNEX 2 – INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Brought Forward Balances

		£
Current Account	12th May 2023	4296.08
Capital Account	12th May 2023	6026.73

	Total	10322.81
Cost to Branch for 2023/24 Season		(1510.68)

Represented by Balances

Current Account	5th May 2024	701.49
Capital Account	5th May 2024	8110.64

	Total	8812.13

ANNEX 3 – STATEMENT OF BANK ACCOUNTS 5TH MAY 2024