



**ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY**

BEDFORD BRANCH AGM 2022 – 10th November 2022

Meeting held in the ARA Sports & Social Club, Manton Lane, Bedford and online via MS Teams, meeting opened by Bernard Chan, Chair at 7pm. Present in the hall were 12 Society Members, 2 Branch Friends and 5 Non-members, online 15 people, membership status unknown. Copies of the previous AGM Minutes and the proposed committee biographies were available in the hall, electronic copies had been posted online ahead of the meeting for access to online participants. Only in-person members could vote during the AGM but online participants could comment if they wished.

1. Apologies for absence

All of the current committee were present; Peter Curtis (President), Bernard Chan (Chair), Neil Stokes (Treasurer & Temporary Secretary), Daniel Dyer (Lecture Secretary), Oliver Westbrook-Netherton and Caroline Betts. It was noted that Adam Preece (Secretary) and Jennifer Edwards had resigned from the committee in year.

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the previous AGM

Comment from the floor that there was no text for the Chair's report and closing remarks. These had not been available to the Branch Secretary when the minutes were produced in 2022 but have now been found and would be added for the record as soon as possible. **Action 1: B. Chan to provide previous AGM Chair's report and closing remarks.**

3. AGM matters arising from previous minutes

No outstanding matters with the exception of the missing Chair's report.

4. Treasurer's report (including Accounts Review) – Neil Stokes

Covering the period May 31st 2021 to November 10th 2022

Overview

The year started with a balance of £3,063.00 (including £67 cash) which was higher than at the same point the year before (£2,715.00). This year we will end the year with around £2,200 in the bank plus the cash float, there are still some outstanding commitments yet to appear in the accounts.

- The drop in the balance sheet is caused by a combination of COVID, which cut our income from in-person attendance at lectures and the missed payment from HQ. These are our only two sources of income and they are linked in that the HQ payment is adjusted based on attendance at lectures.
- Hybrid lectures potentially reduce income by reducing the number of physical attendees.
- But if HQ recognise online attendance as part of our Branch numbers it may increase our HQ funding amount in future years.
- The Friendly Nettle Café venue was initially free but raised no income for the Branch and they now want to charge us, this would be at a higher cost than the ARA hall.

HQ Funding Shortfall

- Annual Branch Datasheet was not submitted in time and HQ failed to follow this up with us as per their rules.
- COVID, the new HQ communication system with limited Branch access, the significant cut in staff within HQ and unforeseen Branch personnel changes created a 'perfect storm' causing this issue.
- However, we have more than sufficient funds to survive this temporary loss of income and we actually have more funds than HQ guidelines recommend that we maintain in our bank.
- As a Branch we are now more aware of the submission process and no longer have a single point of failure.
- HQ is still in transition and adjusting to their staff reductions and post-COVID hybrid lecture programmes for

Branches.

Financial Accounts

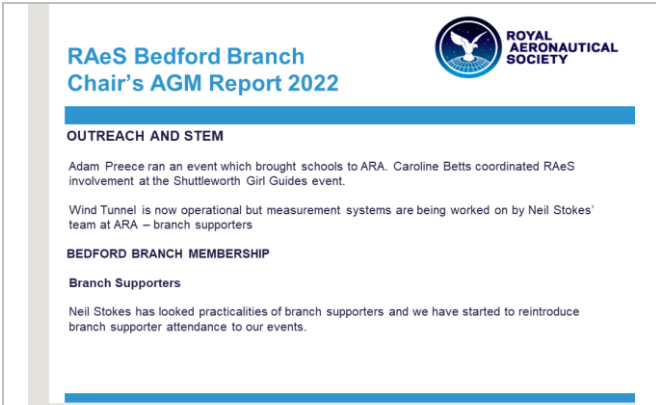
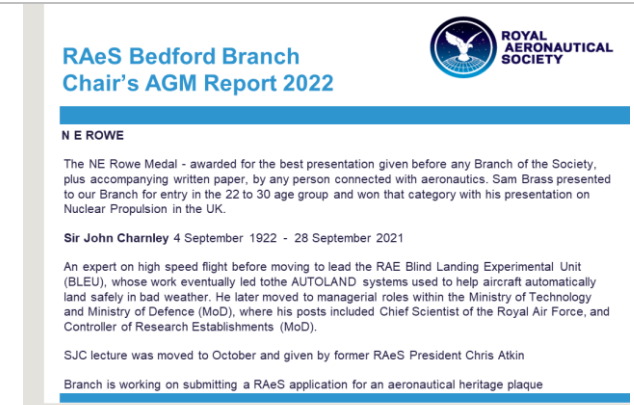
Not including commitments for the costs of attendance at the recent Branches conference in Paris by Daniel Dyer on behalf of the Branch and some additional AV equipment, total expected to be around £650, due by year end.

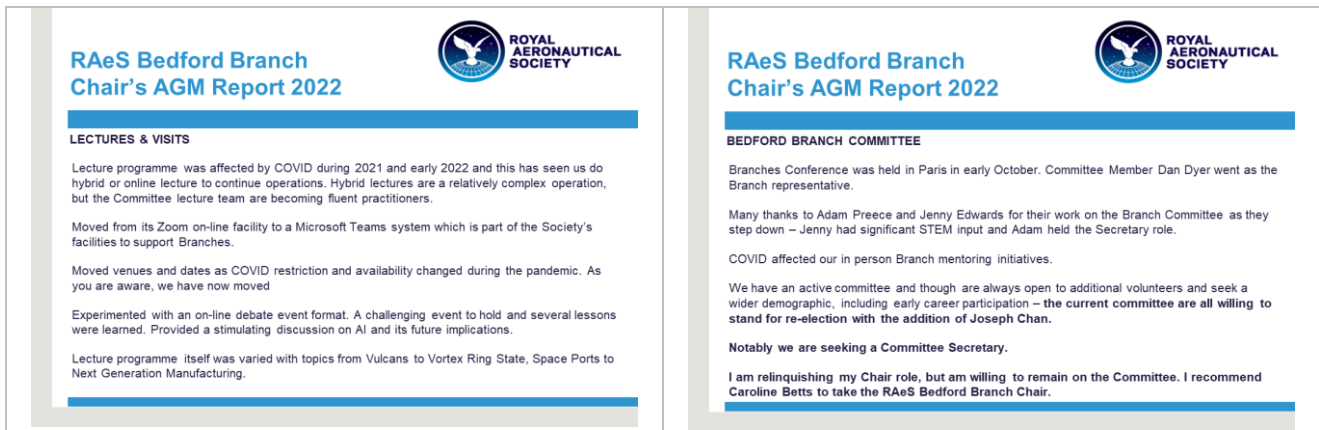
Bank Balance at period start	£2,996.00
INCOME	
HQ Funding	
Joint Lecture Share Cost	
Other Sponsorship	
Advanced Donations for Lecture Series (Branch Friends)	
Individual Donations for Lectures	
Tea/Coffee Fund	
Other (Refund of ARA Hall Hire from 2020/2021 series)	£54.00
TOTAL	
EXPENDITURE	
ARA Hall Hire	
Joint Lecture Share Cost	
Lecturer Expenses	
Special Projects (Outreach etc)	
Branch Conference T&S	
Other HQ Meetings	
Lecture Equipment	£148.02
Other (Buffet costs from 2020)	£71.00
TOTAL	
Income – Expenditure	2972.98
Cash	£67.00
TOTAL	£2770.98

The Branch accounts are now uploaded to the RAeS online accounts submission process every quarter. Mr Ray Wood had agreed to review the Bedford Branch accounts as soon as the final expenses had been incorporated, hopefully by the end of 2022. There were no questions or remarks from the floor relating to the presentation of the financial statement. *Action 2: N. Stokes to finalise accounts and present to R. Wood for independent review and approval by committee before end of 2022.*

5. Chair's report – B. Chan

This was presented as a powerpoint presentation and so is provided here as presented.

 <p>RAeS Bedford Branch Chair's AGM Report 2022</p> <p>OUTREACH AND STEM</p> <p>Adam Preece ran an event which brought schools to ARA. Caroline Betts coordinated RAeS involvement at the Shuttleworth Girl Guides event.</p> <p>Wind Tunnel is now operational but measurement systems are being worked on by Neil Stokes' team at ARA – branch supporters</p> <p>BEDFORD BRANCH MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Branch Supporters</p> <p>Neil Stokes has looked practicalities of branch supporters and we have started to reintroduce branch supporter attendance to our events.</p>	 <p>RAeS Bedford Branch Chair's AGM Report 2022</p> <p>N E ROWE</p> <p>The NE Rowe Medal - awarded for the best presentation given before any Branch of the Society, plus accompanying written paper, by any person connected with aeronautics. Sam Brass presented to our Branch for entry in the 22 to 30 age group and won that category with his presentation on Nuclear Propulsion in the UK.</p> <p>Sir John Charnley 4 September 1922 - 28 September 2021</p> <p>An expert on high speed flight before moving to lead the RAE Blind Landing Experimental Unit (BLEU), whose work eventually led to the AUTOLAND systems used to help aircraft automatically land safely in bad weather. He later moved to managerial roles within the Ministry of Technology and Ministry of Defence (MoD), where his posts included Chief Scientist of the Royal Air Force, and Controller of Research Establishments (MoD).</p> <p>SJC lecture was moved to October and given by former RAeS President Chris Atkin</p> <p>Branch is working on submitting a RAeS application for an aeronautical heritage plaque</p>
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6. Election of Branch committee members for 2022/23

With the relinquishing of the role of Chair, Bernard Chan opened the floor for nominations for the vacant Chair position. Marylyn Wood nominated Caroline Betts, seconded by Neil Stokes. There were no other nominations and those Society Members present were asked to raise their hands in favour of the nomination 11 hands, those against 0 and so the nomination is passed and Caroline Betts will formally take over as Chair at the conclusion of the AGM.

The remaining committee was also voted back in en bloc without objection, with the potential addition of Joseph Chan, to be confirmed at a later meeting. Therefore, the 2022/23 RAeS Bedford Branch Committee is as follows:

President	Peter Curtis
Chair	Caroline Betts
Treasurer	Neil Stokes
Secretary	Vacant
Lecture Secretary	Daniel Dyer
Lecture Secretary	Oliver Westbrook-Netherton
Ordinary Members	Bernard Chan

Action 3: New Chair to contact J. Chan to discuss joining the committee.

7. Proposals for next year's programme

Lectures up to April 2023 have been planned, the remaining 2022/23 season lectures are almost finalised but a further committee planning meeting is required. The lecture date has now officially moved to be on the 2nd Thursday of the month instead of the 2nd Wednesday of the month, due to hall availability post-COVID. This is with the exception of the joint lecture with Beds Civils which remains on the second Wednesday in January.

8. Any other business

Marylyn Wood made a statement from the floor thanking the 2022/23 committee for all of their hard work and good work in maintaining a lecture programme during the challenging times of COVID and the transition to online and hybrid lectures, keeping the Branch active and functioning. She also commented that it was good to return to in-person lectures in the ARA hall.

9. Date of next AGM

To preserve the usual cycle of the Branch, the next AGM would be ahead of the April 2023 lecture, provisional date of Thursday 13th April 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm (tbc)

N Stokes (Temporary Secretary) 14/11/22.