

**The Master's Report
2012-2013
Air Marshal Cliff Spink CB CBE FCIM FRAeS**

I am pleased to present my report for the year 2012 – 2013. It goes without saying that my time as your Master has been an enormous pleasure marked by several important events not least Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics. It is, however, the people of our great Livery Company that I have had the privilege of meeting that have been the essence of my year. As you will see from the following paragraphs our involvement in aviation matters is huge and our Regions and Committees various have been pivotal to establishing and maintaining this footprint. Importantly, we have now established a Director of Aviation Affairs, John Turner, to coordinate the many professional aspects of Guild work. John has had a distinguished career as a test pilot in both the RAF and the Civilian Aerospace Industry and was latterly the Director of Flight Operations at BAE Systems. I am most grateful to our previous Technical Director, Past Master Chris Hodgkinson for his long and unstinting efforts on behalf of our technical committees. One had only to be present at our annual Trophies and Awards Banquet to see that our Livery Company is in very good shape indeed, and if I have added just a small amount to the momentum that we have then that is reward indeed.

TASC

In a wide ranging agenda presented to the TASC meetings this past year, it has been necessary to develop policy and consensus opinion, using the assembled expertise, to address many very specialised issues. In contrast to recent years there has also been more extensive debate on the broader issues of aviation, where the detailed knowledge and experience of the membership has been used to guide the development of the GAPAN position.

This expertise together with our independent position has been most effective during our participation in the various discussions, and several conferences, where policy makers in the industry have benefited from our wide and informed input.

A substantial paper on UAS (the current term covering Remotely Piloted Vehicles) was recently published and details a view of the operational risk assessments for the various classes of aircraft (CAT, military & GA) in a rapidly expanding and changing operational environment.

Change is also anticipated to the UK Airspace Policy including Transition Altitude and also within the development of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) and the associated procedures. On both issues we were privileged to receive presentations from the CAA along with a constructive exchange of views. The GNSS approach procedures are clearly not fully understood by all crews and a proliferation of related terminology has aggravated the confusion. Future debate will focus on leading clarification and education.

In a year when EASA took formal responsibility for regulation, and much documentation has been or will be rewritten, change has proved a major challenge to manage. Focus on the primary objectives and the effects on the wider Guild membership are essential when surrounded by discussion of errors, omissions and interpretation of new wording.

Perhaps our most time consuming work has focused on the Loss of Manual Flying Skills debate and the development of a constructive process by which the Guild can take the debate forward. Addressing the scope for expansion of aviation capacity in the UK poses a significant challenge to both the time and knowledge of the TASC membership. Further discussion in conjunction with the Environment Committee will be aimed at providing a GAPAN position to the two interlinked issues of long term objectives and short term capacity management. It must be based on the best available and verifiable information and this will take time.

E&TC

This year has seen a number of changes at the Education & Training Committee with a change of Chairman in April, the valuable addition of a Director of Aviation Affairs (DAA) and the stepping down of the Technical Director. Throughout the year the committee has been actively involved in the development, approval and implementation of a Higher Apprenticeship scheme for pilots. The work has included influencing the Government for funding the scheme through the City & Guilds, developing the approved syllabus, working with training providers and ensuring airlines are cognisant of the project for recruitment opportunities. The current obstacle is the reluctance of UK airlines to commit to a program that requires an offer of employment.

Pilot Aptitude testing has continued throughout the year and the service provided by the Guild remains most valuable. There have been numerous occasions where the assessors have given impartial advice to those considering a career in civil aviation; the numbers attending the assessments has been disappointing through the year for a number of reasons with 32 assessments completed year to date.

The ET&C members have continued to promote the Guild through their attendance at numerous events such as the Flyer shows, Farnborough 2012 and the RAeS Careers Fair. These have also been widely supported by the Guild Young Members whose ability to connect with the potential future pilots is essential. Indeed it was a Guild young member who established a web site to promote flying scholarships.

Scholarship Sub Committee

A total of sixteen awards was made this year. Four PPL, four FI(R) Fixed Wing and two gliding scholarships, and awards were also made for three Instructor Bursaries, one CATS ATPL Groundschool scholarship and two EPST Jet Orientation Course scholarships. The standard of applications was again very high and excellent reports were received from many of the flying schools.

Most of the winners, together with their guests, were able to attend the 2012 Scholarship Reception at Cutlers' Hall in November to receive their certificates from the IPM and to meet members of the Court. We are as always indebted to those Guild members and supporters whose financial generosity makes these scholarships possible. Thanks must also go to the team of Guild members who are pivotal to making the selections for awards.

Flying Instructor Sub Committee

The Flying Instructors Sub Committee of the E&TC continued to meet regularly under the chairmanship of Mr Syd Utting. The Sub Committee is very well attended and has focused through the year on 2 key areas in supporting the E&TC. First, the development of the GAPAN PPL(A) Instructor's Lesson Guide (in accord with the CAA and supported by CFS), which is continuing to gather momentum with the draft completion of the first three modules. Secondly, the organisation and of the 5th Biennial GAPAN/CFS Senior Flying Instructors Forum which was held at the RAF College Hall, Cranwell on 9th May 2012, kindly hosted by the Commandant of the RAF College and the Commandant of the Central Flying School. Once again this Forum proved to be a success with around 100 delegates able to discuss and debate specific issues affecting professional flying instructors and flying training and to acknowledge the continuing excellent liaison between the Guild and CFS in its centenary year.

Environment Committee

The Environment Committee met three times during the year 2012-13 under the Chairmanship of Professor Diana Green. During the year, the Committee revised its priorities in the light of the decision by the Government to launch a two stage consultation exercise, via the Department for Transport, on Aviation Policy. This followed on from an initial consultation in 2011 on the framework and priorities.

The first stage of the consultation focused mainly on regulatory matters, and some areas of environmental concern, especially noise. TASC and the Environment Committee agreed that the latter should take the lead in responding on behalf of the Guild. The Committee responded to the online consultation, focusing on those

areas of the Guild's interest and competence, meeting the deadline of 31 October 2012. The response can be accessed by the website.

A change in the responsible Minister led to a change in the Government's approach. It decided to replace the planned second stage of the consultation, due to focus on airport capacity in the South East of England, with a review by a special Commission, chaired by Sir Howard Davies. This is scheduled to produce an interim report by the end of 2013 and a final report by 2015, after the next election.

The Guild will make a submission to the Commission. At the time of writing, it is expected that it will make an interim policy statement which emphasises the fact that it will support whichever proposal emerges from the review which produces a safe, efficient and effective air transport infrastructure, capable of absorbing increased capacity requirements.

With this end in view, the Environment Committee will continue with the work of examining the various options from an environmental perspective started in 2012-13. As part of this examination, it is continuing with the plan to hold a half-day Symposium to examine some of the options. This Symposium, which will be open to the public and the media, will be held at the Barber Surgeon's Hall on April 10th 2013.

During the year, a small number of new members joined the Committee. It is fortunate in having members from the Guild's overseas regions. It has recently received from the North American region, details of the report recently released by the Canadian Federal Government, concerning transportation in Canada. One of the members, Assistant John Denyer, took over the responsibility of Secretary, following the retirement of the Technical Director.

Trophies and Awards Committee

The Trophies and Awards Committee, led by Past Master Rick Peacock-Edwards, has had a very successful year culminating, in October, with another outstanding and widely acclaimed Trophies and Awards Banquet. It was again heartening to see the number of standing ovations, a sure indication that the committee is making the right decisions. A total of twenty three awards were made by the committee at their June meeting, from a very large number of nominations. There were, again, one or two trophies for which no award was made because of the high standard required. These high standards will never be compromised. Ken Wallis, of autogyro fame, was awarded the Guild Award of Honour for his lifetime contribution to the Aerospace Industry, and the Guild Award for Gallantry was awarded to a Canadian SAR unit, both of these awards received great acclaim. The recipients of other awards reflected the international status of the GAPAN awards and the broad spread of outstanding achievements across the whole aviation industry. Of note, no less than three of the recipients suffered major disability and it gave me particular pleasure to award a Master's Medal to David Sykes who, in spite of serious disability and no sponsor or carer, flew a microlight from the UK to Australia, and endured amazing hardship in the process. His exploits, which have been since recorded in a book, were quite remarkable.

During the year I was also delighted to see the award of a total of 23 Master Aircrew Awards (Master Air Pilot (13), Master Air Navigator (4), Master Rear Crew (6)). These are prestigious awards and recognition of individual achievement as an aviator.

Lecture Programme

The Technical Committees organised two very successful Lectures: - The Cobham Lecture given by Airbus Chief Test Pilot (Military), Ed Strongman and the Sir Frederick Tymms Lecture, given by Air Chief Marshal Sir Bill Wratten. Gratifyingly, as well as receiving excellent support from the membership – these lectures both received great support from the Livery Companies of the City of London with over 50 companies represented across the two lectures.

Visits

A very successful “visits” programme has been co-ordinated by David Curgenven during my year as Master. Highlights have included Airbase at Coventry, The Flying Legends at Duxford, CFS in its Centenary Year, London Air Ambulance, gliding at Lasham,

Press and Public Relations

A busy summer has seen the PR Committee working hard on distributing news stories which reflect the diverse range of activities of the Guild. These included preparation of comments in association with the DAA on loss of control in flight highlighted by the findings of the AF447 accident report, distribution of the Master’s comments on “Eroding Margins” in airline training, news from my meeting with the head of the ICAO and most recently, the in-flight delivery of a bouncing baby boy, by a GAPAN Master Rearcrewman! The Trophies and Awards announcement is always a major news opportunity, and this year’s Award of Honour to Ken Wallis OBE generated coverage both in specialist and wider media.

A campaign to position GAPAN as a source of expertise in aviation matters with news desks and writers across the media world is bearing fruit and the DAA has recently been interviewed for articles including prospects for new recruits to the industry. This gave us the opportunity to raise the profile of GAPAN’s involvement in Higher Apprenticeships and well as promoting the Guild’s aptitude testing scheme for potential commercial pilots.

The Charitable Trusts

All three charitable trusts continued their work in furtherance of their respective objects, which indirectly and directly contribute to the work of the Guild in the broader sense.

GAPT

During the year the Trust supported four PPL and three FI(R) flying scholarships, three flying bursaries and two academic bursaries at City University. Funding was also granted to the Air Cadet Organisation in support of gliding for cadets and prizes, as well as grants in response to funding requests from Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The trustees are also in the process of establishing an academic prize or prizes for university research work in the field of aviation.

AST

In addition to funding a FI(R) flying scholarship and an academic bursary at City University, the Trust also granted an air safety prize for individual crew members onboard HMS Illustrious, as well as grants in response to funding requests to support safety-related upgrades from Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). In co-operation with CAA and other bodies, the Trust also sponsored the production of a CD on aircraft upset recovery techniques 'Loss of Control', which was distributed to all commercial licence holders in the UK.

GAPBF

The Chairman, Assistant John Robinson, reports that it has been a rather flat year for the Fund due to the ongoing global financial situation. The Board of Management has met on four occasions and much time was spent on fund raising projects which came to fruition with a personal letter to all Guild UK members requesting donations. This produced a reasonable result with some 100 members, out of a possible 1,200, contributing, many on a regular basis. The Guild’s associated Lodge, Per Caelum, made a four figure donation.

A reduced income (compared with previous years) meant that there could be no provision of funds for flying scholarships. However, educational support was maintained by providing gliding experience for students from Inner London Schools and The Fleet Air Arm Officers Association Aviation Trust Gliding Scholarships (Ray Jeffs Scholarships). During the year the Board dealt with four new cases and reviewed eight current cases. Despite the decline in countrywide wealth and available financial resources there has been no noticeable change in the number of applications for financial assistance. A reduction in outgoings, coupled with a successful appeal to Guild members and the recovery of the value of the investments, has improved the financial situation.

Guild Organisations

GYM

2012 was another busy and successful year for the Guild Young Members' section, with a growing membership and many exciting new additions to the events calendar. The year started out with Ludo Forrer in the Chair, but after 18 months of chairing the GYM, in October – Sebastian Pooley was duly elected to the post. The events organised by the GYM continue to grow from lectures to “Beer Evenings”, visits, entering a team in the Kart Racing at Brooklands (organised by IPM Epton), being a major part of Guild to youthful expertise they take to promotional activities – especially manning the Guild stand with other Guild members at the “Flyer Shows”.

The Luncheon Club

Liveryman David Wilby's final year in charge of the Luncheon Club has seen the Club go from strength to strength – after Luncheon speakers of Past Master Rick P-E, Brian Milton, and Air Commodore Jerry Witts have given a good spread of subject matter and David hands the club over in good heart.

Flying Club

The Club has maintained a membership of over a hundred although the flying programme was severely affected by the poor weather and Olympic airspace restrictions. Visits have included Coventry Municipal Airport to visit Airbase, Pooley Sword at Shoreham; in conjunction with a party from the Worshipful Company of Cutlers and Oaksey Park. Interlaced with the formal events and Fly-Ins were the informal ‘Last Friday in the Month’ trips to Le Touquet - to L'Escale, and the ‘The GAPAN Table’. The three lunches held at the West London Aero Club proved very popular with all the available places booked well in advance. The start of the season, ‘Freddy Stringer Memorial Lunch’ was a great success!

Golf Society

Under the Captaincy of Chris Spurrier and the organisational drive of Dan Hendry, the Golf Society has had a very successful year. A Guild Team of Jeff Turner, Steven John, John Mason & Paddy Hine won the annual LSL Ray Jeff's Cup held at Hartley Wintney Golf Club in July in which 29 teams from 24 Livery Companies took part. In October, another GAPAN team of Jeff Turner, Steven John, Danny Hendry and Bob Pearson won the national “Raymond Griffiths Memorial Event”. Also in October at Pyrford Golf Club at the annual Match Play event against BMAGS the GAPAN players retained the Doug Evans Per Caelum Cup.

Livery Schools Link

The Livery Schools Link has had a very successful year starting with the Livery Schools Link Showcase Event in March and held at the Apothecaries' Hall. 17 Livery Companies attended the day as exhibitors and some 15 schools brought parties of students, the intention being to widen the horizons of the students as to the many opportunities available for Trades and Careers information available via the Livery Companies in London. A total of 13 schools were booked for a day's gliding at Dunstable during the summer of 2012; it was particularly gratifying to have the Dyers' Company fund two schools and the programme is set to extend within the Livery Movement. Thanks must go to the Benevolent Fund for their continued financial support since 2004. The enthusiastic and willing partnership established with the London Gliding Club, under the management of Andrew Roche has been enormously encouraging and augurs well for the future of this vital program. We continue to work with City of London Academy (Islington) and look forward to continuing this program during the coming year.

The Regions

Our Regions continue to provide a great service to the members of their respective countries.

I was able to see at first hand their work during both my visit to North America in the summer and later my tour of New Zealand, Australia, and Hong Kong. A significant and sad loss to the Guild was the death of the New Zealand chairman Bryan Wyness. He is sorely missed, but I am indebted to Assistant Allan Boyce who has taken up the reins and I can report that the Guild in that country is positively moving forward under his stewardship.

The Australian Region continues to handle the challenges of that huge country exceedingly well, and I was delighted to see the various State activities during my recent tour. My sincere thanks to Sue Ball during her hardworking stint as Regional Chairman, and a welcome to Harold Walton, her successor.

The Hong Kong Region is as vibrant and active as it has always been and continues to attract younger members to the fold. Regional Chairman Tony Fung, ably assisted by Administrator Ian Fogarty, continues to give great leadership to the Region.

Finally, it is gratifying to see the steady expansion of our newest region, North America, and their increasing involvement with the challenges in aviation in that area. My grateful thanks to Trish Beckman during her year as Chairman, and a welcome to Brigadier General David Jurkowski who assumed the Chairmanship late last year.

.... Last word

My sincere thanks to our hard working office team of Ruth, Pat and James, headed by our Learned Clerk of Paul Tacon. They have been a constant support throughout the year and the seamless way the administration of our Guild moves along is down to their hard work and dedication (and undetected ill-doings!)

The business of aviation is a challenging one and this is reflected in the work done by our people in so many ways. Dedication to our profession reflects the greatest credit on them and on our Company, but it is also the sense of enjoyment and, frankly, fun that sets us apart – long may it continue.

Congratulations to my successor, His Honour Judge Tudor Owen, who succeeds me at the installation ceremony following the AGM. I wish him and Maria a very happy and successful year.

Sun's out. clear prop!

Cliff Spink

Master