



THE AIRSHIP ASSOCIATION

Limited by guarantee

PRESIDENT:- Don Cameron MBE

11th International Airship Convention and Regatta

FLIGHTS OF FACT AND FANTASY

Bedford, England : 19th – 21st October 2017

Invitation to Participate

You are invited to the 11th International Airship Convention and Regatta to be held from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st October 2017 at the Park Inn, Radisson Hotel, Bedford, England.

Centrally located between London, Oxford and Cambridge, Bedford is a lively cosmopolitan town with a rich airship heritage; the nearby village of Cardington was the home of Britain's great rigid airships R100 and R101. Their sheds still exist and are in use - Shed No.1 being the home of Hybrid Air Vehicles Ltd., builders of the revolutionary Airlander hybrid prototype which we hope to visit. Delegates will be able to participate in a full two-day technical conference and other social events. Plans are afoot for an historical lecture and a fund-raising dinner themed on the R101 as well as a full partner programme. In addition there will be a model airship regatta featuring an official FAI time trial and performance competitions for radio-controlled and other models.

Call for Papers

The two-day technical conference that lies at the heart of the 11th International Airship Convention provides delegates with an opportunity to hear the speakers, discuss their papers and exchange new ideas about all matters concerning airships. The conference is hosted by the Airship Association and supported by The British Oxygen Co.; Airborne Industries; Hybrid Air Vehicles and the Airship Heritage Trust.

Major subject areas are:

1. Current Projects and Technology
2. Flight Operations and Potential Growth Areas
3. Infrastructure and Ground Handling
4. Loading and Unloading Payloads
5. Management/Regulation and Safety
6. Market Finance/Leasing/Insurance
7. Innovations/Research and Development/Future Projects etc.
8. History and Learning from the Past
9. Education/Training/Skills and Simulations
10. Fun, Fantasy and Futuristic Concepts

Interested contributors should submit a maximum of 250-word abstract (no figures or references) to:

Papers-committee@airship-association.org

The abstract should indicate the conference topic from those listed above.

Abstract deadline **30th June 2017**

Paper selection decision by: **31st July 2017**

Delivery of final full paper: **20th October 2017**

The papers selected will be published in the Conference Proceedings and these will be distributed free to delegates after the Convention. Each author shall present the paper orally (20 mins plus 10 mins discussion) : **NB - No podium, no publication!** (If authors do not turn up to read their papers at the Conference or appoint a suitably qualified substitute to read it for them then their paper will not be included in the Proceedings.) The Airship Association reserves the right to publish the paper in the Proceedings of the Conference and at any time thereafter in any publication of the Airship Association. Copyright of the paper will, however, remain with the author and this will be acknowledged wherever and whenever it is published. The convention is funded largely from the conference registrations and, therefore, speakers are obliged to register for the Convention and to pay the requisite attendance fees. A Registration Fee Discount is available for chosen speakers.

Convention Format

Conference

The Convention's main feature is a two-day Conference where all aspects of airships can be discussed. Anyone who wishes to submit a paper for presentation at the Conference should follow the appropriate instructions given in the *Call For Papers* that are part of this announcement document. The Convention is funded largely from registration fees and therefore speakers are obliged to register and pay the requisite fee. A discount is available for chosen speakers and session chairs.

Welcome Reception

A welcome reception attended by the Mayor of Bedford will be held on the evening of Wednesday 18th October 2017. The cost of the reception is included in the delegate registration fee, other guests will be required to purchase a ticket. Reception tickets will be available for sale on our website or upon registration by mail.

Spouse and Partner Programme

A full programme of things to do will be arranged for the delegates' friends, relations and significant others. Some events will be included in the delegates fee; tickets for other events will be available on our website and upon registration.

The HAV *Airlander*



The Airship Association is in contact with Hybrid Air Vehicles Ltd., (HAV) about potential visits to the *Airlander* during the Convention. At present, there is no guarantee that a visit will be possible due to uncertainty over what the *Airlander* will be doing by that time: it may be at Cardington, but it could be on flight trials away from the area. The HAV team have promised that if it is possible, they will offer tours for delegates, but will confirm this nearer the date. *Please coordinate all requests through the AA rather than approaching HAV directly.*

Historical Lecture

The Convention happily coincides exactly with the centenary of the famous First World War Zeppelin bombing raid on London known as 'The Silent Raid.' An illustrated talk on the subject, sponsored jointly by the Airship Association and the Airship Heritage Trust, is planned on the anniversary of the

date and this will be given by the author and historian Ian Castle.

Fund Raising Dinner

There will also be an historically-themed fund raising dinner to which all delegates are invited. The evening will include some musical entertainment. Spouses and partners, along with other invited guests and non-members of the Association are very welcome to attend. Tickets for the fund raising dinner are priced separately and a limited number of tickets will be available for sale from our website and upon registration by mail on a first-come first-served basis. The monies raised will contribute to the running of the Convention.

Session Chairpersons Sought

Volunteers from members of the Airship Association or Airship Heritage Trust who would like to act as Session Chairpersons during the Conference are asked to make contact with the Chairman of the Airship Association whose email is:

chairman@airship-association.org

A registration fee discount is available for Session Chairpersons.

Model Flying Regatta



In keeping with past practice we will be holding a model airship flying regatta, but in a departure from previous events there will be a range of competitions for several different classes. In addition to officially sanctioned FAI competitions that have appealed to University teams we are hoping to attract some younger teams from schools and youth organisations as well as individual home-builders. Consequently, prizes will be offered for off-the-shelf 'Air Swimmers' and for simple rubber-band powered models. The event is sponsored by the British Oxygen Co (BOC) and free helium will be supplied for all registered entrants. Registration is open to all comers, but there are a limited number of places and teams must register with the organisers at least one month before the event.

The delegates fee includes two tickets for spectators but owing to limited space, *entrance to the Regatta for non-delegates is restricted to Airship Association members and invited guests only and will be on a first-come first-served basis.*

Anyone wishing to enter a model airship in the regatta should email:

regatta@airship-association.org

The Conference Centre

The Conference Centre is the Park Inn Radisson Hotel which is located in St Mary's Street, close to the centre of Bedford on the south side of the river by the main A6 road bridge.

Set your SATNAV to MK42 0AR.

The direct telephone number is:

+44 (0)1234 799 988.

The general website for the hotel, which includes an option to reserve accommodation online is:

www.parkinn.co.uk/hotel-bedford

Hotel Accommodation

It will be necessary for all delegates and their guests to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements for the Convention. However, we have negotiated a limited number of rooms at The Park Inn Radisson Hotel that are reserved for Convention delegates at a concessionary rate of £75.00 double room per night, or £65.00 single. The concessionary rate will lapse one month before the Convention – so book before the 18th of September!

If the Park Inn is not for you then it is a simple matter to Google “Hotels in Bedford” for a comprehensive list of available accommodation close by that will suit all budgets.

The Conference Centre is within easy walking distance of other hotels and Bedford's main shopping centre. The Bedford Tourist Information Centre also has details of accommodation and other options available in the Bedford area.

Their website is:

www.bedford.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/tourism_and_travel.aspx

There is also useful local information here:

www.touruk.co.uk/beds/bed_bedf.htm

Travel

Getting to Bedford

Bedford is an ancient town, and it still retains much of its medieval layout. Whilst that adds to the charm of the place, it does make driving and parking difficult. Many hotels have their own car parks and delegates are advised to contact the hotels directly about parking. The Park Inn has car parking at the rear of the Hotel with space for 74 cars on a first-come first-served basis but there is an overnight charge of £5. There is more space in adjacent car parks also charge for overnight stays but at a lesser rate of £3.90 (at the time of printing).

Road Transport - Bedford lies 50 miles north of London on the A6 London/Carlisle road; the A1 and M1 roads lie to the east and west respectively. Cambridge is 40 minutes driving time to the east via A428/A45. To the west are Milton Keynes (25 minutes), Buckingham (35 minutes) and Oxford (75 minutes) via A428/A421/A422

Rail Transport – Bedford's main Rail station is a 15 minute walk from the Conference Hotel. It is served by frequent *Thameslink* line services to London St Pancras (50 minutes). Through services to Gatwick (120 minutes), Brighton (135 minutes). Northbound trains to Leicester, Derby, Nottingham and Sheffield. Services to West Midlands, Lancashire and Scotland via Bletchley. National Rail enquiries 08457 484950 or visit the National Rail website.

www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx

Park & Ride

Those who wish to attend as day delegates may find it advantageous to use the very efficient Park & Ride scheme which is “*easy to use, easy on your pocket and easy on the environment.*” according to Bedford Tourist Information. “*Just park in the spacious car park in Elstow and the easy access buses will whizz you quickly ... into the town centre ...*” Buses run every 15 minutes, 6 days a week and it is free to park, you just pay on the bus. An Adult Day Return is currently £2.40. More details on the website:

www.bedford.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/public_transport/park_ride.aspx

Membership

Membership of the Airship Association is open to anyone interested in the development and future use of modern airships. Membership costs £45.00 per year and can be secured with a credit card payment on our website (click **The Airship Shop**), or by sending a cheque to the Treasurer, 1 Magdalen Close, Hempstead, Kent ME7 3TA, UK. A discounted rate of £25 is available for **UK residents** who are either in full-time education or over the age of 65.

Cancellations

Please note that after registration any refund will be at our sole discretion if you wish subsequently to cancel your convention registration, whether paid for by credit card, money order or banker's draft.

Delegate Registration Fees

A special reduced fee is offered to those registering before 1st July 2017.

Credit card reservation is available until 12th October 2017 from the Airship Association Shop on the web-site:

<http://store.clickandbuild.com/cnb/shop/airshipshop>

This payment method is preferred as it avoids bank charges associated with foreign currency exchange.

Registration can be confirmed by writing and enclosing the full remittance, to:

**The Treasurer, The Airship Association,
1 Magdalen Close, Hempstead, Kent ME7 3TA, United Kingdom.**

Please make cheques payable to **The Airship Association Ltd.**

Registration fees for the full convention include conference lunches, teas, coffees and the welcoming reception, but not the Fund Raising Dinner which needs separate tickets. Delegate Fees are:

Status	Before 1 st July 2017	On or After 1 st July 2017
Full Member of the Airship Association	£170	£200
Retired Member of the Airship Association	£130	£150
Registered Students (Conference Only)	£50	£70
Non-Member of the Airship Association	£200	£220

Tickets for all comers wishing to attend the Fund Raising Dinner on Friday evening are £50 each.

The concessionary Conference registration fee for **notified speakers** and **session chairpersons** is £150.

These prices can be converted to Euros (€) and USD (\$) at the prevailing daily exchange rate on our website.

Opportunities for Sponsors

FLIGHTS OF FACT AND FANTASY, the Airship Association's 11th International Airship Convention and Regatta will provide a forum for manufacturers, designers, and potential customers to meet each other face-to-face, to present news of their projects, to showcase their capabilities, to recruit experienced personnel, and to discuss the latest ideas and developments within the modern airship industry. The Airship Association is offering the following opportunities for sponsors who wish to take advantage of this rare occasion.

Wednesday Evening Champagne Reception
Delegate Packs
Thursday and Friday Conference Lunches
Two-day Spouse and Partner Programmes
Friday Evening Fund Raising Dinner
Fund Raising Dinner Musical Interlude
Saturday Regatta Lunches and Refreshments
Publication of Conference Proceedings

Details of sponsorship opportunities are available on application to the Treasurer at:

treasurer@airship-association.org

Sponsorship opportunities are limited and allocation will be on a first-come first-served basis.



THE AIRSHIP ASSOCIATION

Limited by guarantee

PRESIDENT:- Don Cameron MBE

FLIGHTS OF FACT AND FANTASY
IS SUPPORTED BY



THE AIRSHIP ASSOCIATION

Limited by guarantee

PRESIDENT:- Don Cameron MBE

