



BAFSA UPDATE October/November 2020

1. Centenary Balloon Launch

A successful launch event was held at Bill Harrop's Original Safaris on 10 October 2020.

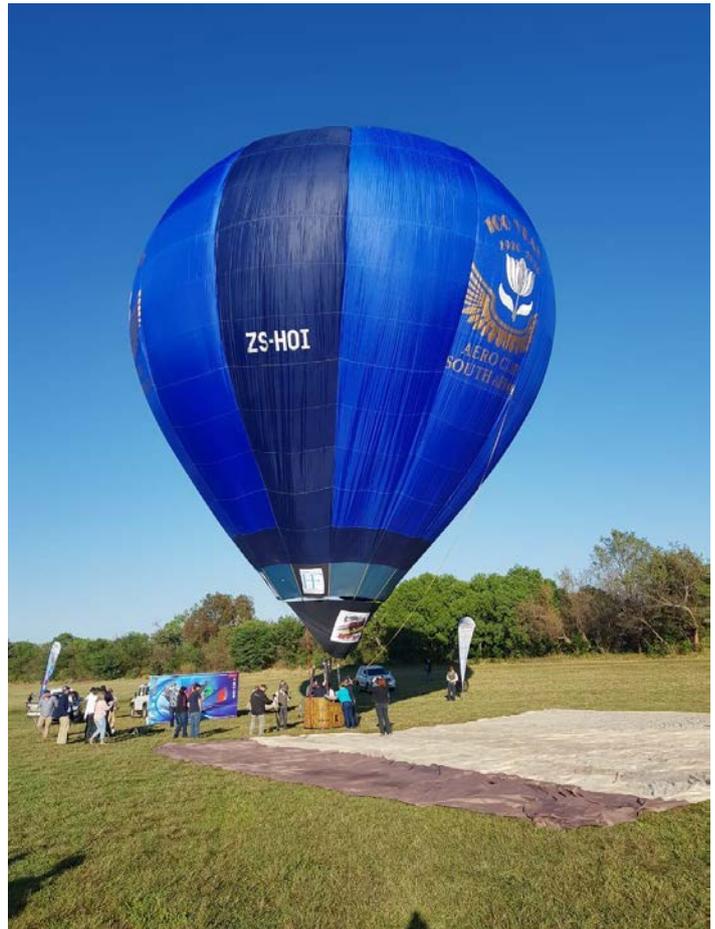
The event was attended by several guests including CAA, Aero Club Exco and Aero Club Sections, media as well as BAFSA members.

The tethered launch was followed by Bills traditional breakfast. Speeches and a presentation of the Aero Club Centenary Book to the doyen of SA Ballooning Terry Adams took place.

The event received favourable media coverage from Pilots Post, African Pilot and Social Media.

The African Pilot video can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/XAL59uDQxv0>



Our thanks to all who assisted in making this project a reality, via sponsorship, including:

- Aero Club of South Africa
- BAFSA Membership
- Hanke Fourie Executors
- NOVA Ballooning
- Bovell Ross Project Management
- Pioneer Balloon Club

The envelope was repanelled by Neels van der Merwe of Flamboyant Balloons and Balloon Workshop undertook the scoop repairs.

A special thanks is due to Lorin Bowen for all her assistance in arranging the event and BHOBs for hosting us (thanks Daleen and staff!!)

2. Aviation Recreation Organisation (ARO) Requirements

BAFSA's current ARO approval and Manual of Procedures (MOP) expires on 30 November 2020.

A valid ARO approval is required to be in place in order for our licences and ballooning operations to be valid in accordance with CAA Regulations.

The CAA has prescribed a revised format for the MOP. Our previously approved MOP has consequently been revised and updated and submitted to CAA for review.

Our annual audit occurred on 10 November 2020. We await confirmation of acceptance of the new MOP and look forward to receiving our new ARO certification.

3. Membership

Our current membership stands at 44, much in line with previous years. All memberships expire at 31 December 2020. All pilots are to please renew their memberships for 2021, prior to this date to ensure they have fully compliant licences as from 01 January 2021.

The committee has agreed to maintain the membership fee at R1 000.00/annum, the same as it has been for the past 6 years.

Aero Club of South Africa will be distributing renewal notices.

4. Centenary Balloon Usage

Following the official launch, the balloon is now available for hire by members.

A usage protocol is being developed which will enable control of the asset.

The intended purposes of the balloon include:

- To promote the Aero Club of South Africa at aviation events
- Training of candidate pilots via ATO's
- Membership pleasure flights (non-commercial only)
- Membership use at national championships

Hire rates will be "dry". The kit is all housed on a trailer ready to be collected. Please contact a committee member should you wish to hire the balloon.

5. Sasol Balloon

The Drifters Balloon Club has agreed to transfer the ownership of the Sasol Balloon to BAFSA who will reregister it and obtain the required authority to fly. This will then also be available for members to hire. Details to follow.

Our thanks to the Drifters Balloon Club for their kind donation to the wider ballooning fraternity.



6. Royal Airforce Offices Club (RAFOC)

One of our guests at the launch of the centenary balloon was Bruce Henderson the Chairman of the SA Chapter of RAFOC. He wrote an interesting article on the launch and Terry Adams, which is included below:

AERO CLUB CENTENARY HOT AIR BALLOON:

On the 10th October 2020, after many months after postponement since C-19 made us all go into hiding, the Aero Club's official Centenary Balloon Launch took place at Bill Harrop's Balloon Safaris, Skeerpoort, in the Magalies Valley. Aeroclub Chairman Rob Jonkers said: "There is a sense of achievement on reaching a Century, on all manner of occasions it calls for a celebration, subject for congratulations on the significance, and justifiable pride. The past century of the existence of the Aero Club of South Africa has been integral in seeing the growth in Recreational Aviation, the collective of the various disciplines that make up flying for fun, that have allowed the freedom of development in the achievement of products, ideas, adventures, competitions that are existential of this magical world that is recreational flight." Chairman of BAFSA Richard Bovell who was also this Centenary event organiser was the first pilot, and supported by student pilot Sema Mathebula, got the balloon off the ground in somewhat gusty conditions, the wind at that stage not favourable to actually fly. Hanke Fourie took over from Richard for a second tethered stint, giving a good photographic opportunity for the guests in attendance. Richard thanked the guests and handed over the very first "Aero Club Centenary Yearbook" which is hot off the presses to the Doyen of Ballooning in South Africa Terry Adams, who since his arrival in SA in 1976 has been the mainstay of balloon manufacturing and pilot training in SA.

LIEUTENANT TERRY ADAMS RN:

Your scribe was privileged to meet Terry after breakfast and have a very interesting chat with him about his days in the Royal Navy, when he served as an Engineer Officer on the HMS Ark Royal under Captain Raymond Lygo RN (Who famously had "FLY NAVY" painted on the ship's sides)



HMS Ark Royal (R09) was an Audacious-class aircraft carrier of the Royal Navy and, when she was decommissioned in 1979, was the Royal Navy's last remaining conventional catapult and arrested-landing aircraft carrier. She was the first aircraft carrier to be equipped with angled flight deck at its commissioning; her sister ship, HMS Eagle, was the Royal Navy's first angle-decked aircraft carrier after modification in 1954. Ark Royal was the only non-United States vessel to operate the McDonnell Douglas Phantom at sea. The scrapping of Ark Royal in 1980, two years after Eagle, marked the end of conventional fixed-wing aircraft operations aboard Royal Navy carriers. She had borne so many innovations, yet her replacement was not equipped with any of these. There was some discussion about preserving her as a museum ship, and some private funds were raised; the MOD would not sanction these efforts. The Fleet Air Arm Museum has subsequently mimicked the ship's island and flight deck in its central hall as an Aircraft Carrier Experience exhibition.

THE “BRISTOL BELLE” (G-AVTL):

This was the name given to the first modern hot air balloon in Britain. The balloon was created from an idea developed by members of the Bristol Gliding Club in the UK. Following developments by Ed Yost in the United States, members of the Bristol Gliding Club decided to create their own hot air balloon. Bill Malpas (Chairman of the project), Mark Westwood, Giles Bulmer of the Bulmer cider making family and Don Cameron were the four project creators. The first flight of the Bristol Belle took place on 9 July 1967 from RAF Weston-on-the-Green and was covered by the Daily Telegraph and other media. The balloon took part in some famous flights including one from HMS Ark Royal, where it was piloted by Lt Terry Adams, accompanied by Lt Howard Draper both of 849 Squadron, B Flight. This early morning launch carried mail to Malta while the Ark Royal was steaming off the southern coast of the island on 29 November 1970.

<https://www.britishpathe.com/video/VLVA5QIFFJU5U3HSLJ5X4FUTIWQHG-AT-SEA-HOT-AIR-BALLOON-CARRIES-TWO-MEN-FROM-AIRCRAFT-CARRIER-ARK/query/hot>

Please follow the link below to see a short video of Terry's historic balloon flight from the deck of HMS Ark Royal:

<https://www.britishpathe.com/video/VLVA5QIFFJU5U3HSLJ5X4FUTIWQHG-AT-SEA-HOT-AIR-BALLOON-CARRIES-TWO-MEN-FROM-AIRCRAFT-CARRIER-ARK/query/hot>

7. Balloon Live Initiative

The FAI Ballooning Commission has arranged for the development of a digital APP and competition logger for use at all major international competitions.

Details of the APP and logger can be viewed at:

<https://balloonlive.org>

The system requires a specific sensor to be affixed to the competition balloon. These sensors have to be supplied by each contestant participating in the World Championships and will not be provided by event organisers.

BAFSA has therefore agreed to purchase 2 sensors for the use of our competitors at future World Championship events.

8. Tiny Kriel

We have just learnt that Tiny Kriel, our Balloon Meister of numerous championships, is undergoing chemo treatment for cancer in Cape Town.

Our thoughts and best wishes to Tiny, Madelaine and their boys during these difficult times.

9. Centenary Book

All pilots will have received notification of the availability of the Centenary Book from Aero Club.

Ballooning takes a prominent place in the front of this book and we urge all pilots and enthusiasts to purchase a book. Details can be found at: www.aeroclub.org.za/shop



The Aero Club has requested that each section sponsors individual books to be donated to prominent persons/organisations.

BAFSA has already awarded a book to Terry Adams at the Centenary Balloon Launch and will also sponsor books to be awarded to:

- Royal Aero Club (UK)
- Aéro-Club de France

10. **Montgolfier Flight 2020**

This years Montgolfier Memorial Flight will take place on Sunday 22nd November 2020 in Parys. All persons interested in joining in are please to contact Martyn Evers or Richard Bovell.

Be safe, keep well.

BAFSA COMMITTEE 2020

