

Chairman's Editorial

Graham Chisnall

We do indeed live in peculiar times.

I hope that you have all managed the health and social problems from the Covid-19 pandemic satisfactorily and are looking forward, as we all are, to the new normal looking as close to the old normal as soon as possible. Until then, I wish you all a safe and reasonable time.

The impact of the pandemic restrictions on Cross and Cockade have been significant but manageable thanks to the diligence and flexibility of the committee members who work on your behalf. On the positive side, the Society remains in good health with strong reserves, the continuing excellence of the Journal has been maintained throughout and we are developing plans for improving how we serve our members' interests and our mission of raising awareness and knowledge of WWI aviation in all its variety.

The not-so-good ramifications include the need for virtual meetings, the cancellation of those events that we support or benefit from, which regrettably for this year, must include our attendance at IPMS ScaleModelworld at Telford in November. More important are the postal increases, which to anywhere outside Europe have been massively increased, due to the major impact of the pandemic on airlines. Passing all of these charges on to our members would have led to large increases overall, so for the first time in several years we will be making a small increase in subscriptions, purely to cover part of the

increased costs. Hopefully during 2021 the world's airline system will return to more normal activity.

Our AGM that was scheduled for April this year had to be cancelled and we have now decided to hold a virtual AGM on Saturday, 3rd of October (see panel). This will commence at 2.00pm UK time, which we believe is going to allow the participation of as many of our members in Eastern and Western time zones as possible. This is a real opportunity for members, both in the UK and overseas, to help shape our Society's future, so please join us if you can. We'll be using Zoom, so for anyone wishing to join the meeting please contact Andy Kemp for registration details at membership.secretary@crossandcockade.com.

Despite all of the above, CCI continues to broadly maintain our membership numbers and we continue to see a growing uptake of the *Wind in the Wires* email service. We are also looking hard at expanding the online capability of the website and the potential for a digital only Journal for those who would prefer this; to run alongside the existing print Journal. Details of this will be sent to all members as and when we have finalized how such a service will be achieved.

It is with great regret that we have lost a number of close friends of the society and longstanding expert contributors during the year. These include Sir Freddie Sowrey, Paul Leaman and Colin Ashford and obituaries have been included in previous issues of the journal and in this one. Other members we have lost in the past year include Mike Armstrong, Edward Broadway, John Grech, Robert Greene, Jonathan Hayes, Charles Schaedel, Michael Shelley and William Swindlehurst. Our sympathies go out to all families and friends who have lost loved ones during this difficult time.

Looking forward to 2021, we aim to maintain our highly regarded Journal and seek to expand our connections with likeminded organizations where we are able to.

Given the centrality of the Journal to the society, we continue to look into how we protect and maintain it in the face of the uncertainties of the ongoing pandemic and the ageing membership of the committee. We have a very successful design, layout and copy production process in place but we are always looking for volunteers to work alongside existing committee members to take on the various steps involved in editing, design, layout and production of the Journal. The time demands can be arranged flexibly to suit the individual and need not be excessive. It would also help if the volunteers have experience in areas such as computer copy editing, proofing and photographic manipulation, drafting and cartography, to name a few.

The Journal is CCI's crown jewel and maintaining its high standards for the future is of paramount importance to the Society, so, if you wish to play a part in this, please get in touch with any committee member (contact details can be found on the first page of all journals and on our website) or email me at chairman@crossandcockade.com.

Stay safe and healthy in the meantime.



Saturday 3 October 2020

51st AGM

Zoom Online Meeting

14.00 - AGM 2020 (Online portal* will be open from 13.30)

15.15 - The Leaman Lecture
David Marks: Not Only Good Things Come From Above: The Zeppelin Offensive – A German Perspective

*Contact Andy Kemp for registration and Zoom log-in details at:
membership.secretary@crossandcockade.com

Nominations for Trustees under clause 18 of the Constitution and Notices of Members' Proposed Resolutions, with names of proposer and seconder, to be sent to Graham Chisnall Chairman, before 12 September 2020.

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