

Federation of European Women Pilots
Annual Meeting 2018 Old Warden, UK

Registration was on Friday June 1st at one of the big hangars on the airfield of Old Warden, north of London. Sixty-six ladies from thirteen European countries greeted each other and enjoyed the lunch, during which young English pilot Claire Tector gave an entertaining presentation about her aviation history.

After lunch the group went to the hotel for a leisurely afternoon. For the board of FEWP it meant a meeting to prepare for the General Meeting of the next morning. In the evening all members of FEWP enjoyed a nice barbecue on the patio of the hotel.

Saturday morning the group went to the airfield of Old Warden again where a guided tour was planned in all the hangars of the airfield where the Shuttleworth Collection is exhibited. All airplanes are in flying condition and are presented during airshows. The airplanes have been shown to the public from 1963 and they have gradually grown into a unique collection. It started with the collection of Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth who died in 1940 during a night flight. Very special aircraft were acquired since then: Avro Tutor, Hawker Sea Hurricane 1B, 1912 Blackburn Monoplane, 1909 Blériot Type XI. It was Shuttleworth's philosophy that all planes should be kept airworthy. No other collection has such famous racers as the DH Comet, Gloster Gladiator and Hawker Sea Hunter flying in the same airshow as the Edwardian airplanes. The collection brings the history of aviation into life.

After lunch, a guided tour was on the program through the magnificent garden "The Swiss Garden" which is directly situated next to the airfield. The famous garden was created between 1824 and 1832 by Lord Ongley and gives the impression of a hilly landscape with ponds and bridges. Visitors describe the garden as fairylike. Many changes and renovations have been made since the beginning, and the garden is now in a perfect state.

At the end of the afternoon the members went back to the hotel in order to attend the General Meeting of FEWP. Before the meeting Allie Dunnington told an impressive story about her experiences as a balloon pilot.

The Annual General Meeting was very successful. Not only because of the numerous attendants, but also due to the fact that three new countries were prepared to join FEWP: Serbia, Romania and Cyprus. The three ladies of the new countries presented themselves and were greeted with applause. The third reason to rejoice was the fact that our annual meet is fixed for five years to come: 2019 – Spain, 2020 – Cyprus, 2021 – Romania, 2022 – Serbia, 2023 – Slovenia.

After the AGM it was time for our gala dinner with which a very pleasant and successful weekend came to a conclusion. Words of praise for all the ladies in the organisation, good food and drinks, music and good company were the ingredients of a wonderful evening.

Sunday morning was a goodbye for some and attending the Navy Fly In at Old Warden for many of the company. A wonderful and very interesting airshow with the slogan: The best non-jet airshow!!! Next year the FEWP celebrates her 24th birthday in Spain, Barcelona, at the airfield of Sabadell. We hope to greet a lot of our FEWP-ladies again and meet new aviation minded ladies.