

# THE ROYAL AERO CLUB

OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
The Coordinating Body of British Airsport Organisations

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG, KCVO, ADC



## NEWSLETTER

### Winter 2008/09

Well, only two months ago I wrote about the economic threats facing us. How out-of-date that seems to be now, as the financial and economic situation worsens. However, air sport pilots seem to have a resilience that overcomes adversity, with their determination to continue to exercise their skills in the air, no matter what. Only two weeks ago I read the citations for the 2008 RAeC Awards. What an inspiring read that was! Ranging from acts of selflessness in the air and on the ground to flight achievements that left me open-mouthed. The winners will be presented with their awards on 21<sup>st</sup> April at a venue in London now being organised. Please make a note and come to the event to celebrate their achievements.



*Brian Milton, Miles Hilton-Barber and Richard Meredith-Hardy, winners of the Norton-Griffiths Trophy, at Biggin Hill before departing on their microlight flight to Sydney*

I want to recommend another event for members try to get to. It is the (free – apart from travel and accommodation) joint Europe Air Sports (EAS) / Eurocontrol conference day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the Eurocontrol building in Brussels. At this, EAS will be debating with Eurocontrol the strategic issues that affect air sports in the regulatory and technical developments concerning airspace and related equipment requirements. The same event two years ago was a great success and again it provides the opportunity, particularly as the EU Single European Skies initiative gathers pace, for the air sports community to engage with European institutions and their senior personnel on matters that are of crucial importance to maintaining our

freedoms in the future. The details of the event, and booking forms, will be available shortly through the RAeC email distribution system.

EASA's NPA 17 proposals on pilot licensing close for comments on 28<sup>th</sup> February. I urge everyone to respond to this consultation, as it is a window of opportunity to influence the outcome and which will affect pilots of light aeroplanes, helicopters, gliders and balloons that are within the scope of EU airworthiness regulation. The RAeC member associations are responding and most have guidance for their members on their websites on what issues are of particular importance to comment on. The volume of individual responses counts. Defence of the EASA proposals for medical standards for the Leisure Pilots Licence, very similar to the UK NPPL, is absolutely vital if we are to retain these in the EU context. I urge everyone to write in support for the standards, as this is equally as important as constructively criticising other aspects of the proposals. See the bottom of the table on the page at [http://easa.europa.eu/ws\\_prod/r/r\\_npa.php](http://easa.europa.eu/ws_prod/r/r_npa.php)

Fly safely!

David Roberts  
Chairman

*Eve Jackson and Mark Jackson after setting two new Microlight records above Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.*



## **ROYAL AERO CLUB AWARDS**

We are pleased to say that the decisions on awards for 2008 have been made and presentations will be made at a ceremony on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009. The venue and other details will be decided in the next couple of months and all members will be informed of the details.

Awards for 2008 are

**Britannia Trophy** David Hempleman-Adams  
& Jonathan Mason

**Prince of Wales Cup** Team Storm – Hannah  
Betts, Claire Scott, Sara Smith, Kate Stephens &  
Gary Wainwright

**Gold Medal** Claire Scott

**Silver Medals** Alan Lovejoy  
Richard Rawes  
Howard Torode

**Bronze Medals** Alan Chalkley  
Dave Clarkson  
Bill Draper  
Steve Slade, Andy Newell,  
Adam Mattacola & Mike Carpenter (Freefly Team  
Volairkix)

**Diploma of the RAeC** Marilyn Hood

**Certificates of Merit** Phil Curtis  
Chris Dunkley  
Bob King  
Wyn Morgan  
Deane Smith  
Lindsey Smith

**Norton-Griffiths Challenge Trophy**  
Miles Hilton-Barber, Richard Meredith-Hardy &  
Brian Milton

**Salomons Trophy** Garth Greyling

**President's Rolex Trophy** Aislinn & Eilidh  
Price

**Old and Bold Trophy** Roger Dickson

**Certificate of Appreciation** Dick Richardson

**Companion of the RAeC** Richard Winter

**Ann Welch Memorial Award** Les Merritt

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## **FAI AWARDS**

In recognition of their World record flights last year, **Mark Jackson** and **Eve Jackson** have been awarded the FAI Ann Welch Diploma, which is given "to the pilot or crew of a Microlight who, in the opinion of CIMA, made the most meritorious flight which resulted in a microlight World record claim ratified in the year in question".

## **NEW BRITISH WORLD RECORD HOLDERS**

**Attila Balogh** set new speed records in December, from Coventry to Le Mans and return, at 290 kph for the outward flight and 227 kph on the return.

With crew **Stephen Throup**, Attila also set new records in October from Coventry to Berlin at 294 kph and Berlin to Coventry at 219 kph. All these flights were completed in an SR22 by Cirrus.

**Robin Hamilton** has flown new speed and distance records in a Swift Light Aeriane hang-glider. His records for triangular distance of 302 km and speed over a triangular course of 49 kph were set last August in Texas.

Congratulations to all.

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## **BRITISH PILOTS AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

### **European Skydiving League**

Congratulations to the **Skydiving Team GB**, who won the title of ESL Champions at a meet at Texel in the Netherlands. The ESL consists of four separate competitions for 4-way teams at the four different levels of experience in skydiving. The teams took the gold medals in the AA and Rookie classes, silver in the AAA and AA classes and bronze in the A and Rookie class. The whole team won the overall title and the 'Spirit' – the sword that is awarded to the winning team. As winners, the UK now has the task of hosting the 2009 finals.

### **Speed Skydiving World Series**

Well done to **Clare Murphy**, who was the 2008 ISSA women's champion, with an average speed of 431.33 kph. The average speed of each jump is calculated over a vertical kilometre and then the overall average from three jumps is taken for the purposes of the contest.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership subscriptions for Individual Members expired on 31 Dec 2008 and are due for renewal from 1 Jan 2009. The subscription is unchanged at £16 for 2009.

If you pay by Standing Order, your membership card is enclosed with this Newsletter or (if the payment has not yet arrived) will be sent to you shortly. Please note the current rates and update your Standing Order if necessary. The renewal form is at the back of this Newsletter for those who have not yet paid.

### ***Dates for your Diary***

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Aero Club will be on Tuesday 7 April starting at 1700 hours at the Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London. All member associations are entitled to attend and we would also be pleased to welcome any individual members. The AGM will be followed by the Spring Council meeting, at which members would also be welcome.

### ***Flying Scholarships for the Disabled***

Welcome to our latest new Associate Member, Flying Scholarships for the Disabled. FSD offers flying scholarships to disabled men and women, to enable people to discover their full potential through the challenge of learning to fly. Scholars are encouraged to push their personal boundaries and to start to measure their lives and their achievements not by their disabilities but by their abilities. Although the achievement of a pilot's license is not an essential part of an individual's experience, in fact a number of the beneficiaries do obtain a PPL. See [www.toreachforthesky.org.uk](http://www.toreachforthesky.org.uk) for further information.

### ***Email contacts***

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter and other communications by email? If even a proportion of our members were happy to receive information by email rather than hard copy, we would be able to save a significant amount in postage and stationery. If you would like to sign up for emails, please send a note to [secretary@royalaeroclub.org](mailto:secretary@royalaeroclub.org) with your email address, name and membership number. Individual members signing up for email are likely to receive more frequent information, as we are able to add you to our regular mailing lists for general information.

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## ***SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS***

### ***Air League Scholarships***

The Air League Educational Trust offers flying scholarships to be flown in the summer of 2009. The awards are for 12-15 hours flying instruction. Air Cadets are eligible for a number of special awards.

Selection will be based on a formal application and, after short-listing, either an interview at the Trust's London office or aptitude tests and interview at RAF Cranwell around Easter 2009.

The competition is open to young people permanently resident in the UK who will have reached their 17th but not their 26th birthday on 1st April 2009.

Closing date for completed application forms is 31 January 2009.

Application forms can be obtained from [scholarships@airleague.co.uk](mailto:scholarships@airleague.co.uk).

The Air League also offers a variety of scholarships to enable young people to learn to fly powered aircraft, gliders or balloons, or for advanced power training. Scholarships are also available to provide engineering placements in the UK aerospace industry.

Closing dates are 28 February, with the exception of the flying scholarships towards the NPPL, for which the closing date is the end of January.

More information can be found at [www.airleague.co.uk](http://www.airleague.co.uk).

### ***Royal Aero Club Trust Flying Bursaries 2009***

A reminder that applications for the Royal Aero Club Trust bursaries for the calendar year 2009 may be made up to 31 March 2009.

See the Royal Aero Club Trust web site, [www.royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org) for full details, rules and an application form.

### ***GAPAN***

The Guild scholarships provide an opportunity for people who would like to become pilots or to further their qualifications as pilots. Several PPL (fixed wing) scholarships, a few FI(R) (both fixed wing and rotary) and 2 Jet Orientation course (JOC) scholarships are available for 2009. Closing dates are 9th April, with the exception of the JOC scholarship, for which the closing date is the end of August. Details are on the GAPAN website at <http://www.gapan.org/> and application forms are also available on the website.

The Guild also has a Bursary Programme to assist successful instructors, who might otherwise not have the necessary resources, to achieve their Rating. Bursaries are available for Instrument Rating, Aerobatics and Multi-Engine Instructors. Application Forms are on the GAPAN website, with a closing date of 9th April for receipt of applications.

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## ***FAI***

### ***Sporting Licences***

We are continuing to collate the databases of Sporting Licence holders from all the British air sport associations. This data is being supplied to the FAI to enable them and the organisers of international championships to ensure that all competitors are properly registered.

## **World Air Games**

The process is under way to select competitors to take part in the World Air Games, due to be held in Turin this summer during the second week in June. Nine different airports will be included in the event and a number of British pilots have been invited to participate in each category. For more details, see <http://www.worldairgames.org/>

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## **EUROPE**

### **Consultations**

The deadline for responses to NPA 17 (pilot licensing) is 28 February and all pilots affected are encouraged to respond.

Consultation on NPA 22 (training organisations) is taking place on the same timescale.

The NPA on third country operators will be published shortly.

### **Newsletter**

The latest Europe Air Sports newsletter is available on their website at <http://www.europe-airports.fai.org/node/372>

### **European Mandatory Insurance**

EC mandatory insurance requirements are based on the MTOM of an aircraft and are denominated in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). In 2004, an SDR was worth £0.80, but the fall in the value of Sterling means that SDRs have increased in value. Aircraft owners should review their insurance to check that they are adequately covered.

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## **SAFETY MATTERS**

### **CAA Safety Evenings**

CAA Safety Evenings continue throughout the winter. The remaining programme is listed at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=224&page=69>

### **GASIL**

The latest edition of GASIL (the CAA's General Aviation Safety newsletter) has been published and can be viewed on the CAA web site at [http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg\\_gasil5of2008.pdf](http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gasil5of2008.pdf)

## **MCASD**

The Ministry of Defence's Defence Aviation Regulation and Safety Organisation hosted a very successful Military/Civil Air Safety Day (MCASD) at Culdrose in September.

In addition to presentations from members of the UK Airprox Board and the Distress and Diversion Cell at Swanwick, those attending were briefed on local military procedures and the facilities available to civilian pilots from Culdrose Air Traffic Controllers.

A further MCASD is due to be held at RAF Shawbury on May 20th 2009, and all pilots and others involved in General Aviation are invited to attend. There are opportunities to arrive by air, and all those who wish to attend should apply on the form on the DARS or CAA web sites. For details, see <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=224> and follow the link.

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## **EVENTS AND SHOWS**

### **World Aerobatic Champs**

The British Aerobatic Association is working with Flying Aces and Silverstone Circuits to host the FAI World Aerobatic Championships at Silverstone between the 18th and 29th August 2009. Around 60 pilots are expected to compete in two separate competitions, the Classic Championship and the Freestyle Championship. More information at <http://www.wac2009.com/>

### **Centenary events**

The Royal Aero Club is working with the French Aero Club to celebrate the centenary of the first airborne crossing of the English Channel by Louis Blériot in 1909. A mass Channel crossing by microlight and vintage aircraft will form part of the celebrations and Dover District Council is planning a number of special events to commemorate the event. These will include a recreation of Blériot's flight by Mikael Carlson in one of his two Blériot XI aeroplanes, a display by the Red Arrows, themed activities on the Seafront and a firework spectacular across the harbour. The event will take place on the weekend of 25th – 26th July.

Further information about the celebrations can be found at <http://www.dover2009.com/>

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Newsletter edited by Diana King. Please send items for future Newsletters to Royal Aero Club, Radford Barn, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1UT or to [secretary@royalaeroclub.org](mailto:secretary@royalaeroclub.org).

For further information on any items contained in this Newsletter, please contact Diana King at the RAeC Office address or on (Tel) 01926 332713 or (Fax) 01926 335206

**RENEWAL OF ROYAL AERO CLUB  
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Please note that Individual Membership entitles you to

- A quarterly newsletter
- The right to use the premises of the Royal Aeronautical Society, its library, bar, dining and sitting room facilities at its London base at 4 Hamilton Place, London, W1J 7BQ, on production of your Royal Aero Club membership card
- The opportunity to make nominations for winners of the Royal Aero Club's prestigious awards and to attend the Awards Ceremony each year
- The right to wear the Royal Aero Club's tie and badge
- The knowledge that you are contributing to the fight to maintain the freedom of the sky for yourself and all recreational and sporting pilots

I apply for my Individual Membership of the Royal Aero Club to be renewed for the year 2009 and agree to abide by such rules and regulations as may be in force from time to time.

\*\* Please send me a Royal Aero Club tie.

(\*\* delete as inapplicable)

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Annual Subscription due | £ 16.00             |
| Royal Aero Club tie     | £ <u>7.00</u>       |
| Cheque enclosed         | £ <u>          </u> |

SIGNED ..... DATE .....

NAME (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE) .....

ADDRESS .....

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If you would like to receive newsletters and other information by email, please add your email address .....

Please return this form to: Mrs Diana King, Royal Aero Club, Radford Barn, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1UT.

Any enquiries to this address or to

Tel +44 (0) 1926 332713  
Fax +44 (0) 1926 335206  
email secretary@royalaeroclub.org

Please note – if you are paying by Standing Order – Ignore this reminder – but please note the annual fee is £16 and amend your Standing Order if necessary