

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



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2012

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Aviators are well used to making journeys of 39km. Even if they thought much about it, most aviators would regard a 39km mark as a relatively inconsequential point along a much longer journey. Some branches of aviation have shown that you don't even need an engine to travel such, and indeed even greater, distances.

So, what's so special about a distance of 39km?

Well, not much until you turn it through 90 degrees from the horizontal and make it vertical instead. Then it becomes rather special, much less familiar, and more than a little daunting. Throw in a relatively small amount of balloon time, a fair amount of free-fall, and a little parachuting – in essence, mostly familiar ingredients, but with a novel twist - and you have one of the most astounding feats of human aviation of recent times.

Felix Baumgartner and the Red Bull Stratos Team must be congratulated for their sky dive from a height of just over 39km. It was a marvel of technology and planning, but it was also a clear demonstration of the power of human endeavour. Couple that with the clever use of modern media, and it turns into something that has the potential to astound and inspire millions.

Closer to home, and planet earth, I am sure that each of our air sports has the potential to astound and inspire greater numbers of people than we do at present. Perhaps we need to think about how we can add a novel twist to our familiar ingredients, and then fully exploit modern media.

Along similar lines, a decision was taken at the last RAeC Council meeting to explore how greater collaboration across UK air sports might help with the aim of increasing participation numbers. Whilst individual air sports have their own defining characteristics, it is clear that they also share a range of common issues and opportunities. It makes sense, therefore, for us to consider ways in which we can share knowledge and potentially work more closely together – after all, none of us can afford the

time or the money to either reinvent the wheel or ignore possible economies of scale.

As a first step in understanding how much value there might be in collaboration, the RAeC will be hosting a workshop on air sport marketing and promotion early in 2013. All RAeC member associations will be invited to attend. It should be an ideal opportunity for people to learn from each other and identify specific areas where joint work might be useful. It will also help inform the RAeC's own thoughts as to where it needs to be focusing its efforts in support of its members.

Coincidentally, the subject of increasing participation levels was also raised during the recent FAI Annual Conference. Specifically, the suggestion was made that a small working group be formed to better understand the potential to increase the number of women that take part in air sports. This issue is of some concern to a number of our UK associations. As a consequence, we will be looking at ways in which we can support and inform this initiative.

The 2012 FAI Conference was held in Antalya, Turkey, and hosted magnificently by the Turkish Aero Club. The proceedings covered a lot of ground - the official record will be available through the FAI website in due course. David Roberts and I attended on behalf of the RAeC, and there were a number of UK people in attendance in various FAI capacities. The event provided us with an excellent opportunity to compare notes with the national aero clubs of other countries, and play a small part in influencing the future direction of the FAI.



The FAI Conference also gave us an opportunity to acknowledge the selfless contribution that two of our UK compatriots have made over many years to the development of international air

sports. Peter Saundby and John Aldridge were both made FAI Companions of Honour. This is the most prestigious of FAI awards and recognises exemplary dedication and service. I can think of no two people more deserving of such an accolade, and would like to congratulate and thank them on behalf of all UK air sports.



It is nice to be able to both open and close by referring to people achieving great things; it goes to show that there is no limit to our abilities.

Happy aviating.

Patrick Naegeli
Chairman

INTERNATIONAL RECORDS and OTHER AWARDS

In being appointed Companions of Honour, former CIMP President Peter Saundby and former CIVL President John Aldridge join an illustrious group of names, which includes Jean Bleriot and Baron Edmond De Rothschild of France, Rajiv Gandhi of India, and Henry Kremer and Fred Marsh of the UK. The only other living UK citizen holding this honour is Fred Marsh.

The IGC GNSS Flight Recorder Approval Committee has been awarded a Group Diploma by the FAI. The group, chaired by Ian Strachan and to which Peter Purdie, Dickie Feakes and Tim Newport-Peace are Technical Advisers, was awarded the diploma for their contribution to the progress of aeronautics in creating the secure GNSS Flight Recorder System. The system now supports gliding competitions, badge and record claims worldwide, and is used by many other airsports.

Congratulations to them all.

RAeC Awards

There is still just time to submit nominations for the 2012 awards. Nomination forms are available from the RAeC Office and the closing date for nominations is 10th December.

REGULATORY MATTERS

SERA

The Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA) regulation has been adopted by the European

Commission and will apply from 4 December 2012. However, the UK has elected to use the provision not to apply the regulation until 4 December 2014. The CAA is developing detailed plans for implementation by that date.

Europe Air Sports

The paper on the Future Safety Strategy for GA was adopted by the EASA management board with unanimous support. The paper is now in the hands of the Commission to deliver. EASA has drawn up a plan on the steps required to roll this out and will initially prepare a 'hit list' of points by topic to be addressed to initiate the process.

The latest newsletter from Europe Airsports is available at <http://www.europe-air-sports.org> – click on Activities.

CAA reports on EASA activities

CAA Information Notices 2012/160 and 2012/183, providing highlights of EASA developments and related CAA activities covering the period July to September 2012 and October to November, can be accessed at: <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/20120928EASABulletin2SEC.pdf> and <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/20121107EASABulletinSec.pdf>.

FAI NEWS

General Conference

The 106th annual FAI General Conference took place in October in Antalya, Turkey. Over 130 participants from 50 FAI Member Countries attended. FAI President John Grubbström was re-elected for a 2 year mandate. Jonghoon Lee stood down from the Executive Board and Frederic Brink from the Netherlands was elected to join the Board. All the other Executive Directors were re-elected.

FAME

The FAI has announced the creation of FAI Air Sports Marketing and Events (FAME), a shareholder company based in Switzerland, with the aim of promoting air sports and creating economic value for FAI and its events by exploring the sports market and developing new and more attractive events.

With this new company the FAI intends to respond more quickly and efficiently to requests for new or special competitions from host cities and FAI Air Sports Commissions. FAME will provide the services and assistance they need to

develop new events. The Commissions will have the opportunity, if they wish, to create subsidiary companies to develop new projects. Giancarlo Sergi, the President of SINERGI Ltd, a Swiss management consultancy firm active in the sports industry, has been appointed as CEO. The FAI has also agreed to the sale of a stake in FAME to SINERGI Ltd.

World Air Games

The FAI has opened the bid process for the 2015 FAI World Air Games. Initial expressions of interest are due by 30 November 2012 and the final decision will be made next June. The FAI World Air Games is the flagship event of Air Sports. This multi-disciplinary event is the only world competition that brings together the different Air Sports and is a combination of elite competition and spectacular demonstrations exemplifying the very best that Air Sports have to offer.

World Games

The IWGA (International World Games Association) has announced that the 2017 World Games will be hosted by Wroclaw, Poland.

The next World Games will take place in Cali, Columbia in 2013, during which the world's best parachutists and paragliders will battle for victory at the Canopy Piloting and Paragliding Accuracy competitions. Aeromodellers will also be present in Cali thanks to AeroMusicals being part of the programme as a demonstration sport.

BRITISH PILOTS AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Congratulations to the F2A Speed Team of Ken Morrissey, Peter Halman & Paul Eisner, who took Championship Team Gold in a tense and closely fought contest at the 2012 Control Line World Championships. This is the 15th successive year that the GBR Speed Team has won the Team Gold medal, making it eight World Championships and seven European Championships in a row. Ken Morrissey took the individual silver medal.

Well done to the British Paramotor Team, who came home with the team Bronze medal from the 2012 World Paramotor Championships at Marugan in Spain in August. The team's points after a week's competition were 18,076, 612 points behind the second-placed Spanish team.

At the World Microlight Championships, Richard Rawes won the Gold medal in the single-seat flexwing Class. Paul Dewhurst and David Robbins won Silver and Robert Grimwood and John Waite

took the Bronze medals in the two-seat fixed-wing class and the team won the Silver team medal for their performance across all four classes. The event was held at Marugan the week before the Paramotor Championships.

Gerald Cooper won the European Freestyle Aerobatic Championships in Slovakia in September, winning Britain's first-ever gold medal in this discipline. Gerald was flying the all-carbon XtremeAir XA41 high performance monoplane for only the second time in international competition.

The British Helicopter team took Silver in the World Championships in Moscow. This is the best ever result for the team. Quentin Smith won



the World Individual Freestyle and David Monks and Caroline Gough-Cooper were second in the Precision Flying event.

Caroline and David after the prize-giving.

SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

RAeC Trust bursaries

The RAeC Trust has launched its 2013 bursary programme aimed at supporting young pilots, aged between 16 years and 21 years, looking to advance their basic air sport qualifications. With grants of up to £1,000 available, applicants can visit the Royal Aero Club Trust web site at <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/> for full details, rules and application forms.

Applicants must be UK citizens, resident in the UK, and training and flying can only be conducted at UK Clubs, Associations or training establishments. Applications, which must arrive at the Trust by 31 March 2013, are to be submitted through a Sponsoring Organisation, Club or Association.

Activities available in the programme include gliding, ballooning, paragliding, hang gliding, sports parachuting, flying microlights, motor gliders, light aircraft and helicopters, and building and flying model aircraft. Bursaries are also available for Personal Computer or Flight

Simulator pilots wishing to have their first experience of an air sport.

Air League scholarships and bursaries

The 2013 Air League scholarships and bursaries are open for applicants from ballooning, gliding, power flying, helicopters and engineering. The details of each award depend on the type of flying involved. Details, including closing dates, are on the Air League website at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/scholarships/>.

BMAA Flying bursary

Applications are invited for the 2013 BMAA Young Persons Flight Training Bursary. Applications should reach the BMAA by 31st May 2013 and selection will be made during June 2013. Applicants must be between 15 and 21 years old on the date of the award and have demonstrated an interest in microlight flying.

Flying Scholarships for the Disabled

Applications can be made at any time for FSDP scholarships. Applicants must be over 18 years of age, not in full time education, resident in the UK and allowed to drive by the DVLA. For details, see <http://www.fsfdp.org.uk/>.

GAPAN Scholarships and bursaries

See <http://www.gapan.org/> for details of these awards. Details of 2013 opportunities will be on the website by the end of this year.

Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial Scholarships

These are available for individuals and teams, generally for advanced academic study or for national programmes to encourage young people's interest in the aviation industry and aerospace engineering. The closing date for 2013 applications is 31 May 2013. For details, see <http://aerosociety.com/Careers-Education>.

SAFETY

GASIL

Issues 2012/08 to 2012/09 of GASIL can be found at <http://www.caa.co.uk/gasil>.

Seminars

The 2012/13 GASCo/CAA Safety Evenings have already started and there are plenty more opportunities to attend at venues around the country. More details at <http://gasco.org.uk/>

NEWS from RAeC MEMBERS

The Flying Show

The Flying Show, organised by the BMAA, will be at the NEC on 1st and 2nd December. More details of the show, including the seminar programme, list of exhibitors and how to buy tickets are at www.theflyingshow.co.uk.

Solo at 14

Several young glider pilots have taken advantage of new European regulations allowing them to fly solo from the age of 14. The youngest is believed to be Connor McIver of Dumfries & District Gliding Club who soloed at 14. Connor, who had been flying for several years, is pictured with his instructor Robin Johnson immediately after his first solo flight.



AEROEXPO UK 2013

This event will take place at Sywell from 31 May to 2 June next year. For more information visit www.expo.aero/uk.

Queen's Cup

The BBAC was successful in the bidding process for the right to hold the 2013 Queen's Cup event.

RAeC Trust

The RAeC Minute Books for the period 1901 to 1956 are now available to search online at www.royalaeroclubcollection.org. Go to Archive and click on "Royal Aero Club Minute Books".

Newsletter edited by Diana King. Please send items for future Newsletters to Royal Aero Club, Hebbs Acre, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2HG or to diana@king618.co.uk
For further information on any items contained in this Newsletter, please contact the RAeC Office at 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester, LE2 8RE or on 0116 244 0182.