

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

Spring 2011

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

About 180 people attended the annual RAeC Awards evening on 11th May at the RAF Club in London. This year we were pleased that Wing Commander Bob Foster DFC, a Battle of Britain Hurricane pilot, accompanied by his wife, had kindly accepted our invitation to present the awards to a wide range of very deserving recipients.

It is always invidious to single out a few people, because all recipients were very well chosen by their nominators, and deserving of the honours given on the evening. But perhaps I'll do so anyway.

Firstly, Steve Noujaim (Britannia Trophy), who last September flew his single engine home-built RV-7 aeroplane from Southend to Cape Town and back, in less time than two of Alex Henshaw's 1939 world records. Despite being an Airbus A340 captain I think Steve found the trip a considerable challenge, even with modern navigation kit. Which of course makes Alex Henshaw's achievement 72 years ago all the more remarkable.

Dennis Kenyon was recognised with a RAeC Diploma – which ranks between Gold and Silver Medals – for a lifetime of achievements as a helicopter pilot; Ken Craigie (Bronze Medal) for long and successful service as the LAA's Chief Inspector; and Doug Gregory, pictured below receiving the Old and Bold Trophy, an RAF pilot in 1941, who is still flying at the age of 87 after a long stint as a display aerobatic pilot. Well done, Sir!



But perhaps one of the most astonishing achievements, recognised by the award of silver medals, was that of Alistair Hodgson and his wife Andrea 'Pixie' Macleod-Hodgson who constitute the skydiving team Airkix Freestyle. Alistair lost both lower legs in a terrorist bomb incident in 1992, but returned to competitive parachuting at the top level and has made over 5000 jumps. They were silver medal winners at the world championships last summer. A truly inspirational achievement and a great couple to talk to.



The photograph is of the new President's Breitling Trophy, commissioned by our main sponsor of the Awards evening, Breitling UK. When we saw this magnificent silver trophy for the first time it took our breath away. The design is superb and the execution quite astonishing. The trophy is awarded to a young person or group who have made a remarkable contribution to aviation. The first winner is Ben Alford (14), who is a very active model balloonist, winning a Bronze medal at the 2010 European Championships. Our sincere and grateful thanks to Franz La Rosée, Companion of the RAeC and Managing Director of Breitling, for this trophy, which will feature prominently in the Club's awards into the future and will be something to encourage young people to participate in air sports.



Ben Alford receiving the Breitling Trophy from Wing Commander Bob Foster DFC

On 8th June we shall be at Buckingham Palace to attend the presentation, for the first time in 105 years, of the First Aero Club Cup – another magnificent trophy which emerged after many years ‘lost’ in a hotel company’s vaults. The recipient will be David Hempleman-Adams, the well known adventurer and balloonist, who last year came third in the epic Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon race from Bristol. It will be presented by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The reason it could not be presented on 11th May was because David was nearing the top of Mount Everest - on foot, not in a balloon!

After several years of witnessing the steady stream of eminent aviators coming to be presented with their awards, I am in no doubt that this year will produce an equally worthy set of winners for next year’s awards. Will you be one of them?

David Roberts
Chairman

WORLD RECORDS

Congratulations to Anthony Smith, who set two new world speed records on 20 October 2010, from Southend to Abuja in Nigeria, at a speed of 315.8 km/h and from Southend to Windhoek in Namibia, at a speed of 271.3 km/h. Anthony flew a RGII SRS/Glasair powered by an IO-360 / Lycoming.

Congratulations also to Catriona Adam and Anna Howerski, who were members of a team of 41 parachutists who set a new female world record for the largest head-down group formation. The record was set on 26 November 2010 at Eloy in Arizona, USA, beating the previous record of 20 parachutists.

FAI NEWS

World Games

For the first time in its history, the FAI will have three sports present at the World Games. Canopy Piloting (Parachuting) and Accuracy Landing (Paragliding) feature in the competition programme of the 2013 World Games that will take place in Cali, Colombia.

Indoor AeroMusicals (Aeromodelling) is included in the programme as a demonstration sport.

Canopy Piloting involves a series of tasks designed to test a parachutist’s ability to control the canopy and fly accurately. Pilots compete over a stretch of water for safety reasons because of the high speeds involved - at the same time creating spectacular action as the parachutists whizz across the surface of the water, leaving a plume of spray behind them.

Accuracy Landing is a test of the paraglider pilot’s ability to fly their canopy to a very small target landing pad. Pilots launch from a hill or with a ground-based winch and fly their paragliders to the target positioned in front of the public, which makes the competition exciting for spectators.

Indoor AeroMusicals is a combination of complex aerobic sequences performed in harmony with music, creating a free style aerobic sequence conveying the mood of the music.

FAI new offices

As announced at the last General Conference in Dublin, the FAI has acquired office space for its Headquarters at the Maison du Sport International (MSI) in Lausanne.

NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN REGULATORY ISSUES

The General Aviation Strategic Forum (GASF) met the CAA board during March to discuss Olympic Restrictions and Pilot Training. There was useful discussion on progressing appropriate devolution especially within the current CAA review of Recreational Aviation. GASF highlighted our expectation that the “EU Parliament Resolution on a sustainable future for General and Business Aviation” was fully implemented and the fact that this resolution specifically included recreational and sporting aviation. The meeting was a significant move in progressing the status of GASF and its role as a mechanism for direct interface with the CAA board and a coordinated voice within GA/S&RA. The CAA Chairman has proposed that such a meeting occurs annually.

The DfT/Home Office proposal for restricted airspace for the Olympics is a matter of serious concern. Following the recent announcements, responses have been submitted by the General Aviation Alliance and other organisations. The RAeC has taken part in various meetings to discuss the CAA’s plans for development of Future Airspace Strategy, which aims to restructure airspace and procedures. The RAeC will continue to participate in a series of working groups and seminars as this develops.

Europe Air Sports

David Roberts resumed the role of EAS President in December 2010 after a break of nine months. With other senior members, David has met Jules Kneepkens, EASA Rulemaking Director, in January and Erkhardt Seebohm, Head of Aviation Safety, European Commission, in March.

At the EAS General Conference in March, Jules Kneepkens addressed the delegates and his messages were well received. Jyrki Paajanen, European Commission and responsible for SERA and 8.33 radio spectrum change, also attended.

EAS held an MEP-sponsored 'expo' in the European Parliament on 3-4 May 2011, with stands, a glider simulator, videos and photos. The purpose of the event was to demonstrate air sports to MEPs and influence their thinking.

Flight Crew Licensing

The final text of the Implementing Rules has not yet been published officially for the statutory 3 month opportunity for European Parliamentary review, but was available to the Transport Committee recently. The LAFI rating - proposed by EASA for instructors teaching to LAPL level licences only - has been deleted by a majority vote of Member States, but the text retains the means by which a pilot with a LAPL(S) or LAPL(B) can instruct LAPL-only students for gliding and ballooning respectively. This leaves aeroplane and helicopter student pilots for the LAPL(A) and LAPL(H) requiring an instructor who holds the full ICAO compliant PPL(A) or PPL(H) instructor (FI) rating. There is still debate around the lack of an IMC rating, but there may be some alleviation for UK licence holders.

The main FCL will be implemented with effect from April 2012. EASA will establish a working group FCL.002 later this year to address issues that could not be dealt with satisfactorily in the first phase.

There will be opt out periods of up to two or three years available to convert non-JAR licences to EU licences. Transition arrangements have to be worked out in detail in each country and the CAA has recently published version 2 of its transition guide for FCL.

Medicals

At recent EASA meetings in Europe to discuss Medicals, the LAPL Medical again came under challenge. After a strong defence by the UK delegates, Susan Hamilton from the DfT and Dr Sally Evans, Chief Medical Officer of the CAA, it was agreed to retain it. The principle of the GP medical assessment by reference to personal medical records was also agreed, except for an initial medical examination when a pilot first goes solo. The UK CAA is to draft the material for the final rules. This outcome is a major

achievement by the CAA which has supported the case of Sporting and Recreational Aviation very effectively.

SERA – Standard European Rules of the Air

The intensive lobbying of the Commission has to a large extent paid off, so far. Many of the proposed rules, which would have adversely affected UK pilots, have been left to member states to continue current practices. Examples are ridge flying in gliders and hang gliders.

8.33 Khz radios

Eurocontrol has published a consultation on the draft Implementing Rule for 8.33 kHz channel spacing in the VHF band below FL195. These proposals indicate that 8.33 will definitely be rolled out in Europe from 2014-2018, and will in due course impact on occasional users of VHF radio. This will be an enormous re-equipping cost for GA across Europe. Lobbying continues to try and retain 25 Khz separation dedicated channels for air sports, but technical reasons may preclude this.

Airspace

The CAA has announced a change in airspace arrangements in the Cotswold region ahead of the discontinuation of daily flying operations from RAF Lyneham in September. The MOD's request to remove the Lyneham Control Zone and Control Area from 1 October 2011 has been approved. In addition, the air traffic control unit will cease to operate and the Air Traffic Zone will be suspended, unless re-activated by NOTAM for occasional aircraft movements until 31 December 2012, when RAF Lyneham formally ceases to be an RAF station.

RAeC Trust

Archives

The aviation archives of the Royal Aero Club can now be viewed online. The documents available include Committee Minute Books for the period 1901 – 1956, as well as scrapbooks and albums of press cuttings on three influential early aviators, Frank Hedges Butler, the Hon. C S Rolls and Claude Grahame-White. The web-site at www.royalaeroclubcollection.org was launched on 1 March 2011.

Bursaries

The Trust has awarded £11,000 in bursaries to 24 young people with ambitions in power flying, gliding, parachuting, hang-gliding, paragliding, ballooning and aeromodelling. The President's Scholars bursaries were awarded to fixed wing pilot Alex Walsh, aged 17, from Cotswold Aero Club and

glider pilot Sam Roddie, aged 20, from Wolds Gliding Club. Liz Telford, a 21-year old parachutist from Langar Parachuting Club, received the Peter Cruddas Foundation Scholarship and 21-year old glider pilot Julia Robson from Cambridge Gliding Club was awarded the Bramson Bursary.

The full list of bursaries can be seen on the Trust website at <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org> Application forms for the 2012 bursaries will be available on the website in September.

MEMBERS – BRITISH WOMEN PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

1911 – 2011: A century of achievement



On August 29th 1911 Hilda B. Hewlett received the Royal Aero Club's pilot certificate no. 122 to become the first British woman to gain a pilot's licence.

British women have played a prominent role in aviation from the beginning and many became household names in their day. However, Hilda was the first in a long line of British women aviation pioneers and record-breakers. A mother of two, she learned to fly at the flying school she ran with her business partner at the Brooklands motor racing circuit in Surrey and passed her flying test in August 1911 at the age of 47. Later that year she taught her son to fly. A Naval officer, he was the first, and possibly only military pilot to be trained by his mother. Hilda went on to own and run an aircraft factory that produced aircraft for World War One and trained women for the workforce.

To commemorate Hilda's ground-breaking achievement the BWPA is promoting a nationwide 'Women in the Air' day on 29 August 2011, Bank Holiday Monday. Over 265 flying schools and clubs around the country have been invited to take part, with the aim of demonstrating that aviation is open to all and to encourage women's participation.

The BWPA is also holding an Educational Weekend at Brooklands in conjunction with Brooklands Museum on 20-21 August, again with the aim of increasing female participation in aviation at all levels.

This is to become an annual event at the museum.

For more information on either event contact the BWPA at info@bwpa.co.uk

SAFETY

GASIL

The latest edition of GASIL can be viewed at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/20110516GASIL201104.pdf>

General Aviation Safety Award

The CAA is calling for nominations for its annual GA Safety Award. The Award aims to honour individuals and teams who, through skill and determination, have made a lasting contribution to GA flight safety, either in a 'one off' incident, or through a lifetime of campaigning work.

Although many previous winners have been honoured for displaying good airmanship in potentially serious flying incidents, the CAA encourages nominations for individuals or organisations whose contribution to flight safety might be more enduring, such as maintenance engineers, aerodrome managers and air traffic controllers.

Nominees should be over 16 years of age and can be organisations as well as individuals. Nominations should be made online at www.caa.co.uk/gasafetyaward or by emailing press.office@caa.co.uk. Please include full contact details and reasons for nomination. The closing date for nominations is 31 July 2011.

Last year's winners were Charles Strasser for his campaign to persuade aerodromes to allow GA aircraft to make free emergency landings and John Thorpe, former Chief Executive of GASCo, for several decades of promoting GA safety awareness. A special award was also presented to the designers of the Airbox Aware GPS device.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The BAeA is hosting the Queen's Cup for 2011, with an event on 26th June at Compton Abbas

All Associations are now invited to submit bids for the 2012 Queen's Cup by 9th September 2011.

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

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