

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

Autumn 2009

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Several Royal Aero Club Council members travelled to Korea in early October for the FAI general conference. We attended in different capacities – Peter Saundby as President of the FAI Medical Commission (CIMP), Keith Negal as our national delegate, John Aldridge as Vice-President of CIVL and I went representing Europe Air Sports. Ian Strachan also went in his role as Secretary of CANS – the FAI Airspace and Navigation Commission.

Our Korean hosts laid on what must be the best facilities in living memory for an FAI conference, held at the new conference centre at the new city of Incheon which is still under construction. Each evening we were entertained ‘royally’ by our hosts and their main sponsors, Asiana Airlines and Korean Air. Nothing had been too much trouble for our hosts and everyone expressed their delight with the venue and events.



Sadly, the conference content did not match the quality of the venue. I have only been to one previous FAI conference, so comparisons were difficult. Too much time was spent on internal governance and administrative matters, important as they are, rather than celebrating the achievements and discussing future strategies and prospects for air sports. This was rather a missed opportunity because air sports are developing significantly in the Asia-Pacific region, and clearly there are enormous opportunities for co-operation and exchanging experience and information. The FAI is keen to help promote air sports in the region and the conference could have been used more effectively for that.

Despite this there were highlights including the presentation of FAI awards on the first evening. It was also FAI Secretary-General Max Bishop’s last conference as he moves towards retirement in January 2010. On the final evening Max and his wife Angela were presented with gifts, to a standing ovation. This was followed by the extraordinary sight (and sound) of FAI President Pierre Portmann singing ‘My Way’ for the audience, in harmony with FAI Board member Mr Jonghoon Lee! Not a bad rendition, considering it was spontaneous.

*Max Bishop
at Incheon*



My purpose in going to Incheon was, at Pierre’s invitation, to present an overview of the work of Europe Air Sports, mainly for the benefit of non-European nations. The experience of other countries in interfacing with aviation regulators was informative – many have already been through the process some years ago of what we are now experiencing in Europe. In certain countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and particularly the USA, our colleagues have achieved some quite favourable outcomes compared to some of the situations we are facing. The discussions I had revealed what intuitively we know of cultural differences between regions of the world in the attitudes to ‘freedom’ and bureaucracies.



*Sharing ties (literally) with Alvaro de Orleans Borbón,
Executive Director of FAI*

Talking of regulations and Europe, a few months ago the European Commission gave a clear steer to EASA to focus on the important agenda items, mainly commercial air transport, and the message was ‘stop reinventing the wheel in rulemaking’. The Commission stressed what we have been saying for some time – keep things proportional and simple. It remains to be seen if EASA steps up the mark.

In my newly elected role as President of Europe Air Sports, along with a few board colleagues, I met in June with the Director of Air Transport at the Commission, Daniel Calleja. We had a wide ranging discussion on many topics, mainly around the rulemaking activities of EASA. Further regular meetings will take place. Also in June I met the Rulemaking Director of EASA, Jules Kneepkens.

Europe Air Sports’ work is really divided into two main parts – at the technical level in working groups and, perhaps just as important and maybe even more so, developing a network of contacts at senior levels in the political and administrative echelons of the EU, with the aim of influencing the outcome of decision making.

Lastly, on a domestic note, I had the pleasure of visiting the RAF Museum at Hendon recently, with Jim Crocker, to meet the museum’s Director, Dr Michael Fopp, and to see for myself the extent of the RAeC archives, trophies, paintings and other artefacts that are managed by the RAeC Trust. I was mightily impressed with the work that is going on to restore and catalogue the many thousands of items. This work is so important that we decided that the next meeting of the Council in January should be held at the museum, so that all Council members can appreciate this historic collection.

David Roberts
Chairman

COMPETITION NEWS

At the World Paramotor Championships held in Nové Mesto nad Metuji in the Czech Republic, British pilot **Michel Carnet** won the gold medal in the solo paramotor class while the British Team took the silver medal.

Four weeks later, the World Microlight Championships were held in the Czech Republic at Jihlava. **Rob Grimwood & Andy Aiken** won the dual flexwing gold in their QuikR with **Simon Baker & Anita Holmes** taking bronze in the Quik. In the solo fixed wing class **David Hadley** took the silver in the Sluka 508. **Rees Keene** won the bronze in his Chaser 508 in the solo flexwing class, a class in which his father has already won a number of medals. The British Team took the team bronze

medal. Keith Negal reports that it was a very successful competition, well run by the organisers.

At the 33rd World Free Flight Championships held in Croatia at the end of July, **Peter Watson** of the British F1C team became World F1C Champion.

The **BMFA F4C** team was also successful at the European Championships in Norway at the end of July. The British team took the Team Gold Medal and **Peter McDermott** also won the individual Gold.

There was success for British parachutists at the World Cup in Prostějov (Czech Republic), where the team **Outbreak of Bad Lieutenants** took the bronze medal in the 4-way Vertical Formation Skydiving event. Another British team, **Volare**, were the winners of the Freefly competition.

Parachutists were also successful at the World Games, a sporting event held in July under the patronage of the IOC, for sports that have not qualified for the Olympics. At this event in Kaohsiung in Taiwan, **Volare** were again successful, with a third place in the Freefly event.

Following David Hempleman-Adams and Jon Mason’s win at the Gordon Bennett gas balloon race last year, the UK has the opportunity to host the race in 2010. The event is a contest for the longest distance flown by a gas balloon, measured in a straight line from the starting point and the winners typically achieve distances of 1000 miles. The British Balloon and Airship Club is starting to plan the event with a team led by Don Cameron.

In this year’s Gordon Bennett race, **Janet Folkes** and **Ann Rich** set a women’s world record for the longest time aloft, with almost 70 hours. They came sixth in the competition with a distance of 1,105 km.

Richard Parry was second and **David Bareford** was third at the FAI Category 1 LuxGSM World Balloon Trophy held in Luxembourg.

Richard also took the bronze medal at the European Hot Air Balloon Championships in France, with the British team winning the Best Team award.

NEW BRITISH WORLD RECORDS

Congratulations to:

Attila Balogh who has set two new world speed records in his Cirrus SR22, from Coventry to Altenrhein in Switzerland at 307.8 kph and from Altenrhein to Tokol, near Budapest in Hungary, at a speed of 302.4 kph. Both records were set on 17 August.

Laura Turner set a new feminine microlight speed record over a closed circuit of 50 km without landing, completing the course at Brighton on 21 Mar 2009 at a speed of 45.14 km/h. Laura flies a foot-launched Dudek Synthesis 29.



On the same day at Brighton, **Michel Carnet** also set a speed record in the Solo Foot-launched Paragliders class. Michel's record, set in a Dudek Nucleon 29, was over a closed circuit of 100 km without landing, flown at a speed of 51.9 km/h.

Karen Skinner, a British pilot living in Spain, has set two new feminine World Records for foot-launched solo paramotor. On 1st May at Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, she achieved a world record altitude of 4073 m and also broke the record for time to climb to 3000 m, with a time of 30 minutes 29 seconds.

Toby Colombé, who with **Cefn Hoile** set a new Out-and-return distance record of 167.3 km in a Gradient Bi_Golden XC paraglider. The record was set at Sorica in Slovenia on 26 Jul 2009.

On 31 July at Chicago, a new freestyle parachuting record was set, for the largest head-down formation. 8 British skydivers took part in the 108 parachutist team. Congratulations to **Mike Carpenter, James Davies, Mark Joyner, Claudio Lettieri, Adam Mattacola, Daniel Parker, Martin Reynolds** and **Frazer Smith**.

EUROPEAN RECORD

On 09 June at Empuriabrava in Spain, a new freestyle parachuting European record was set, also for the largest head-down formation. Of the 51 parachutists, 12 were British. Congratulations to **Mike Carpenter, James Davies, Jim Harris, Richard Frame, Mark Joyner, Claudio Lettieri, Andrew Lovemore, Andrew Newell, Matthew O'Riordan, Daniel Parker, Martin Reynolds** and **Frazer Smith**.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries

This scheme is divided into two categories of Bursaries:

1. Flying Bursaries/Grants for those wishing to advance from one recognised level of air sport to the next higher level and wishing to upgrade their existing qualifications;

2. FlightSim Bursaries/Grants for Computer Flight Simulation enthusiasts wishing to gain practical experience of flying or an air sport.

The scheme and the bursaries comprise all types of air sports and aviation-related activities including paragliding, gliding, hang-gliding, parachuting, microlight aircraft, helicopter, fixed wing aircraft and the designing, building and flying model aeroplanes.

Applicants for these grants must hold British Citizenship, be permanently resident in UK and aged 16-21 years.

Applications for 2010 bursaries must be made by 31 March 2010. For further details, see <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/>

Air League Scholarships

The Air League Educational Trust offers a variety of bursaries and scholarships to young men and women permanently resident in the UK, to fly light aeroplanes, gliders, and balloons, or for engineering placements.

Visit www.airleague.co.uk to download an application form and conditions for all competitions and to join The Air League online, or to request information, email: scholarships@airleague.co.uk

SAFETY

CAA Safety Evenings

The winter series of CAA safety evenings is under way, with dates fixed in various locations throughout the winter. See http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gasil0809.pdf for further details, including a list of dates and venues.

GASIL

The August and September editions of GASIL (the CAA's General Aviation Safety newsletter) can be downloaded from the CAA web site at http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gasil0809.pdf and http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gasil0909.pdf

FAI NEWS

FAI Awards

At the recent FAI General Conference, awards were announced to:

Claire Scott	Sabiha Gökçen Medal
Barry Plumb	Tissandier Diploma
Sheila Bailey	Tissandier Diploma

RAeC Trust Group Aeronautics Diploma
Peter Halman Alphonse Penaud
Mark & Eve Jackson Ann Welch

Young Artists Contest

The Rules and the Interpretation of the Theme "Flying with the Sun" for the 2010 FAI Young Artists Contest are at http://www.fai.org/education/young_artists_contest/rules
UK entries should be sent to the Royal Aero Club, at 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester, LE2 8RE, by 28 February 2010.

NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN REGULATORY ISSUES

European Licensing

The EASA response to the comments on the licensing proposals has been delayed again in order to take account of all the comments and also the other NPAs on operations and authority requirements. The responses are likely to be published starting in late March 2010.

Radio frequencies

8.33 KHz radios are expected to become compulsory for all aircraft below FL195. Europe Air Sports is negotiating for the longest possible time-scale for the new regulations to come into force. Under ICAO rules a 7 year implementation period is mandatory, to allow for depreciation of current 25 KHz radios. EAS is negotiating to enable 25 KHz spacing to be retained in Class G airspace and also for reserved specific 25 KHz frequencies for air sports and related activities to be agreed uniformly across Europe.

GAAC Wind Turbine Workshop

Following the announcement that the Government intends to install several thousand more Wind Turbines as part of its target to meet the EU requirement for 20% of our power to be from sustainable sources, the General Aviation Awareness Campaign is to hold a workshop on 12th November at the Royal Aeronautical Society in London.

The workshop is intended to identify and clarify the extent, threat and implications for the GA community.

Professional Planning Consultants will be present to advise on the Planning Process and the workshop

will be attended by delegates from all the major RAeC member associations.

RAeC COUNCIL

Medals and Awards

John Smyth MVO has been appointed Chairman of the Medals and Awards Sub-Committee, supported by the retiring Chairman Sheila Bailey to help with the organisation of the Awards Ceremony for 2010.

The invitation to submit nominations for awards for 2009 is attached to this Newsletter. Please note the details and closing date.

GENERAL INFORMATION

British Balloon Museum and Library

The BBM&L, which has displays at Cranfield, Manchester and Woodley, has now unveiled a new display trailer which is available at events. See www.bbml.org.uk, if you would like to invite them to your event.

The Flying Show

The 2009 Flying Show for sport and leisure aviation will take place at the NEC near Birmingham on 28 - 29 November. The Flying Show is the UK's biggest indoor show covering the whole spectrum of lightweight sport flying, from simple paraglider canopies to 'hotship' composite microlights capable of cruising at 130kts or more, and all with the great emphasis on affordability. The CAA will be there with their Airspace & Safety Initiative and there will be a full programme of general interest talks. More details are at www.theflyingshow.co.uk.

Bingolotto

We have been disappointed to hear that, due to poor take-up of sales and gaming cards, the Bingolotto project, in which the RAeC and several member organisations have participated, has been suspended indefinitely. This project was launched to raise funds for charity and sports organisations and the RAeC received some funds during the pilot project, which were used to support our representatives in Europe.

Newsletter edited by Diana King. Please send items for future Newsletters to Royal Aero Club, Court Cottage, St. David Street, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2BP or to RoyalAeroClub@btconnect.com

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.