

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 2010

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On 19th January the Medals and Awards committee met to decide which nominations to accept for the annual awards of medals, trophies and various cups. It is always a pleasure to be able to recognise those who have done something extraordinary in the air or given many years of sterling service to sporting and light aviation in a variety of capacities. This last year has been no exception, with some very worthy winners, as you will see from the list below.

The winners will be presented with their awards on 27th April next, and this year we have changed the venue to the RAF Museum at Hendon – just a few miles north up the A5 from the North Circular Rd in North London. The backdrop for the presentations will be the Lancaster bomber, surrounded by a variety of other wonderful aircraft. So, an opportunity also to see these marvellous historic aircraft.

The event in April will have a very special person (well, actually, we always have special people) to present the awards, so I would encourage as many as possible of our various member associations to buy a ticket (or two), and come and enjoy this unique occasion.

One of the awards is being made posthumously, to the family of Charles Crawley. He was one of the unsung heroes who gave up to three days a week as a volunteer helping with the restoration of the Royal Aero Club archives, held at Hendon. He did it because he could see how important it is to preserve the history of aviation in this country, and he did it without any reward except the satisfaction he got from being part of a dedicated team of volunteers. Sadly, Charles and his wife died in a car crash last year.

Another award I want to mention in particular is to Keith Negal, who was my predecessor as Chairman, and who has recently stepped down from Chairmanship of the BMAA and from the Presidency of the European Microlight Federation.

He has done so because of the diagnosis in December of a brain tumour, for which he has had an operation and is now undergoing chemotherapy. Keith has been one of key drivers behind microlighting since its earliest days and has provided extraordinary leadership to this sector both in the UK and in Europe.

Before the diagnosis, Keith was nominated for a Royal Aero Club Silver medal, but in a rare move the Council upgraded this to a Gold medal, an honour normally reserved for people who have achieved something extraordinary in the air (which Keith has done as well but not quite world championship status). This was solely in recognition of his enormous contribution to air sports and microlighting in particular.

We wish Keith every good fortune for a complete recovery with his treatment and hope he will be well enough to come to Hendon on 27th April.

As we look forward to the main flying season let's hope that the worst of the financial and economic crisis is behind us so that we can participate with confidence in what we all enjoy – being in the air in whatever form of aircraft, balloon or under a parachute, that takes your fancy.

Fly safely!

David Roberts, Chairman



Team Volare - Mike Carpenter, Adam Mattacola and Alberto Fuertes, RAeC Gold medal winners, in action

(Andrew Lovemore)

COMPETITION NEWS

Belated congratulations to **Alex Kennedy**, who became World Champion in the new F4h model flying class at the European Scale Championships held last July in Norway. This class allows pilots to enter models that they have not built themselves but have bought as 'ARTF' – Almost Ready to Fly – and finished themselves.



Pete McDermott and Alex Kennedy (Robin Gowler)

ROYAL AERO CLUB AWARDS

We are pleased to say that the decisions on awards for 2009 have been made and presentations will be made at a ceremony on 27th April at the RAF Museum. Tickets will cost £35 or £60 for two members of the same family; please see the booking form at the end of this Newsletter. Guests will have the opportunity to look around the Museum before the Ceremony.

Awards for 2009 are

Britannia Trophy	Captain Paul Bonhomme
Prince of Wales Cup	Gliding Team GB
Gold Medal	Keith Negal Freefly Team Volare (Mike Carpenter, Adam Mattacola and Alberto Fuertes)
Silver Medals	Dr Stephen Green David Hempleman-Adams Bruce Tapson
Bronze Medals	Paul Dancey Nigel Hitchman Brian Lever Chris Lynch Cliff Mort
Companion of the RAeC	Peter Cruddas
Diploma of the RAeC	Laurie Shaw John Thorpe
Certificates of Merit	Andrew Dawrant Thomas Darell Dawson E Robert Dunthorn Helen Evans

Jane Middleton
Ian 'Wobby' Robertson
David Wise

Old and Bold Trophy Derry Moore

Nexus Aviation Journalist of the Year
Brian Hope

Certificates of Appreciation Charles Crawley
Graeme Fudge – Mazda UK
Hayward Aviation Ltd
RAF Museum

Ann Welch Memorial Award Mark Dann

FAI AWARDS

Congratulations to Peter Halman FSMAE, who has been awarded the Alphonse Penaud Diploma for 2009.

NEW BRITISH WORLD RECORD HOLDERS and OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Alan Cassidy, Chairman of the British Aerobatic Association, who was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours for services to Aerobatics and Charity.



Alan Cassidy

The 'Brit Chicks' took part in the 'Jump for the Cause' international team of female skydivers, who set a new women's skydiving record of the world's largest all-female Formation Skydiving Jump. The record was set at Skydive Perris, California and, of the 181 jumpers, from 31 countries, 30 are BPA Members. The team has raised over \$900,000 for cancer research and to promote breast cancer awareness. The achievement was recognised by an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons, which congratulated the Brit Chicks and paid tribute to all involved.

Congratulations also to Phil Jefferies on his FAI 1000 km Diploma, awarded for a flight on 13th December 2009 in a Ventus 2cT glider. The flight took place from New Tempe in South Africa.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries

As part of its Flying for Youth programme, the RAeC Trust administers a Bursary Scheme for young people.

In 2010, the Trust intends to award one bursary to the value of up to £1000 (The Peter Cruddas Foundation Scholarship), two bursaries to the value of up to £750 and a number of further bursaries worth up to £500, to suitable candidates.

There are 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 of 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 or balloons, or for engineering placements. The closing date for the majority of the scholarships is the end of February, with the exception of the Flying Scholarships to fund basic flying training, which closed at the end of January.

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

Amy Johnson Memorial Trust scholarship

The Trust offers a £2,000 scholarship for 2010 to a woman pilot wishing to start or currently undertaking training for any sort of commercial or instructing qualification. The closing date is 28 February. Details from Mrs M.E. Tucker, 12 Church Lane, Merton Park, London, SW19 3PD.

de Havilland bursaries

The de Havilland Educational Trust is offering bursaries to pilots and engineers, to fund flying on Tiger Moths for qualified pilots. The Trust also provides training to qualified engineers on the restoration and maintenance of vintage aircraft. For details and application forms, contact Stuart McKay MBE, deHET, Staggers, 23 Hall Park Hill, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 2NH.

SAFETY

GASIL and CAA Safety Evenings

The October and November editions of GASIL (the CAA's General Aviation Safety newsletter) can be downloaded from the CAA web site at <http://www.caa.co.uk/GASIL200910> and <http://www.caa.co.uk/GASIL200911>

These issues of GASIL contain details of this winter's series of CAA safety evenings, with the dates, venues and contact information.

Safety Sense Leaflets

A number of the CAA's Safety Sense leaflets have been revised and republished. They are not available in hard copy but can be accessed in the Publications section of the CAA website.

Military & Civil Air Safety Day.

The first MCASD of 2010 will be held at RAF Lyneham on Wednesday 19th May 2010. The aim is to promote closer ties between General Aviation Pilots and MoD Aviation, focussing on the shared use of lower airspace. There will be a series of presentations covering local airspace issues and a light lunch will be provided. Places are limited, particularly the fly-in slots, so early registration is advisable. Registration forms are available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/mcasd>

ATSOCAS

Glider and powered pilots who may need to talk to air traffic controllers can refresh their knowledge of the Air Traffic Services Outside Controlled AirSpace (ATSOCAS) requirements online at http://airspace-safety.com/ATSOCAS_web/ This includes an interactive training and testing aid.

CAA General Aviation Safety Awards

The CAA is inviting nominations for its 2010 General Aviation Safety Awards. For the first time, the awards will accept nominations for individuals who have made a lasting contribution to safety, as well as one-off acts of skill or bravery. Previous winners have been honoured for displaying good airmanship or practical skills and abilities when faced with potentially serious

incidents directly related to flying. However, the CAA is also encouraging the GA community to nominate anyone who they feel has made a prolonged contribution to aviation safety; this could include aerodrome managers, air traffic controllers and maintenance engineers, for example. Nominees should be over 16 years of age and can be organisations as well as individuals.

Nominations must be received by 30 April 2010. See www.caa.co.uk/ga_award or telephone 020 7453 6030 for further details.

The most recent winners of the Award were an RAF pilot and two air traffic control colleagues based at RAF Linton-on-Ouse near York. The trio were honoured for 'shepherding' to safety a GA pilot temporarily blinded by a stroke in mid-flight.

FAI NEWS

New Secretary General

Stéphane Desprez, former Competition Director of the 2008 Rugby World Cup in France, has been appointed as the new Secretary General of the FAI. He took up his appointment in Lausanne on 1st February 2010, taking over from Max Bishop, who retired after 16 years as Secretary General. We have received this message from the new Secretary General

Dear FAI Colleagues,

I would like to thank you all for the many kind "welcome" messages I have received in the past few days. As of today, and as previously announced by FAI President, Pierre Portmann, and "Retiring" Secretary General, Max Bishop, I have indeed the privilege and pleasure to serve as your new Secretary General. I am thrilled to be taking over this position in an International Federation that has such exciting potential, as well as a glorious history. I hope to bring to Air Sports and to our Members the many lessons I learned in my previous assignments. I've already had the opportunity to meet some of you in various meetings during the hand-over period with Max Bishop, and I must say I was impressed by the quality of the individuals and their contributions. I really believe we are set for take-off, and I'm looking forward to working with you to tackle the many exciting challenges and opportunities that face us in the coming years. I hope to have the opportunity to meet and to share experiences with many of you at FAI's various meetings and competitions.

Stephane Desprez, Secretary General

Jean-Marc Badan, the FAI Sports and Development Director, has been appointed as Deputy to the Secretary General.

FAI General Conference

The 103rd FAI General Conference, held in October in Incheon, Korea, was described as 'a landmark event at a time when the geopolitical and economic centre-of-gravity of the world is moving steadily to the East.'

Airsports World

The second series of the Breitling Airsports World TV series is now available to order from the <http://www.airsports.tv/> website.

The film has been produced by the FAI's media partner, Flying Aces Ltd. It includes coverage of competitions including Hang Gliding, Airships, Hot Air Ballooning, Gliding, Skydiving, Aeromodelling, Helicopter Flying and Aerobatics.

International Microlight Commission (CIMA)

Congratulations to Richard Meredith-Hardy on his election as President of CIMA at their recent meeting. The other UK delegate, Rob Hughes, was elected Secretary of the Commission.

NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN REGULATORY ISSUES

GAAC Wind Turbine Workshop

Members of the General Aviation Awareness Council met in November to discuss the growing proliferation of wind turbines and their threat to safe aviation operations. Delegates exchanged a number of ideas to assist operators in defending airspace particularly in the vicinity of small and medium airfields. The work is continuing.

DfT Consultation on Aviation Security

The Department for Transport has launched a consultation to seek views on the application of the mandatory European Commission aviation security standards set by Regulation EC300/2008 and effective from 29 April 2010. The consultation explains options on derogating (not applying common basic standards) to airports or their demarcated areas including where aircraft of less than 15,000 kg operate. The consultation is at http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/aviation_security/ The RAeC is responding to the consultation through the GA Alliance.

The RAeC and GA Alliance are also coordinating and responding to a number of other consultations and developments likely to affect sporting and recreational pilots.

Climate Change

The Government Committee on Climate Change published its Aviation Report in December,

recommending a limit on extra UK airport capacity and advocating measures to discourage short-haul flights. Industry civil air transport and aerospace leaders are lobbying for a collective global emissions target policy for aviation.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership subscriptions for Individual Members expired on 31 Dec 2009 and are due for renewal from 1 Jan 2010. The subscription has been increased for the first time in many years and is now £18 for 2010.

If you have already paid by cheque or 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 future 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 13 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Trophies

The James Gordon Bennett Trophy has been awarded for the first time in 100 years, to Alan Turner, the winner of an air race organised by the Records Racing and Rally Association of the Royal Aero Club. Last awarded to Claude Grahame White in 1910, the trophy was brought back into use after being refurbished and framed. The RAeC owns a large number of trophies, which may be available on loan to other RAeC Member Associations. Anyone interested in this possibility should contact the RAeC for further information.

EVENTS

European Microlight Championships 2010

The British Microlight Aircraft Association will organise the 2010 EMC at Sywell, between 7 and 15 August this year. More information will appear at <http://www.emc2010.org.uk/> nearer the time.

Gordon Bennett Cup

The oldest aeronautical race in the world will start from the UK in September 2010.

Up to 20 teams from around the world will compete in the 54th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett. Taking off at dusk from Ashton Court in Bristol, the team which flies the furthest distance from the start point wins the race.

Prince Philip and Sir Richard Branson have agreed to be patrons of the 2010 Gordon Bennett race.

The LAA Sywell Rally

Following the successful Sywell Revival Rally 2009, the Light Aircraft Association will hold a major aviation Rally on 3 – 5 September 2010 at Sywell Aerodrome. The event is described as an opportunity to witness the full range of UK home built, kit, vintage and microlight aircraft within the LAA fleet and beyond.

Southampton Airport centenary

A series of free aviation lectures will take place in Southampton to mark 100 years since the first flight at the Airport. Topics include the development of flight paths, especially the New York Southampton transatlantic route, famous personalities visiting Southampton, including Amelia Earhart, a round the world attempt of the Vickers Vulture crew from Calshot, notable aircraft, maiden flights, such as the Spitfire from Eastleigh, and the growth of the local aviation industry.

The free lectures will take place in the Civic Centre, Southampton, starting on 24 March. Entitled 'Flight of the Vulture', Vanessa Ascough will tell the story of the round-the-world attempt in the Vickers Vulture amphibian aeroplane, by her grandfather Sqn Ldr MacLaren and his crew. Details from events@southampton.gov.uk

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 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.