

# 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



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## NEWSLETTER

### Winter 2011

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#### *LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN*

I always enter the new year with anticipation of the Spring and warmer weather, which means getting back in the air after the winter's hibernation. But before that there is the annual maintenance of my aircraft – in my case gliders – to do. Get the chores out of the way in time, then enjoy the prospect of a flying season. That means, write myself some goals of what I want to achieve – something different, challenging and exciting, whether here in the UK or in French Alps where I do much of my gliding.

But for one person his flying days are sadly over. Our previous chairman, Keith Negal, passed away on February 4th.

The thing that epitomises air sports is the volunteer nature of participation, and Keith was a shining example of someone who gave much of his time as a volunteer leader of the microlight sector as well as the wider air sports community. There are many like Keith who provide the essential glue that make our activities possible, for costs that are still reasonable when compared with other aviation and non-aviation activities.

This is true across Europe as well, and maybe, just maybe, EASA is beginning to realise the importance of this factor. There are signals, perhaps weak at this stage, that a different approach may be taking place on rulemaking for air sports. But as I said recently to EASA officials, please don't take too long in changing the approach because the patient still has to survive in the meantime.

Recognising the achievements of both pilots and volunteers is one of the key purposes of the RAeC, and to that end we shall be holding our annual awards function on 11th May in London. Last year's turnout at the interesting venue of the RAF Museum was much higher than normal. This year space will again be more limited so book your tickets early!

Fly safely!

David Roberts  
Chairman

#### *HONOURS and OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS*

Congratulations to:

**Keith Mansell**, who was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours for services to Gliding. Keith has served for nearly 40 years on the BGA Executive Committee, including 23 years as Treasurer. He has also been Treasurer of the RAeC for many years and a volunteer for over 50 years at his gliding club, where he has served as an instructor, CFI, Chairman and Treasurer.

Also to **John Williams** on his FAI 2000 km Diploma, awarded for a flight on Christmas Day in Argentina in his Antares. John is only the sixth glider pilot in the world and the first British pilot to achieve this Diploma.

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#### *ROYAL AERO CLUB AWARDS*

We are pleased to say that the decisions on awards for 2010 have been made and presentations will be made at a ceremony on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at the RAF Club in London. Tickets cost £35 per ticket or £65 for two; please see the booking form at the end of this Newsletter.

Awards for 2010 are

**Britannia Trophy** Steve Noujaim

**Prince of Wales Cup**  
Microlight 'Europeans' Team

**Gold Medal** Peter Watson

**Silver Medals** Team Airkix Freestyle  
David Hempleman-Adams and  
Simon Carey

**Bronze Medals** Phillip Burton  
John Moore  
Ken Craigie  
Mike Gaffney  
Anthony Smith

**Companion of the RAeC** Dr. Brian Bramson

**Diploma of the RAeC** Dennis Kenyon

**Certificates of Merit** Tom Walker  
Dean Fisher  
Kieran Brady  
Stuart Morris  
Dave Bluett  
Alf Tunnicliffe

**Norton-Griffiths Challenge Trophy**  
Dr. David Joyce

**Salomons Trophy** David Boxall

**President's Breitling Trophy**  
Ben Alford

Jamie Griffin, Sophie Gallimore and Craig Attwood, who were also nominated for this Trophy, will receive certificates in recognition of their endeavours.

**Old and Bold Trophy** Doug Gregory

**Certificates of Appreciation** John David Jones  
46F (Kensington) Squadron, Air Training Corps

**First Aero Club Cup** David Hempleman-Adams

**Ann Welch Memorial Award** John Jeffries

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## NEW AWARD

### Queens Cup



*The presentation of the Queen's Cup by HRH The Duke of York to Fred Marsh, RAeC Vice President. Also in the picture are David Phipps (left), RAeC General Secretary and Patrick Naegeli (right), RAeC Vice Chairman*

Following an initiative by Fred Marsh, Her Majesty The Queen has approved the gift of a trophy to the RAeC. The trophy is of Irish silver and dates from around 1719, making it possibly the oldest sporting trophy in the UK. One side of the cup has the Queen's Coat of Arms inscribed on it and on the other is the inscription "The Queen's Air Race Challenge Cup" Presented by Her Majesty The Queen 2010. The Trophy is to be awarded for air racing and open to any member Association within the RAeC to submit a bid to stage a 'Queens Cup Air Race'. Full details will be circulated to Member Associations and nominations will be invited for 2011 and 2012.

## KEITH NEGAL



*Keith Negal wearing the Royal Aero Club Chairman's badge of office*

The sad news is that Keith Negal passed away peacefully on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February, with his wife Shirley at his side. Keith had been diagnosed with a brain tumour in December 2009. He bore his illness, which he was told at an early stage he would be unlikely to survive, with typical fortitude, bravery and good humour.

As the immediate past Chairman until 2008, Keith was a Vice-President of the Royal Aero Club, as well as the immediate past Chairman of the British Microlight Aircraft Association, a position he held for many years. He was elected the President of the BMAA last year. He was also the founder and past President of the European Microlight Federation. He was awarded the RAeC gold medal in April 2010 and the BMAA also awarded him their highest honour, the BMAA medal.

These positions and awards give only a slight clue to the role he played for many years in microlighting and the wider air sports world. He was a towering figure and a true leader. Inspirational, energetic, clever, determined, and an organiser with an extremely quick mind which meant he was always well ahead of most people in debate and discussion. Allied to these qualities he was generous and thoughtful of others' interests and positions.

What some may not know is that Keith, when serving in the Army early in his career, was a bomb disposal expert. He nearly lost his life in an explosion in Northern Ireland in the 1970s. After that incident he spent over a year recovering, including a long spell at the Headley Court facility. The long lasting physical effect of that experience was a hearing problem – sometimes I have to say he used that to great effect in negotiations - colour blindness, and a missing finger. He reckoned the latter deficiency was a prerequisite for being chairman of the RAeC, bearing in mind that his predecessor and successor have the same deficiencies, but not through the same cause!

I had the pleasure of working with Keith not only in the air sports world combatting the ever increasing regulatory burdens, but also in

business. We spent 18 months during 2007-2008, having both been 'parachuted' into a significantly sized business, turning it around. It was here that I really saw Keith's extraordinary abilities as a CEO, his sharp intellect, negotiating abilities and real leadership of people. One of the abiding memories I have of Keith is of him chairing meetings of the directors and key managers, seeing he was well ahead of the discussions in knowing where the conclusions lay and interjecting with his trademark "Stop, stop, stop" to move the debate to a conclusion. Not one for wasting time on a laborious journey to the answer that was obvious to him from the start.

His defence of microlighting in the regulatory developments was legion. He led the BMAA with passion and represented it externally with government and the CAA, achieving the de-regulation of single seat microlights. On the European scene he was a passionate advocate in ensuring microlighting stayed outside the grip of EASA rules, and was a promoter for the introduction of a LSA category of aeroplanes. But also in the sporting side of microlighting Keith was inspirational, being involved with the British Team as manager, and being the organiser of the Microlight World Championships at Long Marston in 2003. He also organised the mass microlight crossing of the Channel for the Blériot centenary in July 2009.

As the UK Vice-President of the FAI, Keith could always be relied upon to present a position coherently and robustly at the FAI annual conferences. He stood for the FAI Executive Board in 2008 and I am sure would have succeeded in due course once his qualities became more widely recognised on the world stage of air sports.



*Keith hard at work as Chief Executive of the World Microlight Championships in 2003*

The list could go on, but in the space available let me come back to the person. Keith was someone I regarded as a close and true friend, and that was a privilege for me. He is a friend and colleague I shall never forget.

We extend to Shirley and the family our deep and sincere condolences.

David Roberts

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES**

A reminder that there are a number of bursaries and scholarships available over the next few months.

### ***Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries***

See <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/> for full details of bursaries and grants, including application forms. Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

### ***Air League***

Scholarships for power flying, gliding and engineering are offered by the Air League. Closing date 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011. See the website at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/> for details.

### ***GAPAN***

GAPAN offers scholarships for 2011 for the PPL (Fixed wing) and Flying Instructor Rating (Fixed Wing or Rotary). The closing date is in May 2011 and application forms can be obtained from the website at <http://www.gapan.org/career-matters/scholarships/>

### ***Amy Johnson Memorial Trust***

The Amy Johnson Memorial Trust offers a Scholarship for 2011, open to British women pilots. Closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and application forms and further details can be obtained from Mrs. M.E. Tucker at [murieltucker@supanet.com](mailto:murieltucker@supanet.com)

### ***The de Havilland Educational Trust***

Bursaries to fund conversion and consolidation flying on a Tiger Moth and also an Engineering Bursary relevant to vintage aircraft and engines. The closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> February and application forms are available from the de Havilland Educational Trust, Staggers, 23 Hall Park Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 2NH.

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## **SAFETY**

### ***GASIL and CAA Safety Evenings***

The first edition of GASIL for 2011 has been published by the CAA at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/20110211GASIL201101.pdf>. This issue contains details of the winter's remaining safety evenings, with the dates, venues and contact information.

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## **FAI NEWS**

### ***Sporting Licences***

The FAI Sporting Licence database has been withdrawn and is currently offline, due to some security issues.

### ***2011 Young Artists contest***

The theme of this year's contest is "[50 Years of Human Space Flight](#)", in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first human space flight achieved in 1961 by Soviet cosmonaut Gagarin. See [www.fai.org/education/young\\_artists\\_contest](http://www.fai.org/education/young_artists_contest) for more details.

Entries should be sent to the RAeC Office at the address at the end of this Newsletter, by 31 March.

The three best artworks in each age group will go forward to the FAI for judging by an International Jury at the end of April.

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## **NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN REGULATORY ISSUES**

Europe Air Sports continues to work behind the scenes on behalf of all recreational and sporting pilots. More effort is being expended on lobbying work and concentrating on influencing the member states who effectively are the decision makers.

### ***Flight Crew Licensing***

A final document will be published at the end of February to the European Parliament and Council. Europe Air Sports will continue to lobby MEPs for improvements before the document is finalised.

One of the effects of the new rules will be an Aerobatic Rating in the UK. Work will start soon in conjunction with AOPA and the CAA to try to work out a process of implementing a suitable rating.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership subscriptions for Individual Members expired on 31 Dec 2010 and are due for renewal from 1 Jan 2011. 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.

### ***Date for your Diary***

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Aero Club will be on 5<sup>th</sup> April at the Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, starting at 5 p.m. 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.

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### ***Olympic airspace plans***

Initial proposals have now been published for temporary airspace in connection with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Maps and coordinates highlighting the proposed airspace can be viewed on the CAA website at <http://www.caa.co.uk/natmac>. The next stages of Proposal Development and Preparing for Consultation are now in hand, with an 8-week consultation limited to NATMAC members, starting in March 2011. A Validation Simulation will be undertaken in June 2011 prior to a possible further 6-week NATMAC consultation in Summer 2011.

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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](mailto: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.