

THE ROYAL AERO CLUB

OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
The Coordinating Body of British Airport Organisations
Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
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NEWSLETTER

Autumn/Winter 2010

NEW BRITISH WORLD RECORD HOLDERS and AWARD WINNERS

There have been a number of new records set by UK pilots. Congratulations to:

Colin Williamson - 188.6 km/h from Warsaw (Poland) to Dubrovnik (Croatia), in a 112TC / Rockwell on the 25th June 2010;

Colin also set a new record of 213.6 km/h from Dubrovnik to Valetta in Malta on the following day.

Attila E. Balogh has set two new records: Budapest (Hungary) to Warsaw at 254.9 km/h in his SR22 / Cirrus and Warsaw to Budapest at 269.0 km/h. Both records were set on 18th August 2010.

Stephen Noujaim flew from London to Cape Town and back, setting speed records of 274.55 km/h on the outward journey and 231.47 km/h for the round trip. The flights were completed on 1st and 3rd September 2010 in an RV-7A, which Steve had built himself specifically for the purpose of an attempt on Alex Henshaw's 71-year old record over the same route. The total time elapsed for the return trip was 3 days 11 hours and 16 minutes, beating Henshaw's record by 23 hours.

Anthony Smith has set a new record for the flight from Kirkwall in Scotland to Lands End, completing it on 25th September 2010 at 379.6 km/h in an RGII SRS / Glasair.

Mark Shemilt flew an AX-02 hot-air balloon (size 250 to 400 m³) distance record, flying 182.34 km from Husbands Bosworth in Leicestershire. The balloon was a V-14 / Ultra Magic and the flight took place on 2nd January 2010.

A Torch Trophy Trust award has been made to **Tony World**, who flies from Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club at Lee-on-Solent. These prestigious awards are open to all sports in the UK.

As we go to press, the news is just in that **Roy Wilson** has achieved his 1,000 km FAI Gliding Diploma, flying his Ventus from Bariloche in Argentina. The average speed for the 1020 km course was 159 kph.

BRITISH PILOTS AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

British pilots in all disciplines have been busy with international competitions this year and have achieved some excellent results. Congratulations to all the medal winners and high achievers.

Model flyers, who brought home numerous medals from the World Championships in Hungary. The F2A (Speed) team took Team Gold for the 14th year in succession. **Peter Halman** and **Ken Morrissey** took the silver and bronze medals, with speeds of 300.6 and 300.5 kph respectively. In F2D Combat, **Jamie Griffin**, in his first international event, won the Junior Silver Medal.

The F4C Scale World Championships in Poland in August were also successful for the British team. **Peter McDermott** flying a DH9A won Bronze and the Team took the Team gold medal. Peter also took two other third places with his Sopwith Snipe in F4G, the Open International Contest for Large Scale Model Aircraft and with a Sopwith Triplane in F4H, the Open International Contest for Stand-Off Scale Model Aircraft. **Alexander Kennedy** was the winner of the F4H contest, flying a D.H. 82A Tiger Moth.



BMFA Scale Model team - Peter McDermott, Dave Knott and Mick Henderson

More success for model flyers also came at the European Free Flight Championships in Turkey, where **John Carter** achieved 3rd place in F1A. This is always the most strongly contested class and John's success is a great result.

Kirsty Cameron has won the first Women's Paragliding Open Championships at Ager in August. Kirsty won by a comfortable margin with

2,850 points, a lead of 369 points over the second placed pilot.

Skydiving teams also performed well at the 2010 World Parachuting Championships, held in Menzelinsk in Russia. The teams brought home three team silver medals and one bronze team medal.

Bodyflight took the silver medal in the 4-way female event, setting a new British record with their score in round 3. **Airkix Freestyle** also took silver in Freestyle and in VFS (Vertical Formation Skydiving), the **Bad Lieutenants** won Bronze. **Volare** were again successful, taking second place and the silver medal in Freefly.



Bodyflight in action (photo Alan Thompson)

British 4-way skydiving teams were successful at the European Skydiving League Finals held in Texel, Netherlands in September. Three teams came home with medals: **Gr4vity** took gold in the Single A class, **High Altitude Heroes** won silver in Rookie and **Old Skool** the bronze in the AA class.

The **British Aerobatic Team** was also in action in September at the European Aerobatic Championships, held at Touzim in the Czech Republic. Congratulations to Nick Onn, Gerald Cooper and Mikael Brageot, who won the Team Bronze medal.

Mazen Makari, flying an MDM-1 Fox aerobatic glider, flying in his first World Aerobatic Gliding Championships, took the silver medal in the Known programme at Jämijärvi in Finland in July. The team finished in fourth place, a great step forward for UK gliding aerobatics.

MEMBERS

We are very sorry to report that David Corbett, the founder of the Flying Farmers' Association, died suddenly in October after a short illness. David was well known throughout sporting and recreational aviation, having been a Board member for many years of both the LAA and GASCo, as well as a

regular attendee at meetings of GACC and GAAC. He owned Shobdon airfield, from where he regularly flew his Europa. It is a mark of the great respect in which he was held that his funeral was attended by over 700 people including many from aviation all over the country. He will be greatly missed.

BMFA Vice President Ron Moulton FSMAE also passed away in October. Ron was a major figure in the world of aeromodelling, but was also involved in kite flying and the RAeS Human Powered Flight Group.

FAI NEWS

General Conference

The 104th FAI General Conference 2010 was held in Dublin in early October. The UK was well represented with nine delegates and award winners.

Congratulations to **Ross McIntyre**, a New Zealand citizen resident in the UK, who received the Lilienthal Gliding Medal. Congratulations also to the **British Aerobatics Association** on the award of the Leon Biancotto Aerobatics Diploma, presented to the BAeA chairman, Alan Cassidy, in recognition of the high quality of the World Aerobatics Championships held at Silverstone last year. The citation referred to the event as 'the best organized WAC in FAI's history'. A posthumous Diploma for Outstanding Airmanship was awarded to **Germano Alvares da Silva**, a BPA member who gave his life for others in a parachute plane accident in 2008.

The FAI World Air Games for 2011 have been cancelled but the bidding process has opened for WAG 2013. Parachuting, Paragliding and aeromodelling will participate in the International World Games Association (a multi-sport event) to be held during 2013 in Colombia.

John Grubbström of Sweden was elected President of the FAI, succeeding Pierre Portmann. John is a doctor and a hot-air balloon pilot who has participated in numerous international ballooning championships.

Online shop

The new FAI shop sells FAI-branded merchandise including clothing, books, DVDs and accessories. See <http://www.fai.org/> and click on 'FAI Shop'.

NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN REGULATORY ISSUES

CAA Airspace policy

The CAA has launched a consultation on its proposed long term policy for airspace development, outlining the general principles on which airspace may be developed in future. The aim of the proposed strategy is said to be to modernise UK airspace to improve safety and efficiency, including providing greater capacity for all users and reducing environmental impacts. There are almost certainly significant implications for air sports. The document can be downloaded from the CAA website at www.caa.co.uk – click on the Airspace Policy section of the website and then on ‘Introduction’ and ‘DAP Consultation Exercises’. The consultation closes in February.

CAA charges

The CAA has been consulting on proposed amendments to its Schemes of Charges, planned to take effect from 1 April 2011. This consultation closed in early December. Full details at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?gid=1351>

EASA proposals

Members are recommended to review the latest publication on Safety Regulation with regard to the transition of the EU FCL implementing rules and the expected effect on UK pilots. See <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?gid=2061>

EASA Comment Response Documents have been published with proposals for the approval of Training Organisations and EASA Operational regulations. The RAeC Chairman has attended part of an EASA workshop on the subject of training organisations.

***SERA* (Standardised European Rules of the Air)**

Pressure on Eurocontrol from UK and European organizations has resulted in some amendments to the proposals, but further work is under way to improve the final outcome.

SAFETY

CAA review

The new CAA Safety Director, Gretchen Burrett, is introducing a strategic safety review. The RAeC will develop a collective response to the consultation, on behalf of all members.

GASIL

The latest editions of GASIL (the CAA’s General Aviation Safety newsletter) can be downloaded from the CAA web site at <http://www.caa.co.uk/gasil>.

GA Safety Evenings

Safety Evenings are now being organised by GASCo, who are aiming to include greater variety in the presentations and to cover topics of specialist and local interest for the host organisations. The confirmed dates can be found in the latest GASIL.

Many members will have met David Cockburn, the CAA’s General Aviation Safety Promotion Officer, at previous CAA Safety Evenings. GAPAN has awarded David the Sir James Martin Award for outstanding contribution to aviation safety at a recent presentation ceremony.

Strasser Scheme

Birmingham International and Bristol Filton are the latest airports to join the Strasser Scheme, which enables aircraft needing to make an emergency landing or unplanned diversion to do so without paying a landing fee. All but 7 airports in the UK have now joined the scheme.

GENERAL NEWS and INFORMATION

Micro Wind Turbines

There are plans to introduce Permitted Development Rights to allow the erection of micro wind turbines without specific planning consent. However these rights will not extend to land which is covered by aerodrome safeguarding. The government is developing a web-based service to enable people to check whether a proposed development would be on safeguarded land. Airfield operators are being strongly encouraged to register safeguarding plans with their local authority. Further details of this are on the General Aviation Awareness Council website at www.gaac.org.uk

Olympic Games 2012

The Department for Transport is planning with NATS for expected increases in aircraft activity around the London Olympics. Recreational and sporting aviation is involved in the discussions and planning, with Geoff Weighell, CEO of the BMAA, representing all our interests. Discussion to date has focused on the general strategy and the need to ensure that sporting and general aviation needs are considered.

Medals & Awards Committee

Robin Gowler, Chairman of the BMFA, is to take over as Chairman of the RAeC Medals and Awards Committee.

RAeC TRUST

Bursaries

The 2011 bursary scheme offers several bursaries to enable young people between 16 and 21 years old to make progress in air sport. Applications must be submitted through a sponsoring organisation, such as the governing body, and must arrive by 31st March 2011. Details and an application form are at www.royalaeroclubtrust.org

Press Officer

The Royal Aero Club Trust is a registered charity whose purposes are to encourage young people to achieve their full potential through air sports and the maintenance of the nation's aviation history. The website is at www.royalaeroclubtrust.org.

The Trust seeks to appoint a voluntary Press Officer to promote its activities and to encourage donations. The post is not salaried but reasonable expenses will be paid for this home based appointment.

Ideally, applicants should have experience as Press Officers or Public Relations Officers.

Applications (letter of application and CV) by email to the Trust's Bursar, David Bills (david.bills@btinternet.com) who is happy to discuss the appointment and provide further details if contacted first by email.

SCHOLARSHIPS and BURSARIES

Air League

Scholarships for power flying, gliding and engineering are offered by the Air League. Application forms are available in December with a closing date of the end of February. See the website at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/> for details.

GAPAN

As in previous years, GAPAN offers scholarships for 2011 for the PPL (Fixed wing), 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 is offering a Scholarship for 2011, which is open to British women pilots who are trying to obtain a CPL or ATPL, or CPL / frozen ATPL holders who are working towards an Instructor, Multi-Engine Instrument or CRM/MCC Rating. The scholarship is also open to candidates undertaking an approved professional training course. The closing date is 28th February 2011 and application forms and further details can be obtained from Mrs. M.E. Tucker, 12 Church Lane, Merton Park, London SW19 3PD.

EVENTS and COMPETITIONS

Gordon Bennett Cup

The 54th Gordon Bennett Cup, organised by the British Balloon and Airship Club, started on 25th September at a site near Bristol, the challenge being to fly the greatest distance in a straight line from the starting point. Congratulations to David Hempleman-Adams and Simon Carey, who flew for 82 hours before landing in Serbia, for a third placed 2008 km. The winners were the Swiss team of Kurt Frieden and Pascal Witpraechtger, who flew 2434 km in a time of 58 hours, landing in Romania on the edge of the Black Sea. The second-placed German team of Wilhelm Eimers and Ullrich Seel landed in Moldova with a distance of 2312 km.

Tragically, two American pilots, Richard Abruzzo and Carol Rymer Davis, lost their lives when their balloon came down in an area of severe thunderstorms over the Adriatic Sea. Their bodies and the basket were recovered from the sea two months later.

Newsletter edited by Diana King. Please send items for future Newsletters to Royal Aero Club, Hebbs Acre, Broadheath, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2HG or to diana@king618.co.uk

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