

# 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

### Spring 2012

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#### LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Spring approaches and for the many aviators who hibernate in the winter, myself included, now is the time for 'annuals' on our aircraft, checking all the kit and a spring clean. Not sure what parachutists do, presumably check their shorts and T shirts for the summer. In my case, having shares in more than one sailplane (in EASA speak this replaces 'glider' now, for which the hang gliding fraternity may be grateful to distinguish them from their big brothers), I am trying to persuade my syndicate partners to do the work this month. I doubt I'll be that successful!

But what sort of flying will you be doing this year? Something different; more adventurous challenges? Or simply circuit bashing or the £150 burger run to another aerodrome? By the way we must keep the word 'aerodrome' alive despite the views of the editors of a well known dictionary who have dropped it. We should be setting ourselves new challenges each year to stretch our horizons and experience and to increase the enjoyment of flying. My first trip this year to the French Alps with one of our sailplanes is only six weeks away. It's become a second home. Whatever we do though, always plan ahead for the unforeseen eventualities. Time spent in reconnaissance.....it pays.

I've been flying now for 44 years so no spring chicken any longer. I still get tremendous enjoyment from it but how much longer will I be fit enough to do it? Hopefully a while yet, as maybe I'll be able to pass the Class 2 or the LAPL medical for a few more years yet. I have to say that much of my drive on the medical regulatory front with Peter Saundby has been out of personal interest (no apologies there) to ensure I can fly as long as possible in the future.

So whilst I do not plan to hang up my flying boots yet, I do plan to try and find a bit more time for it - and for my family who over the years have been somewhat short changed in my attention - by stepping down progressively from the various roles in aviation I have undertaken for the last fourteen years. Starting with chairmanship of the Royal Aero Club at the AGM on 17th April, when members will be asked to elect a new chairman.

I have greatly enjoyed being your chairman for the last four years. It has given me the opportunity to meet many great people who otherwise I would not have had the pleasure of knowing. But more important for the Club has been the platform from which to promote air sports with those who, either knowingly or perhaps unwittingly, can influence our future by their actions. Here of course I am talking about the authorities and regulators, in all their various guises.

As your chairman I have been supported by a great team of dedicated people not only within the Council of the Club but in the Club's membership organisations and at grass roots level in aero clubs. They are the heroes who put in the time and effort to achieve what we do, and not just in the regulatory field which has so dominated our representational activities for the last ten years in particular. The work of the Royal Aero Club Trust and its volunteers at the RAF Museum, those who organise the annual awards event, and many others in various other fields of activity I recognise as making a valuable contribution to continuing air sports in an ever-increasing challenging environment.

I would also like to pay tribute to the small team of professionals who ably support the work of the Club, David Phipps, our Secretary, Linda Harding and Sian Sargeant, as well as Diana King who edits this newsletter. They do a great job which has made my role so much easier. Thank you all.

Lastly, due to the sad passing of Keith Mansell in December there is another position on Council to be filled at the AGM, that of Treasurer. I hope

that the excellent and dedicated work that Keith performed in this role for so many years will encourage someone to be a worthy successor.

Keep flying (or parachuting if that's your choice!) and above all do it safely.

Best wishes to you all

David Roberts  
Chairman

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## **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS and AWARDS**

**John Williams** was the winner of the Bitterwasser Cup for 2011. This award is presented to the glider pilot with the best score for six European sprint flights over a two-year period in the International Gliding Commission On-line Contest. John flew four flights at over 180 kph and two at over 170 kph, to take the award by a comfortable margin.

**Team Gringo** took third place in the Rookie category at the finals of the European Skydiving League, which took place in September at Texel in the Netherlands.

**David Hempleman-Adams** and **Jon Mason** won the America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race, with a flight from Albuquerque to the Canadian border. As with the Gordon Bennett Cup, the longest distance flight wins. David and Jon completed 1538 km over 71 hours, beating their nearest rivals by just 44 km.

**David Bareford** took the Bronze medal in the European hot-air ballooning Championships held at Lleida in Spain. The competition involved twenty-one tasks, in seven flights, which took place over a week in September.

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## **WORLD and EUROPEAN RECORDS**

Eighteen British skydivers took part in a new European record, an 80-way free-fly head-down formation. The record was set in Spain.

Belated congratulations to Norman Surplus, for his World Records last July, with a speed of 127.9 kph for a flight from Laoag in the Philippines to Okinawa in Japan and also for his journey from Larne in Northern Ireland to Oki in Japan, achieved at a record speed of 0.79 kph. Norman was flying a rotorcraft powered by a Rotax 914 engine.

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## **ROYAL AERO CLUB AWARDS**

The 2011 awards will be presented at a ceremony on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at the RAF Club in London. Tickets cost £35; please see the booking form at the end of this Newsletter.

Awards for 2011 are

### **Britannia Trophy**

Dave Sykes - Nominated by BMAA



Dave Sykes, a paraplegic who broke his back in a motorbike accident 18 years ago, has been awarded the trophy for his solo, record breaking microlight journey from York to Sydney. The flight passed through 19 different countries over hostile terrain, long sea crossings and deserts, while also encountering testing meteorological conditions on the way. He had to cope with dust storms over Saudi Arabia, was threatened with being shot down over Iran and only just survived a huge storm above Burma. The flight took four months, between April and August 2011, and covered over 23,000 km and 277 hrs of flying.

### **Prince of Wales Cup**

F4C Scale World Championship Team - Nominated by BMFA

### **Gold Medals**

Ken Morrissey - Nominated by BMFA

Ken won Gold and set four world records in the European Control Line Championships last year, achieving a speed of 307.5 kph in his fourth flight over nine timed laps. This was Ken's third time on the international podium in the last five years.

David Hempleman-Adams & Jonathan Mason - Nominated by BBAC for their success in the America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race.

### **Silver Medals**

David Corbett (Posthumous) - Nominated by LAA

Diana King OBE - Nominated by BGA

### **Bronze Medals**

David Lloyd-Jones – Nominated by BMFA

Jamie Griffin – Nominated by BMFA

Andy Pook – Nominated by BPA

John Michie – Nominated by LAA

John Broad - Nominated by LAA

Chris Thomas – Nominated by BPA

### **Companion of the RAeC**

Robert Brooks – Nominated by RAeC

### **Diplomas of the RAeC**

Doug Jones – Nominated by BGA

F2A Control Line Speed European Champion Team – Nominated by BMFA

British Hot Air Balloon Team – Nominated by BBAC

### ***Certificates of Merit***

David Hall – Nominated by LAA

John & Patricia Richardson – Nominated by HCGB

David Masson – Nominated by BGA

Jen Buckenham – Nominated by BAeA

Reginald Bradbury - Nominated by LAA

2011 KARA Team - Nominated by BKFA

Paragliding Cross Country League Team

### ***Norton-Griffiths Challenge Trophy***

Patrick Elliot & Linda Walker

### ***President's Breitling Trophy***

Yateley School – Nominated by LAA

Billy Elliston and Simon Sykes, who were also nominated for this Trophy, will receive certificates in recognition of their endeavours.

### ***Old and Bold Trophy***

Ernest Horsfall

### ***Certificates of Appreciation***

Lucy Smeaton – Nominated by RAeC & RAeC Trust

NADFAS Volunteers – Nominated by RAeC & RAeC Trust

David Cowden - Nominated by BAeA

### ***Ann Welch Memorial Award***

Tim Cox - Nominated by BHPA

### ***The 'Best of Three Balloons'***

A special award for 2011 to recognise long term achievements in Ballooning. David Bareford – Nominated by the BBAC

Breitling will again provide their generous sponsorship of the Awards Ceremony, including the production of the brochure.

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## ***SAFETY***

### ***Strasser Scheme***

Carlisle Airport is the 207<sup>th</sup> airport to join the Strasser scheme. Only five airports (Belfast, Cardiff, Leeds-Bradford, Luton, Manchester) are now refusing to join the scheme, in addition to Heathrow, Gatwick and London City, who have not been approached.

### ***CAA GA Safety Award***

The British Gliding Association's Safe Winch Launch Initiative Team, led by Hugh Browning, won the 2011 General Aviation Safety Award. The

initiative, which has been running for six years, has dramatically reduced the number of fatal gliding accidents.

### ***GETMET 2012***

The latest edition of the pocket guide to UK Met services, GETMET 2012, is now available on the GA services page of the Met Office web site <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/aviation/ga>.

### ***GASIL***

The latest edition of GASIL, 2012/01 is available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/gasil>.

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## ***FAI NEWS***

### ***Amateur Built and Experimental Aircraft***

The Commission for Amateur Built and Experimental Aircraft (CIACA) has been transferred from the designation of a Technical Commission to an Airport Commission. For a trial period, World Record claims may now be submitted through the LAA, rather than through the Records Racing and Rally Association.

### ***FAI Senior Sports Manager***

Rob Hughes, the immediate past Chairman of the British Microlight Aircraft Association, has been appointed as the new FAI Senior Sports Manager. Rob previously worked for the FAI in 2008/09 as General Projects Manager, with responsibility in particular for the World Air Games 2009.

### ***Safety in Competitions***

Following fatal accidents at the paragliding World Championships last year, the FAI Executive Board considered the circumstances in which any event held under the FAI Sporting Code may be cancelled or terminated by the FAI. As the Sporting Code did not cover the circumstances which occurred in 2011, the Executive Board has issued a statement to take immediate effect, that events may be cancelled for reasons of force majeure, substantial risks to the safety of participants, major financial uncertainty regarding the viability of the event, or other reasons that may arise from time to time.

An appropriate amendment is to be made to the Sporting Code General Section to reflect this decision-making process.

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## ***NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN REGULATORY ISSUES***

### ***CAA reports on EASA activities***

The latest version, covering the period October to December, has been published and is at

<http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/IN2011148EASABulletin.pdf>

The CAA EASA Information Bulletin, providing a report on EASA Management Board meetings, is at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/20120113EASABulletin.pdf>

### ***Harmonised Transition Altitude Consultation***

The CAA launched a formal consultation on 31 January 2012 with UK aviation stakeholders on the policy to introduce a harmonised transition altitude of 18,000 ft in the London and Scottish Flight Information Regions. The consultation is due to close on 1 May 2012. More details and links to the consultation documents are at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/InformationNotice2012016.pdf>

### ***CAA Future Airspace Strategy***

The third in the series of booklets on Airspace for Tomorrow providing the background and progress of work associated with the CAA Future Airspace Strategy (FAS) is now available on the CAA website at <http://www.caa.co.uk/FAS>

### ***Olympics Briefing***

The Airspace & Safety Initiative, in conjunction with the Royal Institute of Navigation, is holding a pilot briefing event in central London on 10 March. During this, pilots can hear about plans for airspace restrictions in SE England during the Olympics. More information about the briefing is at <http://olympics.airspacesafety.com/news/olympic-pilot-briefing-event>

### ***RAeC and GA Alliance activity***

At the recent RAeC Council meeting, Roger Hopkinson provided a briefing relating to his activities as Chairman of the General Aviation Strategic Forum, which includes representation from the DfT and CAA. Roger outlined the 'Strategic Importance Document' he had produced to help ensure that parliamentary resolutions were progressed. The document addressed a wide range of issues including the adverse impact of EU regulation, a review of recreational aviation, the Civil Aviation Bill (and any unintended consequences), future airspace strategy, aerodromes airfields and landing strips, the safety plan, concern over declining UK based training and the future of fuels. There is to be a meeting with the DfT and CAA to develop action plans to address the issues.

## ***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***

The RAeC Trust bursary scheme for 2012 includes a range of bursaries worth between £500 and £1,000. These are open to young people between 16 and 21 years old, who hold a basic air sport qualification and are looking for financial support to move on to a higher level. The closing date is 31 March 2012 and more information can be found on the RAeC Trust website at <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries.html>

### ***GAPAN***

GAPAN offers scholarships for 2012 for the PPL (Fixed wing) and Flying Instructor Rating as well as Gliding scholarships and Jet Orientation Courses. The closing date is 21 March 2012 and application forms can be obtained from the website at <http://www.gapan.org/career-matters/scholarships/>

### ***Royal Aeronautical Society***

The Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial Scholarship Fund provides support to a number of outstanding students and team initiatives.

Awards made so far include support towards:

- Final year MEng students
- Postgraduate tuition fees to enable young people to undertake Master's programmes
- Completion of aerospace-related post-doctorate research projects
- National programmes to encourage young people's interest in the aviation industry and aerospace engineering.

For 2012 applications the deadline for individual and team applications is 17.00, Thursday 31 May 2012. More details and application forms are on the RAeS website at [www.raes.org.uk](http://www.raes.org.uk) – click on Careers and Education.

### ***BMAA Young Persons Flight Training Bursary***

The 2012 awards are open to people between 15 and 21 years old on the date that the award is made, who have already demonstrated an interest in microlight flying. Applications should reach the BMAA by 31st May 2012. Details and the application form are on the BMAA website at [www.bmaa.org](http://www.bmaa.org), under 'Learn to fly microlights'.

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)

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