

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, KCVQ, ADC



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Annual Awards Ceremony took place at the Royal Air Force Club in late April, with HRH Prince Michael of Kent presenting the awards for 2008.

Parachutists dominated the awards this year, with twelve BPA members taking awards for achievement, service or bravery.



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Garth Greyling received the Salomons Trophy for his exceptional airmanship. Garth was the pilot of a Turbo-Islander when, after a successful team exit, the jump-master became entangled in the static line and was trapped trailing from the aircraft. Garth climbed back to a safe height and left his seat for several minutes to cut the static line free, saving the life of the jump-master.

Team Volairkix - Andy Newell, Adam Mattacola and Mike Carpenter – were awarded Bronze Medals for their achievement of World Bronze in Freefly at the World Parachuting Championships held in August 2008 in Maubeuge, France.



Team Volairkix are heralding a renaissance in Artistic Skydiving in the UK and their achievement and example is an inspiration to the next generation of British skydivers. They are the first British team to reach the podium at the World Championships in this incredibly skilful and specialised discipline.



Aislinn and Eilidh Price, sisters aged 14 and 17, being presented with the President's Rolex Trophy in recognition of their voluntary work as scorers in Model-flying combat competitions. They have gained such a reputation for skilful and accurate scoring that they have worked at the last three British National Championships, the 2007 European Championships in Belgrade and the 2008 World Cup and World Championships in France.

The Norton-Griffiths Trophy was also presented for the first time in the modern era, to Miles Hilton-Barber, Brian Milton and Richard Meredith-Hardy. Details of other awards presented are all listed in the Annual Awards brochure.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Royal Aero Club was held on 7th April in London. The Chairman David Roberts presented a report, which is summarised below.

Firstly, I should like to thank my predecessor Keith Negal, for his very effective two years as Chairman of the Club. As a very busy person on many fronts he led the Club with vigour and determination.

Looking back on my first year as Chairman I am conscious that I have not done as much as I promised to do in furthering the interests of the Club. However, it has to be said that the Club, being made up of the air sports member associations represented on the Council, functions very well through the established committees and a network of individuals.

This last year has seen several highlights, starting with the Annual Awards presentation at which Sir John Allison, President of Europe Air Sports, presented the awards to the many very worthy winners. On the international air sports scene, the British Microlight Team achieved great success at the 2008 European Championships, with five gold medals and third team place. David Hempleman-Adams and Jonathan Mason achieved history in becoming the first British gas balloonists to win the famous Gordon Bennett race in the USA, flying continuously 1,768 km over 3 days. This means the UK will host the 2010 race. Richard Meredith-Hardy, Miles Hilton-Barber and Brian Milton achieved a remarkable journey by microlight from England to Australia in 2008. The British Model Flyers had a very successful year in both the European events and World championships. The UK women's team is now world championship holder in 4 way women's formation skydiving.

Other air sports have also achieved marked success in international events and individuals continue to collect world records. All in all, the UK is at the forefront of sporting achievement in the air, upholding a long tradition of excellence, adventure and the spirit of freedom.

UK personnel are also at the forefront of FAI activities in various roles, including holding the Presidency of one FAI Commission and Vice Presidency of seven others. World Anti Doping Agency rules are now being implemented by the FAI and its member National Aero Clubs. A new FAI sporting licences database has been created to enable data on all competitors at international competitions to be available to organisers.

On the domestic front public funding for air sports has always been a difficult 'catch' and with the

reduction in Sports Council funding for air sports, it is pleasing to note that the new BingoLotto trial has produced about £1,000 for the Club. The scheme is being re-launched in 2009 and hopes are high that this source of funding will generate significant sums in the years to come. The Club wishes to acknowledge the excellent efforts of the CCPR in furthering this development. The Club's finances remain sound and my thanks for this are due to the Treasurer. My thanks also to our honorary auditor Mr Feldman.

The Club input its views on immigration controls as they affect air sports competitors visiting the UK and most issues of concern appear to have been resolved.

The Royal Aero Club Trust and its dedicated volunteers do immeasurably good work in preserving the archives of the Club. These records constitute a unique history of aviation. My thanks to all the volunteers for their time and diligence in preserving the memorabilia. In 2008 the historic aviators certificates have been put onto the Ancestry website, creating a valuable means of accessing the information contained in them.

In terms of history, 2009 sees the centenary of Louis Blériot's flight across the channel. The event is being celebrated both in France and at Dover in July, and the Club is involved in this event.

On the regulatory front, both in Europe and within the UK, the pace of change continues to accelerate. The Club is well represented in these developments by several individuals. The work is often tedious, mind numbing and frustrating, but absolutely essential if we are to preserve as much as possible of the self-responsibility that air sports have exercised over their activities for decades.

At a personal level I represented the Club at the Battle of Britain service at Westminster Abbey in September 2008 and again at the recent RAF Anniversary service at St Clement Danes in London. I was also the guest of honour at the BMFA's annual Awards dinner, an event with so many magnificent trophies to hand out that it requires more than one presenter to last the course!

Almost last but by no means least I had a meeting with our President, HRH The Duke of York, in March 2009 to discuss aspects of the Club's work and activities.

I pay tribute to all the many volunteers who support and work for the club in its various activities. They represent everything that is unique and good about our air sports and the Royal Aero Club of the UK.

David Roberts

At the AGM, the Treasurer reported a profit of just over £9,000, on the year to 31st December 2008, bringing the Club's reserves to £85,000.

All the Club officers and Committee Chairmen were re-elected unopposed. The key positions are:

Chairman	David Roberts
Vice-Chairman	Ben Ellis
Treasurer	Keith Mansell
Chairman FAI Committee	Keith Negal
Chairman Parliamentary and Memorabilia Committees	Jim Crocker
Chairman Medals & Awards Committee	Sheila Bailey

BRITISH WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

Steve Wood has set thirteen more World Records, all flown in the Caribbean, the US and Canada last July. This brings the total of World Records that he has held to 90, with 46 of them being still valid.

EUROPE

Europe Air Sports

At the recent AGM of Europe Air Sports, Sir John Allison stood down as President. In a closely fought election, David Roberts was elected to succeed Sir John.

Good News on Aerodromes

The EU Parliament voted in March to exclude aerodromes primarily used for sport and recreational flying from proposed pan-European regulation. This success followed intensive interaction by Europe Air Sports with the European Commission, Parliament and Council.

EASA Proposed regulations

At the recent Council meeting David Roberts reported that the deadlines on several NPAs, including NPA 17 on Flight Crew Licensing (FCL), had been delayed. EASA received 11,000 comments on NPA 17. The EASA FCL Review Groups have started to progress the next stage, which should finish by June. The deadline for FCL full implementation is likely to slip beyond 2012; the most likely scenario is transition for the 'lighter-end' pilot licences to start April 2012 with completion somewhat later. NPA 22 on Training is now in consultation. EASA have recognised that the requirements are excessive and have asked for comments and suggestions.

UK REGULATION NEWS

The new Air Traffic Services Outside Controlled Airspace (ATSOCAS) went live on 12th March, as planned. There is more information and a survey form on the Airspace and Safety Initiative website <http://www.airspacesafety.com/content/home.asp>

SAFETY MATTERS

Safety Sense

The CAA has recently updated many of their Safety Sense leaflets. The series covers a wide range of subjects, many of which are relevant to recreational pilots. For the full list, see <http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=33&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=list&type=sercat&id=21>.

GASIL

The February edition of GASIL, the CAA General Aviation Safety Leaflet, is available at http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gasil02of2009.pdf More recent printed editions are also available.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

World Aerobatic Championships

This event, organised by the British Aerobatic Association and Flying Aces, will take place at Silverstone from 19 to 29 August. See <http://www.wac2009.com/> for more details.

Blériot Centenary

There will be several events in Dover over the weekend 25 – 26 July, to celebrate the Blériot centenary, including displays by the Red Arrows and the French equivalent display team, an air race being organised by the RRRA, and Channel crossings by Blériot X aircraft and by large numbers of French, British, Dutch and Belgian microlights.

World Air Games

This event is due to start in Turin in three weeks time, with contests taking place over 9 days in ten different air sport disciplines. More information at <http://www.wag2009.com>.

LAA Rally

The LAA has announced that 'after a pragmatic, considered review by the Rally Committee', it has been decided to scale back the LAA Rally in 2009. Whilst a full Rally continues to be the objective for 2010, the LAA is avoiding exposing itself financially during the uncertainties of the current economic climate. In order not to waste the work

already undertaken, a Sywell hosted event on 4 – 6 September is under active discussion, possibly called 'Sywell Revisited'. This will embrace key aspects of the Rally, with a major fly-in for owners, members and enthusiasts to fly, meet and enjoy the range of aircraft and activities the LAA represents. For more details as they develop, visit the LAA website at www.laa.uk.com

2008 Sport and Leisure Aviation Show

SPLASH will be on 28 – 29 November at the NEC near Birmingham. The show website at <http://www.theflyingshow.co.uk/home> has more details and the organiser, Geoff Weighell, can be contacted at 01869 388888.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cockpit Design Competition – 2009

The General Aviation Group of the Royal Aeronautical Society, with the Light Aircraft Association, is holding a Cockpit Design Competition, aimed at the design of cockpits for home built aircraft in the maximum all up weight range 450 – 600kg. First Prize for the winning entry will be £1,000 and the Second Prize £500. Details of the scope of the competition and other information can be downloaded from the website www.aerosociety.com/conference or from the link on the LAA website www.laa.uk.com. Alternatively details are available from Emma Brown, Royal Aeronautical Society, Tel: 020 7670 4372 emma.brown@aerosociety.com. The closing date for entries is 31 Oct 2009.

GAPAN JN Sommers Scholarship

The JN Sommers ATPL Scholarship scheme is to continue into the coming year. The aim of the Scholarship is to assist the successful individual, who might otherwise not have the necessary resources, to achieve an Airline Transport Pilot License. The Scholarship covers direct training and examination costs, any associated travel, and accommodation expenses. The closing date for applications is 15 June. More details and an application form are at <http://www.gapan.org/career-matters/scholarships/>

GetMet 2009

The 2009 GetMet booklet has been published, containing useful information about aviation meteorology. As well as detailed TAF, METAR and METFORM decodes, the publication contains information on met services via internet, fax, telephone and VOLMET. To download, see <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/aviation/services/getmet.html>.

Coupe Icare

The 27th Icares du Cinema, the International Free Flight Film Festival, coinciding with the 36th Coupe Icare, takes place in Saint Hilaire du Touvet, France, from 17 to 20 September 2009. More information is available from the RAeC office and the closing date is 15 July.

RAeC NEWS

Working Together

The professional Chief Executives and General Secretaries of the BGA, BHPA, BMAA, BMFA, BPA and the LAA met in March to discuss a number of business interests, challenges and opportunities that impact on all associations and their memberships. The meeting, facilitated at the group's request by the RAeC Secretary, was successful and the group has agreed to meet periodically with the aim of sharing good practice and, where appropriate, engaging in collaborative business activity to further the best interests of their members.

New General Secretary

After five years in the role, Diana King is to stand down as RAeC General Secretary, though she will continue to edit the Newsletter and to undertake some specialist work for the Club. The Secretariat will move to the British Model Flying Association under the leadership of their Chief Executive Dave Phipps. The new address for the RAeC will be 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester, LE2 8RE. The phone number will be announced shortly and the email address will remain secretary@royalaeroclub.org

Newsletter edited by Diana King. Please send items for future Newsletters to Diana King, Royal Aero Club News, Radford Barn, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1UT or to diana618@btconnect.com

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