

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

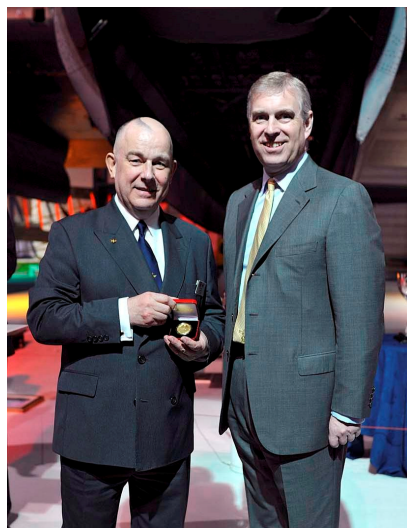
Spring 2010

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Just over a year ago my letter took the form of my annual report to the members of the RAeC. Looking at this year's report which I presented to Council in April, much of the content has already been covered in newsletters over the last year. This included the Blériot centenary event at Dover, the FAI conference in Incheon, European regulatory matters, the hand over of the duties of Secretary from Diana King to David Phipps, the work of the RAeC Trust and of course the 2009 annual awards event.

This year's Annual Awards event at the RAF Museum was a splendid occasion at which our President HRH The Duke of York presented some of the awards and made a thoughtful and amusing speech before having to leave early for another engagement. His presentation duties for the rest of the evening were ably taken on by Peter Cruddas who had been created a Companion of Honour of the RAeC. Our thanks to HRH and Peter Cruddas.

I was particularly delighted to see that Keith Negal, despite his illness, was able to attend the awards to



receive the gold medal. This richly deserved award was recognised by all those present. We continue to wish Keith well in his battle, which he is fighting with his characteristic determination and humour.

*Photo by
fergusburnett.com*

Looking forward now, on midsummer's day, to the rest of the main flying season I am particularly

enthralled by the prospect of the first Gordon Bennett balloon race in the UK to be held from Bristol in late September. Having watched the race last year from Geneva on the internet, this should be an exciting event providing of course the infamous British weather plays ball.

A few days ago I was a guest of the LAA at their annual 'Party in the Park' at the Old Warden home of the Shuttleworth Collection. This was an opportunity not only to see some wonderful historic and unique aircraft actually flying – instead of being static exhibitions in a museum – but also to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest with some of the most senior and influential people in the world of civil aviation. The relationships fostered during such gatherings and on other occasions play an important part in our efforts to ensure that the world of sporting and light aviation is fully recognised.

We are now in the peak of the competition season and as always I fully expect our various air sports teams to bring home the trophies. We have a remarkable record of success as a nation in reaching the pinnacle of sporting aviation, based on a long history and tradition. But tradition does not guarantee future success, and so I should like to express my thanks, on behalf of all members, not only to those who dedicate their energies to becoming successful in competition but also to all their support teams who selflessly give up their time to provide the competitors with the best chances of success. This starts at club level, in regional or national competitions of all varieties, and leads on to international representation at European and World level. The camaraderie that is developed by working in a close-knit team is a reward in itself for many who are infrequently recognised for what they do to support our champions.

Fly safely and enjoy!

David Roberts
Chairman

ROYAL AERO CLUB AWARDS

A very successful and well-attended presentation ceremony took place at the new venue of the RAF Museum in Hendon in April. The presentations were made by HRH The Duke of York and by Peter Cruddas CRAeC, in Bomber Hall under the nose of the Lancaster bomber. The RAeC is grateful to Breitling and H. R. Jennings, who were once again sponsors of the event.



NEW BRITISH WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

Congratulations to:

Toby Colombé and **Cefn Hoile**, for their out-and-return 167.3 km distance record in a Bi Golden XC / Gradient Paraglider. The flight took place in Sorica in Slovenia on 26 July last year.

David Hempleman-Adams, who set a new duration record of 14 hours and 15 minutes in a G-6000 Padelt gas balloon. The flight took place on 19 September 2009 from Butler, Missouri to Cherokee, Oklahoma and it broke the records for both the AA-01 (250 m³ and less) and AA-02 (400 m³ and less) classes.

John Williams broke the world out-and-return speed record for open class gliders, over a distance of 1,500 km. The flight took place from Bariloche in Argentina in John's electric powered self-launching Antares sailplane. His record speed of 180.3 kph was bettered only a few days later by Klaus Ohlmann, flying a similar course at 198 kph.

FAI NEWS

International Commissions

Congratulations to John Brady of the LAA, who has been appointed a Vice President of the Commission for Airspace and Navigation Systems.

We are sad to report that Michael Goth, the President of the Environmental Commission, died recently in a gliding accident.

New Video Channel for Air Sports

The FAI was one of the founding International Federations of The Sports Hub, launched by SportAccord and aimed at bringing new audiences to the world of Air Sports. The Sports Hub is a new multi-sports video platform hosted by YouTube.

While FAI Media Partner Flying Aces Ltd will continue distributing videos to air sports fans worldwide through the already well-known airsports.tv, the new Air Sports Channel on *The Sports Hub* will provide an additional opportunity to reach new audiences in the market of international sports. See www.fai.org for more information and a link to the Sports Hub.

RAeC COUNCIL

At the Council meeting in April, David Roberts was re-elected as Chairman and Patrick Naegeli was elected as Vice Chairman. Patrick is currently the Chairman of the British Gliding Association. Keith Mansell continues as Treasurer and Jim Crocker was re-elected as Parliamentary Committee Chairman. John Smyth MVO, chairman of the British Parachute Association, was elected as Chairman of the Medals and Awards Committee.

NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN REGULATORY ISSUES

SERA

Eurocontrol published proposals in February for Standardised European Rules of the Air (SERA). Responses, objecting to many of the proposals, have been submitted by individuals and by air sport organisations, including the RAeC. Useful contacts have been made with some MEPs, who are supporting the objections of the air sport community. In particular, Philip Bradbourn, MEP for the West Midlands, has been actively making contact with flying clubs and gathering facts and figures from volunteers to demonstrate the adverse effects of EASA and SERA regulation. We are very appreciative of Mr. Bradbourn's involvement.

Flight Crew Licensing Consultation

EASA has published the Comment Response Document (CRD) relating to NPA 2008-17, its proposals for flight crew licensing, following last year's consultation which attracted over 10,000 responses. This is the final set of proposals for consultation, with a two month consultation period until 9th June. EASA will then present its opinion

to the Commission, with proposed implementing rules for licensing. The medical CRD proposals are to be published at about the same time as this newsletter is published.

Operations

The consultation document will be published later this year; the first consultation document for training organisations is due out shortly.

Class G airspace survey

An Airspace and Safety Initiative project has been launched to collect accurate data on the use of Class G airspace in the UK. It will enable better information to be available when decisions are taken on issues like airspace design.

Because of the diversity of users of Class G airspace, who are not required to register their flights centrally, there has historically been very little data collected on what actually occurs. More accurate data on flights in Class G airspace may help airspace designers and also provide a better understanding of areas where safety may be a concern.

To make the computer model as accurate as possible it needs information from as many pilots as possible on the type of flights that they make. A short online survey has been put together that pilots are asked to complete with their logbook to hand. All information is non attributable and will only be used for the airspace model. See <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G5Z9BNB> for more details.

Flying training at unlicensed aerodromes

The CAA has announced that flying training will be allowed to take place at unlicensed aerodromes. Air sports have been involved in developing some of the changes to aerodrome regulations, including this one. Flight training at unlicensed airfields will be possible for fixed-wing aircraft up to 2,730kg MTOM and Helicopters and Gyroplanes up to 3,175kg MTOM.

EAS President

David Roberts has stepped down temporarily from his role as Europe Air Sports President and from the EAS Board, while he is working on an EASA study of microlights, which will inform future possible lighter regulations for aircraft up to 1200kgs.

SAFETY

Red Arrows 2010 Programme

The CAA has published details of the Red Arrows 2010 programme, and the resulting temporary airspace restrictions. The details can be found in

Aeronautical Information Circular Mauve 024/2010 on the AIS website at www.ais.org.uk/

Last year the CAA prosecuted one pilot and issued warnings to two others for infringing a temporary restricted area, which had been put in place for a Red Arrows display.

GPS Guide

A CD guide to navigating with GPS has been released for GA pilots. The disc highlights the benefits and the limitations of using GPS technology as a navigational aid. Produced by the CAA through the Airspace & Safety Initiative, the CD explains how GPS works and the dangers of over-reliance on it. CDs will be made available during the summer at air shows and content will also shortly be available on the ASI website at www.airspacesafety.com

Video flying guides

ASI has also launched a new interactive website that plays video flying guides of key GA routes in the London area. The *VFR Airspace Guide* (www.airspacesafety.com/guides) also provides essential information on England's biggest aerodromes with links to charts, NATS Aeronautical Information Publications and Met Office data, all on one site. Pilots planning to fly featured routes can now 'virtually' fly them from the comfort of home before they set off. The new website also contains helicopter routes around London.

GA Safety Evenings

The CAA has contracted the General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo) to deliver the General Aviation Safety Evening programme over the winter of 2010/11. Flying Clubs and Associations wishing to host a Safety Evening in the future should contact GASCo at www.gasco.org.uk

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>.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Light Aircraft Association PPL Scholarships

The Armstrong/Isaacs Foundation is based on two major donations from David Armstrong, an early member of the LAA, and John Isaacs, the designer of the Isaacs Fury and 7/10 scale Isaacs Spitfire, plus many smaller donations from individuals and Struts.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a Flying Scholarship to the National Private Pilot's Licence to a young LAA member aged under 22.

The deadline for applications for this year's scholarship is 30 November 2010 and the flying scholarship will be awarded in February 2011.

See

<http://www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk/Education/education.html> for more information and to apply.

GENERAL NEWS and INFORMATION

Volcanic ash

We have heard numerous stories of recreational pilots making the most of the grounding of commercial aircraft. Close-up pictures of Stansted, Luton and Bristol airports taken from balloons and gliders graced the pages of association magazines and one glider pilot in Scotland was asked to talk to someone in ATC because they had no-one to talk to and were getting lonely!

Adventurous secretariat

Congratulations to our General Secretary Dave Phipps and administrator Linda Harding on their recent skydiving exploits. The picture shows Dave and Linda, with sports insurance broker Richard Doubleday, after their jump.



RAeC Chairman David Roberts says this is not to be taken as precedent for him to try parachuting. He'll stick with having wings.

New RAF Museum Director General

Air Vice-Marshal Peter Dye OBE was appointed in June as the Director General, Royal Air Force Museum.

Peter Dye was previously the Director Collections and Deputy Director General and before that served in the Royal Air Force for over 35 years. He was awarded the OBE for his achievements in support of the Jaguar Force during the Gulf War.

The RAF Museum remains a significant supporter of the RAeC, providing a home for the substantial archive of documents and other memorabilia of the aviation history of this country.

RAeC TRUST

The Trust has now embarked on a project to digitise all of the RAeC minute books with financial support from the Club.

EVENTS and COMPETITIONS

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 can be found at <http://www.emc2010.org.uk/>.

Gordon Bennett Cup

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

Up to 20 gas balloon 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 September 3rd, 4th and 5th 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.

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

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