

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

Summer 2010

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Recently I attended an FAI meeting in Lausanne of presidents or chairmen of National Aero Clubs. Those attending were exclusively from Europe, due presumably to travel costs from further away. The purpose of the meeting was several-fold. Firstly, an opportunity for us to meet the new FAI Secretary-General, Stéphane Desprez who was appointed on Max Bishop's retirement; secondly to consider proposals for a revised strategic plan for the FAI; thirdly to hear Stéphane's thoughts on how to strengthen the FAI 'brand'; and lastly to prepare for the FAI General conference in Dublin in October.

The FAI will move next April to new offices and I was able to see the building under construction. The area of office units under development is designated the 'Maison du Sport International', or MSI, close to the Lac Lemman waterfront. The FAI secured the ownership of one 300 sq metre floor of the building, including meeting room facilities, with a mixture of FAI cash reserves and a bank loan. But the good news for members is that the excess space over FAI's 200 sq metre requirements is already sub-let at a yield greater than the bank loan interest. So compared with the present offices, FAI will be financially better off, taking into account low interest rates on FAI's remaining cash reserves.



The Maison du Sport International, where the FAI will have its new offices (photo: David Roberts)

Stéphane has made his own assessment of where the FAI should be heading. To this end he is preparing a strategic plan which, although it will not be completed by the time of the Dublin conference will have been debated by the FAI board. A key element in his thinking is that the FAI needs to 'leverage the

brand' far more effectively in order to gain wider recognition in the global sports communities, and in particular to create a better platform for attracting significant sponsorships. Over the last few years the FAI has had two significant sponsors, Red Bull and Rolex. However, these deals have come to an end or are being significantly reduced, so replacement sponsors need to be found. One of Stéphane's observations was that he was amazed how little prominence the FAI logo had on many of the air sports' World or European championships' websites, whilst noting that these events are actually FAI events! Expect some changes for next year.

The discussions also focussed on the relationships between the FAI Air Sport Commissions (for each branch of air sports) and the National Aero Clubs, and in particular the apparent ring-fencing of FAI funds managed by the ASCs. This is the hot topic in the nature of 'matrix management', as the FAI needs to make changes to ensure a cohesive approach for the future. Expect some robust debate.

All in all it was a very useful meeting and signalled the final stages of Pierre Portmann's six year term as FAI President, during which he has led the FAI energetically and with considerable commercial and financial skills. His successor will be elected in Dublin in October.

David Roberts

NEW BRITISH WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

Congratulations to:

Janet Folkes, whose flight during the 2009 Gordon Bennett Cup has broken nine feminine duration world records, in the AA-07 to AA-15 balloon classes. With her co-pilot Ann Webb, Janet was airborne for 69 hrs 22 mins 9 secs, and flew 1,105 km. starting from Geneva.

Steve Wood, who has set another 11 speed records with flights to and from Nassau in the Bahamas on 16th April. Steve's record-breaking speeds were between 225 and 240kph in a Glastar.

BRITISH PILOTS AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

World Gliding Championships

The British gliding team took Team Bronze at the Club and Standard Classes World Gliding Championships at Prievidza, Slovakia. Two of our pilots finished in the top ten.



Racing for the finish at Prievidza (photo Pete Masson)

The gliding team was also in action at Szeged in Hungary, at the World Championships for the flapped classes (15m, 18m and Open). Much of the first week was lost due to bad weather. Congratulations to Leigh Wells and Steve Jones, who took the Silver medals in the 15m and Open Classes respectively. The team also won the Bronze Team medal. The results of these two Championships put Team GB third in the World rankings for 2010.

UK pilots recorded some good results at the 1st FAI World Advanced Glider Aerobatic Championships in July at Jämijärvi in Finland. Team GB finished 4th overall in the team championship, with Maz Makari taking individual silver in the Known Compulsory event. Well done to all.

11th FAI European Microlight Championships

The 11th FAI European Championships at Sywell have drawn to a successful close, with the British Microlight team winning individual and team medals.

98 competitors fought for European glory, flying 15 tasks over 7 days. The event was organised by the BMAA; the core team of Competition Director Paul Dewhurst, Event Director Rob Hughes, Chief Marshal Jeremy Hucker and Scoring Director Richard Meredith-Hardy were joined by over 25 BMAA members who collectively worked to make the event a great success.

Gold medals came for Richard Rawes in the WL1 class (solo flexwing) and Robert Grimwood & John Waite in the WL2 class (two seat flexwing). The WL2 Bronze medal was won by Paul Welsh & Richard Proctor. David Broom & Chris Levings

won Silver in the AL2 class (two seat fixed wing). These excellent results brought Team Gold for Great Britain.



Richard Rawes preparing to fly (photo Mick Broom)

FAI NEWS

International Commissions

John Aldridge has been elected President of CIVL, the FAI hang-gliding and paragliding commission. John has been the British hang gliding competitions director for 13 years and is the BHPA's Competitions Officer. John is also the BHPA delegate to the RAeC Council.

FAI Presidency

New Zealander Robert Henderson has been nominated for the position of President of the FAI at its elections in October 2010. He expressed his intention to continue the programme of developments already started at the FAI and to ensure that the FAI takes a leading role in advocating for air sports within the regulatory environment, to protect and preserve access to airspace for all air sport activities and to improve safety.

Robert Henderson has been a pilot for 40 years, and active in air sports for 35 years. He served in the Royal New Zealand Air Force from 1970 to 1993. Since then, he has worked for Air New Zealand, and is currently a Captain and Instructor on Boeing 737s. He has been active in the FAI Gliding Commission since 1977, and for the last seven years has been the President of the Commission. He has been a member of the FAI Board for the last two years.

NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN REGULATORY ISSUES

SERA (Standard European Rules of the Air).

Following the consultation earlier this year, the Comment Response Document was published on

the SERA web site on 2nd July, three weeks after a workshop in Brussels to discuss the response to the consultation. The GA Alliance will be talking to the CAA about the 'transposition terms' which will govern how the proposals are reflected in the UK ANO.

Flight Crew Licensing Consultation

The Comment Response Document on medical standards under the new FCL regulations has been published. Patrick Naegeli, RAeC Vice-Chairman, and Peter Saundby, Medical Adviser, will co-ordinate with other key players to endeavour to put together a strategy to assist the member associations.

NPPLs Now Valid in France

The CAA has announced that holders of a National Private Pilot Licence (NPPL) with SSEA rating can now fly in France. Following agreement with the DGAC (the French CAA), NPPL SSEA rating holders with a Class 2 Medical Certificate and a NPLG certificate confirming a minimum level of experience may enter French airspace. The procedures to be followed by pilots wishing to take advantage of this opportunity are described in the French AIC A2010_13 at: https://www.sia.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/dossier/aicfrancea/AIC_A_2010_13_EN.pdf.

Flight training rule change for group aircraft

The CAA has announced that owners of a part share in an aircraft operating under a Permit to Fly can now use it to receive paid flying training. Following discussions with GA organisations, the CAA has undertaken measures to allow pilots with an existing licence, who are group owners of an aircraft, to pay for training or tests in that aircraft - providing the training does not contribute to the granting of a licence or rating. The new rules do not cover ex-military aircraft or gyroplanes. The full text of the new rules is in ORS4 No. 803 and 804 at www.caa.co.uk/ors4

SAFETY

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>.

Red Arrows 2010 Programme

A reminder that the Red Arrows 2010 programme, and the resulting temporary airspace restrictions can be found in Aeronautical Information Circular Mauve 054/2010 on the AIS website at www.ais.org.uk/

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 following dates have been confirmed:

20 Oct	Rochester	01634 869969
3 Nov	Shobdon	01568 708369
4 Nov	Penkridge	01889 882871
11 Nov	Bristol	01275 472514
15 Nov	Sandbach	01889 508406
24 Nov	Bournemouth	01202 578558
12 Jan	Elstree	02089 533432
26 Jan	Sandtoft	01427 873676

CAA GA Safety Awards

The 2010 Safety Award has been presented to Charles Strasser for his campaign to persuade aerodromes to drop landing fees for GA pilots making emergency landings. The CAA also honoured outgoing GASCo Chief Executive, John Thorpe, with a lifetime achievement award. A special commendation has also been presented to the joint NATS-Airbox project team for creating and launching the Aware GPS device. The winners were presented with their awards at the AeroExpo event at Wycombe Air Park.

GENERAL NEWS and INFORMATION

Maggie Penny

Congratulations to Maggie Penny of Wild Geese Skydiving Centre on receiving the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. The award recognises Maggie's services to hockey and sport parachuting in Northern Ireland.

2010 Human Powered Aircraft Group Conference

The Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) Human Powered Aircraft Group has recently been looking towards the future of Human Powered Flight. A conference on Tuesday 21 September 2010 at the RAeS premises in London provides a spectrum of presentations that gives a comprehensive overview of new and innovative human powered aircraft, human powered initiatives and competitions that will lead to human powered flight achieving a greater interest in the modern world. See www.aerosociety.com/conference for more details and to register.

The Path of the Condor

We have received a review DVD of a film from Patagonia, showing an ornithologist and a paraglider pilot, who set out to fly with Andean condors. The film contains some stunning footage. See <http://www.thepathofthecondor.com> for more information and to buy the film.

Pass Your Message

This is a service which aims to keep track of legal, operational and safety changes and sends out regular e-mails (usually on a Friday) with up-to-date information. This can save pilots time in keeping informed. Along with the more serious information the email also often includes information related to fly-ins, new airfields and other relevant news. See www.passyourmessage.co.uk for the full details.

RAeC address

Please can we remind all readers that the RAeC administrative office moved last year to 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester, LE2 8RE, which is also now the registered office. We still receive quite a bit of mail to our old addresses which obviously causes delays and inconvenience to you as well as us.

RAeC TRUST

Expenditure has been authorised for the conservation of the RAeC Council Minute Books which go back over 100 years. On completion, the project will include a computer search system which will enable people interested to research the archives electronically.

Newsletter edited by Diana King. Please send items for future Newsletters to Royal Aero Club, Hill View, Fold Farm, Broad Street, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2AF or to 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.

EVENTS and COMPETITIONS

Gordon Bennett Cup

The 54th Gordon Bennett Cup is being organised by the British Balloon and Airship Club. It starts on 25th September at a site near Bristol and runs until 2nd October. GBR will be represented by 3 teams: David Hempleman-Adams (the 2008 winner) with co-pilot Simon Carey; Colin Butter with co-pilot Paul Spellward and Janet Folkes (the best GBR competitor in 2009) with co-pilot Ann Rich. To keep up with developments and the progress of competitors, see <http://www.gordonbennett2010.com/>

The LAA Sywell Rally

A reminder that the Light Aircraft Association Rally takes place 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.

Coupe Icare

The 28th International Free Flight Film Festival and the 37th Coupe Icare take place from 16 – 19 September in Saint Hilaire du Touvet. For further details, see www.coupe-icare.org.