

THE ROYAL AERO CLUB

OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Coordinating Body of British Airport Organisations

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG,



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2015

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Aircraft and flight fascinate people, irrespective of whether or not they are aviators. Air displays have fuelled that fascination, and have taken place since the very earliest days of manned flight. Every year, from spring through to the autumn, there is an almost constant stream of displays and fly-pasts, small and large, taking place around the country. Accidents are few and far between, but can happen.

In August, that fact was brought home all too clearly by the terrible accidents at CarFest North and Shoreham. I know that our sympathies are with all those affected by these tragic events. I also know that great efforts will be made to try and determine what may have happened, so that we can continue to manage display risk in the future. Air displays will continue to entertain and enthral people and, I hope, continue to make headlines for all the right reasons.

Unsurprisingly, much of the CAA's time recently has been taken up with the aftermath of events at Shoreham. A few days beforehand, however, Andrew Haines, the Chief Executive of the CAA, paid a visit to the national gliding championships at Lasham at the invitation of the RAeC and the British Gliding Association.



With the weather forecast proving to be much better than expected, Andrew had ample opportunity to

experience first-hand a typical 'day in the life' of sporting and recreational (S&RA) pilots. He saw how we plan our flights in a part of the country with multiple, complex areas of airspace and a wide variety of other air space users; how our in-flight navigation and traffic alert technologies can aid safe operation; and the level of professionalism that underpins everything in a club environment that is largely run by volunteers. Andrew even managed a long soaring flight in a glider to see how it all comes together in the air.

I hope that the fact that Lasham is only a stone's throw from Farnborough aerodrome did not escape Andrew's attention. TAG Farnborough submitted its airspace change proposal (ACP) to the CAA in early July. As expected, TAG wants a very large area of controlled airspace to be established around Farnborough. Its motivations are driven by pure self-interest, and ride roughshod over the interests of a great many S&RA and general aviation groups. If TAG's proposals are successful, they will fundamentally change S&RA's ability to operate easily or safely in the central south of England. As a consequence, there is a concerted movement by the S&RA community to oppose the application.

Separately, but along related lines, the CAA are consulting on the process that is used for handling ACPs. The CAA has acknowledged that the current process is no longer properly fit for purpose and is looking to revamp it as soon as practically possible. The CAA's review is expected to lead to recommendations for change later this year, and we are keeping a close eye on things – an improved process can only be helpful for us given how poorly the existing process has performed in recent years.

As one might imagine, engaging with the CAA, EASA and other aviation groups could easily take far more time than any S&RA body, including the RAeC, could muster. As a consequence, it would be all too easy to lose sight of the sorts of things that drew us to S&RA in the first place. Recently, I had the great pleasure to visit the British Model Flying

Association's national championships at Barkston Heath as a guest of Chris Moynihan (BMFA Chairman) and Dave Phipps (BMFA Secretary).

Never having been a model flyer, I admit to only having a limited understanding of the true scope of the sport. My day was enormously enlightening and enjoyable in equal measure – I had the



opportunity to see a range of model flying disciplines up close and talk to a large number of participants. During the day, more than a little of their enthusiasm rubbed off on me. It was probably just as well that Chris and Dave did not

take me too close to the trade stands or I'm certain that I'd now be the proud owner of several types of model. My thanks to the BMFA - if you have never been to the event, then I wholeheartedly recommend a visit in the future.

In closing, it is clear that the year is entering its inevitable march towards winter. So, I hope that you have the autumn you are wishing for.

Happy aviating.

Patrick Naegeli
Chairman

ACHIEVEMENTS and AWARDS

International Records

Congratulations to **Kathleen Rigg**, who has achieved a female hang-gliding European Continental record, with a straight distance to a declared goal. The distance was 156.3 km, from a take-off in April at Llangollen.

Two World paragliding records have been set by **Hunter Marrian**, with a flight in Kenya last January. He set a new free out-and-return distance record of 211.08 km and an out-and-return distance record of 210.4 km. Congratulations to him.

Fifteen British skydivers took part in a new World record, with a 122-way, 2 point sequential skydive in Florida in March 2015. Congratulations to Fiona Birnie, Jim Bradwell, Elliott Brown, Les Dalziel, Lesley Gale, Ruth Green, Milko Hodgkinson, Roy

Little, Des Meyer, Andy Pook, Siân Stokes, Rod Stone, Derek Thomas, Gary Wainwright and Helen Williams. Congratulations to all.

FAI Awards

Congratulations to:

Richard Foster and Richard Bird, who have been awarded the Colibri Diploma, for an outstanding contribution to the development of microlight aircraft;

Nick Buckenham, for the award of the Leon Biancotto Aerobatics Diploma, for an individual or organisation that has contributed significantly to the sport of aerobatics.

2015 Royal Aero Club Awards

Nominations for Royal Aero Club and FAI Medals and Awards for 2015 are now invited. Please see the attached papers, which give full details of all the Awards. If you would like to make a nomination, please do so on the enclosed form and send it to the Secretary by the closing date.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

European Gliding Championships.

Congratulations to two-time world champion, **Andy Davis**, who won the bronze medal in the 18m class at the European Championships, held in July at Ocseny in Hungary. After 10 days of racing, Andy was just pipped for the silver medal by the Czech Republic's Roman Mracek who turned in a super-fast performance to win the final race of the series.

In the Club, Standard and 15m class Championships at Rieti in Italy the following month, the British Team recorded three top 10 placings and took the overall team bronze medal.

REGULATORY MATTERS

Planning - Keep Airfields Greenfields Petition

In 2003 an 'administrative oversight' led to the removal of the planning protection that had stopped airfields from being classified as brownfield sites. A proposal in the 2015 summer budget would allow automatic planning permission to be granted for housing developments on designated brownfield sites. This unintended consequence of wider policy on the development of redundant industrial sites was described by Pilot magazine as "the darkest news to face General Aviation for some time". There are already several GA airfields under threat

from proposed housing and industrial developments; there may be others in the future. As well as providing vital amenities for sport flying, the UK aerodrome network is regarded by the Department for Transport as an important part of the national transport infrastructure and there is strong evidence that airfield sites offer low-insecticide, low-herbicide sanctuaries for plants, insects and associated wildlife. Along with other airports organisations, we are demanding a review of the brownfield designation of airfields. An online petition has been opened on the Government web site <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/106779> It only takes a few seconds to complete; please sign this petition as soon as possible.

European Regulation

At the summer RAeC Council meeting, David Roberts reported on a real desire for change within EASA, but there is a lot of work to be done and the role of European Associations will be a key factor. There has been much change in attitudes on general aviation in Europe and there is an increasing level of sympathy for the GA community.

A meeting has taken place with Filip Cornelis, Head of Aviation Safety at the European Commission. Some ideas for changes to the Basic Regulation were discussed, including Annex 2 aircraft and Annex 5 on Qualified entities. David Roberts and Patrick Naegeli have also met Patrick Ky, EASA Executive Director, to discuss gliding issues, including requests for a review of regulations, to simplify the work of working groups, a request for EASA to work with the European Gliding Union to get gliding experts appointed to the working groups and also Maintenance reviews and Approved Training Organisations.

The 'Part M' task force started work in 2012 and the first phase is now established in law. The second phase has recently been published as a Notice of Proposed Amendment and an 'opinion' has also been published. Part 66 on Aircraft Maintenance Licence is still causing some issues as it was built around existing process and thinking.

Details of Occurrence Reporting are about to come out and it is suggested that Associations should look closely at it when published. EASA has been working on it for several years and whilst it is not what EAS wanted, it is better than it could have been. The requirement will be for a wide range of 'occurrences' to be reported within 72 hours, covering maintenance, airspace, pilots and accidents.

The Approved Training Organisation review is not progressing as EAS had hoped; it is thought that the focus of the group is wrong.

Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) have become a high level issue, with several meetings and consultations taking place including a meeting between David Roberts and Jackie Foster MEP who has drafted a report about the future of RPAS. There is a danger that aeromodelling could be caught up in the regulation of RPAS. A lot of effort is being made to try and ensure that aeromodelling falls within Annex 2. There is also concern about a potential requirement for all aircraft to increase their conspicuity in unregulated airspace. This would be a political decision which EAS is following closely.

Europe Air Sports has lost several members and is eating into its financial reserves. Some restructuring may be required at the next conference.

EASA news

A round-up of highlights of EASA developments and related CAA activities, covering the period 18 June – 24 July 2015 can be found at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/InformationNotice%202015058.pdf>

Europe Air Sports

The August Europe Air Sports Newsletter can be viewed at <http://www.europe-air-sports.org/home/>

FAI

2016 FAI Young Artists Contest

Do you know a young person that is keen on painting or drawing? Or that has always dreamed about air sports? Or is concerned about environmental issues? If so, then encourage them to pick up their pens, pencils or brushes and enter the 2016 FAI Young Artists Contest. The aim for contestants is to create a picture that illustrates this years' theme "Air Sports in Harmony with Nature", and to show the world just how talented they are.



The 2014 Senior winning picture on the theme of 'Flying saves lives'

Youngsters from three age categories: Junior (6-9), Intermediate (10-13), Senior (14-17) are invited to participate.

Send your entries to the RAeC office (see address on page 5), by Friday 26th Feb 2016.

An International Jury will select the world winners in each category who will be rewarded with Gold, Silver or Bronze FAI medals.

FAI strategy

The UK's approach to current FAI strategy is that the FAI should be encouraged to concentrate on homologation of World Records and Elite Air Sport.

The FAI Finance Working Group was established at the 2014 Conference and the UK has been invited to contribute. Suitable candidates are being sought.

FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015

The World Air Games will take place in Dubai in December with 85 competitions, 8 air sports and 22 disciplines.

The new event website for the Games is now live at <http://www.worldairgames.aero>. Managed by the Emirates Aerosports Federation (EAF) as the host of the event, it offers quick and easy access to essential information about the Games.

FAI Environmental Commission

The latest edition of the FAI Environmental Commission Newsletter is now available at www.fai.org/downloads/envc/envc_newsletter_june_2015

SAFETY

GASCo Safety Evenings

<http://www.gasco.org.uk/safety-evenings.aspx> has the details of the 2015/16 Safety Evenings. There is space for a maximum of another thirty evenings, so if you would like to host an evening between now and the end of April 2016, get in touch with Penny Gould at GASCo - penny.gould@gen-av-safety.demon.co.uk.

GASCo Flight Safety Extra

The latest issue contains many useful and interesting reports on a wide range of flight safety matters. If you do not already receive this regular emailed information, contact Penny Gould.

MEMBERS' NEWS

BPA is signed up to Good Governance

British Parachute Association (BPA) has signed up to Good Governance. Earlier this year it confirmed it would follow the principles of the Voluntary Code of Good Governance for the Sport & Recreation Sector, to which some 100 sports governing bodies have now subscribed. The aim is to provide robust standards of governance fit for purpose to meet the increasing challenges of running a sport in the 21st century, and to help the sport and recreation sector to remain self-governing through voluntary adoption of best practice rather than risk the imposition of statutory requirements.

Following consultation with its members this summer, BPA Council (the Board of Directors) is now formulating a plan to change its composition from 15 elected seats, each with a one year tenure – with the risk that all the seats could change at the same time - to a new arrangement, following best practice, with a reduction in the size of Council to 12 elected seats comprising 10 elected BPA members and 2 independent non-executive directors from outside the sport with specific relevant skills and experience. This will ensure that Council includes individuals who are truly independent and focused on what is best for all the membership.



Amanda Bennett (Governance Adviser, Sport & Recreation Alliance) presents BPA Chair Martin Soulsby with BPA's sign-up certificate to the Voluntary Code of Good Governance

These changes will be subject to special resolutions at the BPA AGM in January 2016. In the words of one BPA member during the consultation period, 'These changes are common sense in this day and age.'

British Microlight Aircraft Association

The BMAA has been granted 'BCAR A8-26' approval by the UK CAA, delegating greater responsibility for airworthiness oversight of recreational 'Permit to Fly' microlights and amateur built very light aeroplanes (VLA). The move, which will allow the BMAA to develop a greater level of oversight of the microlight sector, is in line with the CAA's intention to introduce a more

proportionate approach to regulating recreational aviation.

Under the approval the BMAA will provide design, construction, maintenance and continuing airworthiness management oversight of any microlights and VLAs on a Permit to Fly.

The Light Aircraft Association (LAA) is currently working towards the same approval.

Drone racing gains recognition as a model flying activity

The Council of the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) has agreed unanimously to accept the British First Person View Racing Association as a recognised specialist body.

Drone racing is a recent innovation which involves racing the drones against each other around a course, often including obstacles to negotiate. It requires a relatively small area in which to operate and the drones operate at low level, typically no more than head height. The drones are fitted with cameras which relay the airborne 'pilots eye' view back to video goggles worn by the pilot on the ground.



Pilots not relaxing ... but flying

A demonstration drone racing contest took place at the recent BMFA National Championships (the 'Nationals') held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The drone racing attracted around 30 entrants and proved to be a popular addition to the Nationals, with live images and on board footage from the races broadcast live over the Internet.

Drone racing generally seems to be attracting younger participants than many of the well-established model flying disciplines as it appeals to the current generation of video gamers.

The FAI are also seeking to establish contest rules for 'model aircraft drones' through its Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM).

Graham Lynn

We are sad to report the death of Graham Lynn MBE FSMAE only a month after he attended the Europe Air Sports 2015 General Conference, where he addressed delegates on the topic of RPAS and model aircraft. Graham was Aeromodelling Advisor to Europe Air Sports from 1995 until 2015.

The contribution that Graham made to the activity of model flying over many years was remarkable.

Amongst his many achievements for model flying, he was instrumental in securing additional frequencies within the 35MHz band and for negotiating changes in legislation to permit the use of the 2.4GHz frequency band for model flyers.

In addition to model flying, Graham was also a member of the British Microlight Aircraft Association and owned a Pegasus Quantum weight shift microlight.

Marcel Felten, an EAS Board member, describes Graham as a lifelong supporter and defender of aero modelling, both nationally and internationally through his involvement as Technical Officer for Europe Air Sports - a friend but also a true professional who always made his points and position very clear.

Dave Phipps has succeeded Graham as EAS's aeromodelling advisor.



GENERAL NEWS and EVENTS

"Flyer Live" (previously known as The Flying Show) will take place in Telford on 28/29th Nov. Tickets are available to buy on-line at <http://www.flyerlive.co.uk/tickets/>

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

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