LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

There is a particular pleasure that comes from seeing the hard work of people properly and publicly recognised. The award of an MBE to Mike Miller-Smith, the CEO of Aerobility, in the New Year’s Honours List, was an especially proud moment for UK air sport.

Mike Miller-Smith, MBE

Aerobility exists to help those with a disability enjoy the experience of flight. It has been tremendously successful in its work. Mike would be the first to direct the credit for the progress that the organisation has made to its dedicated staff, volunteers and other committed supporters. A good team relies on passionate and talented leadership. Well done Mike, keep up the great work.

Strong support is something that all air sport organisations rely upon. The RAeC is no different. Breitling is an organisation with a long association with aviation. Breitling UK has been an active sponsor of the RAeC for many years and the two organisations enjoy a close working relationship. Our principal point of contact throughout has been Franz La Rosée, the MD of Breitling UK for the past 26 years. Franz was made a Companion of the RAeC in 1998 in recognition of his support. A short while ago, Franz announced his retirement from Breitling. We will be very sorry to see him go and will miss him as a dear friend of the Club. We wish him all the very best for the future.

My own association with the RAeC is not nearly as long as that of Franz La Rosée. Over the last seven years, however, being involved with the Club has provided me with a tremendous opportunity to understand more of what goes on across various air sports. I have also got more of a feeling for the sort of issues and challenges that frustrate the development of our activities.

At the end of last year, the Council discussed ways in which the RAeC might play a role in helping its members address some of their principal concerns. It soon became apparent that a significant, common issue related directly to the need to deal with stagnating or declining air sport activity and participation levels. This led to the Club organising an initial meeting in February for members to:

- compare notes of the specific nature of the challenge from their particular perspectives
- share experiences and learnings from attempts to increase activity and participation levels
- discuss ideas for new work
- identify areas that would benefit directly from collaborative work by two or more air sport associations

In addition to the main air sport associations, Aerobility, the British Women Pilots’ Association and the Air League’s Youth in Aviation initiative also contributed to the meeting and provided very valuable insights relevant to all air sport disciplines.

We are still in the process of digesting all of the outputs from the day’s proceedings. As a consequence, jumping to conclusions as to what should be done would run contrary to the desire to progress promptly, but we are confident that any actions that are implemented will deliver real benefits. Perhaps unsurprisingly, however, one of the common views that emerged from the day was the belief that there is value in the greater sharing of information between air sports, and possibly also in the development of joint initiatives. The Council
will be discussing the outputs from the initial session when it meets in April.

As important as it is to have one eye on the future, we must not lose sight that the 2013 air sport season is slowly beginning to get underway. Whatever your personal plans and goals are for the year ahead, I wish you every success.

Happy aviating.

Patrick Naegeli
Chairman

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**RAeC TRUST**

Members of the Council recently visited the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon where the RAeC Archives and Memorabilia are held, to view for themselves some of the valuable work that has been done to restore these important artifacts and to make them available for researchers and people interested in aviation history.

**ROYAL AERO CLUB AWARDS**

The names of award winners for 2012 have been announced as follows:

**The Britannia Trophy**
- Gerald Cooper – Nominated by BAeA

**Prince of Wales Cup**
- British Helicopter Team - Nominated by HCGB

**Silver Medals**
- Andrew Perkins – Nominated by BGA
- Brian Hope – Nominated by LAA
- John Carr – Nominated by BHPA

**Bronze Medals**
- Mike Mold - Nominated by LAA
- Joan Walsh – Nominated by BMAA
- Andrew Oliver – Nominated by BMAA
- Phil Ball – Nominated by BMFA
- Norman Burr – Nominated by LAA

Peter Gorman & Essam Bishara – Nominated by LAA

**Royal Aero Club Diploma**
- Royal Aeronautical Society – Nominated by RAeC Trust
- Nick Buckenham – Nominated by BAeA
- David Monks – Nominated by HCGB
- F1C Team – Nominated by BMFA

**Royal Aero Club Certificates of Merit**
- Rally Team - Nominated by LAA
- Eric Marsh – Nominated by BAeA
- Mike Groves – Nominated by BGA
- Bill Sharp – Nominated by BPA
- Chris Tompkins – Nominated by BMFA
- Bob Littledale – Nominated by LAA
- Anne Burgess – Nominated by BGA
- Dawn Lindsey – Nominated by RAeC

**Norton-Griffiths Challenge Trophy**
- Gary Connery – Nominated by BPA

**The President’s Breitling Trophy**
- Dominic Bareford - Nominated by BBAC

**Old & Bold Trophy**
- Ken Wallis – Nominated by LAA

**Nexus Aviation Journalist of the Year Trophy**
- Ian Seager – Nominated by LAA

**Certificates of Appreciation**
- Peter & Annabel Jarvis - Nominated by BMAA
- Irvine Laidlaw – Nominated by HCGB

**Ann Welch Memorial Award**
- Colin Davey - Nominated by BGA

Congratulations to all. The Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday 23rd April at the RAF Club.

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**COUNCIL NEWS**

After a small surplus in 2012, generated from a combination of savings on travel costs and income from the Medals & Awards ceremony, 2013 is expected to be a more expensive year due to the cost of travelling to the 2013 FAI Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

Alternative streams of funding are to be explored and subscriptions are to increase by 2.5% which represents the first increase for three years.

Members who made unsuccessful bids to host the 2013 Queen’s Cup are invited to contact the RAeC Vice Chairman if they wish to have the use of an alternative trophy.

The next Council meeting and the RAeC AGM will be held on 16th April at the RAF Club.
INTERNATIONAL RECORDS and OTHER AWARDS

Congratulations to Douglas Cairns, who set a new speed record with a flight from Daytona Beach in Florida to San Diego in California, with a speed of 272.09 km/h. Douglas was flying a Baron 58/Beechcraft on 27th June 2012. On the same day, a US pilot set an identical record and both pilots are recorded as holding the current record.

BRITISH PILOTS AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

At the European Paragliding Championship in St Andre in September, Kirsty Cameron won Silver in the Women’s championship and Russell Ogden took the Bronze medal in the Men’s event. The UK team finished fifth overall. Congratulations to all.

At Prostejov in the Czech Republic, team Satori won the Bronze medal in the 4-Way Formation Skydiving World Cup and team Euphoria Freestyle also took Bronze in the Artistic Freestyle World Cup contest.

The European Championships took place alongside at the same venue. Satori won Bronze again, Euphoria Freestyle achieved second place at this level and Freestyle Euphoria won Bronze in the Artistic Freeflying competition.

British skydivers were also in action at the World Parachuting Championships Mondial 2012 in Dubai, where Team Airkix Freestyle (husband and wife Alistair Hodgson and Pixie Macleod-Hodgson) won Bronze medals in the Freestyle Open competition.

FAI

The RAeC has some concerns over the activities of the FAI, particularly the operation of FAME (FAI Air Sports Marketing & Events), and will be monitoring developments closely.

An initiative has been launched to explore the potential to increase female participation in air sports, with a more specific proposal to be submitted to the next FAI Conference. The RAeC plans to make an active contribution to the initiative and will work with the BWPA on the project.

REGULATORY MATTERS

Europe Air Sports

David Roberts attended a meeting with the European Commission to consider the detail of a joint submission from the UK GA community and Europe Air Sports (EAS) which also received support from IAOPA. It had been hoped that some progress would be made in tackling some of the European regulations during the course of this year, but, due to bureaucracy and the slow rate of change, no significant changes are anticipated for 2-3 years.

Among the NPA’s and CRD’s issued by EASA, the most significant are the ones relating to Qualifications for flying in IMC and that relating to light aircraft engineers licences.

For further background on EAS activities and developments in Europe, see the Europe Air Sports newsletter on the EAS website at www.europe-air-sports.org/activities/newsletter/.

CAA reports on EASA activities

A CAA Information Notice provides highlights of EASA developments and related CAA activities covering the period November to December 2012, at: http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=33&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=detail&id=5341. The CAA’s regular update on the Single European Sky (SES) can also be read at
**SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES**

**RAeC Trust bursaries**

The RAeC Trust 2013 bursary programme is still open and is aimed at supporting young pilots, aged between 16 years and 21 years, looking to advance their basic air sport qualifications. With grants of up to £1,000 available, applicants can visit the Royal Aero Club Trust web site at [http://www.royal aeroclubtrust.org/](http://www.royal aeroclubtrust.org/) for full details, rules and application forms.

Applicants must be UK citizens, resident in the UK, and training and flying can only be conducted at UK Clubs, Associations or training establishments. Applications, which must arrive at the Trust by 31 March 2013, are to be submitted through a Sponsoring Organisation, Club or Association.

Activities available in the programme include gliding, ballooning, paragliding, hang gliding, sports parachuting, flying microlights, motor gliders, light aircraft and helicopters, and building and flying model aircraft. Bursaries are also available for Personal Computer or Flight Simulator pilots wishing to have their first experience of an air sport.

**BMAA Flying bursary**

Applications are invited for the 2013 BMAA Young Persons Flight Training Bursary. Applications should reach the BMAA by 31st May 2013 and selection will be made during June 2013. Applicants must be between 15 and 21 years old on the date of the award and have demonstrated an interest in microlight flying.

**Flying Scholarships for the Disabled**

Applications can be made at any time for FSDP scholarships. Applicants must be over 18 years of age, not in full time education, resident in the UK and allowed to drive by the DVLA. For details, see [http://www.fsfdp.org.uk/](http://www.fsfdp.org.uk/).

**Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial Scholarships**

These are available for individuals and teams, generally for advanced academic study or for national programmes to encourage young people’s interest in the aviation industry and aerospace engineering. The closing date for 2013 applications is 31 May 2013. For details, see [http://aerosociety.com/Careers-Education](http://aerosociety.com/Careers-Education).

**GAPAN Scholarships and bursaries**

See [http://www.gapan.org/](http://www.gapan.org/) for details of these awards. The closing date is 13 March.

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**SAFETY**

**GASIL**

The latest issues of GASIL can be found at [http://www.caa.co.uk/gasil](http://www.caa.co.uk/gasil).

**Seminars**

There are still opportunities to attend GASCo/CAA Safety Evenings at venues around the country. More details at [http://gasco.org.uk/](http://gasco.org.uk/), which also has details of specialist seminars during the spring, summer and autumn.

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**NEWS from RAeC MEMBERS**

**FARA**

The Formula Air Racing Association is developing a programme of pylon races for this year and will be holding a race school at Long Marston in the spring. For further information on formula air racing, contact Chief Executive Martin Luton at martinjluton@googlemail.com or 07765 019 827.

**Handicapped Air Racing**

This version of air racing does not require any special type of aircraft, as the race is handicapped. Any fixed wing propeller driven aircraft can take part, provided it is capable of 100 mph in level flight. These races are organised by the RAeC Records Racing and Rally Association, which is organising an air race school at North Weald on Saturday 23 March. For further details of racing and of the race school, have a look at the RRRA website at [www.airraceuk.co.uk](http://www.airraceuk.co.uk).

**LAA**

The LAA now holds a stock of Civil Air Ensign decals.