

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

Summer 2016

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Aero Club was awarded its 'Royal' prefix in 1910. This great honour was bestowed on the Club in recognition of its contributions to the development of UK aviation in the very few short years since manned, sustained aviation had become a reality with the Wright brothers. It has had the great privilege of Royal patronage ever since.

It is only fitting, therefore, that in the year of our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, we express our gratitude for the support that we have had from Her Majesty, the three preceding Monarchs that have also been our Patron, and the many other members of the Royal family that have been involved with the Club over time. Prince Philip and Prince Charles are both past-Presidents, and Prince Andrew is our current President.

The Queen is Patron to over 600 organisations, and that particular aspect of her activities was featured prominently in her official birthday celebrations.



On 12 June, somewhere in the region of ten thousand people, drawn from across those organisations, collected together in the Mall for a very special street party in her honour. The RAeC had long ago decided to take the maximum allocation of tickets that it was entitled to, and extend an invitation to attend the event to twenty two of our long-standing volunteers in part to say 'thank you' for their service to the Club.



Pictures in the rain and the sunshine; the RAeC banner and the picnic hamper (Julian Murfitt, Matthew Bolshaw and Andrew Dawrant

The 2016 RAeC Awards ceremony was held in May at the RAF Club in London and also enjoyed direct Royal involvement. HRH Prince Andrew, as he has so many times in the past, was our Guest of Honour for the evening, and personally handed out RAeC awards to all of this year's recipients. We are always grateful when the Prince is able to join us – his clear interest in the exploits of those receiving awards, his great humour in engaging with both them and the entire audience, and his kind words of encouragement for air sports to continue to 'push boundaries' always make for a special and inspiring evening.

Just two of the many awards recipients ...



Paddy Elliott receiving the Old and Bold Trophy.

Born in 1925, Paddy

gained his PPL after retiring at 63 and went on to attain Night and IMC Ratings. At the age of 90, Paddy is still a director at South Warwickshire Flying School and also operates the Operations Desk five days a week.

Jackie Harper being presented with a Bronze Medal.



Jackie was a prime mover in 2015 in gaining official FAI/IPC recognition of Flying as a skydive discipline. Since then Jackie has run the first Wingsuit Performance World Cup and the British Open Nationals, as well as setting several World, European and National records.

Whilst on the subject of awards, it was a great delight to see that the Queen's Birthday Honours List included an MBE for Roger Hopkinson. The list of roles that Roger has held in the service of general aviation is long, the number of areas which he has either led or contributed to in a significant

way to the betterment of GA longer still.



Roger Hopkinson receiving a RAeC Diploma, to add to his MBE (Here and Now Photography)

He has been central to the GA community's work in ensuring continued freedoms for air sports for many years – other than his family, his work in our service has been and remains the main focus of his attentions. Congratulations and thanks to Roger.

Thus far, I have concentrated my notes on things to be celebrated. It would be all too easy now to turn to the perhaps less inspiring, but no less important, list of topics that are occupying, maybe even

frustrating, the Club day to day. Rather than do so, on this occasion I will finish my report having looked at things that are nothing other than positive, and by wishing you a successful summer. I am sure that many of the magnificent things that UK air sports and aviators do over the next few months will feature in our celebrations for 2016.

Happy aviating.

Patrick Naegeli
Chairman

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

**Dubai World Drone Prix - March 2016
15-year-old Luke Bannister becomes World Champion**

This was the inaugural event and the first of its kind to promote FPV Drone Racing and FreeStyle. It was sponsored by the Crown Prince of Dubai, with \$1,000,000 available in prizes. Over 80 teams from around the globe entered.

15-year old Luke Bannister was one of 11 pilots selected from Europe that went to Dubai as the Tornado XBlades team. The pilots were supported by 43 co-pilots, technical engineers, team managers, a team coach, coordinator, event organiser and film crew. The whole team agreed as part of their ethos that any prize monies won at the WDP would be shared amongst the whole team. Four of Tornado XBlades reached the Finals day.



Luke receiving his World Champion's prize

At the event, four pilots at a time sat in racing-style seats, their eyes covered by goggles allowing them to watch a feed from a camera on their drone. The drones raced on a course that looked like a writhing serpent skeleton, with varying elevations and an 8m tower of death with the towering skyscrapers of Dubai's skyline and Marina as the backdrop. The whole course was lit with numerous lights of varying colours and spotlights that shone their moving beams into the night. The pilots had to complete a full 12 laps of the 591m track, their drones made visible at night by on-board coloured LEDs. It was an awesome experience and made dramatic viewing.

Describing what it feels like to be world champion of FPV drone racing at such a young age, Luke said “It feels awesome – I am very happy to have succeeded in realising my dream and it shows the world that FPV drone racing is a sport that is open to all ages.”



Congratulations to Luke.

INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

Congratulations to Kathleen Rigg, who has set six new hang-gliding records in Austria and Germany. In July 2015 she set new European and World records of 200.08 km for a triangular distance, flown from Hochfelln in Germany. The same flight set a speed record of 29.96 km/h. A few days later in Austria, she set European and World records of 229.8 km out-and-return distance. The flights were achieved flying her Litespeed RX 3.5.

British pilots were also busy setting wingsuit records in May 2015 at Netheravon, with 357.9 sec time of fall European and World records by Stephen Harper. Jackie Harper also set a number of European and World female records in May, an altitude/fall distance flight of 18.149 km., a greatest speed of 271.5 km/h and a greatest distance of 4.059 km. Jackie set further European and World records in September, with a highest flying time of 80 sec, breaking her own previous record.

Mark Morgan set a new world record in 2014, for time to climb to a height of 3,000 metres. Flying a foot-launched Ozone Viper 3.26 paraglider in West Sussex, Mark achieved the climb in 18 mins 49 secs.



Norman Frank Surplus set a new autogyro World speed record of 5 km/h over a recognised course

from Tillamook in Oregon to Sept Iles in Canada. The flight took place in July 2015.

FAI

Drones

The FAI is planning to accommodate drone competitions in its activities.

World Games

The World Games is a multi-sport event, second to the IOC Olympic Games in magnitude. FAI has been included in the programme for the 2017 event in Wroclaw (Poland): paramotoring, parachuting (discipline to be confirmed) and glider aerobatics. See www.theworldgames.org for more details.

FAI President and Executive Board

The FAI President John Grubbstrom will retire at the next FAI General Conference and the Executive Board will also be up for re-election.

RAeC COUNCIL

The RAeC AGM was held in April at the RAF Club. In his report, the Chairman commented that, like many similar organisations, the RAeC is short of volunteers. He thanked all the volunteers who work within the Committees, the Secretariat staff and the RAeC Trust volunteers.

Recently, the RAeC has enabled activity and funding to support the FASVIG (Future Airspace Strategy VFR Implementation Group) Programme, which is a critically important forum for thinking on airspace. The RAeC Council committed a significant sum of money to support FASVIG, not all of which was spent, but the input was important in helping the initiative become established. This has paid off significantly with the initiative going from strength to strength. The Chairman encouraged members to visit the FASVIG website (www.fasvig.org) to find out more.

The RAeC can take a lead where it needs to (such as exploring specific issues of common interest with workshops), but is principally there to support. The Chairman welcomed any suggestions for ways in which this support could be extended. However, this has to be balanced with the limited resources, as members do not want to see an increase in subscription rates.

At the Council meeting that followed the AGM, the officers and Committee Chairmen were elected:

Chairman - Patrick Naegeli

Vice Chairmen - Roger Hopkinson and
Duncan McClure

Chairmen of Committees:

FAI - Rob Hughes
Finance - Matthew Bolshaw
Medals & Awards - Robin Gowler
Parliamentary - Jim Crocker

Roger Hopkinson reported on the wide-ranging work of the GA Alliance, including work in respect of the Government's GA Strategy and the review of the Airspace Change Process. There are concerns over the Housing and Planning Bill, which has a proposal for a register of brownfield sites, which could place airfields at greater threat of re-development for housing.

Work continues on airspace matters, with a significant win being the approval of the GAA/LAA ACP for Solent CTA6, thanks to the efforts of John Brady.

REGULATORY MATTERS

European Regulation

David Roberts reported to the RAeC Council on the latest developments in Europe, including

- The European Commission's proposals for changes to the Basic Regulation and the Europe Air Sports response to the Commission's proposals;
- The EU Council of Ministers Aviation working party technical hearing in April 2016, at which EAS had an opportunity to present their views on the Basic Regulation, in particular the proposed future weight limits for microlights;
- The development of relations between the ballooning and gliding communities and EASA, towards dedicated "Part Ballooning" and "Part Gliding";
- Progress on the GA safety strategy and the Roadmap including Part M Light;
- Drones, RPAS, EAS and FAI;
- EAS General Conference in Bordeaux 9-10 April 2016.

More details can be read in the Europe Air Sports newsletter at www.europe-air-sports.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS and BURSARIES

From teenage glider pilot to trainee pilot on the British Airways Future Pilot Programme

Edward (Ed) Eveson, aged 20, from Diss in Norfolk, has demonstrated how to get from school

sixth form to becoming a trainee pilot on the British Airways future pilot programme.

At 13, Ed joined Norfolk Gliding Club and achieved his solo and a bronze gliding badge at 16. To help with the costs of his silver gliding award, he was awarded a prestigious Bramson bursary by the Royal Aero Club Trust, under the Trust's Flying for Youth programme. He made rapid progress and participated with success in the 2014 Junior National Gliding Championships. Whilst enjoying gliding and studying for his AS and A2 examinations, Ed was also preparing for a future career in aviation. Gliding gave him the opportunity to meet, fly with and learn from other enthusiasts who were commercial pilots.

On finishing his A levels, Ed applied directly to join the British Airways future pilot programme and, out of 3,000 applicants, was one of the 72 successful ones who started training in January 2016.



Ed is now in New Zealand, undertaking the ground school phases, and then flying and obtaining a Commercial Pilots Licence. He should then return to the UK to obtain an instrument rating. Following further training, he hopes, within two years, to be a first officer on the Airbus 320.

Ed puts his fortune at being selected for the programme down to his passion for gliding, the most helpful bursary from the Royal Aero Club Trust, and very careful preparation for a future career in aviation. He has done extremely well to be selected for the future pilots programme and we wish him every success for the future. Details of the Royal Aero Club Trust Flying for Youth bursary scheme are available at www.royalaeroclubtrust.org

RAeC Trust 2016 Bursaries - Highest ever number of Applications and Awards

50 bursaries have been awarded by the Royal Aero Club Trust to enable young air sport enthusiasts to advance their existing air sport qualifications. A significant increase both in the number of applications received and awards made follow a decision by the Trust in 2014 to widen the age range

for eligibility and to introduce follow-on awards to enable previous award winners to continue to make progress in their chosen air sport.

The Trust is grateful to its benefactors, such as the Royal Aeronautical Society, who do so much to encourage young people to develop their potential through air sports. Moreover, the Peter Cruddas Foundation awards, the Bramson bursaries, the Breitling bursaries and the MacRobert Trust bursaries have been of enormous help in making it possible for the Royal Aero Club Trust to provide these awards to worthy young people who wish to progress in their chosen air sport.

The “named” bursaries were awarded to:

- President’s Scholar: Cara Pritchard, a skydiver;
- The Peter Cruddas Foundation Scholarship: Lucy Austins, a skydiver;
- The Bramson Bursary: Suzie Lyell, a glider pilot;
- The Breitling Bursary: George Coe, a fixed-wing pilot;
- The MacRobert Trust Bursaries: Harry Wilson and Jonathan Bradford, both glider pilots.

In total, 3 bursaries were awarded to fixed-wing pilots, sixteen to glider pilots, twenty-five to skydivers, three for paragliding, one for flight simulators and two for aeromodelling.

Trust Bursary Director, David Bills, commented that the standard of applications remained high, and that the range of applications had been greater than in the previous year. He also stressed the important part played by the Trust benefactors, without whose support the scheme could not operate. Details of how you can become a Trust benefactor or friend are published on the Trust website.

GENERAL NEWS and EVENTS

RAeC Records Racing and Rally Association

April saw the first race meet of the 2016 RAeC Handicap Air Racing season. Abbeville in France hosted no less than 18 competing planes, the slowest being the Cessna Amphibian at 109.17 knots and the fastest an RV8 at 182.10 knots!

The Saturday race had to be stopped half way through due to a very rainy weather front, but the

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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 or at secretary@royalaeroclub.org.

Sunday race for the Battle of Britain Trophy started as scheduled in blue skies.



Mark and Joanne Turner at the first scatter point Abbeville 2016

The Battle of Britain Trophy race was won by Mark and Joanne Turner, husband and wife team who came across the line first in their RV6, Race 61.

3Rs Race at Leicester Airport - 8/9 May 2016

With torrential rain, hail, thunder and lightning or blue skies and temperatures of 24C the RAeC 3Rs competed at Leicester Airport for 2 prestigious handicap air racing Trophies, the Beverley Snook Memorial Trophy and the City Livery Trophy.

Just as Saturday’s race was about to commence, rain started to fall. None of the 17 entrants were deterred and they all took off to fly 4 laps of a 25 mile course. Thunder and occasional lightning grew closer and the rain heavier. As the last aircraft crossed the finishing line the heavens opened.

Sunday’s City Livery Trophy witnessed the first time a diesel powered aircraft, a Robin DR401 flown by Gordon Bellerby and navigator David Lee, won this huge silver cup.

The weekend’s Trophies were presented by Mr. John Pond, Chairman of the City Livery Aero Section. The same team of Gordon Bellerby (pilot) and David Lee (Navigator) were the winners of both trophies, with Michael Wingenroth in a Beagle Pup 150 coming second on both days.

Please check the web site for the remaining race weekends to be held across the UK. All welcome!
www.RoyalAeroClubRRRA.co.uk

World Championships

The 2016 World Microlight Championships and World Paramotor Championships will be held at Popham from 20 to 27 August. See all the news at www.wmpc2016.com.