

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 2017

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



(Picture: Ron Smith Photography)

Each year, the RAeC Chairman presents their annual report on the Club and its activities to the RAeC Council. The report is delivered at the commencement of the Club's Annual General Meeting and generally comprises two parts – a look back over the principal activities of the year just ending, and a view forward of the main things that are likely to happen over the next year or more. I have now prepared five annual reports, and have found the process of looking back at the things that have happened each year a tremendously positive and uplifting experience.

Each year, without fail, British pilots, teams and a wide variety of volunteers do all sorts of remarkable things – 2016 was no different. In May, the Club hosted its Annual Awards Ceremony for 2016 at the RAF Club and recognised the sporting and other achievements of a good many people. The full list of award recipients is on the Club's website and so I will not attempt to mention each and every one here – but I will reiterate the Club's deep appreciation for the contribution that they have all made to British air sports.

This year, the Club bestowed its highest honour, the RAeC Gold Medal, on British astronaut Tim Peake, for his regular and high profile outreach and communication - both while he was on the

International Space Station and ever since his return. Unfortunately, Tim could not be with us in May to receive his medal, but we very much hope that he will be able to do so belatedly next year.

Squadron Leader Andrew Millikin, Officer Commanding the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, was our guest of honour at the Awards Ceremony. Andy's kind words in his speech during the evening resonated with everyone, and he was gracious enough to extend his compliments to the Club as well. What Andy described as a perfectly run and prestigious evening, as always, was the result of lengthy and detailed preparation by a small RAeC team – in particular, Robin Gowler, Matthew Bolshaw, David Phipps, Poppy Gowler and Janine Phipps – and the generous support of our sponsors, especially Breitling. I'd like to express the thanks of the RAeC Council to all those that made the evening the splendid success it was.

Looking forward to 2017, I am sure that there will be as much, if not more, to celebrate. One thing to look forward to will be the opening later this summer of the BMFA's new national centre. This is a really positive development for model flying, and one that enables the BMFA to invest confidently in its future events. It is very difficult these days to be able to establish new flying venues. This makes the BMFA's achievement all the more impressive.

Unfortunately, for all the progress our air sports are able to make each year, there are always external factors that are threatening to curtail our freedoms. We are well-used to working closely with government, the CAA, other aviation groups, local communities and the like – and reaching appropriate compromises that balance the justified priorities of various parties. Everyone has an interest in progress, and no one can always have things their own way. When it comes to airspace, however, the principles of proportionality seem to be notable by their absence. In recent years,

decisions have given rise to relentless growth in new areas of controlled airspace. In many instances, the CAA has approved applications by airfield operators that have been based on the flimsiest of justifications, the most unrealistic and one-sided statements of need, and projections of increases in future activity levels that stand no scrutiny whatsoever. Unless something dramatic happens, the situation will only get worse. We are faced with an increasing number of airspace applications that are unreasonable in nature and of grave concern to one or more air sports. The DfT proudly states that its General Aviation strategy is intended to make the UK the most attractive GA environment in the world. It has not yet made any meaningful progress against that aim – but we, the air sports community - intend to hold its feet to the fire and demand far more rapid progress. The consequences of not doing so, and just accepting the gradually accelerating erosion of our position is not a prospect that we want to entertain. We want future Awards Ceremonies to be as rich, varied and remarkable as they are today. The expertise and commitment of UK air sports will, I am certain, avert the worst of the potential external developments, and so continue to provide the best environment for pilots, teams, clubs and others.

In the meantime, happy aviating.

Patrick Naegeli, Chairman

INTERNATIONAL RECORDS

Congratulations to Jackie Harper, who has set new European and World female Wingsuit records, flying from Zephyrhills in Florida. Jackie set a new highest time record, at 90.8 seconds, in November 2016.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Royal Aero Club awards 2016

The presentation of the 2016 Awards took place at the RAF Club on Thursday 18th May 2017. The event was sponsored by Breitling UK, H. R. Jennings & Co. Ltd (Insurance brokers) and Howell & Co, Solicitors. Sqn Ldr Andy Millikin, Officer Commanding the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, presented the awards.

Forty-seven awards were presented on the evening to aviators, some recognised for their prowess in competitive or adventurous flying and many more rewarded for their voluntary service to air sport and their contribution to keeping other people flying.

Luke Wolferstan-Bannister became possibly the youngest individual ever to receive a Royal Aero Club Bronze Medal for his achievement in drone flying.



Roy Cross, the oldest recipient at 91, was presented with the Old and Bold Trophy in recognition of his long career in gliding.



Roy is still an active cross country and soaring pilot.

The Royal Aero Club's most prestigious award, the Britannia Trophy, was awarded to Steve Edwards, David Hempleman-Adams and Dr. Frederik Paulsen, for a record-breaking flight from the Geographical North Pole in a hot air balloon.



Steve Edwards and Dr. Frederik Paulsen are pictured here receiving the trophy.

Among the unsung heroes, Alan Horsfield received a Certificate of Merit for his support to paragliding competitions over many years.



The British Microlight team received the Prince of Wales Cup for their outstanding achievements at the 2016 FAI World Microlight Championships, where they won two Gold, one Silver and one Bronze individual medal and the team Gold medal.



Another award for work behind the scenes, Graham Spicer was nominated by the BPA. He volunteered to work on the

BPA Archive project and then took over to chair the BPA IT Strategy Group. His contribution was described as ‘sparkling’.

(All photographs by Here and Now Photography)

FAI Awards 2017

The FAI Awards for 2017 include several for UK pilots:

James Tannock - Paul Tissandier Diploma

Paul Eisner - Andrei Tupolev Aeromodelling Medal

Major Tim Peake - Yuri A. Gagarin Gold Medal

Dr Piers Sellers OBE - Odyssey Diploma, for Astronautics

Ben Philpott - Pepe Lopes Medal, for hang-gliding

Barry Holleran - Ann Welch Diploma (microlights)

Nigel Lemon FRAeS - Phoenix Diploma (amateur-built aircraft)

Many congratulations to all.

FAI

The FAI reports that three air sports were at the heart of The World Games, which is a massive multi-sports competition held every four years –

this year in Wroclaw, Poland. Paramotoring, Glider Aerobatics and Canopy Piloting (Swooping) contests have been taking place over three days from 20-23 July 2017. Maxine Tate represented GB in the Canopy Piloting.

REGULATORY MATTERS

Europe

David Roberts presented a report to the RAeC Council on considerable activity over the last year on the European regulatory front.

The report focused on:

1. The dialogue process for agreement of changes to the Basic Regulation, involving EU Council of Ministers, the Parliament and the Commission;
2. Developments since April 2016 in the Commission’s proposals on Annex I (formerly Annex II), definition of Commercial Air Transport, definition of ‘Amateur Built’ and improving the Essential Requirements in Annexes II to V;
3. Progress on “Part Ballooning” and “Part Gliding”;
4. Progress on the GA safety strategy and the Roadmap including Part M Light;
5. Drones, RPAS, EAS and FAI;
6. EAS General Conference in Berlin 18-19 March 2017.

David recommended that members keep up to date on European developments by subscribing (at no cost) to the Europe Air Sports newsletters which can be found at www.europe-air-sports.org.

The European Model Flying Union – EMFU

Following negotiations with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) led by Dave Phipps (Technical Officer to Europe Air Sports) on behalf of model flyers throughout Europe, representatives from Model Flying Associations from across Northern Europe met in October 2016 to discuss the possibility of creating a pan-European ‘Union’ to help support and represent the interests of model flying at the European level, in respect of all relevant regulatory matters.

The EMFU was officially formed at the first General Assembly in Germany in May 2017. This meeting elected the Executive Board with Dave Phipps (BMFA) as President. The EMFU is supported by model flying associations from 12 countries. The UK is represented by both the BMFA and the Large Model Association.

EMFU immediately organised a workshop to discuss the impact of the EASA proposals for

unmanned aircraft and to agree a collective EMFU response. The workshop was attended by two key members of the EASA team responsible for the regulation, who explained their proposed rules in detail. It was agreed that all of the Associations present could continue to operate as they do today within the framework of EASA's proposed regulations.

UK Regulation - GA Alliance report

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for General Aviation (APPG) held a meeting in January to announce its formation and present itself to the GA Community. It is now formally registered, with the stated objective *'To promote and defend general aviation in the United Kingdom thereby helping to realise the government's objective of making the United Kingdom the world's leading general aviation nation'*. Whilst referring to major aspects of interest (generally as in the GA Strategy) the focus is initially on the "network of airfields".

At a meeting in January the Aviation Minister Lord Ahmad confirmed the Government commitment to the GA Strategy with the intent to progress, highlighted by the planned all-embracing strategy for Aviation, likely to be announced in 2018. This would firmly include GA interest in all its aspects. Agreed actions included a GA paper on how we might practically progress the "network of airfields" (currently being prepared by GAAC). The Minister also supported in principle a proposal for match funding from BIS for an independent study to evaluate taxation policy in the competitive environment.

There have been high level meetings between GA representatives and the CAA to discuss airspace concerns and these have been summarised with four policy outcomes:-

1. Integration not segregation: to include GA in airspace design;
2. Technology roadmap: to understand how technology can improve the known environment across the UK;
3. Infringements: reinvigorate the working group. Better integration of airspace activities;
4. Mind-set: Adjust GA and ATCO mind-set towards airspace.

Discussions are continuing on the development of future airspace policy.

GENERAL NEWS and EVENTS

Royal Aero Club Trust - Highest ever number of Applications and Awards

After receiving more applications than in any previous year, 50 bursaries have been awarded again by the Royal Aero Club Trust to enable young air sport enthusiasts to advance their existing air sport qualifications. The significant increases follow a decision by the Trust 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 most 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, and the Breitling 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. In 2017 the Trust also received a charitable gift from the Patron's Fund to increase the scope of the bursaries awarded. This gift acknowledged the work of the RAeC Trust and was derived from generous donations and the profits of the Patron's Lunch event on the Mall.

The "named" bursaries and other special awards were given to the following:

President's Scholar:

Rachel Silcock, a balloon pilot and



Max Holmes, a skydiver

The Peter Cruddas Foundation Scholarship:
Alistair Cunningham, a glider pilot and Alabama Shanker, a skydiver

The Bramson Bursary: Niall Watkins, a glider pilot;

The Breitling Bursary: Jake Brookes, a fixed-wing pilot;

The Patron's Fund Awards: Jake Brookes, a fixed wing pilot, Rachel Silcock, a Balloon pilot, Max Holmes, a skydiver, Bethany Denner, a skydiver, Callum Kennedy, a skydiver and Francesca Gregory, a glider pilot.

Royal Aero Club Events and Council news

The annual RAeC Conference will take place at the new BMFA National Centre at Buckminster. The topic will be Youth/Education and the date proposed is 11 November.

Newsletter editor

I am pleased to say that Judith Wordsworth, a fixed wing pilot with experience in racing and rally flying, will be taking over the Newsletter from the next issue. I would like to thank everyone that has supplied me with news and reports over the last thirteen years. I am sure that Judith will breathe new life into the reports and I look forward to reading the Newsletter in future!

RAF Museum

The RAF Museum has announced the launch of the RAF Centenary Anthology, a handmade, limited edition of 1,500 books of which 250 are signed exemplary copies. The information says:

“Forged in the crucible of the First World War, the Royal Air Force will commemorate its Centenary on 1 April, 2018. The story of the RAF has shaped the modern world. By inspiring technological development, pioneering cultural change and pushing the boundaries of human achievement, the RAF has touched the lives of millions around the globe.”

For more information or to register your interest please email mm@extraordinaryeditions.com or telephone 020 7267 4547.

MEMBERS

The 2017 Queen's Cup was awarded to the HCGB for a contest which took place at Heli-Expo at Wycombe Air Park on the 3rd June.

RRRA racing

A Cessna 172 Float Plane won the Gower Cup and an RV4 the Goodyear Trophy at the Llanbedr Air Race weekend in June. Amazing weather at Llanbedr Airport, in the Snowdonia National Park, saw 12 planes compete for The Gower Cup on the Saturday and The Goodyear Trophy on the Sunday. The race course took the planes across the water to Pwllheli, then Abersoch and a sharp turn back to the airfield. The breath-taking landscapes of Wales are an aviator's dream.

The Saturday Gower Cup was won by pilot Hamish Mitchel with his navigator Derek Pake in their Cessna Float Plane, which was the slowest plane to compete at a handicap speed of 106.87 kts. Ian Harding, who was the fastest competitor to enter at a handicap speed of 167.69 Kts, won the Sunday race in his RV4.



FAI European Gliding Championships

The 19th European Gliding Championships for 15 metre, 18 metre and Open class gliders will take place at Lasham in Hampshire from 10th to 26th August. At this stage there are 65 entries in the three classes, including two representatives of the British team in each class. Visitors and spectators are welcome. See www.egc2017.co.uk/ for more information.

Newsletter edited by Diana King. Please send items for future Newsletters to Judith Wordsworth, Royal Aero Club, 78 Bafford Approach, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucester, GL53 9JB or jswordsworth@hotmail.com.

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