

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

Winter 2015

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the time of writing it is 4.15pm, dark, and 9 degrees. Elsewhere, it is 8.15pm, dark and 23 degrees. At this time of year, the differences between a cold, damp UK, and a warm, dry Dubai could not be more obvious. Fortunately, acclimatising to such contrasts has been no problem for those aviators representing the UK in the World Air Games.

More than five hundred aviators competed in ten disciplines over twelve days. Events took place against some of the most spectacular backdrops. Quite deservedly, the Emirates Aerospots Federation has been commended for the quality of the organisation and venues.

British competitors acquitted themselves extremely well, and I sure that their respective associations will be reporting on the detail of their performances. I am, however, going to mention the British weight-shift microlight team that took the top 4 places in their event. Congratulations to David Broom, Paul Dewhurst, Rees Keene and Mark Fowler – and to their support team – for such a wonderful achievement.



*The British Microlight Team L – R Rees Keene, David Broom, Paul Dewhurst and Mark Fowler
(Photo: FAI World Air Games)*

Our microlighters weren't the only British pilots to finish off 2015 in fine style. Over the same period, the British Junior Gliding Team were competing in the Junior World Championships in Narromine, Australia.

With day-time temperatures in the 30s Celsius, often high 30s, conditions ranged from outstanding to very challenging. The four British pilots flew a range of racing tasks at extraordinarily high speeds. After two weeks of intense competition the British team finished with two medals, including a new World Junior Champion – Tom Arscott. Congratulations to Tom, Sam Roddie, Matt Davis and Mike Gatfield. The prospects for new talent for the British senior team are looking good.



*Tom Arscott (Gold) and Sam Roddie (Bronze)
(Photo: British Gliding Team)*

Closer to home, regulatory work continues apace. We have mentioned the potential issues for general aviation associated with the application for airspace by the operators of Farnborough airfield, TAG Aviation. The debate, argument and counter-argument had been going on for a number of years before any formal application by Farnborough to the CAA. That changed in July, and now the focus

of our opposition to this particular application has switched to making the CAA fully aware of why, in their current form, Farnborough's proposals are unworkable.

This is probably the most contentious airspace application for a number of years. A short while ago, we learnt that the CAA had directed TAG to undertake additional work in order to clarify aspects of its airspace design. This development means that the CAA will take longer than originally anticipated to make their final decision. It does not mean that we have yet succeeded in having the application rejected in its current form. Our work continues – though it is difficult to see how the CAA could give consideration to the introduction of a massive area of Class D airspace just outside of the London zone, when the government has yet to decide whether Heathrow will be given the go-ahead for a third runway.

At a European level, amongst the usual incessant work associated with EASA, there have been murmurings of the European Commission offering grants to support the switch over from 25kHz to 8.33kHz radios. Whilst we have heard talk of money being available to help cover a proportion of the purchase and installation costs, we have not yet seen any of the detail. We don't know what is involved in actually securing the cash, or the hoops that will need to be jumped through as part of the process. Experience suggests that the EC rarely ever works in simple and straightforward ways. Nevertheless, we are looking into things so that we can make a considered judgement on whether or not there is really something to go for.

A large number of people are expending a huge amount of time and effort addressing a wide range of national and international issues. If you know any of them directly, give them some encouragement – dealing with regulators can be a bit like painting the Sydney Harbour Bridge, long, lonely and sometimes difficult to see the end.

This is the last RAeC newsletter before Christmas 2015 and the end of the year. I'd like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all those that help run the Club and take care of its many different areas of activity. Along with them, may I also wish you a very enjoyable festive season and new year – I hope that you have the 2016 that you wish for.

Happy aviating.

Patrick Naegeli
Chairman

ACHIEVEMENTS and AWARDS

International Records

British skydivers went to Chicago and took part in a successful World head down record attempt, which culminated in a 164-way record. Congratulations to Mikey Carpenter, Paul Cooper, Gary Crisp, Jake Diliberto, Dan Guest, Ally Milne, Martin Roberson, Weed Stoodley and Simon Whittle.

On the following day a POPS (Parachutists Over Phorty) head-down 26-way record was set. The participants were aged between 40 and 59, with more than 210,000 jumps between them. Several British skydivers were among the team.

A European 21-way Head-up record was set at Empuriabrava in September. British skydivers Adam Mattacola, Weed Stoodley, Paul Cooper, Gary Crisp, Alex Dand and Emma Scrivenor were part of the team.

2015 Royal Aero Club Awards

The 2015 Awards will be presented by HRH The Duke of York on 18th May 2016 at the RAF Club.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

David Broom became World Champion at the World Air Games in Dubai. **Paul Dewhurst** won Silver and **Rees Keene** the Bronze. Mark Fowler finished in 4th place, Rees Keene's father Rob was sixth and Chris Saysell tenth. The team all flew P&M QuikRs with Union Flag wings.



David Broom in Dubai (Photo: FAI World Air Games)

At the World Cup and European Parachuting Championships at Teuge in the Netherlands in September, **Euphoria Freefly** won Bronze in the Freefly Open competition.

At the same event, **Michael Lovemore** won double silver in Speed Skydiving at the World Cup and European Championships, with an average speed of 498.23 kph over four jumps. He is one of only five people ever to break 500 kph in competition and is

now the fourth fastest speeder ever. Michael followed this up with a Bronze medal at the World Air Games.

Team *Floh Well* – **Ben Broad** and **Luke Warren** – came second at the 1st FAI World Indoor Skydiving Championships in Prague in the Dynamic 2-way class. Ben and Luke only learned to fly head-down in the last three years, so they have achieved a great deal in a short time.

Fly Like a Girl (**Lynne Murray**, **Claire ‘Sparky’ Scott**, **Kate Lindsley** and **Laura James**) took Bronze at the same event in the Formation 4-way Female class.

Tom Arcscott and **Sam Roddie** won Gold and Bronze in the Club Class at the Junior World Gliding Championships in Australia. The team also won Bronze in the Team Cup.



(Photo: British Gliding Team)

Paul Eisner won Gold at the European Championships for Control Line Speed, with a best speed of 302.1 kph. The British team of Paul, **Peter Halman** and **Ken Morrissey** also won Team Gold, with all the team members using a ‘Halman Special’ engine. This team has been consistently successful at international championships for over 20 years.

John Cuthbert, **Ken Faux** and **Mick Lester** took Team Bronze at the F1C (Free Flight Power) World Championships.

Congratulations to all our champions.

REGULATORY MATTERS

Planning - Keep Airfields Greenfields Petition

There has been an online petition on the Government petition website, protesting against the removal of the planning protection that had stopped airfields from being classified as brownfield sites. This attracted over 18,500 signatures, which has resulted in a written response from government. The petition runs until 27 February 2016; it is still worth signing and it only takes a few seconds to complete; please sign it at

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/106779>. If we could reach 100,000 signatures (admittedly unlikely!), it would be considered for debate in Parliament.

At the September Council meeting, Roger Hopkinson briefed Council members on a number of specific consultations and matters of interest to RAeC Members, namely:-

- The review of the Air Navigation Order, to which the GA Alliance responded;
- HMRC proposals relating to GAR (General Aviation Report forms), to which the GA Alliance responded;
- Medical consultation for UK PPL & NPPL (individual responses only);
- General and Business Aviation Strategic Forum working group on CAA Proposals for GA fees for 2017 onwards (RAeC is represented on the working group);
- Airspace Change Proposal process review, where the GA position needs to be considered.

European Regulation

At the autumn RAeC Council meeting, it was reported that EASA are proposing to separate ballooning out from much of their regulation and are considering similar proposals for gliding. A meeting was scheduled to take place in Cologne during December to discuss the matter in further detail.

A review of the Basic Regulation, on which all detailed EASA regulations are based, is under way. EASA has just published its Opinion on the Review and the details are being scrutinised by a working group of Europe Air Sports experts, who will report to the National Aero Clubs early in the new year.

EASA news

A round-up of highlights of EASA developments and related CAA activities, covering the period 25 July to 3 December 2015 can be found [here](#).

Europe Air Sports

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

FAI

FAI General Conference

Former FAI General Secretary Max Bishop was recognised with a Companionship. Before moving to the FAI, Max was a keen glider pilot and a member of the RAF Gliding and Soaring Association.

Alan Cassidy MBE, a leading member of the British Aerobatic Association, was elected to the FAI Air Sport General Commission (CASI), which is responsible for formulating the definitions, standards and methods for all air sport, as well as overseeing sporting licences, events and World Records. Alan is already an International Aerobatics Judge.

The UK delegation continued to develop relations with other National Aero Clubs and established good relations with ten other countries during the Conference. The UK has a reputation for being agitators whilst being broadly supportive of the FAI.

2016 FAI Young Artists Contest

A reminder that the closing date to submit entries to the RAeC Office is Friday 26th Feb 2016.

See the FAI website at www.fai.org and click on Young Artists Contest for more details.

FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015

The World Air Games in Dubai came to an end last week after two weeks of competition, featuring ten air sports and 22 disciplines. You can review the events at [the WAG website](#)



(Photo: FAI World Air Games)

There are also numerous videos and pictures, available free of charge and right-free. Go to [Dropbox](#) for the videos and [Flickr](#) for the photos.

SCHOLARSHIPS and BURSARIES

RAeC Trust bursaries

The RAeC Trust has launched its 2016 bursary programme aimed at supporting young pilots, with grants of up to £1,000 available. The age range includes pilots aged between 14 and 21 (or 24 for a follow-on bursary). Young people looking to advance their basic air sport qualification can visit the Royal Aero Club Trust web site at

<http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.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 2016, 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.

Air League scholarships and bursaries

The 2016 Air League scholarships and bursaries are open for applicants from gliding, power flying, helicopters and aeronautical engineering. The details of each award depend on the type of flying involved. To find out more, including closing dates, go to the Air League website at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/>

BMAA Flying bursary

See www.bmaa.org/pwpcontrol.php?pwpID=6289 for details of the 2016 BMAA Young Persons Flight Training Bursary. Applicants must be between 15 and 20 years old on the date of the award, have demonstrated an interest in microlight flying and be able to convince the selection panel that they have something to give back to microlight flying.

Flying Scholarships for Disabled People

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. Click [here](#) for details.

The Honourable Company of Air Pilots Scholarships and Bursaries

See [this link](#) for details of these highly-prized awards. Details of 2016 opportunities will be on the website by 1st January 2016 and applications have to be received by mid-March.

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 2016 applications is not yet announced, but is likely to be in May. <http://aerosociety.com/Careers-Education/centennial> has the details.

SAFETY

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 at penny.gould@gen-av-safety.demon.co.uk.

GASCo Safety Evenings

<http://www.gasco.org.uk/safety-evenings.aspx> gives the details of the 2016 Safety Evenings.

BMFA launches 'Drone Aware'

The BMFA has launched an initiative to raise public awareness of the legal responsibilities of those piloting drones. The initiative is supported by several partners, including the CAA and other RAeC members. The BMFA is working to try and get information placed within the packaging of new aircraft and at points of sale, as well as raising awareness with existing pilots. April 2016 will be 'Drone Awareness' month. For further information, please click [here](#) or watch developments on [Facebook](#).

MEMBERS' NEWS

Meetings

The RAeC 2016 AGM will be on Tuesday 12th April at a venue to be confirmed.

Claude Grahame-White Trophy



The Claude Grahame-White Trophy has been presented by the Royal Aero Club to CIVA, the FAI Aerobatics Commission, for future use as a trophy to be presented to the CIVA Championship Organiser of the Year. The first presentation was made recently to Vladimir Machula, Contest Director of the 2015 World Glider Aerobatic Championships at Zbraslavice in the Czech Republic.

GENERAL NEWS and EVENTS

Record Parachute Jump

Alan Eustace jumped from 135,000 ft in October 2014, breaking Felix Baumgartner's 2012 record. Eustace has given a 15-minute talk called 'I leapt from the stratosphere. Here's how I did it.' To watch it click [here](#)

Royal Aero Club on Facebook

The RAeC has launched a Facebook page, providing dynamic content from a range of contributors. Find us [here](#).

Queen's Cup

The Queen's Cup proposal submitted by the 3R's has been withdrawn and so bids are again invited to host the Queen's Cup in 2016.

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

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.