

# 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 2016

#### LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Tradition is that the RAeC Chairman keeps the last update of the year brief - reflective and light-hearted as befits the time of year and the fact that there are only a handful of shopping days left before Christmas. You will be pleased to hear that I am a stickler for tradition – and intend to reflect only briefly on some of the things that we can celebrate about 2016, before looking ahead to 2017.

By any measure, 2016 has been a particularly interesting year – full of surprising developments, among them: Leicester City winning the Premier League; a businessman/celebrity TV host successfully challenging the long-established political duopoly of the USA; a national referendum precipitating the most significant upheaval of the European model since its inception. All in all, something for everyone.

Somewhat less visibly, parts of the air sports community have also been making progress on work that could, if ultimately successful, lead to a very different regulatory environment for things at the lighter end of general aviation. Ballooning and gliding were always likely to be particularly adversely impacted by EASA regulations - they would have been problematic and costly to implement and then comply with, would have delivered no value and might even have compromised safety.

Separate pan-European groups are working on re-writing EASA's regulations for ballooning and gliding. Their aim is to remove and 'ring fence' their respective rules into separate rulebooks, simplifying things significantly as part of the process. The working groups comprise air sport, EASA and national aviation authority representatives, and the UK is well represented in each area. Progress has been made on both fronts during 2016, but there is still some way to go before we can safely say that air sports has achieved something of the same sort of magnitude as the

events alluded to above. Let's see what 2017 brings.

Right now, however, we can applaud a number of our UK colleagues that have been acknowledged internationally for their contribution to air sports. The FAI annual conference is always preceded by an awards ceremony. This year, the following were honoured by the FAI:



Alan Cassidy (BAeA) – pictured here receiving his FAI Silver Medal from John Grubbström

Wyn Morgan (BBAC) - Paul Tissandier Diploma

Mark Morgan (BHPA) - the Ann Welch Paramotor Diploma

Phillip Cozens (LAA) - the Phoenix Diploma

David and Rick Bremner and Theo Wilford (LAA) - the Phoenix Group Diploma

Well done to each of them.

Well done also to those British pilots that set continental and world records during the year. Under normal circumstances, I would have liked to name each and every one of them. Of, however, the 190 international and world records that were set in 2016, twenty nine were set by British pilots. Truly remarkable, and worth celebrating as the year draws to a close – see page 2 for the latest achievements.

So, will 2017 be anywhere near as dramatic as 2016?

Difficult to see how, but one thing we must all by now realise is that anything is possible. One thing we can be confident of is that British pilots are

likely to do some really impressive things somehow/somewhere.

As the year draws to a close, I'd like to offer my best wishes to you for the festive season, and hope that 2017 brings you everything you want for your flying.

Happy aviating.

Patrick Naegeli, Chairman

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## ***INTERNATIONAL RECORDS***

### ***Numerous congratulations to a long list of UK aviators who have set new records in their sport***

Nine British women skydivers travelled to Teuge in the Netherlands to take part in several European Record attempts. Seven different records were set over four days, with each day beating records set on previous days. Congratulations to Ros Ayling, Martina Taylor, Lesley Gale, Maddy Heath-Kelly, Freddie Huntley, Lucy Mason, Ruth Green, Ana Budjelan and Lizzie Attwood on being part of a new 56-way two point European record and a 56-way three-point European and World record.

Two new gliding World records were set by British pilots during last winter, both while flying at New Tempe in South Africa. In December 2015 Phil Jeffery flew a Ventus 2 CT to a new Open Class speed record for 750 km triangles, with a speed of 170.91 kph. Two weeks later in January 2016, Shaun Lapworth broke the Open Class speed record for 500 km triangles with a speed of 175.66 kph, flying his South African designed and built JS1.

Back in the UK in April 2016, Carl Wallbank broke the hang gliding World record Straight distance to a declared goal, with a distance of 264.99 km from Llangollen to Weymouth. Carl was flying a Moyes Delta Gliders Litespeed RX 3.5.

During July and August 2015 Norman Frank Surplus flew his Rotax-powered RotorSport MT 03 autogyro from Belfast in Maine (USA) to Larne in Northern Ireland, via Tillamook in Oregon, Sept Iles in Canada, Narsarsuaq in Greenland, Reykjavik, the Faeroe Islands, Stornaway and Oban. He set a remarkable nine records in the process, ranging from 5.3 kph over the whole trip to 121.7 kph for the leg from Faeroe Islands to Stornaway.

Douglas Cairns has also set multiple records. We report belatedly on two in 2014. The first was for a flight in June 2014 from Lincoln in Nebraska to Cedar Rapids in Iowa, which he completed at 209.72 kph in a Beechcraft Baron 58. In October,

Douglas completed a UK flight at 281.2 kph in a Lycoming-powered Van's RV-8 from Durham to Goodwood.

In the microlight/paramotors class, Barry Holleran set a foot-launched paramotor record of 77.29 kph over a 50 km closed circuit. The flight took place in September 2015 from Earnley in West Sussex and was achieved with a Dudek Hadron, powered by a Polini Thor 250.

A month later, Mark Morgan also took off from Earnley to improve on his own previous record for a climb to 3,000 metres. Flying an Ozone Viper 3-22 powered by a Polini Thor 250, Mark reached the target height in 13 min 46 sec.

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## ***INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS***

At the 2016 Skydiving Indoor World Cup in Warsaw, the British team performed well in the Female 4-way Freestyle category. **Volition** (Sian Stokes, Claire Scott, Liz Matthews and Kate Lindsley) took Silver and **NFTO** (Ane Brentford, Anna Hicks, Maria Russell and Vana Parker) the Bronze.



NFTO were in action again at the World Championships in Canada, where they again won the Bronze, narrowly beating the local Canadian team.

In the Speed discipline at the World Championships, Charles Hurd won the Bronze medal with an average speed over eight jumps of 506.15 kph, just pipping Mikey Lovemore, who came fourth with an average 495.02 kph.

Congratulations to all.

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## **FAI**

### ***International Conference and Expo on drones***

This 2017 event – the first of its kind - will focus on sports, innovation and safety. The Federation will invite drone businesses, manufacturers, media, governments, aviation authorities, event organisers and others to talk about and help further develop the technology and safe practice of recreational and sports drone flying. There will also be a supporting drone exhibition providing those in the industry with an opportunity to present the latest developments in this evolving technology.

### ***FAI General Conference***

The Conference took place in Bali, Indonesia. As expected, Frits Brink (Netherlands), a member of the FAI Executive Board and a former President of Netherlands Aero Club, was elected as FAI President for a 2-year mandate. Bengt Lindgren (Sweden), Mary Anne Stevens (Canada) and Jean-Claude Weber (Luxemburg) were elected to join the Executive Board. Bob Henderson (New Zealand), Alvaro de Orleans Borbon (Spain) and Agust Gudmundsson (Iceland) were re-elected.

Some of the UK award winners were able to attend the Conference and receive their awards in person:

Alan Cassidy (BAeA) - FAI Silver Medal for his major involvement in FAI and Aerobatics as competitor, jury member, commission member, chairman, advisor, coach and instructor

Phillip Cozens (LAA) - the Phoenix Diploma for his reconstruction of a 1930s Pobjoy radial engine and a Comper Swift aircraft



Lemmy Tanner (BGA) – Tissandier Diploma, for his services to the cause of Aviation and Sporting Aviation, and more particularly to Gliding.

## ***Paragliding at the 18th Asian Games 2018***

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has agreed to include Paragliding in the 2018 Games. The decision was taken at the OCA General Assembly in Vietnam, in September 2016. The 2018 Games in Indonesia will feature 32 Olympic sports and eight non-Olympic sports, including Paragliding.

### ***2017 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? If so, then encourage them to pick up their pens, pencils or brushes and enter the 2017 FAI Young Artists Contest. The aim for contestants is to create a picture that illustrates this year's theme "Beyond the Clouds", and to show the world just how talented they are.

The deadline for submission of entries to the Royal Aero Club will be Friday 24 February 2017.

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## ***REGULATORY MATTERS***

The CAA Information Bulletin on EASA Developments from August to November 2016 can be found [here](#).

<http://www.europe-air-sports.org/home/> has the latest news from Europe Air Sports.

At a recent Council meeting Roger Hopkinson reported on the activities of the GA Alliance. Particular points included:

- The new Air Navigation Order (ANO) CAP 393 came into force on 25 August. A summary is [here](#);
- 8.33kHz Radio Equipage Grants by the EU, with the administrative process currently being planned by the CAA and General Aviation associations;
- Discussions relating to Brexit and the impact that the decision will have on General Aviation;
- Numerous airspace change proposals.

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## ***SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES***

### ***2017 Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries***

The Royal Aero Club Trust 2017 bursary scheme for young people includes a large number of Scholarships and Bursaries worth up to £1,000 each, to anyone aged between 14 and 21 (or 24 for a follow-on bursary) wishing to develop their interest in either air sports or aviation.

A wide range of grants is available for activities including gliding, hot air ballooning, paragliding, hang gliding, parachuting, flying microlights,

motor gliders, light aircraft and helicopters, and building and flying model aircraft (including drones). Bursaries are also available for Personal Computer or Flight Simulator pilots wishing to have their first experience of an air sport.

Applicants must be UK citizens, resident in the UK, and the training and flying can only be conducted at clubs, associations or training establishments in the UK. Applications, which must arrive at the Trust by 31 March 2017, are to be submitted through a Sponsoring Organisation, Club or Association.

Full details and the rules, as well as the application forms, are at [www.royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org)

The Trust is very grateful to its sponsors who generously provide the funds for bursaries. If you, or your organisation, would like to assist young people in this way by becoming a Trust sponsor, please make contact with the Trust or click on "Donations" on the Trust website, [www.royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org)

Significant changes have been made to the Bursary Scheme. A new category of bursary was introduced for well qualified air sports participants aged up to 24 years. The "Follow on Bursary" is intended to encourage committed applicants to reach even higher levels of achievement through, for example, participation in national and international competitions. These new opportunities should encourage an even wider range of young persons to access and benefit from participation in air sports.

#### ***Air League Scholarships and Bursaries***

Funds are available for young people to assist their progress in flying powered aircraft or gliders and also to enable them to undertake engineering training. The Air League and Boeing, in collaboration with Help for Heroes and Aerobility, also offers flying scholarships for disabled veterans/service personnel. [Click](#) for more details.

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## **GENERAL NEWS and EVENTS**

### ***Safety***

A reminder of this season's GASCo Safety evenings, which started in October and will continue into 2017. Details of all the events organised so far are at <http://www.gasco.org.uk/safety-evenings.aspx>

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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](mailto:diana@king618.co.uk)

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## **HONOURS AND AWARDS**

We reported last issue on the award of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots Sword of Honour to Fred Marsh. In addition to outlining Fred's remarkable contribution to general aviation, the citation closes 'Fred is a true gentleman with an encyclopaedic knowledge of UK aviation who always lights up the room with his affable charm, good humour and monocle'. Fred is pictured here with the Master, Peter Benn.



### ***RAeC Awards***

The presentation of the 2016 Awards will take place at the RAF Club on Thursday 18th May 2017.

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## **MEMBERS**

### ***BMFA National Flying Site and Visitor Centre***

The BMFA has been progressing plans for the development of its National Flying Site and Visitor Centre at Buckminster Lodge. Over the last couple of months, the necessary planning consents have been obtained, the 35 year lease has been signed and work has already commenced on site.

Buckminster Lodge is a former equestrian centre situated on the Leicestershire/Lincolnshire border, close to the towns of Grantham and Melton Mowbray and approximately 5 miles from the A1. The site consists of 43 acres of land with existing buildings and structures on the southern boundary and lends itself very well to a phased development with the potential to accommodate flying activity from an early stage.

The site is largely flat, level, well drained and mostly under grass. Also (and importantly), the surrounding land is all under the same ownership. The site is also well away from noise sensitive premises and is in open countryside.

The aim is that the facility will be "officially open" in the spring for some limited activity.