

# THE ROYAL AERO CLUB

OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
The Coordinating Body of British Airsport Organisations

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG, KCVO, ADC



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## NEWSLETTER

### New Year 2007

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Dear Members

For those who had plans for a New Year's Day fly-in, 2007 got off to a disappointing start. Since then we have had winds to put our tie-downs to the test and enough rain to surely make hosepipe bans a thing of the past. Most grass strips are waterlogged while some at lower levels are submerged. Nevertheless, there is already the sense that the nights are becoming shorter and buds on the trees are creating the illusion of spring, even though we know the worst of winter is yet to come.

The darkest shadow hanging over sports and recreational aviation, however, has nothing to do with either the weather or the season. It is man made. Mode S transponders, a technical sledgehammer to crack someone else's walnuts, has united sports pilots, particularly those at the lower end of the weight spectrum, more than any threat that has come before. There is little doubt that implementation in the way originally proposed by the CAA would carve a swathe through our numbers. The prospect of having to install an electronic gizmo costing more than many aircraft in the Royal Aero Club fleet represents the last straw to many.

What is unusual about the Mode S issue is that in every other respect the relationship between Royal Aero Club members and the CAA could be described as positive and constructive. The CAA Strategic and Regulatory Reviews have led to a better understanding between regulator and regulated than ever before. When we hear stories from Europe of the difficulties others face with their National Aviation Authorities, UK delegates frequently sing the praises of our CAA. The NPPL, now the model for a European licence, is just one example of the forward thinking that has come out of Gatwick. The BGA approach to medicals, championed by Dr Peter Saundby, was accepted and adopted by the UK CAA. It is this recent track record of our CAA which leads us to believe that we will find a sensible Mode S compromise.

The other associated problem facing us is the increase in low-cost airlines operating from provincial airports. Of course, when travelling to international conferences Royal Aero Club delegates are the first to take advantage of the cheap fares. This does not make it any easier to accept the way in which airports like Coventry and Robin Hood are bringing us closer to the day when UK airspace available to recreational aviators is divided in two along a line from Liverpool to Humberside.

The positive benefit of facing a common threat is that there is no more powerful force to unite us. The Royal Aero Club member associations are now working together more closely than ever before. In addition, other umbrella organizations, such as the General Aviation Alliance and the General Aviation Awareness Council, each coordinate their own particular aspect of our response to increased regulation. We need only look back two or three years to see how far we have come. Let no one say that Europe has brought us no benefits.

Yours sincerely

Keith Negal  
Chairman

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership subscriptions for Individual Members expired on 31 Dec 2006 and are due for renewal from 1 Jan 2007. The subscription is unchanged at £16 for 2007.

If you pay by Standing Order, your membership card is enclosed or will be sent to you shortly. Please note the current rates and update your Standing Order if necessary. The renewal form is at the back of this Newsletter.

### ***Dates for your Diary***

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Aero Club will be on Wednesday 4 April starting at 1700 hours at The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London. All member associations are

entitled to attend and we would also be pleased to welcome any individual members. The AGM will be followed by the Spring Council meeting, at which members would also be welcome.

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### **NEW BRITISH WORLD RECORD HOLDERS and OTHER HONOURS**

Congratulations to:

**Richard Meredith-Hardy**, who has set a new Microlight speed record at 147 kph over a 50 kilometre closed circuit course. The flight was achieved at Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah in a P & M Quik GT 450.

**David Hairs**, who set a new paramotoring record in the course of the 2006 European Paramotor Championships in Spain. On an open cross country task with a limit of 2 litres of fuel, he achieved a distance of 110.161 km, winning the task and setting a new World Record.



*David Hairs*

Congratulations also to **David Hempleman-Adams**, who was awarded the LVO (Lieutenant of the Victorian Order) in the New Year's honours list for his work on the 50th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, helping to raise more than £2 million.

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### **ROYAL AERO CLUB AWARDS**

We are pleased to say that the presentation of awards for 2006 will be made at a ceremony to be held on Tuesday 24 April at the RAF Club in London. We have extended an invitation to our President, His Royal Highness The Duke of York, to present the awards – please watch the RAeC website for news.

All members would be welcome to attend and tickets are available from the RAeC Secretary. A booking form is at the back of this Newsletter.

Awards will be presented as follows

<i>The Britannia Trophy</i>	Manuel Queiroz
<i>Prince of Wales Cup</i>	Team Airkix
<i>Gold Medal</i>	Phil Jones
<i>Silver Medals</i>	Chris Gay Cliff Piper Peter Saundby Leigh Wells
<i>Bronze Medals</i>	Trevor Birkbeck Tamsin Causer Peter Grange Robin Jones Mike Scholes Nigel Tasker
<i>Royal Aero Club Diploma</i>	Rob Colpus and Darryl Moran
<i>RAeC Certificates of Merit</i>	Judy Hanson Steve Uzochukwu
<i>President's Rolex Trophy</i>	Christopher Lawrence
<i>Old &amp; Bold Trophy</i>	Harry Mason
<i>Companion of the RAeC</i>	Norman Pocock
<i>Ann Welch Memorial Award</i>	John Henry

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### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### ***Air League***

The Air League offers a variety of scholarships to enable young people to learn to fly powered aircraft, gliders or balloons, or for advanced power training. Scholarships are also available to provide engineering placements in the UK aerospace industry.

Closing dates are 28 February, with the exception of the flying scholarships towards the NPPL, for which the closing date has already passed.

More information can be found at [www.airleague.co.uk](http://www.airleague.co.uk).

#### ***Royal Aero Club Trust Flying Bursaries for 2007***

The Royal Aero Club Trust has extended the closing date for the 2007 flying bursary scheme for young people. Each bursary of up to £500 pounds is available to anyone aged between 16 and 21, wishing to progress their interest in air sports or aviation. The revised closing date is 31 March 2007.

The Royal Aero Club Trust has been running the programme for seven years and a wide range of bursaries has been awarded. Activities available include aero-modelling, paragliding, hang gliding, parachuting, ballooning, gliding, flying microlight, fixed wing or light aeroplanes and helicopters.

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 2007, are to be submitted by post through a Sponsoring Organisation, Club or Association.

Full details, rules and an application form are available on the Royal Aero Club Trust web site, [www.royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org) or contact the Trust administrator on 01729-840108.

### ***Amy Johnson Memorial Trust***

The Amy Johnson Memorial Trust offers a £2,000 scholarship to help women pilots improve their qualifications. The scholarship is open to any British woman living in Britain, who holds a PPL, CPL or frozen ATPL and who is working towards a higher qualification. Closing date is 28 February and details are available from Mrs M. E. Tucker, 12 Church Lane, Merton Park, London, SW19 3PD.

### ***GAPAN***

The Guild scholarships provide an opportunity for people who would like to become pilots or to further their qualifications as pilots. Several PPL (fixed wing) scholarships, a few FI(R) (both fixed wing and rotary) and 2 Jet Orientation course (JOC) scholarships are available for 2007. Closing dates are 11 April, with the exception of the JOC scholarship, for which the closing date is 27 July. Details are on the GAPAN website at <http://www.gapan.org/>.

The Guild also has a Bursary Programme to assist successful instructors, who might otherwise not have the necessary resources, to achieve their Rating. Bursaries are available for Instrument Rating, Aerobatics and Multi-Engine Instructors.

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### ***BRITISH PILOTS AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS***

Congratulations to *Mike Francies*, member of the British Seniors Team, who took the individual bronze medal in the S8E/P (rocket powered RC glider: duration and precision landing) at the recent 2006 Space Modelling World Championships held at Baikonur, Kazakhstan.

Baikonur is the centre of the Russian Space Programme and hosted the Space Modelling World Championships for the first time.

The team commented that it was 'truly awe inspiring' to be flying at the same location from which Yuri Gagarin was launched into space on the first manned space flight.



*Mike Francies*

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### ***ROYAL AERO CLUB WEBSITE***

We are making arrangements to develop a new website. The current website serves a valuable purpose of providing information about the background and activities of the Royal Aero Club and other related organisations. With increasing change in the environment surrounding sporting and recreational aviation, the Council of the RAeC has decided that it is time to bring the website up to date and to enable a greater range of activity to be managed through this medium.

An Invitation to Tender is being prepared and any individual or organisation interested in tendering should request a copy from the General Secretary.

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### ***EUROPE***

#### ***Single European Sky charging***

The argument for aircraft under 2 tonnes MTOM not to pay en route charges has been won, with the publication of a new European Regulation that will be binding on all states. Europe Air Sports has been working on behalf of us all to achieve this success.

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### ***UK REGULATION AND TECHNICAL ISSUES***

#### ***Foreign Registered Aircraft***

The government has decided not to take any action against foreign registered aircraft. Proposals to restrict the number of days such aircraft can remain in the UK have been dropped.

#### ***Airspace changes***

As a result of European airspace classification changes, the current restrictions known as Temporary Restricted Areas (TRAs), that are put in place to protect events such as air displays and major incidents will soon be known as Restricted Areas (Temporary) or RA(T)s. The change is to avoid confusion with the new Temporary Reserved Areas

which will be introduced from 15th March to coincide with the lowering of Class C airspace to FL195 and to bring the UK in line with Eurocontrol Flexible Use of Airspace definitions. The CAA will publish more information on the lowering of Class C airspace in January.

### ***Planning and Brownfield Sites***

The recently published PPS3 planning guidance for Brownfield sites fails to take into consideration the views of the GA and sporting aviation community, despite consultation during last year. The General Aviation Awareness Council, who specialize in the protection of airfields, have suggested that everyone who originally objected should re-state their concerns to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Local MPs should also be advised and questions asked in the House. There is also an online petition at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Airfields/>

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## **SAFETY MATTERS**

### ***CAA Safety Evenings***

CAA Safety Evenings continue throughout the winter. The full programme is at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=224&pagetype=69>.

### ***GASIL***

The latest edition of GASIL (the CAA's General Aviation Safety newsletter) has been published and can be viewed on the CAA web site at [http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg\\_gad\\_gasil4of2006\\_1.pdf](http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gad_gasil4of2006_1.pdf)

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## **EVENTS AND SHOWS**

### ***Fly! The London Air Show***

The London Air Show is to move away from Earl's Court and will be held this year at Silverstone, from 13 to 15 July. The change of venue is to reduce the difficulty of getting exhibited planes in and out of the exhibition.

### ***Military Civil Air Safety Day***

The first Military Civil Air Safety Day of 2007 will take place at Wattisham Station on Tuesday 22nd

May. Its aim is to promote closer ties between MoD Aviation and the General Aviation community, focusing on the shared use of Lower Airspace. There will be a series of presentations throughout the day featuring local airspace issues, Distress and Diversion, and Airprox reporting during the morning and matters of General Aviation interest in the afternoon. There may be an opportunity to view a military aircraft on the ground. Places are limited and registration forms can be obtained from the CAA website:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=224>  
(Click on Information in the menu and the details are on that page)

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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### ***Royal Aero Club - Missing Minutes***

The Royal Aero Club Trust is responsible for conserving the Collection of Archives of the Royal Aero Club for future generations. The Royal Aero Club was founded in 1901 and the Trust has been taking steps to bring together the Council Minutes. All the original Minutes for the period 1 December 1901 to 27 September 1956 have been found and they are now being conserved and rebound. We also have all Minutes from 16 June 1969 to date.

However the Minutes for the period October 1956 to June 1969 are missing.

Would anyone who can assist with finding the missing Minutes please contact:

Fred Marsh, Chairman of the Royal Aero Club Trust and Vice President of the Royal Aero Club, 106 Rivermead Court, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3SB. Tel: 020 7736 3309

Email: [marshfromlondon@btinternet.com](mailto:marshfromlondon@btinternet.com)

For further information about the Royal Aero Club archives, see the Trust website at [www.royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org)

### ***Flying through snow***

Chris Nicholson is writing a book on the effect of various kinds of weather on flying. He would like to talk to any pilot who has experience of flying through a snowstorm. Please call him on 01747 828698 if you are interested in helping him.

**RENEWAL OF ROYAL AERO CLUB  
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Please note that Individual Membership entitles you to

- A quarterly newsletter
- The right to use the premises of the Royal Aeronautical Society, its library, bar, dining and sitting room facilities at its London base at 4 Hamilton Place, London, W1J 7BQ, on production of your Royal Aero Club membership card
- The opportunity to make nominations for winners of the Royal Aero Club's prestigious awards and to attend the Awards Ceremony each year
- The right to wear the Royal Aero Club's tie and badge
- The knowledge that you are contributing to the fight to maintain the freedom of the sky for yourself and all recreational and sporting pilots

I apply for my Individual Membership of the Royal Aero Club to be renewed for the year 2007 and agree to abide by such rules and regulations as may be in force from time to time.

\*\* Please send me a Royal Aero Club tie.

(\*\* delete as inapplicable)

Annual Subscription due	£ 16.00
Royal Aero Club tie	£ <u>7.00</u>
Cheque enclosed	£ <u>          </u>

SIGNED ..... DATE .....

NAME (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE) .....

ADDRESS .....

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Please return this form to: Mrs Diana King, Royal Aero Club, Radford Barn, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1UT.

Any enquiries to this address or to

Tel +44 (0) 1926 332713

Fax +44 (0) 1926 335206

email [secretary@royalaeroclub.org](mailto:secretary@royalaeroclub.org)

**ROYAL AERO CLUB**  
**ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES AND AWARDS**  
**AT ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB, 128 PICCADILLY, LONDON,**  
**ON TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2007 at 1800 for 1830 hours**  
**ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY**

I would like to buy ..... tickets at £35 each.

N.B. Tickets for children between the ages of 11 and 16 are half the full price. We regret that this event is not suitable for children under 10 years old.

I would like to buy ..... tickets at £17.50 each.

I enclose a cheque payable to the Royal Aero Club for £.....

The names of those attending are: .....

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NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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Email .....

Telephone: .....

Please return this form to:

Mrs Diana King, Royal Aero Club, Radford Barn, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa,  
Warwickshire, CV31 1UT.

Please note that a refund of half the ticket price may be made in the event of a ticket being cancelled up to one week before the event. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we regret that no refund will be possible if a ticket is cancelled within one week of the event.