

# 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

### Winter 2007/8

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Dear Members

I was recently asked to summarise the essential aim of the Royal Aero Club. I replied that it was to use air sports as a means of bringing aviators together nationally and internationally to promote recreational aviation and make friends. There may be better descriptions, but I am not unhappy with mine.

In 1909 when the Aero Club, the Aeronautical Society and the Aerial League allocated themselves roles, the Aero Club was defined as 'the paramount body in all matters of sport and the development of aeronautics'. Despite the passing of almost a century, sport and the development of aeronautics remain our primary activities but, while only a select few win the medals and achieve fame, every sports aviator wins friends at home and around the world.

I must admit I rather like the concept of sport aviators as developers of aeronautics. This year's Britannia Trophy recipient will be John Williams who flew 1540 km (that's 831 nautical miles) without landing and, more to the point, without a motor, for John is a member of the British Gliding Association. He broke the previous UK record by over 50%, which certainly constitutes the development of aeronautics. I say John flew without a motor but it would be more correct to say he broke the record without one, as his self-launching glider is of a revolutionary electric-powered design.

On the subject of trophy winners, this year's Breguet Trophy recipients will be Jennifer Murray and Colin

*Photo by Bell Helicopter*



*Jennifer Murray & Colin Bodill, 2007 Breguet Trophy winners*



*John Williams of the BGA, 2007 Britannia Trophy winner*

Bodill who flew around the world via the two poles in a helicopter. This achievement was all the more remarkable in that in 2003 they crashed near the South Pole on their first attempt. Their eventual success illustrates two attributes essential in those who are to develop aeronautics; courage and persistence, qualities Jennifer and Colin undoubtedly have in abundance.

This year marks the centenary of the first powered flight on British soil by Samuel Franklin Cody, winner incidentally of the RAeC Silver Medal in 1911 and the RAeC Diploma in 1912. This year I also expect some British aviators will further develop aeronautics with their feats of skill, courage and persistence. While they do so, the rest of us will simply make aviating friends. Not so remarkable, perhaps, but equally important.

Have a great time developing aeronautics and making aviating friends in 2008.

Keith Negal  
Chairman

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership subscriptions for Individual Members expired on 31 Dec 2007 and are due for renewal from 1 Jan 2008. The subscription is unchanged at £16 for 2008.

If you pay by Standing Order, your membership card 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 Thursday 3 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.

### ***Email contacts***

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter and other communications by email? If even a proportion of our members were happy to receive information by email rather than hard copy, we would be able to save a significant amount in postage and stationery. If you would like to sign up for emails, please send a note to [secretary@royalaeroclub.org](mailto:secretary@royalaeroclub.org) with your email address, name and membership number. Individual members signing up for email are likely to receive more frequent information in the future, as we would be able to add them to our regular mailing lists for general information.

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

Congratulations to:

**Jennifer Murray and Colin Bodill**, who have circumnavigated the globe from pole to pole by helicopter and set two new speed records on the way.

The circumnavigation was done between 6 December 2006 and 24 May 2007. Jennifer and Colin covered 32,000 nautical miles in the 171-day journey across the globe, stopping 101 times to refuel. Their achievement was made all the more notable by the fact that they both suffered serious injuries after crashing into an Antarctic ice shelf on a previous attempt in 2003.

Several **British skydivers** were part of the team that set a new 100-way canopy formation world record in Florida last November. Congratulations to Gav McLeod, Ian Marshall, Maria Russell, Martin

Robiette, Paul Speller and Doug Preston, who were all part of the team.

**John Smyth**, Chairman of the BPA, who is an Inspector with the Metropolitan Police, has been honoured with the MVO – Member of the Royal Victorian Order – for services to royalty protection.

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## **ROYAL AERO CLUB AWARDS**

We are pleased to say that the decisions on awards for 2007 have been made and presentations will be made at a ceremony in 2008. The date will be decided in the next couple of months and all members will be informed of the details.

Awards for 2007 are

The Britannia Trophy	John Williams
Prince of Wales Cup	British Women's Gliding Team
Gold Medal	Derek Piggott
Silver Medals	Robert Grimwood Pete Harvey David Hempleman-Adams
Bronze Medals -	Martin Fardell Lesley Gale John Glossop

Royal Aero Club Diploma 2007 - Jack Harrison (otherwise known as 'Weatherjack')

Royal Aero Club Certificates of Merit

John Blackmore  
Julie Fisher  
Keith Lomax  
Derek Platt  
Jane Wilson

Breguet Trophy - Jennifer Murray & Colin Bodill

President's Rolex Trophy Daniel Billam

Old & Bold Trophy Jim O'Donnell

Nexus Trophy Michael Bird

Certificate of Appreciation Richard Crabtree

Companion of the RAeC Vijaypat Singhania

Ann Welch Memorial Award Graham Phipps

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS**

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

The Air League Educational Trust offers flying scholarships to be flown in the summer of 2008. The awards are for 12-15 hours flying instruction. Air Cadets are eligible for a number of special awards.

Selection will be based on a formal application and, after short-listing, either an interview at the Trust's London office or on aptitude tests and interview at RAF Cranwell around Easter 2008.

The competition is open to young people permanently resident in the UK who will have reached their 17th but not their 26th birthday on 1 April 2008.

Closing date for completed application forms is 31 January 2008.

Application forms can be obtained from [scholarships@airleague.co.uk](mailto:scholarships@airleague.co.uk).

The Air League also 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 is the end of January.

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

### ***Royal Aero Club Trust Flying Bursaries for 2008***

A reminder that applications for the Royal Aero Club Trust bursaries for the calendar year 2008 may be made up to 31 March 2008.

See the Royal Aero Club Trust web site, [www.royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org) for full details, rules and an application form.

### ***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 2008. Closing dates are early April, with the exception of the JOC scholarship, for which the closing date is mid July. Details are on the GAPAN website at <http://www.gapan.org/> and application forms will also be available on the website by late January.

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. Application Forms will become available during 2008 with an autumn closing date for receipt of applications.

### ***FAI***

The UK delegate for the newly established Commission for Airspace and Navigation is to be John Brady, with Ian Strachan as his alternate. John is the Vice-Chairman of the Light Aircraft Association (formerly the Popular Flying Association) and has a particular interest in regulatory matters and airspace. Ian is a glider pilot with significant relevant experience in the British Gliding Association, RAeC and FAI.

Concern has been expressed both in the UK and internationally at the FAI's intention to introduce a database of all Sporting Licence holders, which is intended to provide information to competition organisers and also provide a mechanism for some nations to manage their Sporting Licence database through an FAI online system. Several of the RAeC's member associations and associations in other countries are worried at the very extensive nature of the data being recorded and the cost and other implications of this development. The RAeC will be discussing this further with other national airport clubs and with the FAI.

### ***Young Artists Contest***

A reminder that the 2008 FAI Young Artists contest focuses on the theme of Aviation Stamps. Young people are invited to design their own aviation stamp to express in a painting their aviation experience, their dreams for flying, to evoke the excitement of flight or celebrate aviation achievements in their country. The rules and the interpretation of the theme are on the FAI website at <http://www.fai.org/education/contests/artists/>. UK entries should be sent to the Light Aircraft Association by 31 January 2008. Further details of the UK Contest are on the RAeC website at <http://www.royalaeroclub.org/>.

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### ***EUROPE***

The proposal to extend EASA's competence to licensing and operations has passed through the Transport Committee of the European Parliament and is expected to have its second reading in January. If the proposals are approved, it is expected that EASA will publish proposals for pilot licensing in the first quarter of 2008.

Responses to the Part M (continuing maintenance) consultation were received in November. Many responses were critical, but not sufficiently to change Part M significantly. However the implementation date is likely to be delayed. MDM.032, a working group on which David Roberts, the RAeC Vice Chairman, sits, is now proposing a Part M (Light) for aircraft under 2000 kg. Part 66 (Engineers' licences) are being developed for Light Aircraft Pilot

Licence (LAPL) aircraft up to 2 tonnes.

The main ANPA (Advance Notice of Proposed Amendment) from MDM.032 was published last year and the responses to it have now been published. The NPA for European Light Aircraft process will be due for publication soon. The RAeC Council and our representatives in Europe are hoping that there will be some alleviation of the complexity of requirements.

Draft Implementing Rules will shortly be reviewed for Licensing for LAPL.

On the operations front, EASA are seen to be pursuing their own view, which may be at odds with the view of the representatives of sporting and recreational pilots. The critical point will be the distinction between commercial and non-commercial operations. We are hoping that there will be approval for aircraft up to 2 tonnes to be able to be designed without a Design Organisation Approval.

The latest Europe Air Sports newsletter is available on their website at <http://www.europe-airports.fai.org/node/357#attachments>

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## **UK REGULATION AND TECHNICAL ISSUES**

The Secretary of State for Transport has instituted an independent review of the CAA, to be led by Sir Joseph Pilling. The General Aviation Alliance, which works in close liaison with the Royal Aero Club, will be submitting a statement.

The Pre Budget Report announced that air passenger duty will be replaced, for environmental reasons, by a per plane duty from November 2009. A formal consultation document will be published soon. This proposal would affect any aircraft taking off in the UK, but exemptions are being considered on pragmatic, economic and financial grounds. Some organisations, including the Light Aircraft Association (formerly known as the PFA) and the British Business and General Aviation Association, have been called in for discussions.

The General Aviation Alliance is hoping to have a meeting with Sir Joseph Pilling and the Parliamentary Aviators Group regarding these two items.

The third consultation meeting on inter-operability (i.e. transponders and similar equipment) was hosted by the BGA in December and the CAA is to publish up to date plans. These will include proposals for Transponder Mandatory Zones. The experts working on behalf of recreational pilots take the view that the proposals are complicated and not sufficiently thought out. The RAeC Council is also concerned at developments on ADS-B, which would represent a further cost in addition to Mode S.

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## **SAFETY MATTERS**

### **CAA Safety Evenings**

CAA Safety Evenings continue throughout the winter. The full programme is listed 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\\_gasil4of2007.pdf](http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gad_gasil4of2007.pdf)

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## **EVENTS AND SHOWS**

FIFAC, The International Festival of Aeronautic Film, will be held in Chateauroux in France, from 14th to 18th May 2008. The event will take place at Marcel Dassault's airport.

The programme includes projection of above ground movies, (air force, aircraft, and athletic aviation) in front of renowned examiners; performances, competitions, an art exhibition, an atelier (work-group) for children, and a panel of different animations.

The Festival has three central awards:

- The FIFAC award: for long and short movies
- The CONCORDE award: for literature
- The NIKEPHOROS award: for photographs

More details are at the website: <http://www.fifac.net/>

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Newsletter edited by Diana King. Please send items for future Newsletters to Royal Aero Club, Radford Barn, Radford Semele, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1UT or to [secretary@royalaeroclub.org](mailto:secretary@royalaeroclub.org).

For further information on any items contained in this Newsletter, please contact Diana King at the RAeC Office address or on (Tel) 01926 332713 or (Fax) 01926 335206

**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 2008 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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If you would like to receive newsletters and other information by email, please add your email address .....

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)

Please note – if you are paying by Standing Order – Ignore this reminder – but please note the annual fee is £16 and amend your Standing Order if necessary