

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



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I am delighted to have been elected as your chairman. I hope I can provide the leadership necessary for an historic institution that is, amongst other roles, the focal point for recognising the achievements of air sports pilots in the UK and indeed wider afield.

In this age of ultra safety consciousness, driven largely by a collective political will to control every aspect of our lives, it is refreshing to find so many people meeting the challenges of exploring the air with ever increasing performance. The Royal Aero Club, with its collection of historic and wonderful trophies, is the guardian of the tradition of celebrating the achievements of men and women, young and not so young, who rise to those challenges and leave us often standing in awe of the flights they have made, or the work they have done behind the scenes to support air sports. The forthcoming annual Awards event, on 2nd July in London, is the time when we recognise those who have achieved so much during 2007. I therefore urge you to make the time to come and celebrate the award winners and invite your friends – perhaps those who do not necessarily know much about air sports but who would enjoy the occasion.

The world of civil aviation in Europe is undergoing significant regulatory change at present both in the UK and in particular in the Europe Community. Many of us have been and still are involved in influencing – or at least trying to – the outcomes of those changes through our involvement in our own air sport associations, in the GA Alliance which is a co-ordinating group for member associations of the RAeC and, at the European level, in Europe Air Sports. In early June EASA is due to publish the

proposed new rules for pilot licences, and here there will be opportunities for the air sport associations to take an active role in the new licensing regime.

My main role as your chairman will be, with the Council, to review what the RAeC does, what the opportunities for the future are, where it is going, and how it can help and support its member associations. The RAeC has an illustrious history but that is no guarantee of its future path. Collectively, the Council needs to address the future in a positive way so as to ensure the Club can play its part in ensuring the continuance of air sports in as free an environment as possible, given the external pressures on us all to operate safely.

David Roberts
Chairman

NEW TROPHY

The RAeC Council has agreed on the establishment of a new trophy, to be named the 'Alcock and Brown Trophy' to be awarded for the best aviation adventure of the preceding year.

The Norton Griffiths trophy (pictured), which has a history dating back to 1909, has been selected as a suitable trophy for the new presentations. Described as "An impressive work in solid silver, being an allegorical representation of an ancient galley, winged and with an owl mounted on its prow and on its stern a globe surmounted by Mercury", this cup has been awarded for a variety of speed and distance events over the last century.



ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Annual Awards Ceremony, when the awards for 2007 will be presented, will be held at the RAF Club on Wednesday 2 July.

We are pleased that Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison KCB CBE FRAeS RAF (Ret'd) will be attending our Awards Ceremony as the guest of honour and will be presenting the awards.

Sir John is the President of Europe Air Sports and also a Vice-President of the Royal Aero Club. We are delighted to have someone with such a close understanding of sporting aviation attending the event and know that he will make the occasion special for all award winners and their guests.

A booking form is attached to this Newsletter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Royal Aero Club's AGM was held in early April. David Roberts of the British Gliding Association was elected as the new Chairman, succeeding Keith Negal who stands down after two years.

David has been a glider pilot for almost 40 years and has been a keen competition pilot and organiser of major national competitions. He also enjoys regular visits to fly in other countries, particularly in the French Alps. BGA Chairman from 2000 to 2006 and now a Vice-President, David is the First Vice-President of the European Gliding Union.

David was Treasurer of Europe Air Sports until the recent AGM when he was again elected to the Board, with a brief to develop EAS's lobbying, negotiation and external representation capability, particularly in the European political sphere. He has been a member of several significant working groups in the UK and Europe, including the CAA's GA Strategic and Regulatory Reviews in 2005-06 and EASA's MDM.032 working group on regulation for non-complex aircraft, over the last two years. In 2007 David was awarded the BGA Gold medal, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale Tissandier Diploma and the Jeffrey Quill Medal of The Air League.

Ben Ellis of the British Aerobatic Association is the new RAeC Vice Chairman.

NEW BRITISH WORLD RECORD HOLDERS and OTHER HONOURS

Congratulations to our many winners of awards and honours:

Steve Wood, who has broken a staggering 26 world speed records, over a five day period in North America. Steve was flying a Glastar.

David Hempleman-Adams, whose trans-Atlantic flight last July set 5 new records. David was flying a Padel G-37, which is the smallest balloon ever used in an Atlantic crossing, and set four records in different size categories for the distance of 4,227 km. The flight time of 89 hours 20 minutes also set a new duration record.

The flight also won David the Best Performance Gas Ballooning award for 2007 from the FAI Ballooning Commission.

Michel Carnet set a new record in October of 63.8 kph with his Ozone Viper foot-launched Microlight, over a straight 15/25 km course.

In November, Michel was joined by David Smith to break two speed records in a Dudek Orca, the first being 37.4 kph over a straight 15/25 km course and the second 32.82 kph over a 50 km closed circuit.

John Williams, a glider pilot and winner of the Britannia Trophy for 2007, has received his FAI diploma for a 1,000 km closed circuit flight completed entirely in Scotland.

Congratulations also to Patrick Naegeli, the British Gliding Association Chairman, who has also been presented with a 1,000 km diploma following a flight in South Africa.

Derek Piggott, the veteran gliding instructor, has been awarded the FAI Lilienthal Medal for 2007, for his 55 years of service to gliding and his inspirational leadership in the field of gliding instruction.

The FAI Aeromodelling Commission has awarded the Antonov Aeromodelling Diploma to Paul Beard, for his work on spread spectrum radio and the introduction of the first commercially available 2.4Ghz Spektrum system, which kick-started the 2.4Ghz revolution for model use.

FAI

International Parachute Commission

John Smyth, the Chairman of the British Parachute Association, was elected as Vice President of the IPC at their recent annual meeting.

EUROPE

EFLEVA

The European Federation of Light, Experimental and Vintage Aircraft has been formed, to promote, support and to represent the interests of its member associations at the European level, in respect of all relevant regulatory matters.

It was formed at Vichy in July 2007, with the first full meeting held in October, where the officers were elected and the statutes approved. Roger Hopkinson, Chairman of the Light Aircraft Association, has been elected President. Associations from eleven EU countries have joined the Federation.

EASA

Regulation 1592/2002 has been extended and re-issued as 216/2008, incorporating licensing, operations and third country aircraft. The new regulation came into force in April 2008 and draft implementing rules are already under way. The RAeC will be active in responding to proposed new legislation as it develops.

UK REGULATION AND TECHNICAL ISSUES

Mode S

RAeC members have been active in responding to the latest consultation from the CAA on the introduction of Mode S transponders in new Transponder Mandatory Zones and other areas of airspace. The consultation closes at the end of May.

GASF

Following the strategic review of general aviation (GASR), Roger Hopkinson of the Light Aircraft Association is now Chairman of the General Aviation Strategic Forum.

SAFETY MATTERS

GASIL

The latest edition of the CAA General Aviation Safety newsletter, GASIL, is available for download from <http://www.caa.co.uk/gasil>.

LASORS

The 2008 version of the CAA publication LASORS (Licensing, Administration, and Standardisation; Operating Requirements and Safety) can be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.caa.co.uk/LASORS>.

Alternatively, you can obtain a hard copy from the Stationery Office (<http://www.tsoshop.co.uk>) at £14.99.

Military Civil Air Safety Day

The first Military Civil Air Safety Day (MCASD) of 2008 took place at RAF Lossiemouth on Thursday 29th May. The aim is to promote closer ties between General Aviation Pilots and MoD Aviation, focusing on the shared use of the lower airspace. A series of presentations throughout the day concerned local airspace issues, Airprox reporting and Distress & Diversion during the morning, and matters of interest to General Aviation in the afternoon. There may be further similar days later in the year and information is normally posted on the CAA website – see <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=224>

Airprox Report

The latest report of the UK Airprox Board (UKAB) has been published. It covers the 75 incidents reported by pilots and air traffic controllers between January and June 2007 that were subject to full investigation. The report is at <http://www.airproxboard.org.uk/docs/423/ukabbook18.pdf>

RA(T)s

Pilots are reminded that areas of temporary restricted airspace, RA(T)s, are established around the UK from time to time to accommodate special events, fast jet displays, military testing programmes, etc. During the spring and summer, the number of RA(T)s will increase and it is critically important that these are respected. The definitive listing is on the AIS web site at <http://www.ais.org.uk> and the latest information can be obtained from the AIS freephone number 0500 354 802.

Distress and Diversion

The new telephone number for D&D is 01489 612406. The service available on the VHF emergency frequency 121.5MHz remains unchanged.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial Garden Party and Flying Display

The RAeS Garden Party and Flying Display will take place at Shuttleworth (Old Warden) Aerodrome on Sunday 6 July 2008. The event will raise money for the RAeS Centenary Scholarship Fund, which is designed to offer financial help for people who have the ability but not the means to make their full contribution to the next century of aeronautics.

For information and tickets, call 01767 627 933.

2008 Sport and Leisure Aviation Show

The 2008 Sport and Leisure Aviation Show, organised by the British Microlight Aircraft Association and the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, will be held on 29th and 30th November at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Further details will be available as they are confirmed at the show website www.theflyingshow.co.uk

Centenary events

Plans are being developed by the RAeC and other organisations to celebrate the centenary of Blériot's Channel crossing in 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS

Royal Aero Club Trust

Jim Crocker has been elected as the Chairman of the RAeC Trust, taking over from Fred Marsh, who has recently retired from the position.

BingoLotto

BingoLotto is a new lottery and TV game which will be donating at least 20% from the sale of each £2 Lottery Gamecard to good causes in the UK.

The RAeC is one of the beneficiaries selected to receive funds through CCPR to help us develop air sports. The game will have a primetime Friday night slot on Virgin1 and Challenge and will provide interactive challenges for players as well as the chance to win a variety of prizes. The first series of BingoLotto has now finished, but Series 2 will start in the autumn. Tickets will be on sale from outlets around the country and will allow viewers to take part in the BingoLotto game from the comfort of their own homes, with a 1 in 9.5 chance of winning. The BingoLotto game has run in Sweden since 1991 where it has raised just under £1bn for charities and sports organisations. Gamecards will be available at over 10,000 retail outlets in the UK displaying the BingoLotto sign. For more information visit www.bingolotto.tv

Sports Councils

Several of the RAeC associations have received funding from the UK Sports Council to support their successful international teams. This funding is being withdrawn due to a concentration on the Olympic teams. However, Sport England is developing new policies which may be more favourable to air sports in the future.

Trial Flight Guides.

These short full colour, paperback guides have been produced by Pooleys especially for the individual who has purchased, or been given, a trial lesson in an aeroplane, helicopter or glider.

The guides aim to enhance wannabe pilots' trial flights by helping them to understand the basic theory, terminology and jargon before they set foot in the cockpit. Written in easy to understand English the books are aimed at the absolute beginner.

Pooleys is also offering flying clubs the opportunity to include their own logo on the cover of the Trial Flight Guide. This makes it an ideal gift when sold in addition to the trial flight package.

The aeroplane version costs £4.99 whilst the remaining two cost £6.00.

ROYAL AERO CLUB
ANNUAL PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES AND AWARDS
AT ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB, 128 PICCADILLY, LONDON,
ON WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 2008 at 1800 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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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.

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 the Royal Aero Club office will be closed for 2 weeks from 2 – 13 June. All tickets ordered during that time will be processed promptly when the office re-opens. Any queries during this period should be addressed to Debbie Carr on 0116 253 1051.