

# 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,



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## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

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### *LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN*

Flying seems able to get under a person's skin in a way that few other things can. It is perhaps for this reason that many of those involved in air sports are quite likely to be described as 'passionate' or 'obsessed' about what they do. It is also an environment that tends to attract a very wide cross-section of society and the professions. In any field, such a combination of commitment and expertise creates a highly potent set of capabilities that can be called on in a variety of ways. The ability of air sports to draw on a very broad base of highly skilled volunteers, quite prepared to devote significant time to helping at all levels, has been – and remains – vital to maintaining both the attractiveness and viability of sporting and recreational aviation in the UK. We owe a lot to all those that give generously of their time to help the rest of us.

Dr. Peter Saundby is one person that is worthy of particular appreciation – and has just been made a Companion of the Royal Aero Club in recognition of all that he has done



over a great many years. Peter's interest in gliding got him into air sports in the first place; his extensive experience and deep skills as a medical professional have enabled him to provide aviation medical advice to countless pilots from across air sport disciplines; and his ability to understand and communicate the role that medical risk factors do and do not play in sporting and recreational aviation has been key to arguing the 'corner' for appropriate medical standards for sporting pilots at both

national and European levels. That Peter has been doing all these things for many decades clearly shows that he has made helping all of us his life's work – something quite remarkable when one realises just how busy he has been in other respects.

During the course of his professional (as opposed to air sport volunteer) career, Peter held dual qualifications in the RAF as both a medical doctor and pilot - a 'day job' took him all over the world. As an aside, that he became interested in aviation ought not be a surprise – and might even be described as an inherited condition. His father, Air Marshal Sir Robert Saundby, became a military aviator with the Royal Flying Corps in 1916 – and was probably one of those that received their training from the Royal Aero Club – before a long and distinguished career in the RAF.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to single out one other long-term volunteer/stalwart of the air sport community in order to say a special 'thank you'. Diana King has been instrumental in the hugely important area of air sports development – in particular, airfield and environmental safeguarding, club management and development, and the liaison with external sporting representative bodies and regulators. I am conscious of the fact that the list of Diana's actual activities would need several more entries were it to be anywhere close to complete. The editor of the RAeC Newsletter, however, tends to impose strict word limits on my copy and so is likely to cut things out were I to try and do it full justice. Having said that, I should point out that Diana has also been the editor of the RAeC newsletter for some time – though she has now decided to make another attempt to 'escape' and has asked that we begin the search for her successor. Whilst Dave Phipps and I begin the search for a new editor – something that should not take us more than three or four years to complete – we'd like to express our gratitude to Diana for everything that she has done for the Club over the years.

We can never have too many people like Peter or Diana working on our behalves. We are faced with a wide range of issues that demand careful, often highly technical scrutiny; the development of intricate responses; and constant engagement with others. These take an enormous amount of mostly volunteer time and energy. Every indication is that we will need to expend increasing amounts of time in the future.

The recent Europe Air Sports annual conference gave us an insight into the sorts of challenge that we will have to pay more attention to, including areas that have never previously been the subject of the attention of aviation regulators. The slow development of the commercial UAV sector has been rapidly accelerated by the take-up of drones that appeal to both commercial and recreational users. As a consequence, model flying is now being drawn into the heart of the debate about the planned regulations that will be applied to all drones.



Dave Phipps, RAeC Secretary and BMFA CEO, is part of the leadership team of the recently formed European Model Flying Union. Expect to hear more from Dave over the coming months, as this relatively new line of air sport activity develops a head of steam.

Much of what I have written about has concerned the volunteers that work tirelessly across air sports. The RAeC will be acknowledging the work of many of them, and the sporting achievements of others involved in sporting and recreational aviation at its annual Awards ceremony in May. I look forward to highlighting some of those in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, happy aviating.

Patrick Naegeli, Chairman

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## ***INTERNATIONAL RECORDS***

Two new records to report in this issue, flown by two pilots who flew the same route to set an identical speed record in matching aircraft. Congratulations to Douglas R. Cairns and Karl Beetson, who flew on 15 July 2016 from Denham (UK) to Valetta in Malta in their two Van's RV-4s at a speed of 165.1 kph. Congratulations on a triumph of co-ordination as well as speed!

## ***INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS***

At the World Gliding Championship held at Benalla in Australia in January, Russell Cheetham took gold in the Open Class, with a lead of just 13 points out of a total of 6,562 over second-placed Michael Sommer of Germany. Andrew Davis, a former double World Gliding Champion, took home the Open Class bronze. In the hotly contested 18 Metre Class, Mike Young won the bronze medal. The success of the whole team resulted in the award of the Team Gold medal to Great Britain. Congratulations to all.



*Russell Cheetham celebrating his win*

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## ***HONOURS AND AWARDS***

Many congratulations to David Hempleman-Adams, adventurer and hot air balloonist, who has been awarded the KCVO, Knight Commander of the Victorian Order, in the New Year's Honours list. This senior Order of Chivalry is a personal gift from the monarch, presented for personal service to the Queen or other members of the Royal Family.

Sir David has been a trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for ten years, having become involved some time after taking his Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards many years ago.

### ***Royal Aero Club awards 2016***

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

Howell & Co, Solicitors in Birmingham, have offered to sponsor the event. The firm joins long term sponsors Breitling UK and H. R. Jennings & Co. Ltd (insurance brokers) in supporting the Awards Ceremony. Many thanks to all our sponsors.

Awards will be presented to:

### ***The Britannia Trophy***

Steve Edwards, David Hempleman-Adams & Dr. Frederik Paulsen, nominated by RAeC/RAeC Trust

### ***Prince of Wales Cup***

2016 British Microlight Team nominated by BMAA

### ***Gold Medal***

Maj Tim Peake nominated by HCGB

### **Silver Medal**

David Joyce nominated by LAA



Jo Halman, nominated by BMFA, has long been known throughout the World for her extensive F2 (Control Line) knowledge and experience. During the past 36 years she has gained the respect of

competitors across many disciplines of aero modelling whilst working in senior organisational positions for both the BMFA and the FAI.

Lord Rotherwick nominated by LAA

Howard Torode nominated by BGA

Tom Hardie nominated by BGA

Jeremy James nominated by HCGB

Les Purfield nominated by BBAC

Michael Smith nominated by Anthony Smith

### **Bronze Medal**

Larry Bleaken nominated by BGA

David Bremner nominated by BMAA

Ian Dowsett nominated by BMFA

Maj Jennifer Buck nominated by BHPA

John Lovell nominated by BHPA

Luke Wolferstan-Bannister nominated by BMFA

Pete White nominated by LAA

Dean Fisher nominated by BPA

Robin Sleight MBE nominated by BMFA

Peter Crispin nominated by RAeC Trust

Charles Baker nominated by BAeA

### **Royal Aero Club Certificate of Merit**

Rusty Waughman & David Monks nominated by HCGB

Gliding Heritage Centre nominated by BGA

Alan Horsfield nominated by BHPA

Annabelle Burroughes nominated by LAA

Cliff Hawkins nominated by RRRRA

Graham Spicer nominated by BPA

John Bridge nominated by BGA

Mike Pearson nominated by BMAA

Oldham MAC nominated by BMFA

Peter Gray nominated by BGA

Richard Spreadbury nominated by BMFA

World Championships Organisers nominated by BMAA

Sue Allen nominated by BPA

### **Norton-Griffiths Challenge Trophy**

Patrick Elliot & Linda Walker nominated by LAA

### **The Breguet Trophy**

Bruno Guimbal nominated by HCGB

### **The President's Breitling Trophy**

Aaron Cole nominated by BMFA

Ercall Wood Students nominated by LAA (will receive a Breitling Certificate of recognition)

### **Old & Bold Trophy**

Roy Cross nominated by BGA

### **Nexus Aviation Journalist of the Year Trophy**

Pat Malone nominated by HCGB

### **Certificate of Appreciation**

Denys Shortt & Andrew Butt nominated by HCGB

Pete Smoothy nominated by LAA

### **Companion of the Royal Aero Club**

Dr Peter Saundby nominated by BGA



Lancaster bomber pilot 93 year old Flt Lt Russell "Rusty" Waughman AFC, DFC, Legion D'Honneur, RAF (rtd) with David Monks, Chairman of the HCGB, who flew a Robinson R22 in the 2016 Dawn to Dusk Challenge.

Their mission was to fly over every camp Rusty was based at whilst flying with 101 (Special Duties) Squadron. The highlight of the trip was the return to Ludford Magna, the first time Rusty had seen it from the air since the night before D-Day when he was bringing back a Lancaster bomber.

Rusty is the oldest holder of an FAI sporting licence in the world.

## ***FAI***

The FAI has announced a new strategic partnership with US asset management firm Noosphere Ventures.

FAI President Frits Brink and Secretary General Susanne Schödel signed the agreement, which names Noosphere as an FAI Global Technical Partner, in Dnipro, Ukraine, on 2 February 2017.

The first stage of the partnership will involve Noosphere developing a cutting edge competition and event management system to be used at the IWGA World Games in Wroclaw, Poland, in 2017.

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## ***REGULATORY MATTERS***

The CAA Information Bulletin on EASA Developments from January to March 2017 can be found [here](#).

A new All Party Parliamentary Group has been formed with a focus on the protection of airfields. The inaugural meeting was well supported and some of the objectives of the group included reversing the decision to allow airfields to be developed as brownfield sites and also to try and halt the sale of MOD airfields for development.

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## ***GENERAL NEWS and EVENTS***

### ***Safety***

This season's GASCo Safety evenings are still running until the end of April. Details of all the remaining events are at <http://www.gasco.org.uk/safety-evenings.aspx>

### ***Royal Aero Club Events and Council news***

A RAeC Conference will be arranged towards the end of the year, with a possible venue being the BMFA's new National Centre.

Some software has been purchased for the RAeC Website. It is intended that among other website contents, historic records information will be collated in a searchable PDF document.

RAF Centenary celebrations will take place in 2018 and the Royal Aero Club is planning its participation in the event.

On the basis of the last year's financial results and a new sponsor for the Awards Ceremony, the

Treasurer has proposed a budget with no increase in subscriptions for 2017.

The AGM will be held at 17.00 hrs on Thursday 13 July 2017 at the RAF Club.

As already mentioned, the Royal Aero Club is looking for a new editor for this newsletter. At present the newsletter is published quarterly with a length of approximately four pages. A small fee is paid for each issue. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the editor's role, please contact Dave Phipps on 0116 244 0028 or at [secretary@royalaeroclub.org](mailto:secretary@royalaeroclub.org).

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## ***MEMBERS***

### ***Royal Aero Club Trust celebrates £2,500 Gift from the Patron's Fund***

The RAeC Trust is celebrating after receiving a £2,500 gift from The Patron's Fund, the charitable fund set up to acknowledge the work of the charitable organisations for which The Queen acts as a Patron, on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

The gift will be used to support the RAeC Trust bursaries.

### ***BPA offices refurbishment***

Britain's youngest and oldest skydivers were in Leicester on 21 February to re-open the HQ of British Parachute Association (BPA), the home of British Skydiving. 16-year-old Matthew Stevens is the youngest, and 84-year-old Dilys Price OBE is not only Britain's oldest woman skydiver, but also the oldest female skydiver in the world. Matthew and Dilys were among the luminaries of the sport to re-open BPA's Glen Parva HQ after a £300,000 refurbishment.



*Dilys Price  
in action*

Martin Soulsby, Chair of BPA, said "I'm delighted with our new-look HQ. We've now got a great building to serve our members and staff in the years ahead as our exciting sport continues to develop."

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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