

## **Report of the 25th AGM of the British Aerobatic Association**

Minutes of the BAeA Annual General Meeting held at the Aviator Hotel, Sywell Airfield on Saturday 29th January 2000

After welcoming the members, who braved the blustery conditions to attend the AGM (including two members who had flown in!) Chairman, Ben Ellis asked those present to agree and approve the minutes of the 1999 AGM.

### **Chairman's Report for 1999 from Ben Ellis**

This is the 25th AGM since the founding of the BAeA on 1st May 1974; during this time the strength in all levels of competition from Beginners to Unlimited has continued to improve. The Association is dedicated to making the best competition environment it possibly can. However safety is our prime concern, first and last.

On the International scene three teams represented us abroad this year, the World Gliding championships in Austria, the Advanced World Championships in the Czech Republic and the European Unlimited Championship in Spain. All team members were to be congratulated on their participation, in particular the Advanced team which came home with the bronze team medal.

The 1999 season started with the one design glider competition at Dunstable followed by the Icicle Event at Leicester. There followed two events in Wales, Welshpool in the north and the South Wales Open at Swansea in May. June weather was unkind to us at Sleaford, where low cloud restricted pilots to one flight each. However, whilst some of us were out of the country, July produced a better performance for what was evidently a most enjoyable experience at Fenland. On our return this was followed by the first part of our National Championships here at Sywell, in what some have described as the most perfect conditions ever remembered. August saw Compton Abbas and the second part of the Nationals at Conington, with the third and final glider event at Saltby, then up-country to Sherburn for the late season bash.

The year saw changes to the Committee, with Nick Buckenham standing down as Chairman and Eric Marsh from the Vice-Chairman's post. Tom Cassells and I replaced them as Vice Chairman and Chairman. Steve Green will be standing down as Treasurer to concentrate on judging matters; we will soon be voting to elect a new committee member to look after the finances. Thank you to Nick for all his hard work over the past years, a lot of which was unseen, we hope to continue to build on his success.

Membership continues to be strong with many people having rejoined already this year. The current membership is 147, of which there are: 106 Full Members 25 Associate members 14 Glider members 2 corporate members

The Aerobatics News Review continues to maintain an extremely high standard of presentation of our activities, thanks to Editor Tony Lloyd, Producer Julie Wood and Publisher Sarah Williams

Complementary to the journal is our website, which Nick Buckenham has entirely revised to produce something that he and we can be proud of. Our thanks to Gareth Roberts for the pioneering work he has done on the site over the past few years and to Rick Cardwell for his support. Going to [www.aerobatics.org.uk](http://www.aerobatics.org.uk) will access the new website.

Another Internet initiative comes from Tim Shears who has set up our own exploder site where we can exchange news, views and much more.

Alan Cassidy's report on the CIVA meeting has appeared in the ANR, there were not many changes to report as many of the proposals had been around for so long. There will be some changes in the pipeline for judging. Steve Green hopes to become involved in judge's development as well as judging at contests. Diana Britten has expressed some views' and it is hoped that we will be able to put some of these ideas into practice, which will further improve our judging line-up.

### **Treasurer's Report for 1999**

Steve Green began his presentation of the 1999 accounts by informing the members that there are two sets of accounts produced 1 set for Company House, the other for the membership, both with the same end result.

1999 was a good year with a £3000 surplus. This was due in part to being able to run a full competition calendar. Capital investment was made in a new laptop computer and a Fax machine. More medals were cast, to give us sufficient to last for two years. The Association has replenished the resources depleted in 1997 by poor weather during the competition season. The income from subscriptions has remained fairly static at around £8000 each year; the income was supplemented by interest of about £370 in 1999. The cost of publishing of the journal represents a significant part of the annual subscription income. The total cost for the production of the journal was £5,500, with each journal approximately £2.50. Advertising charges were increased at the end of 1999 to generate income to partially offset printing costs; this revenue is set to increase in the coming year.

Contest revenue was £9,700, a significant rise in 1999, reflecting the large entry at most competitions and the influence of the weather! Competition costs rose slightly, but only by £1,000 and this was largely reflected in the investment in medals £550, replacement radio batteries £200, and in final settlement of the 1998 Irish competition £500. Other costs included the competition insurance £1924 and the Nationals at Sywell £700.

International competitions cost the Association £100, incurred whilst transferring entry fees on behalf of team members. The cost of sending our delegate to the CIVA conference was £180. There was a very slight increase in administration costs, but only a small amount of our income is spent on administration, The AGM in 1999 cost £200, the insurance of the trophies rose by £50 to £420, the purchase of the laptop was £1,632, fees were £1077 and administration charges were £1,725. Payments to GASCO and the Royal Aero Club were £200 and £58~t; the Internet cost £294 and the Auditors fee was £450.

The cash position of the Association was £15,800 in December 1999 against £12,000 in January. It was suggested that there should be no increase in membership or competition entry fees. Also recommended were reimbursements of modest expenses to all contest officials (i.e. CD., Judges, and Scorer.) It was suggested that £35 per night would be the maximum that could be claimed, supported by receipts. The high cost of trophy insurance was discussed, with the suggestion that the audit should be dropped, but that we should continue with the insurance.

The members present approved the accounts. Regulation by an auditor was not felt to be necessary, as the incoming treasurer Patrick Rushmore is a Chartered Accountant. Steve Green felt that an audit was favourable for the membership to know where their money was being spent. The decision to reappoint the auditor was to be deferred until it was possible to discuss the matter with Patrick. In the event of the auditor not being re-appointed Alan Gulliver, also an accountant, would check' the accounts. It was agreed by all present that the need to have an outside audit should be reviewed every year.

### **Election of BAeA Officers**

There were three places vacant on the committee, due to officers having served their three-year term. Nominations were received for Ben Ellis, Ray Stoward, Stephen Lewis, Patrick Margetson-Rushmore and Steve Green. John Gilbert declined to stand for re-election due to pressure of work and Steve Green stood down so that he might pursue his interest in judging. Following the elections the Committee for 2000 comprised:

Ben Ellis -	Chairman
Tom Cassells -	Vice-chairman
Alan Cassidy -	Head of contest organisation
Patrick Margetson-Rushmore -	Treasurer
Eric Marsh -	Keeper of Trophies
Nick Buckenham -	Web-site
Gareth Roberts -	Public Relations
Ray Stoward -	Glider Representative
Martin Sandford -	Points Tables etc.,

Members co-opted to assist the committee were:

Steve Green -	Judging Co-ordinator
Tony Lloyd -	Journal Editor
Nick Wakefield -	Company Secretary
Stephen Lewis -	Gliding
Jen Buckenham -	Membership Secretary

### **Presentation of Awards**

Ben Ellis requested that James Black, first chairman of the Association, present the awards.

Standard Level Tiger Club International Trophy to Marcus Hill  
Marcus Norman Trophy to Mike Caskey  
Intermediate Level Swinstead Trophy to Gary Ferriman  
Advanced Level Manx Kelly Trophy to Nick Buckenham  
Cessna Acrobat Trophy to Marcus Hill  
Len Perry Memorial Trophy to Tom Cassells  
Chipmunk Trophy to Frank Bird  
Judge of the Year to Steve Green  
Contest Director of the Year to Ray Stoward  
Pitts Trophy to Gary Ferriman  
Shaggy Cow Trophy to Nick Buckenham

Ben Ellis presented Alan Cassidy with his FAI silver medal in recognition of gaining Team second place at the first Advanced World Acrobatic Championship in South Africa 1994. Medals would also be presented to Mark Jefferies and Nigel Lamb at an appropriate occasion during the year.

### **The Prospects for 2000**

During the 1999 season there was a large standard entry at competitions, but at some the pilots were only able to fly once. Minor changes are to be made to the competition format for the coming year to enable Standard pilots to fly twice: Welshpool and Sleaford are to be for standard level pilots only. Intermediate pilots will have slightly less events than last year, 6 including Waterford. Compton Abbas will be only for beginners, standard and intermediate, with all levels competing at the final meeting of the season at Sherburn in Elmet.

International competitions in 2000 include the World Championship at Muret, France, the Advanced World Acrobatic Championships in Germany and the Glider Championship in Salon de Provence, France. The Spanish based competition in June has now been cancelled, as has the Coupe d'Anjou. All were looking forward to a busy and exciting year.

### **Open Discussion**

Following a request from Pete Pengilly, Martin Sandford described the formula that he would be using for the cumulative points tables; points are awarded for each sequence flown (excluding Q programmes and a maximum of 80% of the total number of sequences can be counted towards the points trophies. It was announced that there would be two new trophies to be awarded at the next AGM. The Extra Trophy, presented by Anthony Hutton of ExtrAviation for contest flying in Extra aircraft, and the Golden Frog Trophy to be presented by Martin Sandford and awarded to the most successful pilot flying a French built aircraft. 'here was an open discussion on the benefits of having a marshaller at competitions, the general consensus being that the presence of a marshaller made it less stressful for pilots and hastened the 'flow'. It was suggested that more pilots should make themselves available to assist in ground duties, as the Association has to rely heavily on volunteers; it was mooted that we might take a leaf out of the American book, where pilots are given a designated task when they register to compete. The possibility of obtaining a BAeA open radio channel is to be further pursued, to reduce conflict with local airfield radio channels.

Adrian Howe asked what should be done about trophies that became damaged, and was advised either to contact Eric Marsh or to attempt DIY! Members were reminded that it was their responsibility to have the trophies engraved.

There was a very lively discussion to seek a resolution to the problem of pilots other than beginners flying with a safety pilot. Opinions varied, many feeling that it should be allowed to give pilots experience, others that pilots competing should be signed off for solo flight. Members who had flown as safety pilots whilst competing found it exhausting, and of no personal advantage. It was suggested, but not approved that the 'safety pilot' should not compete, but it was agreed that he/she should not fly at the same level as the person they were accompanying. It was also suggested that pilots should be put on the insurance of similar aircraft, and finally that the current convention should remain and that the CD should be the adjudicator.

Nick Onn suggested that CIVA rules be used for 'international' competitions, which would mean the soft zero and hard zero (HZ) - an entirely BAeA adoption – should be avoided.

The union flag taken surreptitiously from the Advanced Team whilst competing in the Czech Republic by the American team last year had been returned to the BAeA. This year it is the turn of the British team to return to the UK with US flags!

Nick Wakefield suggested that airfields should have a memento of competitions, and said that Tim Shears is willing to prepare a suitable document for presentation at no charge, on the proviso that there should be a small logo advertising his company. A vote for sponsorship was carried and should be reviewed at the next ACM.

John Gilbert invited power pilots to attend the 50th birthday celebrations of Lasham Airfield on 25th June. There would be no landing fee, but visiting pilots were asked to give a display.

Alan Cassidy, answering a question from Pete Pengilly on proposed rule changes at CIVA, said that amongst proposals was one from the USA to remove gender from unlimited competition, which it

was hoped would increase the number of team members overall. At International Competition under FAI sanction 10% of the entry fee goes to CIVA; this system is unfair as the income is variable and CIVA cannot budget; AC to propose fixed rate of the entry fee in dollars to go to CIVA. Dealing with protests made during international competition is to be speeded up as this can affect the order of flight. The Advanced Free programmes are to have more choice of rolling circles, and there are some proposed figure changes. It is hoped that performance limitation rules are to be revised for advanced level, and a formula has been devised to allow new aircraft into the system.

Nick Buckenham talked about revamping the web-site, to include a medical page; content material is being sought from members. Medical references that are advisory and personal are being sought for inclusion on the site. Members with e-mail addresses were automatically included on the BAeA Exploder, but they could remove themselves from the list if they wished.

The meeting concluded with Ben Ellis thanking all members for taking the time to attend the AGM and wishing them all well during the coming season.