

Report of the 31st AGM of the British Aerobatic Association

The 31st AGM was held on Saturday 14th January 2006 at the Aviator Hotel, Sywell, Northamptonshire

Amongst those attending were Nick and Jen Buckenham, Chris Cain, Cindy Copsey, Tom Cassells, Kester Scrope, Martin Sandford, Judi Jones, Dick Happs, Ray Stoward, Graham Saw, Mark Erlund, Andy Cunningham, Charles Kirk, Ian Scott, Julie Wood, John Wicks, Ed Harding, Simon Abbott, Rob Howarth, Peter Rounce, David Jenkins, Lukas van Vuuren, Steve Carver, Gary Ferriman, Paul Tomlinson, Kathy Heathfield, Lynne Westnage, Ian Trask, Eric Marsh, John Vize, Robert Tinkler, Nigel Arthur, Corinne Dennis, Clive Butler, Mark Davis, Richard Buchan and Caroline Bois.

Apologies had been received from Mike Newbound, Stewart Otterburn, Howard Fawkes, Gerald Cooper, Julian Murfitt, Simon Janvrin, Nick Wakefield, Ron Jubb, John Paulson, Colin Short, Anne Sandford, Jim Duthie and Cas Smith.

Chairmans Address

This, my last address to you as Chairman of our Association, will be brief. The reason for this, as you can see from the Agenda, is that we have a large amount of business to get through and I have no desire to hold up proceedings.

However, there are a few things from last year that are deserving of some mention. Once again, I believe that we had a most successful year, unfortunately tinged with tragedy. As you all know, sadly Mark Walden lost his life at White Waltham and we all miss him very much. Our International community lost 2 Unlimited pilots, Martha Meyer and Jean-Michel Delorme, also to tragic accidents, the latter having huge implications for the future of the Unlimited sport, with the grounding of the CAP 232. I guess I ought also to mention the passing of Curtis Pitts, aged 89. Our movement would be a shadow of what it is today without his contribution.

More happily, our domestic competitions continue to go from strength to strength. Last night I was flicking through the pages of the last ANR and looking at all the happy smiling faces with medals round their necks. Certainly the contests I managed to get to were blessed with some lovely weather and super flying, what more can a chap ask for?

Most of the UK aerobatic community seem to have made it to Spain to give our team some moral (or immoral!) support and I, at least, was highly amused by Aidan Grimley's 'full and frank' account of his Advanced level outing. Our glider team found the trip to Moscow just too far out of reach, but we were represented on the judging line by Dick and Judi. There is loads more to say, but no time, so apologies if I've missed important bits out.

Now, the future. I am standing down as chair of our Association because I feel it will allow others who have a contribution to make to come through. I think that this is a very exciting time with some new ideas as to our organisation that you will have an opportunity to hear about in a few moments. I shall still want to come along to competitions and participate on the judging side; this has always been my passion – to watch aerobatics from the best seat in the house. I have also offered to continue as BAeA liaison to the Royal Aero Club and to the General Aviation Safety Council. I've had some excellent support in the past 7 years as Chair, though to be honest our volunteers are a highly self-motivated bunch and any hand I've had on the tiller has been pretty light.

So, it's Thanks -

- To everyone on the committee and the officers of the association who work so hard on your behalf
- To everyone who worked on the ground at our competitions, judging, assisting, running, scoring and taking video.
- Most especially to the pilots who flew in our competitions
- And lastly, but certainly not least, thank you to you all for your support and a great 7 years!

Approval of 2005 AGM Minutes

The minutes of the 30th AGM were approved by the members present by a show of hands.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Financial position pre-2005

Between 2001 and 2004 the BAeA made a total loss of £6.5k. Losses were made in 2001, 2003 and 2004. Over the same time competition income fell and membership numbers were reduced. The BAeA must protect its cash reserves to secure the long term future of the Association. In 2004 the committee decided that the financial position was not sustainable and membership fees were increased to generate more income.

Financial report 2005 season

The BAeA was profitable in 2005, with a £10K surplus and a Cash reserve of £22K at close of season.

This allows for £3.5K of monies spent in 2005 not shown in the audited accounts
Membership subscriptions rose due to an increase in fees, but the number of members had fallen. The competition income had risen as flying members were more active in 2005 than in 2004. There was a reduction in the income from advertising; this was due to the publication of fewer issues of the Aerobatic News Review.

Costs in 2005 were reduced by 30% compared with 2004. This was achieved by not having to purchase any medals, the lower cost of international flights; no expenses were paid to the team pilots and there was a great reduction in printing and production costs of both the ANR and the Contest Information Book.

Martin Sandford thanked Simon Abbott for monitoring the accounts. He said, briefly, that revenue was up, expenses were down and the balance had been restored.

The accounts were approved by the membership present at the AGM.

Training Bursaries 2005

Pilots who had performed well during the 2005 season will be awarded training bursaries in 2006 (subject to approval of the budget.) The bursary is conditional on the pilot competing in the nationals at a higher level. Once the pilot has competed they can submit a claim to the treasurer for reimbursement.

Power pilots eligible for the bursary are:

Standard 5	Intermediate 3	Advanced 1
Paul Tomlinson	Corinne Dennis	Gary Ferriman
David Jenkins	Colwyn Darlow	
Ian Smith	Neil Bigrigg	Clive Butler
Peter Rounce		Ron Allan
John Wicks	Mark Davies	John Dixon
	Simon Abbott	Dave Kaberry
Simon Janvrin	Richard Buchan	Tony Maxwell

Luke Goddard
Martin Hill

Alan Wood
David Cowden

Cas Smith
Eddie Goggins

For the first time this year training awards will be offered to glider pilots, the same rules apply.

Sports 1
Patrick Greer

Intermediate 1
Graham Saw

Mark Erlund
Brian Griffin
Caroline Bois
Charles Baker

Steve Jarvis
Mike Newbound
Malcolm Hodgson
Paul Watson

Pilots who do not wish to avail themselves of these awards are asked to let the committee know as soon as possible so that the next person in the list may be offered the bursary.

Election of Committee Members

There were three vacancies for Directors on the committee. Ben Ellis (Chairman) and Andy Cunningham (Glider Rep.) declined to stand for re-election; the other vacancy was due to the death of Mark Walden. Nomination had been received for Chris Cain, David Cowden and Ian Scott. These members were elected by a show of hands from the members present.

There was a short recess for the committee to elect a new Chairman, after which David Cowden introduced Alan Cassidy to the meeting as the newly appointed chairman of the BAeA.

Members and Directors
Nick Buckenham
Chris Cain
Tom Cassells
Alan Cassidy
David Cowden
Steve Green
Eric Marsh
Martin Sandford
Ian Scott

Appointed Members
Jen Buckenham
Gerald Cooper
Ben Ellis
Simon Janvrin
Judi Jones
Julian Murfitt
Anne Sandford
Nick Wakefield

Committee Structure for 2006

The Committee posts have been redefined based on the jobs that need to be done; there are three main areas of responsibility BAeA board management, General management and Contest management. It was felt to be important for the members to know 'who does what' so that they know who to approach.

Key Responsibilities - Board

Key Responsibilities – General Management

Key Responsibilities – Contest Management

Development Strategy

These are seen as the objectives of the association

- To encourage more people to participate at competitions
- To bring more beginners into the sport in both the power and gliding disciplines
- To provide pilots with a challenging, well organised competition programme

- To support the progression of current through the levels
- To raise judging standards through training and workshops
- To establish strong, well supported British Teams
- To publicise the BAeA and competition aerobatics
- To build strong links with international colleagues
- To provide funding for these activities

Aerobatic Foundation (BAeF)

The foundation was established by David Cowden, and has three trustee's; David Cowden, Alan Cassidy and Simon Janvrin. Its' purpose is to raise funds to directly support the core activities of the BAeA in promoting and developing the sport of aerobatics. The BAeF is independent of the BAeA and is not, nor will be funded by the BAeA. It is currently seeking charitable status.

Some donations have already been received and money will be used to fund scholarship training for younger pilots who could not be self-financing and to subsidise the preparation and training of current British teams.

Proposed Budget for 2006

The objectives of the proposed budget are to ensure that the BAeA core activities are profitable, to protect the cash reserves, to ensure long-term security, to protect the Association against worst case income loss (bad weather and reduced membership numbers in two successive years could expose the Association to a total loss of about £13K) and finally to support the development strategy.

The membership fee structure in 2005 provided enough income to ensure the Association operated profitably, but we must recruit new members in 2006, both pilots and volunteers to ensure its' continued success. Full power and glider pilots account for 94% of the subscription income and give the pilots substantial benefits; the subscription will remain unchanged in 2006. Associate membership is intended to encourage volunteers to become members, but the £50 fee was felt to be over-priced and it was recommended that the fee be reduced to £25. Corporate membership should promote aerobatic awareness, spread interest and drive the need for basic aerobatic training in aero clubs. The Association should use this membership grade to encourage new pilots to enter beginners' level competitions. The fee will be set at £100 per year and all local flying clubs are eligible, this will entitle the clubs members to free entry to all beginners' level competitions –subject to the usual pilot and aircraft conditions being met. The membership voted to approve the altered subscription rates for 2006.

- Income set to similar level as 2005
- Allowed for small drop-off in membership
- Average competition income
- LOOP sponsorship is new for 2006

Subscriptions	£14k
Contest Income	£11k
Sponsorship (LOOP)*	£2k
Other (incl. BAeF etc)	0.£7k
	£27.7k

- Core operational costs increased by 25% to allow for:
- New competitions (Classic & Yak 52)
- Judges Training
- Development of competition infrastructure

- Provision of medals

Development strategy funded from profits and cash reserves (optional expenditure)

Core Operational Costs	Optional Expenditure
£21.1K	£10.6K

£31.7K

International Team Funding

Contribution to cost of Team Trainer:

Unl Power	£500
Adv Power	£500
Unl Glider	£250 (if matched by BGA)

£31.7K

Team Managers entry to AWAC and EAC	£3K
Judges sent to AWAC, EAC and YAK 52	£1.4K

LOOP Publishing (UK) Ltd*

The meeting was informed that LOOP (a new publication) wished to establish a relationship with the BAeA in order to encourage more people into flying and into aerobatics in particular. The monthly publication, which is free to all GA pilots, is in a newspaper format which is fully funded through paid advertising by such firms as Garmin, Breitling and many other well-known names within the aeronautical industry.

- LOOP have agreed to sponsor the BAeA with a donation of £2000 for 2006, in return for reciprocal publicity material; and an announcement to this effect will appear in the February issue.
 - LOOP "aviation days", of which a minimum of four are planned for 2006, will include beginners style events. Their web-site is: www.loop.aero
- 2006 Budget Summary

- The budget ensures the core activities of the BAeA are profitable
 - Development expenditure will push the 2006 accounts into deficit – making a loss of £4K
 - Cash reserves would fall to between £18K (good weather) and £13K (bad weather)
- On a show of hands the budget for 2006 was approved.

Competition Calendar 2006

A full competition season has been planned, including

- AWAC Team Selection at Sandtoft (Icicle)
- Unlimited Nationals 2005 at Elvington
- Tiger Trophy with some glider involvement

There are two new competitions:

- Classic Aircraft Event at Leicester
- Yak 52 Competition at Brighton
- Invitations to Nordic Championships
- YAK, WAC, AWAC, EAC & EGAC Internationals
- Judging Programme including schools & workshops

Selection and Management of British Teams

Nick Buckenham has responsibility for the management of the British teams. This is to provide a central co-ordination of team logistics, promote a strong team ethic and to work with pilots to schedule a structured training programme.

Pilots selected to Team – the top four performing pilots (combined results from Elvington & Sywell 2005) who scored more than 65% overall

- Gary Ferriman
- Alan Cassidy
- Clive Butler
- Tim Jenkinson

The remaining team members will be selected based on their performance at Sandtoft (or Elvington if Sandtoft is rained off.)

Selection of the Unlimited team remains in the balance until the future of the CAP aircraft is known.

Fair Play System

CIVA commissioned a review of the competition analysis system during 2005.

This work was led by Alan Cassidy and the new system has been developed and approved by CIVA. Called the “Fair Play System” it uses well established statistical techniques to minimise bias within competition data, and replaces “unusual” scores with suitably adjusted values which ensures that all pilots are assessed on a fair basis. It also provides clear feedback on pilot and judging performance. FPS will be used at international competitions this year and the BAeA will implement FPS in 2007 via new Windows software.

Judge Training

A more extensive programme of judge training is planned for 2006. This will include judging schools, workshops, training during competition weekends and mentoring of newly trained judges.

Ian Scott, judging co-ordinator, will outline these plans in more detail in February.

The Aerobatic News Review

The ANR is now produced by Nick and Jen Buckenham and they will continue to produce 3 issues per year. New copy and photographs are essential for each issue, and the whole membership is asked to try to submit something for publication, whether it is reports, articles, comments, recipes, tips, sequences or photographs.

Review of the 2005 Season

For a change, it was not the weather that had the biggest influence on the total number of scheduled competition sequences flown, but the grounding of the CAP 232 fleet before the Senior Nationals. The weather did have some impact with Saltby and Compton Abbas completely wiped out. The Standard pilots had the best of it with all scheduled sequences flown, whilst Intermediate flew 85% and Advanced 73%. Unlimited flew only 40% because of the cancellation of their Nationals. With Saltby weathered off completely, the glider percentages ranged from 44% to 67% depending upon the class. Overall, 76% of the scheduled power sequences were flown and 52% of the glider sequences. The bare statistics are set out below. .

Power - Total Sequences including Waterford

Sequences planned	Sequences flown	Percentage flown	Countable Sequences
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Standard	12	12	100%	9
Standard Unknowns	7	7	100%	5
Intermediate	13	11	85%	8
Advanced	11	8	73%	6
Unlimited	10	4	40%	
Total:	46	35	76%	

Gliders

Sports	6	3	50%	
Intermediate	6	4	67%	
Unlimited	9	4	44%	
Totals:	21	11	52%	

Advanced set the countable sequences for the cross-level power tables, with 6. During the season 33 pilots competed at least once at Standard (compared with 37 in 2004, 34 in 2003 and 44 in 2002), 16 (2004-15, 2003-20, 2002-23) at Intermediate, 16 (2004-14, 2003-20, 2002-18) at Advanced and 5 (2004-7, 2003-6, 2002-5) at Unlimited. Eliminating duplication from those that flew at more than level, and those that flew only at Waterford, the aggregate number of competition pilots active in the UK amounts to 67 (2004-66, 2003-75, 2002-85).

Looking at the results themselves, the Tiger Club Trophy went to Paul Tomlinson with 257 points out of a possible 270. David Jenkins (254) and Ian Smith (252) were his closest rivals. Though tied with Ian Smith on 144 from a possible 150, Paul Tomlinson also took the Marcus Norman Trophy for Standard Unknowns due to his higher number of 'raw points', with David Jenkins just one point behind on Adjusted Points. At Intermediate, Corinne Dennis went from strength to strength to take the Swinstead Trophy with 239 points from a possible 240, chased all the way by Colwyn Darlow (237); Neil Bigrigg was third on 229. At Advanced, Gary Ferriman's clean sweep of the three sequences at the Nationals carried him well clear to his second successive Manx Kelly victory on 177 points from a possible 180. It was good to see Clive Butler in his first season at Advanced only 7 points behind and 'veteran' Ron Allan third on 157.

Two of the 'type' trophies were won by the only person to fly in that type in competition this year; Trevor Bailey in a Cessna Aerobat and Michael Burton in a Slingsby.

As ever, the competition for the Pitts trophy was intense, but 'Little Miss Pitts' recorded a perfect 180 to win from Paul Tomlinson and Neil Bigrigg, tied on 174. The competition for the Extra Trophy this year was obviously influenced by the cancellation of the Unlimited Nationals. Nevertheless, Gary Ferriman was a worthy winner on 177 out of a possible 180, ahead of Clive Butler on 170 and Simon Abbott on 166. The contest for the Golden Frog was the most seriously influenced by the grounding of the CAP 232 fleet, leaving the evergreen John Wicks to take it with 166 out of a possible 180 points. Tom Cassells and Gerald Cooper could only count 4 sequences to come second and third with 119 and 113 points respectively. Only two pilots flew Yaks during the year and Andrew Holman-West prevailed over Simon Cattlin, with 114 and 76 points respectively.

For Corinne Dennis to win the Swinstead and the Pitts Trophies was an excellent performance on stepping up to Intermediate and she achieved an average of 68%. The result for the chaps who do it without attached engines had to be drawn on the basis just of the Dan Smith and the Nationals. This puts Olav Schmidt on 29.75% at the head of the table, in front of Graham Saw, Patrick Greer and Steve Jarvis, all on 29.5%

Any changes to the rules for next season? I don't think so. The rules, as currently written, coped with some pretty unusual events this season, and the results continue to reward sustained quality flying. One could argue that the points tables results should be held over until 2006, when the substitute 2005 Unlimited Nationals may have been flown, but there is a precedent for NOT doing that in, if I remember correctly, 1999, when the Advanced and Unlimited Nationals were fogged off but the points trophies were awarded on the basis of the scheduled sequences flown. The only issue that the Committee may need to consider is whether or not to award the Glider Points Trophy to Olav Schmidt. My reading of the rules is that we present it to him if he comes to the AGM, but that we retain it.

The Award of Trophies

Tiger Club Trophy	Paul Tomlinson
Swinstead Trophy	Corinne Dennis
Glider Points Trophy	Olaf Schmidt
Slingsby Trophy	Michael Burton
Extra Trophy	Gary Ferriman
Shaggy Cow Trophy	Andrew Holman-West
Judge of the Year 2005	Brian Gleave
Chipmunk Trophy	Steve Green
Marcus Norman Trophy	Paul Tomlinson
Manx Kelly Trophy	Gary Ferriman
Cessna Aerobat Trophy	Trevor Bailey
Pitts Trophy	Corinne Dennis
Golden Frog Trophy	John Wicks
Diana Britten Graduate Trophy	Corinne Dennis
Contest Director of the Year 2005	Ben Ellis

David Jenkins proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for bringing the association back into financial stability and for organising the contest season.

Alan Cassidy announced that there was the opportunity for members to purchase a polo shirt embroidered with the BAeA logo during the coming year. Details will be circulated with the Contest Information Booklet, on the web and sent out with the ANR.

**Judi Jones asked if it would be possible to have BAeA car stickers, as in previous years. Alan asked her to research the possibility of getting some produced.

Steve Green thanked all the members present for coming and showing what the BAeA meant to them, he asked that they should endeavour to recruit more members for the association.

Nick Buckenham warmly welcomed Alan Cassidy to the post of Chairman and hoped that it was obvious to all present how much back-ground work had gone into the planning for the future of the BAeA.

There was no other business and the meeting closed.

** Ron Jubb, a glider member, has offered to print some decals for the BAeA soon, these will be free of charge. I will circulate them to the members with the next ANR.

JB