

BGA AWARDS IN 2019

BGA MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Instituted in 2004, the BGA Medal may be awarded to any individual serving the BGA or the broad interests of UK gliding who in the view of the BGA Executive Committee has rendered exceptional service to the British Gliding Association or to UK gliding.

Andy Miller – BGA Medal

Some ten years or so ago, the original EASA training and pilot licensing rules posed an enormous threat to the viability of volunteer-run gliding in the UK. Andy's tireless and dedicated efforts have been instrumental in ensuring that the BGA became fully aware of the detail of the challenges and potential solutions, in working with others within the EGU, CAA and EASA to recognise the need to develop change, and then in shaping, encouraging and in large part leading the implementation of those positive regulatory changes. Most glider pilots will remain blissfully unaware of the effort and insight deployed on their behalf over a long period of time! The BGA is extremely grateful for what has been almost full-time voluntary activity by Andy, which followed retirement from his distinguished RAF and then airline flying career.

The BGA also recognises Andy's decades of service as an instructor, coach and examiner at numerous RAFGSA clubs and his responsibilities at club and regional level. It's a measure of Andy's selfless approach that he continues to provide his experience and skills wherever needed. Andy's approach to all aspects of our sport and the enormous support he provides is truly exceptional.

John Williams - BGA Medal

The BGA Medal is awarded for exceptional service to gliding. John's tireless efforts as Airspace Committee chairman over recent years has resulted in a greater level of club engagement and awareness on the subject, and his insightful approach and ability to unravel and explain complex issues has ensured that all those involved are much better informed about the needs of gliding and has done much to ensure the BGA is accepted as a key stakeholder by regulators and Air Navigation Service Providers.

Over many years, John's pioneering cross-country adventures and record flights in Scotland have seriously explored and sometimes exceeded the art of what's possible in a glider! Given encouragement to do so, John has written gripping articles about some of his flights complete with incredible imagery. John's flying continues to be truly inspirational, has paved the way for others, and has put Scottish gliding firmly on the world stage. In his volunteering and flying, John epitomises the excellence and adventure of gliding.

BGA DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS

The BGA Diploma may be awarded to any individual serving a BGA club or the interests of UK gliding who has been nominated by a BGA club or by the BGA Executive Committee.

John Allan – Northumbria GC

John, 90 next year, has had an illustrious past in aviation. He is one of only a few remaining of the flight test crew who flew on the Concorde 002 prototype for the whole program and various forms of test flying after that. He spent many years teaching Air Cadets to glide and within BGA gliding has done just about everything too, holding all the ratings and positions over the years including CFI, Inspector, Tug Master and Chairman. John remains very active, contributing to the club, flying and racing around the airfield as well as some 40 years his junior!

Mick Boyden – Chilterns GC

Mick Boyden is a larger than life character with an infectious enthusiasm and seemingly boundless energy. He has starred in encouraging many of our younger members to pursue their love of gliding through the ab initio stages of training to solo and beyond. Raising the achievement bar on cross country flying and wave expeditions, he has led the way in expanding the experience levels of even the most qualified of pilots. As a result, the Royal Air Force Gliding and Soaring Association Chilterns Gliding Club has had its most successful period of FAI Badge claims for many years. A club manned entirely by volunteers, Mick Boydon has fulfilled his regular duty instructor commitment and taken on the demanding role of Aircraft Member and organised enthusiastic work parties to tackle an extensive maintenance programme. This has helped to sow the seeds of potential inspectors which are essential for the future sustainability of gliding. An instructor who has dedicated his life to gliding over many years, Mick's influence and drive is undiminished and inspires all members of the Chilterns Gliding Club, regardless of age and experience.

Hugh Brookes - Meteorologist

Hugh has given years of selfless service and support to the gliding community in the vitally important role of providing accurate competition soaring forecasts. The quality of met analysis and weather forecasting has clearly been a key component in ensuring that UK competitions have been able to set tasks that make the very best of the notoriously fickle UK weather, keep tasks safe in weather that might otherwise have been risky or unduly demanding, and importantly, get the best out of competition pilots

Hugh is one of the most approachable, amiable experts that one could have the pleasure to meet. He is always willing to help people and with a remarkable ability to convey the most complex of topics in the most understandable of ways.

Richard Cole – Yorkshire GC

Richard Cole started gliding as an Air Cadet and went solo in 1964 aged 16. He became an Air Cadet Instructor in 1968 when he also gained his Silver C. Dick was CFI at RAFGSA GC from 1972 to 1976.

From 1974 to 1976 he was CFI at RAFGSA Cranwell and became the RAFGSA Competitions Member. He next moved to RAFGSA Cleveland's GC from 1976 to 1979 after which he was posted to Germany where he was Senior Regional Examiner from 1979 to 1982. Dick then returned to the UK and from 1982 to 1985, he flew at RAFGSA Bannerdown. After a tour in Canada Dick returned to the UK and to RAFGSA Disforth where he was CFI from 1989 to 1996. He was also appointed RAFGSA Operations Director and served as Deputy Chairman at Cleveland's GC. Dick was a member of the RAFGSA Team Condor display team who performed at numerous major air displays.

After a long and distinguished career as a fighter pilot and QFI, Dick retired from the RAF in 2003. He continued to tow, glide and instruct at Disforth and then Sutton Bank where he also worked as a staff instructor and was CFI. From 2007 to 2009 Dick was the Senior Regional Examiner for the North East. He also held several board roles at the Yorkshire Gliding Club and critically has led the Eurofox project at Sutton Bank which has seen enormous benefits in terms of operating costs. Throughout this period Dick has been a keen competition pilot competing in regional, nation and overseas national competitions. Naturally he has all three Diamonds. In addition to all this Dick has been a BGA Accident investigator, a tough job but one that contributes greatly to our sport and our reputation. Dick has amassed some 4000 hours of instructing.

Tom Docherty – Scottish GC

Tom's love of gliding has now extended to 69 of his 85 years. Going solo at 16 he helped lead the way in Scottish cross-country gliding by being the first to do a Gold C distance flight from Scotland into England. Tom is also one of the select few to have crossed the English Channel in a glider. Another notable long-distance flight from Portmoak was Tom reaching the English south coast. In addition to his soaring achievements, Tom also played a significant part in securing the long-term future of the SGU not only in his role as Chairman but in other committee and flying roles. Our gliding community greatly appreciate the stalwart support that he has always given to gliding throughout his lifetime.

Peter Gill – Staffordshire GC

Peter has been the mainstay of the Staffordshire Gliding club for the last 35 years. An amazing engineer, gifted pilot, talented instructor, as well as being able to turn his hand to any role required to promote club activities. Peter began gliding in 1974 at the Long Mynd. In the early 80's following a job change he joined Staffordshire Gliding Club. He soon became a full cat instructor, and his background in education made him a very effective as did his quiet, calm disposition and patience. Peter was instrumental in finding the Staffordshire clubs' present site at Seighford to which the club moved in 1992. Without this move, the club almost certainly would not have survived. The club owes its continued existence to him. As well as stints as CFI, Peter is also an inspector and has been the mainstay of the clubs engineering and airworthiness needs.

Z Goudie – Scottish GC

Z was an instructor and tug pilot for many years and was club Chairman first in the 80's and then early 90s when he saved the club from going bust by taking drastic action on costs to balance the books. He has been constantly involved in projects and mostly the prime mover in getting things done around the airfield for two decades, taking the lead on groundworks and building projects. He personally planned and implemented bringing the full area of the field into landable condition and

led several airfield drainage projects all of which are still functioning today. Recently he has been keeping the field in tip top condition spending his time mowing the field, slitting it and keeping all the mowing equipment working.

Z regularly completes 300km and 500km flights in his Discus and is often leading the SGU ladder in the “hot wings” group. At 75, he’s still showing us how to do it!

Jim Hammerton – Southdown GC

Jim is a professional aircraft engineer who has served the gliding community faithfully for over 20 years. Whilst he has no interest in piloting, he has continuously supported our endeavours both as BGA CTO and in direct support of the Southdown GC glider and tug fleet. He has been a central source of advice pertaining to tug aircraft. During his time as CTO, during which he won high respect from UK CAA, Jim was directly involved in securing and maintaining freedoms during a turbulent period of regulatory change.

Albert Newberry – Yorkshire GC

Albert Newberry started gliding in 1957 at Newcastle Gliding Club and became an instructor in 1962. He was a committee member of the Newcastle Club from 1975 to 1985 and was also CFI from 1983 to 1985. In 1972 Albert also became tug pilot and in 1985 he also became a motor glider instructor. In 1988 Albert moved to the Yorkshire Gliding Club (YGC) at Sutton Bank. He served on the YGC Board from 1990 to 1992. Albert achieved his Silver C in 1964 and his Gold Badge in 2005. He also has a Diamond Height (2004). Albert has over 6,000 hours off which 3,500 are in gliders and of those around 2,000 hours are instructing. Even after his 57 years instructing Albert is still on the rota as both an instructor and tug pilot at Sutton Bank.

Tim Newport-Peace – Lasham GS

For many years, Tim has hosted the BGA Waypoint List on his Specialist Systems website from where it's downloaded by thousands of glider pilots every year. Tim is also well-known for his own electronic airspace format and gladly shares his technical expertise worldwide in several similar areas of the sport.

Bob Pursey – Cambridge GC

For over 25 years of scoring National, Regional and Cloud Rallies for Cambridge Gliding Club from the age of interpreting photographic images to that of micro-chip trackers using a variety of software languages. Bob has mastered them all. He routinely produces the earliest daily competition results and supplies Competition Directors with the evidence to support these if they are challenged by competitors. A true professional and invaluable member of the CGC Competition Team.

Veronique Russell – London GC

Veronique recently retired after 20 years in the voluntary role of Editor of the London Gliding Club Newsletter. Our newsletter is published 6 times a year, printed and distributed to all members and is also available to the public through our website. As well as news of activities at the club, the newsletter includes useful information such as duty rotas and briefings from our CFI and safety officer, information on forthcoming events, and lots of interesting and often humorous articles about the life at the club, always generously illustrated by great photography. The newsletter is an essential part of life at the London Gliding Club.

As well as editing the newsletter, for more than 20 years Veronique has acted as secretary of the Dunstable Regionals competition, and for national competitions held at Dunstable. She brings to both roles the same good-hearted efficiency that manages to make the work look easy, despite the pressures of publishing deadlines and competition administration.

Garry Shaw – Dorset GC

Garry joined DGC in 1976 and has been a stalwart supporter ever since. It quickly became clear that Garry was willing to give up his time on a regular basis for club activities, and his contribution over many years has been pivotal to the club's running. Poor health has meant that Garry has not flown since 2008, however this has not diminished his enthusiasm. Although partially paralysed in his left leg, whatever the weather he is at the club every weekend of the year making sure that all the jobs are carried out that have little obvious kudos and are easily overlooked but without which the club would fail to exist.

Garry designed and oversaw the building of our new clubhouse and then procured the furnishings and fittings which make it the attractive and pleasant place it is today. He is very positive towards gliding in general, keen to see the club flourish and, as chairman of the social committee. Garry may not at first sight appear to be a typical champion of our sport, but he is one of the 'unsung heroes' of gliding who quietly behind the scenes makes a very important contribution to ensuring the success of the Dorset GC.

Dick Skerry – Lincolnshire GC

Dick has been a member of Lincolnshire GC for 36 years and CFI for over 20 years. Throughout those 20 years as CFI, Dick has been the mainstay of the Lincolnshire GC, ensuring the flying operation at Strubby airfield is safe, successful and delivering a flow of newly skilled pilots. Dick's love of soaring and teaching pilots is coupled with a keen eye on making sure the gliders we fly are well looked after and that they are flown with care. His 1996 S&G article describing a difficult day in the life of a club two-seat glider is as accurate now as it was then!

Ian Strachan – Lasham GS

Ian set up the first BGA Waypoint List 25 years ago and has maintained that list ever since, is finally taking a well-earned retirement this year. Most of us simply download the TP file without ever thinking of the complexity or time involved. As well as maintaining the Waypoint List, Ian has for many years been Chairman of GFAC, the IGC's technical group on Flight Recorder Approvals and was instrumental in setting up the system for approval of flight recorders.

Barry Thomas – Dorset GC

Barry is the longest serving member of Dorset Gliding Club having joined in the 1960s. He has always been a keen pilot and by the mid-1970s had become an instructor. He is a very practical man and a very capable engineer who soon applied his skills to glider maintenance. He went on to become qualified as a BGA inspector and in this capacity has made a big contribution to gliding in Dorset. In a club run entirely on a voluntary basis, Barry's contribution has been invaluable. His time at DGC has been pivotal to the club's success and a measure of this is that in over 50 years of membership he has very competently served as CFI, tug-master and treasurer. Now in his eighties but still flying,

Barry continues to contribute to the DGC with his regular presence in the workshop where he tirelessly strives to keep the club's fleet of gliders in the air. It is often said that the club is Barry's second home!

For all his achievements, Barry is an unassuming man, willing to chat about flying with anyone who is interested, and who quietly works in the background to ensure that our aircraft are kept in the best possible condition so that members can enjoy their flying.

Barry Walker – Bristol and Gloucester GC

Barry Walker took up gliding when he joined the Bristol & Gloucestershire Gliding Club "BGGC" in the 1960s. He became Chairman of BGGC in 1986 and served continuously as Chairman for many years. He was never one to seek the limelight and was often a reluctant public speaker, but his leadership was effective and decisive and during his time as Chairman a considerable number of changes and improvements were implemented to the airfield, buildings and club fleet. During the 1960s he made several personal loans to the club to help it overcome cash flow problems. He has owned a few aircraft which have been made available to BGGC and other clubs as back-up tugs and the arrangement continues today with the both his Eurofox and Super Cub based at Nympsfield. He recently sold his Arcus and no longer flies gliders regularly, but he is a regular visitor and fiercely loyal to BGGC and continues to support the club in every way he can.

OTHER BGA AWARDS

Bill Scull Safety Award

Mid-air collisions have killed 33 UK glider pilots since 1975. Almost all mid-air glider collisions are with another glider, and they mainly happen in the dynamic situations in thermals and around airfields, where other gliders can be hidden from sight behind the glider structure. In 2004, three Swiss glider pilots applied their engineering expertise to design a system that would alert pilots about an imminent collision and give an indication of the direction in which the threat lay. Today, most of the active UK glider fleet carries the FLARM system that they invented; we have had no glider-glider collisions since 2014 - the first time that there have been four such years in a row; and there has only ever been one collision between FLARM-equipped gliders.

Having invented the FLARM system and designed the first devices, Urs, Andrea and Urban continued to develop the system to improve its performance, adapt its behaviour for competitions, add functionality to measure antenna performance and find lost gliders and, although not used in the UK, to build in an obstacle database. New versions allowed multiple antennas for better coverage, and detection of powered aircraft equipped with transponders or ADS-B. FLARM's complex path-prediction algorithms mean that it remains the only collision-alerting system that is effective in the close manoeuvring situations such as thermals in which gliders spend so much time.

For devising, manufacturing, sustaining and continuing to develop this exceptional safety system, which has helped prevent collisions and save glider pilots' lives across Europe, Urs, Andrea and Urban are deserving recipients of the Bill Scull safety award.

The Saundby Sword

Dr Peter Saundby has served gliding for at least 50 years. In addition to providing support in a variety of club and association roles, Peter has used his vast aeromedical knowledge and experience to great effect to inform and freely advise and support pilots, clubs, associations and regulators. Peter, who is currently unwell, has always been a great advocate of improving safety. He has very generously donated a ceremonial sword, issued to his father in 1926, to be used as a safety award to be presented periodically by the BGA to a deserving BGA club. Peter's father, Air Marshal Saundby served in the RAF from the end of WW1 to his retirement in 1946. During his time as an RAF flying instructor, Air Marshal Saundby actively promoted improvements to flight safety. It was agreed that the 'Saundby Sword' will be presented to the BGA at the conference on 2nd March 2019.

Hayward Aviation BGA Instructor of the Year award - Steve Lambourne

Steve Lambourne is a longstanding Full Rated and MG instructor at the Bath, Wilts & North Dorset Gliding Club who is seriously dedicated to his trainees, the club, and gliding. His professional outlook and ready smile make him an effective and approachable instructor who gets the very best out of his pupils. He regularly does twice the club average instruction.

As a weekday flying prime mover, he initiates, organises, supervises, instructs - and flies the tug. Time and again he puts club flying above his own, despite unfinished business with a 500k! For years, Steve has organised and lectured in club theoretical knowledge programmes, including with other local clubs. If all this were not enough, as a hard-working committee member, he undertakes a number of projects and tasks, including the introduction of a bookable flying lesson system. Steve's 'extra mile' is not only metaphorical - his round trip to go gliding is more than 100miles!