

AOPA honours high achievers



Above: Instructor of the Year Luke Hall gets his trophy from George Done as Martin Robinson looks on

AOPA's biannual awards for Achievement and Endeavour for 2011 were presented at the AOPA Bonus Day at Duxford on September 10th. They recognise people in general aviation who have made a special contribution during the previous two years.

The **Lennox-Boyd Trophy** is awarded to a person, club, group or organisation who has contributed significantly to the furtherance of general aviation, flight training, club flying or piloting standards. The trophy is a cup in a special presentation box that was originally given to the Association of British Aero Clubs by the late Rt Hon Alan Lennox-Boyd PC CH MP (subsequently Viscount Boyd of Merton) in 1953.

It went to *Alan Cassidy* MBE. Alan is known throughout the GA community in the UK and beyond for his dedication to



Alan Cassidy has been working on changes to the AOPA Aerobatics Certificate

and promotion of aerobatics. He has won the British National Aerobatic Championship on four occasions and has

taken part as a member of the British Aerobatic Team in seven World Championship competitions. He is well known as an instructor and writer of articles in the aviation press, and was made an MBE for his services to aerobatics. He has collaborated with AOPA to

introduce changes to the long-standing basic AOPA Aerobatics Certificate in order to provide a better introduction to more advanced competition aerobatics. Alan was at the World Aerobatics Championships in Italy at the time of the presentation, and a special handover ceremony will be arranged when he gets back.



Caroline Gough Cooper accepted an award on behalf of the BWPA

An **AOPA Special Award** goes to a person who, or organisation that, has made a special contribution to safety, customer care, or other area of general aviation. The year's winner was the *British Women Pilots' Association*. The BWPA was formed in 1955 in order to help women participate in aviation. As well as encouraging women to fly, the BWPA organises flying trips in the UK and Europe, runs training courses and holds

Right: Douglas Cairns (at front) awaits his turn to pick up his Individual Achievement award

local and national events, and generally promotes the voice and opinions of women pilots and others in aviation. Fundraising activities provide the basis for flying scholarships and bursaries, and the association actively promotes the AOPA Wings Scheme. The award was accepted on behalf of the BWPA by its chairman, Caroline Gough-Cooper.

Best Aerodrome. This goes to the aerodrome that has been an outstanding place to visit, offering value for money and helpful service, and this year's winner was *Andrewsfield in Essex*.

The citation reads: "Andrewsfield, at the south-eastern corner of the Stansted zone, epitomises the typical GA airfield. It is a grass aerodrome based on an originally



Carol Cooper takes the 'best aerodrome' trophy for Andrewsfield

much larger military airfield established for the USAF in 1942, then named Andrews Field, as is the case for many such airfields in the USA, after air power pioneer Lieutenant General Frank Andrews. Following a period of neglect after the end of the war, a 3000 foot grass strip was established for light aircraft, with a clubhouse in 1975 for the Andrewsfield Flying Club. It is the base for many privately owned aircraft, and flight training remains a significant activity. Visitors always receive a warm welcome at Andrewsfield."

The award was received on the airfield's behalf by Carol Cooper, the Chief Flying Instructor, who has flown some 20,000 hours, almost all of them instructing at Andrewsfield.

Right: Hayward Aviation's Matthew Day takes the 'contribution to the community' award



Contribution to the Community. This is awarded to a person or organisation who has made an outstanding contribution to the aviation community, and it went to *Hayward Aviation*. The citation says: "Hayward Aviation Ltd is the largest specialist

aviation insurance broker in the UK, and provides cover for nearly all helicopters and well over half of all light aircraft on the UK register. The company is a keen promoter of flight safety and provides a representative to sit on GASCO, the General Aviation Safety Council. The company has



launched, in collaboration with QBE European Operations, a 'Fly Smart Safety Campaign', which has led to a range of safety awareness posters encouraging pilots to 'stop and think' about some of the most basic risks of flying before they leave the ground." Marketing Director Matthew Day

collected the award on the company's behalf.

The **Individual Merit** award goes to a pilot or individual who has made an



Cambridge Aero Club. He gained his PPL at the Club in the late 1990s, joined as an instructor in 2001 and was appointed CFI in 2006. During his tenure as CFI he has managed the replacement of the existing C152 fleet with C172s and the

introduction of aerobatic training in, initially, a Slingsby T67 260M and, more recently, an Extra EA200; the latter also being used for tailwheel conversions. It is thought that this may have been the first instance of the use of this relatively high performance aircraft for initial aerobatics and tailwheel conversion training and good results

excellent safety record, and his staff and club members enjoy the relaxed but professional atmosphere he engenders in both flying and related activities and during club social events. His enthusiasm and dedication in these difficult times for flying clubs is a splendid example to the community."

Finally, there was the **Friend of AOPA** award, which goes to a person or persons who has or have made a special contribution towards the work of AOPA. The recipient was *Alan Evans*.

His citation read: "Alan Evans is one of the team of Air Traffic Controllers at Duxford, and is the main driving force that are events focussed on safety for pilots to attend, ideally by flying in weather permitting. Alan is a qualified pilot and aircraft owner and is a Class Rating Instructor. He has been a key member of the small group of AOPA members that organised the AOPA Bonus Day in September 2010 and is organising a repeat event in 2011. Alan's knowledge of and contacts with the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, have proved invaluable, and his drive and enthusiasm exceptional."



A diabetic pilot with an FAA ticket flies to the North Pole to prove that diabetics are safe in the air. Pat Malone reports.

Diabetes no bar to safe flight

The UK-based general aviation pilot who flew to the North Pole to prove that diabetics are safe in the air, Pat Malone reports. The flight was a triumph for the pilot, who has Type 1 diabetes, and for the FAA, which has issued a new regulation allowing pilots with diabetes to fly. Malone, who has been flying since 1980, was the first pilot to fly to the North Pole with diabetes. He flew a Beech Baron to the North Pole in 2007, and returned in 2008. Malone's flight was a triumph for the pilot, who has Type 1 diabetes, and for the FAA, which has issued a new regulation allowing pilots with diabetes to fly. Malone, who has been flying since 1980, was the first pilot to fly to the North Pole with diabetes. He flew a Beech Baron to the North Pole in 2007, and returned in 2008.

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Above: Pilots with Diabetes founder Douglas Cairns, who flew to the North Pole

outstanding aviation achievement, and the winner was *Douglas Cairns*. As readers of this magazine will know from the articles we have run on his achievements, Douglas Cairns is a pilot with Type 1 diabetes, of which there are some 540 in the USA and 18 in the UK flying on NPPLs. The citation reads: "Douglas was one of the founders of Pilots with Diabetes and demonstrated the viability of such pilots with a record-breaking flight to the North Pole and back in April in an N-registered Beech Baron on his FAA licence. This epic flight and the extra in-flight checks required by the medical condition are described in an article in the August 2011 issue of *General Aviation*."

Instructor of the Year is awarded, as the name suggests, to an instructor who has made a special contribution to the training of student pilots for the PPL or NPPL, or to private pilots for added qualifications. The winner was *Luke Hall*.

Luke is the Chief Flying Instructor of the

club member in 'beginner level' aerobatics competitions over the last few years have underlined its success.

His citation goes on to say: "Throughout the period, Luke has maintained an

Below: Duxford's Alan Evans gets his 'Friend of AOPA' from George Done

