

RAeS Gliding Scholarships - Briefing Document

About the Awards

The awards, which are funded by the Centennial Scholarship Fund of the Royal Aeronautical Society, are available to young pre-solo glider pilots and to young people wishing to take up the sport.

A total of 40 scholarships, each of £150 may be granted. These will be awarded in two tranches: 15 in early 2004 and the remaining 25 in mid 2004. If there are fewer than 15 applications of suitable quality made during the first round, any unawarded scholarships will be carried over to the second round.

Each award will be made to the student's club and will be credited to their flying account to be used solely for flying fees.

About the Royal Aeronautical Society

The Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) is the oldest and most prestigious learned society in the world for professionals working in aviation and related spheres of activity. Founded in 1866 it played a major role as a scientific forum for concepts and experimental work in the years leading up to the first manned flight and its archives include much personal correspondence with the Wrights themselves.

The Royal Aeronautical Society is "the one multidisciplinary professional institution dedicated to the global aerospace community". The RAeS is the world's only professional body which caters for the entire aerospace community.

Indeed, the RAeS is justifiably proud of its members' range of disciplines, not just engineers and pilots, but also doctors, legal specialists, bankers, air traffic controllers, cabin crew, marketers, journalists, etc. Anybody who is a professional within the aerospace industry can belong to the RAeS and indeed many of them do. The aerospace industry is global and The Royal Aeronautical Society reflects this. Although centred in the United Kingdom, it has members in almost 100 countries worldwide.

Why is the RAeS Making These Awards?

2003 is the centennial of powered flight. On 17 December 1903 the brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright made a controlled flight with an aircraft under its own power at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina and thus made aviation history.

The Society was the first to recognise the validity of the Wright's claims to have made the first manned flight (claims which were opposed by other American interests). As a result of this, the Wright flyer was originally displayed in the Science Museum in South Kensington up to the outbreak of World War II.

A major contributor to the Wright's success was the lengthy series of trials, which they undertook with full scale gliders in the two years preceding their success in December 1903. This flying not only enabled them to acquire a satisfactory standard of piloting skills but most importantly produced the flight test information which enabled them to develop a practical method of three axis control which was the key to opening up the possibility of man carrying flight.

In making this award from their Centennial Scholarship fund the RAeS recognises not only the important part which gliding has played in the history of aviation but the promise which it brings to the younger pilot as we now enter the second century of flight.

Sponsors

The Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial Scholarship Fund has been made possible by the generosity and commitment to the future of aeronautics by a number of firms and individuals. They have all done so in the belief that new challenges exist for the future and that individuals are important in the search for new solutions.

Their support and the generous donations that they have provided are gratefully acknowledged.

The principal sponsors of the Fund are:

Award Administration

The Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial Scholarship Fund Gliding Scholarships are administered by the British Gliding Association. All questions regarding the scholarships should be addressed to the BGA at:

British Gliding Association
Kimberley House
Vaughan Way
Leicester
LE1 4SE

Tel 0116 253 1051
Email bga@gliding.co.uk

Who is Eligible for an Award?

Awards will be open to applicants who meet the following criteria:

- Aged between 15 years and 17 years old at time of application
- In full time education
- A member of a BGA club at the time of application or agrees to become a member if an award is made
- Has not yet flown solo in a glider

How Many Awards Are Available?

A total of up to 40 scholarships, each of up to £150 may be granted. These will be awarded in two tranches: 15 in early 2004 and the remaining 25 in mid 2004. If there are fewer than 15 applications of suitable quality made during the first round, any unawarded scholarships will be carried over to the second round.

How Will the Recipients be Selected?

Each applicant will be required to fill in an application form, available from their local gliding club or directly from the BGA.

These will be assessed by a BGA panel and the most worthy applications will be selected. Assessment will be based solely on the information contained in the application form and the BGA's decision will be final.

What are the Deadlines for Application?

Awards will be made according to the following timetable.

28 th February 04	Deadline for applications (tranche 1)
31 st March 04	Awards made (tranche 1)
31 st May 04	Deadline for applications (tranche 2)
30 th June 04	Awards made (tranche 2)

Applications must be received by the BGA office by each deadline for consideration. Applications received after the 28th February will be considered in the second round of applications.

How Will the Awards be Made?

Successful applicants will be notified by post. Their nominated gliding club (see application form) will also be notified.

A cheque for £150 will be sent in respect of each successful applicant to their nominated gliding club. This will be credited to the applicant's flying account to be used for the sole purpose of paying flying fees. The scholarship funds will not be paid directly to the applicant under any circumstances.

In the event that the £150 is not taken up in full by the successful applicant then the balance of the credit remaining will be re-paid to the BGA.

What will £150 Flying Credit Provide?

This will vary from club to club, depending on their fee structure and whether they have a cadet scheme running in parallel with these scholarships.

However, £150 will typically provide approximately 25 instructional flights from a winch launch or 8 longer flights from an aero tow. These will get the new pilot well on the way to flying solo. The scholarship funds will enable pilots who have already soloed to get a long way down the track to their bronze badge and the challenges of cross country flying.

Applicants who have already flown solo in a glider at the time of their application will be ineligible for an award since they are intended to assist new or aspiring pilots to engage with the sport.

About Gliding

Gliding is the ultimate free flying experience. It is a truly diverse sport that can be enjoyed at all levels: from the thriving club scene, to aerobatics, to the international racing competitions, currently dominated by British pilots (with two current World Champions).

More information, including a list of BGA affiliated clubs can be found at www.gliding.co.uk.

Terms & Conditions

1. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements for the scholarships:
 - Aged between 15 years and 17 years old at time of application
 - In full time education
 - Have not yet flown solo in a glider
2. Applicants must either be a member of the BGA affiliated gliding club nominated on their application or undertake to join this club immediately that any scholarship award is confirmed. Applicants with initial gliding experience are eligible unless they have already flown solo in a glider.
3. Awards are made by a decision of British Gliding Association (BGA). The BGA's decision on any award shall be final and there is no appeal procedure.
4. The BGA will make its decision based upon the statements presented by the Applicant. In the event that the Applicant shall, in the judgement of the BGA, be found to have deliberately misled the BGA it may terminate any award made without any compensation of any kind being payable.
5. The BGA will not be liable to meet any costs incurred by the Applicant in submitting to the requirements of the Panel for information.
6. Applications not received by the BGA by the relevant closing date will not be considered for the corresponding award round. Applications received after the Tranche 1 deadline will be considered for Tranche 2 awards. No late applications received after May 31st 2004 will be considered.
7. All awards are made on the condition that the award winner may be required to submit a report to the BGA upon completion of the activity for which the award was made. The form of the report will be advised at the time of the offer.
8. Neither the BGA nor the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) will have any liability for the conduct of the gliding operations undertaken at the nominated club to which the scholarship relates.
9. Successful applicants agree to their name and photographs being used in any publicity material, at the discretion of the BGA and the RAeS.