

**Royal Aeronautical Society
Centennial Scholarship Fund Gliding Scholarships**



BRIEFING DOCUMENT

Administered by the British Gliding Association



British Gliding Association

About the Awards

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

A total of 20 scholarships, each of £150, may be awarded. Awards will be made on 31st March 2009.

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.

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 31 March 2009
- 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 20 scholarships, each of up to £150 may be granted. These will be awarded on 31 March 2009.

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?

Applications must be received by the BGA office by 28 February 2009 for consideration.

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 20 instructional flights from a winch launch or 7 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 are close to solo standard 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). Three of the last four World Junior Champions have been British (2001 – Jay Rebbeck; 2003 – Jez Hood; 2005 – Mark Parker).

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 31 March 2009
 - 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.
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.

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 Wright brothers.

Today, 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 was the centennial of powered flight and, in recognition of this milestone, the RAeS set up their Centennial Scholarship Fund. The aim of the fund is to give financial assistance to those who have the ability and determination to make a significant contribution to the second century of powered flight but lack the means to do so. In particular, the fund aims to help individuals struggling to complete aerospace-related studies and groups or organisations aiming to promote aerospace and engineering study and careers to young people.

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 in 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:

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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:

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