

# **BWPA Awards 2016**

## **BWPA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**

### **RECIPIENT:**

#### **Dame Carolyn McCall**

Dame Carolyn McCall is the CEO of easyJet and this year saw the launch of their Amy Johnson Flying Initiative, which has raised awareness and encouraged more women to consider a career in commercial flying. Carolyn has actively supported and encouraged easyJet pilots to become involved with outreach work with young people in schools, providing visible role models and hosting training days for female pilots wishing to become involved in this work.

#### **Marie Banks**

Marie has organised the last three 'Women's Ballooning Weekends', a successful annual event which aims to encourage more women and young people into ballooning and raises the profile of women in aviation of all kinds.

## **BRABAZON CUP**

### **RECIPIENT: Emily Collett**

Emily learnt to fly at the age of 17. In 2007 she began competing and won the National Aerobatics Championships for gliders and then moved on to flying a Pitts. As she moved through the competitive levels, beating her mentors and instructors, she traded up to shares in better aircraft. She actively promotes aerobatic flying to other women and young people.

Despite the set back of maintenance problems with her aircraft, which prevented her from competing at the World Advanced Aerobatics Championships in Poland this year, Emily has persevered with her plan to further her aerobatic training and has also gained her Class Instructor Rating, enabling her to now teach aerobatics.

Emily is currently British Advanced Aerobatics Champion.

## **JACKIE MOGGRIDGE CUP**

### **RECIPIENT: Allie Dunnington**

Allie had her first hot air balloon flight in 2002 which sparked her passion in ballooning, and she gained her PPL (B) in 2005.

Whilst continuing to work as a tour leader and nurse, also completing her PhD in tourism, she gained her CPL (B) in 2009. Allie then started organising her own ballooning tours which have included Mongolia, Georgia and Armenia.

Allie is one of very few female pilots in Europe to have both a gas-balloon rating and hot-air airship rating.

Her and her husband have been involved in several TV documentaries, both as pilots and consultants.

Allie went on to gain her instructor rating in 2012 and enjoys teaching new students, as well as also gaining her balloon inspector rating.

In 2010 Allie initiated the 'Women's Balloon Meet' with the aim of encouraging more women into this sport and career.

She is passionate about flying in all sizes and shapes of balloons and she currently holds the female world record for having flown in 84 countries to date.

## **FAITH BENNETT NAVIGATION CUP**

### **RECIPIENT: Lauren Richardson**

On the morning of 17<sup>th</sup> September this year Lauren first navigated from her home airfield Dunkeswell to another airfield to collect a single seat Pitts before

setting off to Herne Bay for an aerobatic display to mark the unveiling of the Amy Johnson Bronze statue.

The enroute weather was hostile with poor visibility which demanded full concentration. As this was a transit air display Lauren had to switch into 'display mode' as soon as she arrived overhead Herne Bay.

The solo display lasted about 8 minutes and totally stunned the spectators as they gazed in awe at the grey sky and trailing vapours. Lauren's determination and skills were much appreciated by the spectators and VIP guests.

After the event, Lauren then had to aviate and navigate in very hostile weather back to her home airfield.

### **MURIEL SELLS TROPHY**

**RECIPIENT: Colin Hessey**

Colin has been the BWPA auditor for more than 30 years and has tirelessly supported the association through many changes. He has regularly attended committee meetings and always been ready with a word of support, a suggestion or advice.

Sadly he is no longer able to undertake this role.

We will miss both his company and his support and would like to recognise his continued work over the years.

### **O P JONES GLIDING TROPHY**

**RECIPIENT: Judy Leden**

Awarded to Judy in recognition of a lifetime of record breaking achievements and her enthusiasm to encourage newcomers.

Earlier this year she organised a BWPA taster day for members to try flex wing microlights and hang gliders, encouraging women to try yet another form of aviation.

### **CHAIRWOMAN'S CHALLENGE TROPHY**

**RECIPIENT: No entries**

### **NAOMI CHRISTY CUP**

**RECIPIENT: Patricia Mawuli Porter**

Patricia was born into a very deprived background in Ghana. She had little schooling but persuaded Jonathan Porter to allow her to help out at his airstrip and went on to train as an engineer, becoming an expert on Rotax engines. She also learnt to fly.

Now married to Jonathan and living in the UK, she and Jonathan run their own company, advising and supporting light aircraft build, maintenance, adaptation, operation and related engineering solutions.

She has shown great determination and courage in fighting the traditional ways of her rural African background to be educated, trained and to build a career in aeroplane engineering.

### **JACK BRACKENBURY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

**RECIPIENT: Annabel Cook**

For her photographs in the July newsletter of her journey to the Faroes to see the eclipse.

## **JEAN LENNOX BIRD PENDANT**

### **RECIPIENT: Suzanne Freeman**

Suzanne has had a long and distinguished career spanning 18 years with easyJet alone having joined the company in April 1997 following a career break to raise her family.

Prior to this pause in her career, Suzanne flew for Britannia.

Her time at easyJet can be summarised by a host of accolades and glowing tributes from her crew room colleagues who worked with her during this time and they indicate how revered she was at easyJet.

Her First Officer colleagues note that she was extremely diligent. Crew room accounts convey that she was thoroughly well respected, knowledgeable and encouraging - forming an excellent role model.

One account reveals a stand out memory from a crew member: 'Towards the end of her flying days we were standing in the crew room talking with one of our young new Captains when Suzanne walked in. He commented on how delighted he was that he had seen her on her last day as she had been there on his first day as a new cadet.

He recounts that, when he had entered the busy crew room a bit lost and feeling really nervous about his first flight. Suzanne approached him, introduced herself and made him feel welcome. He has never forgotten that and was pleased he could be there to support her on her final flight.

More tributes reveal she was much loved amongst the cabin crew and they have relayed that she had a reputation for brilliant, smooth landings.

She once dealt with a decompression of her aircraft with the utmost professionalism, showing textbook leadership in managing the event.

Her peers comment that an amazing sense of humour coupled with a love for drinking tea is equally matched by a reputation for being a true role model, highly professional at all times and extremely knowledgeable.

Colleagues add:

'She was a leading figure at the airline to the extent she was iconic not just within easyJet but this extended across industry.

'She was well respected by all crew. A mother figure. Fondly missed by all who worked with her. Very supportive of new faces in the crew room - going out of her way to ensure that new first officers were acknowledged and made to feel welcome - she was very knowledgeable and wise.

Finally, despite everything she achieved, came modesty. She was genuinely overwhelmed by the volume of her retirement tributes'.

Suzanne retired from easyJet in June 2015 having flown both Boeing and Airbus aircraft.

## **HILDA HEWLETT TROPHY**

### **RECIPIENT: Rebecca Neale**

Rebecca was a BWPA scholarship winner in 2015 and has continued to show determination in her flying, including working at her local airfield during the summer, and is now close to achieving her PPL. She has also become

involved in the Aviatrix Project to encourage more girls to consider a career in aviation.

### **FLYING START SCHOLARSHIP**

#### **Geraldine Hill:**

Geraldine will be using this award towards gaining her PPL (A). She lives in Bath and is training at Cotswold Airport, whilst also training to be an engineer. She would like to combine the two areas professionally and has a long term aim of working in air accident investigation.

### **FLYING HIGH SCHOLARSHIP**

#### **Emily Collett:**

Emily was already selected for the British Team attending the World Aerobatics Championships in Poland this year and will be using this award towards further training with the aim of securing a medal for the British Team at this competition. She also plans to complete her Class Instructor rating to teach and inspire more people to participate in aerobatics, especially women.

### **CATS SCHOLARSHIP**

#### **Christina Carver:**

Christina has been flying at Gloucester Airport since 1986 and has a PPL, IMC and night rating. She is currently a police sergeant, and her career has included a 6 year posting with the Police Air Support Unit based at Filton. She now plans to become a Commercial Pilot, either in the commercial world or GA Flight instructor environment. She intends to promote flying as a career choice.

### **PATRON**

#### **Dr Stuart E. Smith**

Stuart, as CEO of CATS Aviation first gave the BWPA the CATS scholarship in our Diamond Jubilee year, for the ground school element of the CPL/ATPL.

He has since offered this as an annual award.

Stuart was approached and has agreed to accept the honorary position as our Patron, in acknowledgement of and in thanks for his ongoing support of the BWPA