

BWPA Awards 2017

JEAN LENNOX BIRD PENDANT

RECIPIENT:

Sacha Dench

Sacha was expedition leader of a multidisciplinary team from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust following the migration route of the endangered Bewick swans in her paramotor. She achieved an amazing feat of planning, logistics, aviation, navigation and endurance, flying 7,000km through 11 countries from the Arctic tundra back to Slimbridge in Gloucestershire. During the trip she became the first woman to cross the English Channel by paramotor.

(3 nominations)

BRABAZON CUP

RECIPIENT:

Fiona Macaskill

Fiona won Dawn to Dusk in February 2017. She not only won the competition she was also awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Trophy and the Pooley's Sword for Best Report and Log.

Before transitioning to fixed wing aircraft in 2013 she flew paragliders for 25 years, being a five-time world record holder and the fastest female paraglider pilot in the world.

Read more in the latest newsletter.

JACKIE MOGGRIDGE CUP

RECIPIENT: Corinne Dennis

Corinne not only does aerobatic display flights in a Pitts Special she built it herself!

She has more than 775 hours fixed wing flying with 600 hours aerobatic. She started flying again in 2015 after 6 years away from flying to build her Pitts Special, called Tarquin. She has now regained her currency and displays in her Pitts as well as running her own cycle clothing company.

Corinne also won the AOPA Trophy in TOPNAV 2017 with her partner John Watts.

FAITH BENNETT NAVIGATION CUP

RECIPIENT: Claire Birch and Rachel Foyle

Claire Birch won the BWPA Air Total Flying Futures Scholarship, to promote women's aviation and to help build for her commercial licence. She and Rachel Foyle used this by flying G-EVIE around Britain. Rachel, aged 23, is one of 15 women enrolled on the BSc Professional Pilot Aviation Practice course at Tayside Aviation. Claire, aged 35, began flying at 14 and is a former RAF navigator. She is Safety Officer at Tayside and is also working towards her commercial licence.

You can read about their flight in the Autumn newsletter.

MURIEL SELLS TROPHY

RECIPIENT: Cheryl Sullivan

Cheryl has worked steadily in the background for the BWPA for more than 20 years as our long standing booking co-ordinator for events and supporting the committee whenever she is needed. Latterly providing support in the busy round of 2017 scholarship assessment.

She regularly attends the Essex group meetings providing a warm welcome and encouragement to both new and old members.

Cheryl's understated input both on and off committee is an essential part of the BWPA.

BWPA SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

RECIPIENT:

Beverley Harrison

Beverley is our Secretary and Archivist and over the last two years has taken on an increasing workload with the raised profile of the Association. Often travelling great distances to attend meetings and events.

We particularly want to acknowledge her invaluable contribution to the process of incorporation, during which she willingly accepted increased duties and helped to negotiate the various legal necessities.

O P JONES GLIDING TROPHY

RECIPIENT:

Peggy Williams

Peggy started paragliding in 2006 and despite two serious accidents in 2009 and 2012 she continues to fly.

Based in the UK she has also flown in Columbia and Nepal. She flies an average of 100 hours a year and competes in the women's cross country league.

Wanting to give back to the sport Peggy joined the committee of the Avon Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club, of which she is now Chairman and is also a Club Coach.

CHAIRWOMAN'S CHALLENGE TROPHY I

RECIPIENT:

Marion Wooldridge and Abbigale Austin

This flight was in memory of the late Dame Margaret Joan Anstee who was an inspiration to Marion throughout her life and another inspiring woman celebrated in this flight was Melanie Asles, the first Red Bull Air Races competitor who inspired Abbigale to become a pilot.

Another aspect of this flight is that although Marion is an experienced pilot with just over 1,000 hours Abbigale is a student pilot with just 20 hours.

Therefore it was felt that this entry encompassed the theme on more than one level, the flight being based around two inspiring women and also inspiring Abbigale to continue her flying and so become an inspiration to more young women.

NAOMI CHRISTY CUP

RECIPIENT:

Cherry Charters

Cherry gained her PPL last year and since then she has continued to challenge herself, gaining her tail wheel conversion and undertaking aerobatic training.

Having gained 40 hours on tail wheel (in a Cub) she transferred to the Tiger Moth.

Cherry often attends BWPA events and her enthusiasm is always so evident.

JACK BRACKENBURY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

RECIPIENT: Amy Chau

For her photograph taken at the Balloon Festival entitled 'Up and Close'.

Amy certainly follows Jack's example by always being ready to record events with her super photographs.

HILDA HEWLETT TROPHY

RECIPIENT:

Zoe Burnett

Zoe has been interested in aviation from a young age despite not having an aviation background.

In 2016, at the age of 17, Zoe successfully completed her PPL after receiving the AirBP scholarship from HCAP, flying solo before driving a car! She continued with her part time swimming teaching job whilst at school to fund flying hours to maintain her licence.

Zoe knew she wanted to be a commercial pilot and successfully applied to Flybe. She is now training at FTE Jerez, Spain at the age of 18 and is the only female on her course.

'She believed she could, so she did'