

British Women Pilots' Association 2009 Awards Citations

✓The Brabazon Cup

This cup was presented to the BWPA by Lord Brabazon of Tara in 1959. It is awarded for one particular outstanding or noteworthy performance in aviation.

In 1995 a 17-year old Air Cadet applied to the Air League for a flying scholarship and was awarded the BWPA scholarship for that year, which she flew at the RAF Brize Norton Flying Club. Three years later she joined the RAF as a pilot and has since served as an instructor on Hawks and flown the Tornado GR4 with XIII Sqn. Although not the first female to apply to join the Red Arrows, Kirsty was the first to make the 'shortlist' of candidates and is now the first to be selected for the team. Until recently, no female fast-jet pilot had reached the stage in their flying career to fulfil the application criteria; be assessed as above average throughout their flying career, have a minimum of 1,500 flying hours and have completed at least one front line fast-jet operational tour. Applications to join the Red Arrows from Royal Air Force fast-jet pilots meeting the relevant criteria are treated equally and considered purely on merit. Kirsty has said that it was only a matter of time before a woman was selected for the team but is elated that it happens to be her.

For her selection as the first woman to fly with the Red Arrows display team the 2009 winner of the Brabazon Cup is Flt Lt Kirsty Moore

✓BWPA Special Recognition Award

To be awarded in recognition of active support of women in aviation

This year's winner of the Special Recognition Award was thwarted in her early ambition to become a commercial pilot but has gone on to forge a successful career in the aviation industry nevertheless. Using the experience she has gained working for companies such as Virgin, TNT and latterly Rockwell Collins UK Ltd, she has devoted a significant amount of time and effort into assisting others in pursuing their flying goals, whether it be in commercial or recreational aviation. She is a member of the Air League, Royal Aeronautical Society, GAPAN, and a Trustee of the Royal Air Force Museum where she is Chair of the Education and Research Committee. She chaired the 2007 Women in Aviation International European Conference hosting nearly 100 delegates from 13 countries across Europe and the USA and was involved in the establishment of the Southern England Chapter of WAI, which held its inaugural conference last month.

For many years' work in the aviation industry during which she has used her experience to successfully promote aviation to women, particularly through her involvement with Women in Aviation International

2009 award to: Jane Middleton

✓The Jean Lennox Bird Pendant

This award is made to a British woman pilot who has served aviation over a period of time in any aspect, consistently achieving goals, showing diligence to duties and encouragement to others

The winner of this year's award has been a member of the BWPA since the early 1970's when she was instructing at Southend, and a member of the committee almost continuously since 1977. During her time on the committee she has served variously as Events Organiser, Hon Treasurer and latterly as Chair of the Awards and Scholarships sub-committee. She has been intimately involved with the awarding of the annual BWPA scholarship for many years and has been the Association's contact with the Air League, which administers the scholarship on our behalf, throughout this period.

She was awarded the RAeC's Old and Bold trophy in 2005 for her enthusiastic promotion of aviation to all and her encouragement of young people in particular, and for regaining her own licence four years after recovering from serious injuries sustained in a flying accident.

As an active member and supporter of the BWPA to this day the 2009 winner of the Jean Lennox Bird Trophy is Rita Boniface

✓The O P Jones Gliding Trophy

This cup is awarded to a British Woman Pilot for an achievement or special contribution to gliding or hang gliding

Nominated by past winner Sarah Kelman

2009 award to: Ayala Liran

Ayala started gliding in 2001 when given the opportunity for a trial flight at Lasham. Shortly afterwards she joined the Reading University Soaring Society, going solo in 2002 and gaining her Silver a year later. Her real passion is cross country and competition flying in particular, and flew her first Regionals in 2004. Since then she has been flying in the Club Class Nationals and in 2007 earned qualification to the Women's World Championships this year. In second place after Day One she moved into the lead on Day Two and maintained that lead until the final day when she slipped out of the medals to finish a very impressive 4th place in her first World Championships.

(She is an Instructor at Lasham gliding club and flies powered aircraft from Popham)

✓The Hilda Hewlett Trophy

Presented to a BWPA member between the ages of 16 and 25, who has shown initiative and commitment in gaining her PPL with a view to following a career in aviation and who, through her actions and her example, is an inspiration to her peer group

This year's winner began flying at the Wycome Air Centre when she was awarded the Sir Adrian Swire flying scholarship by her school and made further progress towards her PPL when she received a BWPA scholarship earlier this year. In addition to these flying scholarships she has also been awarded an engineering scholarship by the Air League, which will assist her in her Aeronautical Engineering degree at Bristol University. Most recently she has been awarded the prestigious GAPAN Flying scholarship, which has

enabled her to finish her PPL, upgrade to a larger aircraft and complete a couple of cross-channel flights, one of them with passengers!

For the optimal use of three separate scholarships in gaining her PPL, completing the course to a high standard then subsequently upgrading to piloting a larger aircraft

2009 award to: Helme Harrison

✓The Naomi Christy Cup

This trophy is awarded for a flying or flying-related personal achievement that greatly exceeds the expectations of the individual. This award is not aimed at the 'record breaker' or 'high achiever', but is awarded for an achievement 'special' to the recipient.

For achieving her NPPL despite disabling ill health. Demoralised after being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, Debbie found the determination and persistence to overcome pain and other problems to complete her NPPL training.

2009 award to: Debbie Tyzack

Debbie was awarded a 4 week scholarship by Flying Scholarships for the Disabled in 2008 which she flew at Goodwood. She went solo during her course, was bitten by the flying bug, and subsequently continued flying training at her own expense at Lasham. Debbie was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and associated conditions in 2000, which, in addition to constant pain and other effects of her illness, left her feeling demoralised and unmotivated. Learning to fly changed all that. Determined to succeed, she never gave up when ill health slowed her training down, and she says flying has given her a wonderful reason to enjoy life again and to go back to being the Debbie she was before her illness. In October 2008 her persistence and enthusiasm were rewarded by the issue of her NPPL.

✓The Chairwoman's Challenge Trophy

Is awarded to the competition entry judged to be the most interesting or unusual navigation flight on a theme set by the judges. This year's theme was "Places of Worship".

2009 award to: Janet Chanides

In a fascinating flight around the great cathedrals of the Fens, Janet managed to visit not only Ely and Peterborough, but also included the Buddhist Peace Pagoda at Milton Keynes, Anglesey and Woburn Abbeys, The Temples in the Stowe landscape gardens and many smaller churches. The route involved a large number of waypoints and precise navigation to find small features in the landscape.

Her planned time to achieved time ratio was excellent and she exhibited good airmanship in all aspects of the flight. Her log book was meticulously researched and beautifully presented, with clearly annotated photographs and charts to illustrate the route.

✓The Faith Bennett Navigation Cup

This trophy is awarded to a British Woman Pilot for a navigation exercise of special merit or which stretches the experience of the pilot to her limits

This trophy is not usually awarded to an entrant of the Chairwoman's Challenge but the judges felt that this year one of the entries merited nomination on the basis of the quality of the technical calculations combined with the relative inexperience of the pilot, who flew the Challenge solo.

With an unusual and original interpretation of 'worship', based on the older English sense of 'worthiness and respect', the nominee chose a route that included many historic houses once occupied by the 'worthy and respected.'

Her route took her from Goodwood to the Isle of Wight, passing Lewes Castle, Arundel Castle, Carisbrooke Castle Osborne House and Beaulieu House, in addition to other famous stately homes.

The nominee included all the technical calculations essential to a safe flight and ensured the log book showed airfield diversion information in addition to the meteorological reports. As a relatively new and low hours pilot, the flight showed skill and good judgement throughout, especially as she flew solo for the competition.

For a technically perfect completion of this year's Chairwoman's Challenge, flown solo

2009 award to: Lydia Szkatula

✓The Muriel Sells Trophy

This award is made to a BWPA member who has supported the Association either by regularly attending events or by working in the background to further the association's aims.

This year's winner was nominated for her enthusiastic leadership of the Essex region of the BWPA over a number of years, keeping members up to date with information, even if they cannot attend the monthly meetings, and recruiting many new members. A previous winner of the Jack Brackenbury Photographic Trophy, she is never without her camera at every event she attends and contributes numerous pictures and articles for the Newsletter.

2009 award to: Amy Chau

✓The Jackie Moggridge Cup Not awarded in 2009

✓The Jack Brackenbury Photographic Trophy

This trophy was first awarded in 2004 in memory of Jack and to encourage members to record our events as he used to. All photographs sent in during the course of the year for the newsletter, website and for the archives are eligible as well as those entered for the competition itself.

2009 award to: Not Awarded

Next year to include all photographs taken by a BWPA member of any flying-related activity. Hope to have the facility for members to upload their pictures either onto website or to share on our Facebook page

✓BWPA BURSARY WINNER FOR 2009

This year the BWPA funded 1 bursary which was offered to BWPA members only

Ella Bartczak	Towards an IMC Rating, not only for the purpose of career development but also in the interests of flight safety.
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✓BWPA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FOR 2009

This year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Air league the BWPA funded 2 scholarships

Lara Small	Lara is studying for a Master of Aerospace Manufacturing Engineering at Bristol University and has just completed a 12-month industrial placement with Rolls-Royce Bristol Defence Aerospace. She hopes to join Rolls-Royce on their Graduate Leadership Development programme after graduation in 2011. With some previous gliding experience behind her Lara flew her scholarship at the South Warwickshire Flying School at Wellesbourne, going solo after just 7 of the 12 hours flown.
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Helme Harrison	as above
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In addition, the mini scholarship given to FSD in memory of Lucy Rodger was awarded to

Sarah Jenkins	Sarah suffered severe back injuries in 1991 when an aerial descent slide broke. As a result of her progressive back pain since then she has had to give up her main love, horse riding, and it is hoped that the mini scholarship will give a welcome boost to her morale. She was due to have flown it at Goodwood Flying Club in August
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