



For over a century the Air League has presented honours and awards to individuals and organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to aviation and aerospace in the United Kingdom.

The Founders' Medal

The award was the gift of the late Mr Stephen Marples, co-founder of the Air League with Colonel H S Massy in 1909. Since Mr Marples' death in 1972, the medal has been funded by the Air League.

Established 1960. Struck in hallmarked silver-gilt by Spink & Son.

The medal is awarded:

"For the most meritorious achievement in the whole field of British aviation or reaching its culmination during the calendar year under review."

Recipients:

1960: Mr Tom Brooke-Smith

1961: The RAF Central Flying School

1962: Dr (later Sir) Barnes Wallis

1963: Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Douglas of Kirtleside

1964: (No award)

1965: Sir Roy Dobson

1966: Mrs Anne Burns

1967: Mr A W (Bill) Bedford

1968: Sir George Edwards

1969: NASA Apollo 11 astronauts Mr Neil Armstrong, Colonel Edwin Aldrin & Colonel Michael Collins

1970: Mr E Brian Trubshaw

1971: (No award)

1972: Mr D P Davis

1973: The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team

1974: Captain James Fitcher & First Officer Michael Wood (Crew of BOAC hijacked VC-10)

1975: Mr (later Sir) Freddie Laker

1976: Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey (posthumously)

1977: (No award)

1978: (No award)

1979: Group Captain John Cunningham

1980: (No award)

1981: (No award)

1982: (No award)

1983: Squadron Leader D G Lee MBE RAF

1984: (No award)

1985: (No award)

1986: (No award)

1987: (No award)

1988: Miss Evelyn Jackson

1989: (No award)

1990: (No award)

1991: Mr Duncan Simpson

1992: Dr Michael Foale

1993: (No award)

1994: (No award)

1995: (No award)

1996: Dr J E Henderson

1997: Sir Colin Marshall

1998: Sir Ralph Robins

1999: Bertrand Piccard & Brian Jones OBE

2000: Sir Richard Evans CBE

2001: The Air Cadet Organisation (Received by Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire)

2002: Sir Michael Cobham

2003: Sir Arthur Marshall

2004: (No award)

2005: Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Knight KCB AFC FRAeS

2006: Sir Adrian Swire

2007: Mr Joseph J Gaggero

2008: (No award)

2009: Captain Chesley Sullenberger

2010: (No award)

2011: (No award)

2012: (No award)

2013: (No award)

2014: (No award)

2015: Captain Eric Brown RN

2016: Major Timothy Peake (awarded from St. James's Palace via NASA link whilst onboard the ISS)

2017: The Boeing Company

2018: The Royal Air Force

2019: No. 1 Group, Royal Air Force, Air Command

2020: (No award- COVID-19)

2021: (No award)

The Gold Medal

History

Archives from the Aerial League of the British Empire note the first original Gold Medal recipient was Claude Grahame-White in 1910.

Established in 1910 until an unknown date, re-established in 1998. Struck in solid gold by Bentley & Skinner.

The medal is awarded:

"For outstanding service to the causes of the Air League"

Recipients:

- 1998:** The Royal Air Force Historical Society
- 1999:** Air Chief Marshal Sir John Barraclough KCB CBE DFC AFC
- 2000:** (No award)
- 2001:** (No award)
- 2002:** His Royal Highness The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh KG KT
- 2003:** (No award)
- 2004:** (No award)
- 2005:** (No award)
- 2006:** (No award)
- 2007:** (No award)
- 2008:** (No award)
- 2009:** Sir Michael Marshall
- 2010:** Mr Lionel Anthony Edwards
- 2011:** Sir John Rose
- 2012:** (No award)
- 2013:** (No award)
- 2014:** The Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team
- 2015:** (No award)
- 2016:** The Royal Air Force Air Cadet Organisation
- 2017:** (No award)
- 2018:** Dame Carolyn McCall
- 2019:** British Airways
- 2020:** (No award - Covid-19)
- 2021:** (No award)

Companionship of the Air League

Companionship of the Air League is the League's highest order for an individual and was founded under the presidency of Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Knight in 1996.

Over the past 25 years only 17 individuals have been elected and at any one time there can only be six companions. There are currently three living companions. The first Companion of the League was Sir Frank Whittle in 1996.

Companionship of the Air League is bestowed to individuals:

“For whom this special distinction seems to be the most appropriate form of recognition following outstanding achievements within aviation and aerospace over a lifetime.”

Awarded to:

1996: Sir Frank Whittle OM KBE CB (Deceased)

Group Captain John Cunningham CBE DSO DFC AE (Deceased)

Sir George Edwards OM CBE FRS (Deceased)

Professor R V Jones CH CB CBE (Deceased)

Sir Peter Masefield MA CEng FRAeS (Deceased)

1997: Sir Arthur Marshall OBE DL (Deceased)

Lord Kings Norton FIMechE Hon FRAeS Feng (Deceased)

Sir Arnold Hall FRS FEng ScD (Hon Cantab) Hon FRAeS (Deceased)

1998: (No award)

1999: Sir Frederick Page CBE MA FRS FEng Hon FRAeS (Deceased)

2000: (No award)

2001: Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Grandy GCB GCVO KBE DSO (Deceased)

2002: Mr Alex Henshaw MBE (Deceased)

2003: (No award)

2004: (No award)

2005: (No award)

2006: (No award)

2007: Marshal of the Royal Air Force The Lord Craig of Radley GCB OBE

2008: Sir Ralph Robins

2009: Sir Adrian Swire (Deceased)

2012: Sir Michael Marshall CBE (Deceased)

2013: (No award)

2014: (No award)

2015: Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burridge KCB CBE ADC

2016: (No award)

2017: (No award)

2018: (No award)

2019: (No award)

2020: (No award – COVID-19)

2021: Captain Yvonne Pope

The Jeffrey Quill Medal

The Jeffrey Quill medal was established in memory of Jeffrey Quill OBE AFC, a British test pilot who served on secondment with the Royal Air Force and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve during the Second World War. He was also the second man to fly the Supermarine Spitfire. As chief test pilot, Quill test-flew every mark of Spitfire. Quill's work on the aircraft aided its development from a promising but untried prototype to become, with the Hawker Hurricane, an instrument of the Royal Air Force's victory in the Battle of Britain. The Spitfire later played a leading role in gaining Allied air superiority over Europe.

Established in 1997. Struck in hallmarked silver-gilt by Spink & Son.

The medal is awarded:

“For an outstanding contribution to the development of air-mindedness in Britain’s youth”

Recipients:

1997: Mr Alex Henshaw MBE

1998: Mr Raymond Baxter OBE

1999: Squadron Leader Alan Jones

2000: Squadron Leader Ray Hanna AFC

2001: Mrs Carolyn Grace

2002: Squadron Leader Neville Duke DSO OBE DFC AFC

2003: Squadron Leader J R Maitland

- 2004:** Sir David Hempleman-Adams
2005: Mr John Romain
2006: Mr Tim Prince
2007: Mr David Roberts
2008: Mr Fred and Mr Harold Panton
2009: Group Captain Edward Cox
2010: Dr Michael Fopp
2011: Group Captain Terry Holloway
2012: Captain Clive Elton
2013: Mr Keith Mans
2014: The Brooklands Museum
2015: Mr Stephen Grey
2016: Mr Keith Williams
2017: SkyDemon
2018: Airbus UK
2019: Wing Commander Grant Kearns RAFAC and Wing Commander Mark Brayford RAFAC
2020: (No award - Covid-19)
2021: Air Commodore Dawn McCafferty CBE

The Scott-Farnie Medal

The Scott-Farnie Medal was established in memory of G R Scott-Farnie. Group Captain George Rowland Scott-Farnie was Managing Director of International Aeradio Ltd (Now part of Serco Group Plc) and a council member of the Air League at the time of his sudden death.

Established in 1969. Struck in hallmarked silver-gilt by Spink & Son.

The medal is awarded:

“To recognise work in the field of air education”

Recipients:

1969: Mrs H G Alston

1970: Air Cdre G J C Paul
1971: G A G Cox
1972: Derek Piggott
1973: J H Taylor
1974 -1996: (Records lost)
1997: Mr Terry Gill
1998: (No award)
1999: Popular Flying Association
2000: John Swire & Sons Ltd
2001: Mr Joe Wheeler
2002: Mr John Farley
2003: Mr E O (Ted) Inman
2004: Dr Michael Fopp
2005: Mr Lovat Fraser OBE FRAeS
2006: Mr Tom Blair
2007: The Royal Aeronautical Society
2008: Mr Stephen Wood
2009: Mr John Thorpe
2010: Mr David Cockburn
2011: Mr Michael Oakey
2012: Mr Robert Pooley
2013: Marshall of Cambridge
2014: Mr James Holland
2015: The Shuttleworth Collection
2016: Dr Robert Fleming
2017: The British Gliding Association
2018: Wing Commander Andrew Jackman Brookes
2019: Wing Commander Ian Revell RAFAC
2020: (No award – Covid-19)
2021: Mr David Pitchforth

The Marshall of Cambridge Medal

The Marshall of Cambridge Medal was established by the then chairman, Sir Michael Marshall.

Established in 2002. Struck in hallmarked silver-gilt by Spink & Son.

The medal is awarded:

“For exceptional support of the Air League by a recent scholarship winner”

Recipients:

- 2002:** Miss K N Speary
- 2003:** Mr K M Levett
- 2004:** Miss L K Martin
- 2005:** (No award)
- 2006:** Mr Andrew F Perkins
- 2007:** (No award)
- 2008:** Lt S Purvis RN
- 2009:** Miss Jennifer Tye
- 2010:** Mr Andrew Menzies
- 2011:** Mr Dan Marshall
- 2012:** Miss Victoria Cope
- 2013:** Mr Harry King
- 2014:** Mr Joe Audcent
- 2015:** Mr Scott Pendry
- 2016:** (No award)
- 2017:** Mr Matthew Wong
- 2018:** Mr Adam White
- 2019:** Mr Sean Link
- 2020:** (No award - Covid-19)
- 2021:** Miss Bridget Donaldson

President's Meritorious Service Award

The President's Meritorious Service Award was established by the then Vice-Chairman Group Captain Terry Holloway.

Established 2017. Framed address and lapel pin.

The award is given:

"To recognise the considerable work and contribution given by an individual to the Air League over a number of years"

Recipients:

2017: Dr Francesca de Florio

Mr Andrew Perkins

2018: Mr Christopher Walkinshaw

Ms Melanie McNulty

2019: Group Captain Terry Holloway

2020: (No award - Covid-19)

2021: Sir Roger Bone KCMG

Framed Addresses

Established in 1998, originally as framed scrolls produced by a Calligrapher. Framed addresses are awarded:

"To individuals or organisations who have shown an outstanding contribution to aviation and aerospace."

Recipients:

1998: Mr Colin Bodill *for the completion of his record-breaking Microlight Charity Flight from London City Airport to Sydney, Australia in forty-nine days from 30 November 1997 to 17 January 1998.*

Northern Venture Team *on the completion of their highly successful eastabout circumnavigation of the world from London City Airport on 20 May 1997 to RAF Fairford for the Royal International Air Tattoo on 17 July 1997.*

Thrust SSC Team *on attaining the world land speed record and becoming the first to exceed the speed of sound on land.*

1999: Sir Richard Branson *in recognition of his entrepreneurial spirit in aviation and his pioneering attempts to circumnavigate the world by hot-air balloon.*

Mr Brian Milton *on the completion of his record-breaking Microlight Flight around the world in 80 flying days.*

Wing Commander Ken Wallis *for his record-breaking autogyro developments.*

2000: Mr Tim Gilbert & Mr Martin Rutty *for the first flight in a Robinson R44 light single engine helicopter from Cambridge in the United Kingdom to Adelaide in Australia from 24 September to 10 November 1999.*

2001: Sir David Hempleman-Adams *for his record-breaking balloon flight from Spitzbergen to the North Pole and back.*

Mrs Jennifer Murray *for her solo flight around the world in a Rothmans R44 helicopter.*

2002: Mrs Polly Vacher *for her solo flight around the world in a single-engine Piper Dakota.*

Mr David Hamilton *in recognition of his organisation of The Tiger Club Dawn to Dusk competition since 1968.*

2003: Mr C Hales and Miss N Brauns *for their flight to Australia and back in the lightest aeroplane to achieve this, a Rand KR2.*

2004: Farnborough Air Sciences Trust *for preserving the aviation heritage of the Farnborough site.*

The Royal Aeronautical Society's "100 Years of Flight" Programme *for its celebrations of 100 years of manned flight in 2003 and establishment of the Centennial Scholarship Fund.*

2005: Mr Steve Fossett *for the first solo non-stop circumnavigation flight around the world, which was a tribute to your vision, skill, stamina, determination, and courage, and achieved through a combination of exceptional flying skills and outstanding technical excellence.*

2006: Mr Peter McMillan *for an outstanding contribution to aviation and for bringing the only flying replica of the Vickers Vimy bomber to the United Kingdom.*

Mr Mark Parker, Mr Jonathan Meyer, and Mr Andy May *for an outstanding contribution to gliding and aviation and for their personal contribution and coming first, second and third in the Standard Class of the World Junior Gliding Championships in 2005.*

2007: Sir David Hempleman-Adams *for an outstanding contribution to ballooning and aviation by breaking the world altitude record in a hot air balloon.*

Mr Leigh Wells *for an outstanding contribution to gliding and aviation and for his personal contribution in representing the United Kingdom in International Gliding Competitions.*

Mr Richard Meredith-Hardy *for an outstanding contribution to aviation, his many achievements with Microlight Aircraft and in recognition of his amazing flight over Mount Everest in a Microlight Aircraft.*

2008: Dr Robert Fleming *who as Chief Executive of the Vulcan to the Sky Trust led a dedicated team of enthusiasts, supported by industry to make an outstanding contribution to aviation by returning the Vulcan to the sky.*

Mr Miles Hilton-Barber *for an outstanding contribution to aviation as a blind adventurer and in particular his flight to Australia in 2007.*

Squadron Leader C V J Heames RAF *for an outstanding contribution to gliding as Chief Flying Instructor at the Air Training Corps Central Gliding School and noting his contribution to flying safety over many years.*

2009: Sir David Hempleman-Adams and Jonathan Mason *for winning, for the very first time for Great Britain, the 52nd Gordon Bennett Cup Race held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2008.*

Wing Commander Paul Gerrard RAF *for guiding a blinded pilot to a safe landing.*

Mrs Jane Middleton *for her work with the British Women Pilots' Association.*

Mr Yves Rossy *for the development, build and testing of his remarkable wingsuit system. The first man to fly the English Channel on a jet-powered wing.*

2010: The British Gliding Team, *which won the European Championships in 2009.*

Mr John Williams, *a pilot who has been pushing the boundaries of long-distance flying in gliders, and who in 2009 completed the first 1,500 km flight in a glider by a Britain in Chile.*

Wing Commander Mike Douglass *for his contribution to aviation over many years and latterly as serving at Headquarters Air Cadets as Wing Commander Air.*

2011: Air Commodore Rick Peacock Edwards *for his contribution to flight safety at air displays and to aviation in general.*

Mike Miller Smith *for his tremendous work for Flying for the Disabled, and as Chief Executive Officer of Aerobility.*

Andrew Perkins *in recognition of his work as Chairman of the Leading Edge.*

Virgin Atlantic Captain Steve Noujaim, *he not only flew his own aeroplane to the Cape and back, but he also built it.*

2012: David Sykes, *a disabled micro light pilot.*

Mr Marjan Bledowski, *Chief Flying Instructor for scholarships at Tayside Aviation, Dundee.*

Mr Martin Withers *Avro Vulcan XH558 chief pilot*

2013: Sergeant Roy Geddes MC *of No 51 Squadron Royal Air Force Regiment from RAF Lossiemouth.*

For his role in the defence of Camp Bastion on 14th September 2012 when he led this team into battle against Taliban fighters in a direct attack on the camp's defences.

The British Gliding Team *who achieved silver medal place in the World Gliding Championships in Texas in 2012.*

2014: Rescue Global *for providing exceptional support to the Philippines famine relief effort.*

Ms Angela Coleman *for her fundraising on behalf of the Air League and her work within the Aviation Club UK.*

Ms Tracey Curtis-Taylor *for her epic flight in a Boeing Stearman aircraft from Capetown to Goodwood emulating the earlier flight in 1926 by Lady Mary Heath.*

Mr Norman Barber *for his major contribution to the aerospace industry.*

2015: Mr Stephen Cochrane *for his considerable contribution to the Air League.*

Mr Anthony Haig-Thomas *for his considerable contribution to aviation over many years.*

Mr William Hall *for his achievements as a private pilot.*

Mr Laurence Price *for his considerable work on behalf of General Aviation and the Air League.*

Ms Caroline Wyatt *for her unstinting support for air power as BBC defence correspondent.*

2016: Ms Tracey Curtis-Taylor *for her flight in her Boeing Stearman open cockpit bi-plane from Farnborough, UK to Sydney, Australia, to pay tribute to Amy Johnson's flight in 1929*

Mr Howard Wheeldon *for his work as a political spokesman and defence commentator.*

Mr Johan Wiklund *a Swedish commercial pilot who had recently completed an amazing unsupported solo flight in his De Havilland Tiger Moth from the North of Sweden to Cape Town*

2017: Lauren Richardson *for her involvement in STEM and the Amy Johnson Project*

Mr Mark Swan *of the CAA for the huge amount of work he has undertaken on behalf of national and international aviation and aerospace regulation.*

2018: Pilot Magazine *recognising the Magazine's 50th anniversary celebrations, the award was collected by Mr Philip Whiteman, the Editor of the Magazine.*

Mr Simon Witts *to recognise his work he has been doing with the Aviation Skills Partnership.*

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP *for his work and support for General Aviation from within Parliament.*

2019: Saab UK *for their pioneering development of Digital Air Traffic Solutions and Remote Towers.*

Mr Brian Jones OBE *recognising his dedication to inspire others and encourage them to engage in aviation through ballooning.*

Air Commodore Alistair Seymour *for his contribution to the delivery of all ranks flying training in the Royal Air Force.*

Ms Carol Cooper *for her dedication to improving safety in General Aviation through training at Andrewsfield Aviation.*

Cranfield University *for ground-breaking initiatives in the aerospace research and technology ecosystem.*

2020: (No award - Covid-19)

2021: Martin Aston and James McMicking *to recognise their efforts to invigorate High Value Design in the United Kingdom.*

ZeroAvia for their ground-breaking development of a zero-emission aircraft.

Project Wingman for their inspiring commitment, dedication, and service to the NHS throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Royal Air Force Chinook Force recognising its incredible and illustrious 40 years of service.

The Prince Philip Flying Scholarship

Established in 2002 following a fundraising banquet held at Mansion House to mark 50 years of Patronage for HRH The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh KG KT.

The Prince Philip Flying Scholarship is awarded to a previous flying scholar who has displayed outstanding potential and allows the individual who is member of the Air Training Corps and who also holds a Duke of Edinburgh Award to achieve their full private pilot's licence. Now awarded bi-annually.

Recipients:

2002 – 2005: Records lost

2006: Mr M J Kearsley

2007: Mr R D Lear

2008: Mr Rory Cheyne

2009: Mr Joseph Audcent

2010: Miss Sophie Stachera

2011: Miss Rhianna Mills

2012: Mr James Baldwin

2013: Mr Tejpartap Singh Bains

2014: Miss Lucy Rosa

2015: Mr Jonathan Davies

2016: Miss Katherine Pound

2017: Mr Rasheed Graham
2018: Miss Georgia Tia Brinkley
2019: (No award)
2020: (No award - Covid-19)
2021: Venessa Njoki

The Evelyn Saunders Memorial Cup

The Evelyn Saunders memorial cup is presented each year to the most outstanding young female scholar.

The cup was established in 2008, in memory of Evelyn 'Evie' Florence Saunders, a remarkable lady, who stretched the boundaries for female aviators of her generation. Piper PA-28 G-EVIE was donated to Tayside Aviation in Dundee, to run scholarships on behalf of the Air League Educational Trust.

Recipients:

2008: Miss Rebecca Flannagan
2009: Miss Emma D'Souza
2010: Miss Helme Harrison
2011: Miss Hollie Rosier
2012: Miss Linsey Running
2013: Miss Keira Chapman
2014: Miss Lucy Rosa
2015: Miss Bisma Pervez
2016: Miss Melissa Bartlett
2017: Miss Clair Stoll
2018: Kirsty Adam
2019: Miss Annabelle Cleve
2020: (No award - Covid-19)
2021: Miss Lucy Dakin-Scott

The Babcock Trophy

The Babcock trophy is awarded to recognise excellence in achievement during training for a flying scholarship.

Established in 2006.

2006: Mr Philip Oliver

2007: Mr Thomas Cahill

2008: Mr Alex Reut-Hobbs

2009: Mr Gilbert Dougherty

2010: (No award)

2011: Mr Samuel Woodgate

2012: Mr Tom Crowle

2013: Mr Dipeet Mehta

2014: Mr Jacob Matthews

2015: Mr Jonathan Davies

2016: (No award)

2017: (No award)

2018: (No award)

2019: (No award)

2020: (No award - Covid-19)

2021: (No award)

Airbus Helicopters Trophy

The Airbus Helicopters trophy is awarded to recognise excellence in achievement during training for a rotary scholarship.

Established in 2014.

Recipients:

2014: Mr Graham Bendall

2015: Mr Jamie Johnson

2016: (No award)

2017: (No award)

2018: (No award)

2019: (No award)

2020: (No award – Covid-19)

2021: (No award)