

## BBAC Diploma

These are awarded for recognition of any achievement or contribution to the sport of ballooning

- 1988 Lindsay Muir  
Mike & Lesley Willoughby
- 1992 Alex Jenkinson  
Charles Meisl  
Ali Odell,  
Colin Wolstenholme
- 1993 Roy & Rita Boyle  
Barbara Green,  
John & Sheila Green
- 1994 Norman Apsey
- 1995 Ian Ashpole  
David Davis  
Per Lindstrand  
Norman Pritchard  
Mark Shemilt
- 1996 Alan Fraenkel  
Benedikt Haggenev
- 1997 Derek Belton  
Ian Bridge  
Marie Claude Cousin  
Chris Dunkley  
Joe Philp,  
Laurie Ryan  
Crispin Williams
- 1998 Andy Caie  
Ray Hunt  
Patricia Pedler
- 1999 David Jenkinson
- 2000 Gerry Turnbull  
Mike Moore  
David Hempleman-Adams  
Neil Gabriel
- 2001 Mike Watts-Miller  
Bob Howes  
Carol Howes  
Graham Scott  
Ian Hooker  
Dave Ling
- 2002 David Body  
Jean-Pierre Lauwers
- 2003 Steve Jones
- 2004 Andrew & Caroline Gibson  
Howard Peel  
Sue Zgraja
- 2005 Ian Martin
- 2006 Pauline Baker  
Dante Group
- 2007 Richard Allen  
Gavin Chadwick

	Neil Gabriel	
	Adam Gorman	
	Ian Kerr	
	Keith Pennock	
2008	Rupert Stanley	
	Wendy Roussel	
2009	Alan Scrase	
2010	Ted Moore	
	Lesley Vickery	
2011	Norman Apsey	Services to the BBAC
	Piers Glydon	Web technology services to the BBAC
	Jonathan Harris	Services to gas ballooning
	Andy Selby	EMBG landowner relations
2012	David Usill	Competition ballooning
	Jonathan Dyer	Training
	Tony Molony	Services to Competition Ballooning
2013	Team Sackville	Promoting "Back to Basics" ballooning
	Clive Bailey	4 <sup>th</sup> Place in the America's Challenge
	Jon Mason	4 <sup>th</sup> Place in the America's Challenge
	John Rose	First Gordon Bennett Entry
	Chris Wood	First Gordon Bennett Entry
	Rachel Pointer	Services to Competition Ballooning
	Jonathan Harris (3-4-40)	Services to 3-4-40 and BBM&L
	Martyn Turner	Services to BBM&L
	Barry Newman	Services to Chiltern Region
2014	Barbara Moreton	
	Tony Jay	Electronic mapping
	Ian Chadwick	Knowledge of aviation regulation
	Paolo Bonnano	Engineering innovation
	Giovanni Aimo	Services to flight training

## **2015**

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### **Liz Meek**

June 2014 was the last Aerostat that Liz Meek edited for the BBAC. She has done a superb job for 14 years having taken over from John Christopher in 2001.

The BBAC were indeed lucky to have Liz as their Editor, a consummate professional through and through. She has been in journalism all her life. Jobs she has done included the Oswestry & Shropshire Star, a few other UK papers and a glamorous overseas tenure with the Hong Kong Evening News. She is currently a sub-Editor of the Sunday Times and the Daily Telegraph.

She joined the BBAC in 1989 having got hooked on ballooning through a press trip. After a ballooning course at Oswestry College, she got her first flight and started learning, eventually checking out as a pilot with Gerry Turnbull.

With her partner Glen, the Aerostat went from being mainly black and white to full colour and one of the most sought after aeronautical magazines in the world.

Liz Meek pulled the BBAC into the forefront of publishing and ballooning news. She was a tremendous Editor.

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### **Ian Comley**

The British Balloon Museum & Library have nominated Ian Comley for a BBAC Diploma.

Ian has been a member of the BBAC since 1987 and a Friend of the BBM&L since 1996. For the over the last 10 years he has been the Editor of Trailrope, the journal of the BBM&L.

He has done an amazing and dedicated job in this role, but as his work load has increased, his spare time has decreased and in such has resigned the role.

The BBM&L would like to thank Ian for his lengthy tenure and that a BBAC Diploma will give him the recognition he deserves.

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### **Hannah Cameron**

Hannah was a member of the Main Committee of the BBAC for 11 years and juggled her work and home life with the role as PR Officer for much of that time. Hannah's enthusiasm at Main Committee meetings and willingness to take control of projects was admirable.

Hannah was one of the key members of various subcommittees who undertook such events as the Gordon Bennett in 2012 and the Queens Cup in 2014, although Hannah, in her usual modest way, when she was told she had been nominated for an award replied that "she always works with some amazing other committee members" although that was after she thought she had sent an email destined for someone else!

Hannah also deserves an award for keeping Don organised for the last 11 years (although we suspect that this has been going on longer than that!).

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## **Susan Barley**

Susan Barley is NFU Mutual's Affinity Marketing Executive. She has been main contact for organising meeting rooms and events for the BBAC since 2005. She is assisted by Blanche Surman.

Susan has consistently provided a variety of facilities and services for both large and small meetings / events at no cost to the BBAC. She has always been prepared to accommodate our requests for meetings / rooms. Whatever the time of meeting or event, there is always a smile on her face – which sets the tone for us all to have an excellent meeting / day. Her organizational skills ensure that the meetings / events have always run smoothly.

She has done an exceptional job in organising facilities for BBAC Main Committee Meetings, Inspector and Instructor Training Days, various committee meetings – Flying, Competitions Club, Panel of Examiners, the use of the marquee for events including the Grassroots Balloon meeting and most of all for the BBAC AGM.

Without her dedication and willingness to put in the extra time and effort, it is unlikely the club would have functioned as well as it has done over the years that we have used the NFU Mutual's facilities. We will find it a "hard act to follow" and certainly it won't be easy to find another "Susan"

Susan thoroughly deserves recognition for her enthusiasm and support for the BBAC over the last 10 years.

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## **John Woods**

John Woods has been nominated for a BBAC Diploma, in recognition of his service to the BBAC. John retired from being the Treasurer in 2014, after 11 years' service in that role.

Under John's watchful eye, the financial interests of the BBAC have been carefully monitored and savings made where they could be. John was instrumental in solving the long running VAT issue. He was also responsible for the centralisation of the membership records, after Andy Caie retired from the Membership Secretary's role; and the more recent change in membership fee structure.

The BBAC thank John for the contribution he has made to the club and hope he will accept the Diploma.

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## **John Tyrrell**

John initially became involved in assisting Wendy Rousell with the Landowner Relations Seminars in 2003 and has gradually increased his role as a presenter since that time.

His presentations focus on communication skills and the legal matters and he tries to encourage everybody to participate in the day. He has always tried to make the day interesting and fun by injecting humour into his presentations. The landowner relations seminars have never been about dictating what is right and what is wrong, but have sought to encourage debate to give pilots and crew informed options if they are in an awkward situation. John has been pivotal in this approach.

John is nominated for a BBAC Diploma for his services to the BBAC for services to training and landowner relations.

## **2016**

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### **John Till**

I would like to nominate John Till (the only Inspector in the north east of England) for a BBAC Award. For all the hard work he undertakes in the inspection and maintenance of balloons; his ready response to requests for advice; and his contribution to helping new pilots learn to fly and find appropriate kit.

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### **Tim Wilkinson**

Tim Wilkinson became involved in balloon through the Grass Roots balloons meets that he has hosted at his Sackville Lodge airfield. He soon got his license and started building hours. Before long he decided to turn his attention to building balloons. His first project was rebuilding G-BLCH, an old Annex II eight gore Colt 56D. This in itself was extremely challenging and difficult. He then went on to recreate the entire range of Airtour Balloons using the original patterns and has built and flown three sizes - 31, 56 and 77.

He has achieved all of this having no prior knowledge of building envelopes. He has gone to all the trouble of researching manufacturing techniques by speaking to experts who have passed Tim the knowledge. He has also gone to great lengths to source the raw materials, tools and equipment to complete the envelopes. As one might expect there has been a lot of trial and error involved. Tim has made many mistakes along the way, but rather than giving up, he has learned from his mistakes to improve and build his capability to the point that the proof are four envelopes that are being flown regularly at meets across the UK.

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### **Andrew Holly**

### **Steven Edwards – Flight at the North Pole**

On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016 after 12 months of bureaucracy, equipment testing and shipping problems Steve Edwards was finally able to attempt a flight from the geographical North Pole in a Lindstrand 105 hot air balloon. On the day of the flight the surface temperature was -40°C and the fuel cylinder gauges froze as did the fan and one of the burners. The balloon was held down by 10 expedition members to facilitate a walking inflation and after missing a pressure ridge on take-off Steve was finally airborne. The flight lasted 2 hour 40 minute flight and covered 41.2 nm, both the longest recorded at the North Pole. Once on the ground the crew put up an emergency shelter and made a nice cup of tea while they waited for a Russian helicopter to transfer them back to the Russian ice camp.

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### **Glen Everett – Balloon Inspector**

Glen has always loved aviation and started flying aeroplanes in 1990. He got a real buzz from flying so changed his career from being a fairly well paid engineer to a lowly paid balloon crew in 1995 and obtained his balloon licence a couple of years later.

His introduction to balloon repairs was all down to Tony Patey at Thermal Aircraft who offered him ad hoc work helping with inspections, repairing bottom ends, burners, tanks etc.

After a spell flying passenger balloons Glen found he preferred the excitement of display work rather than being a “bus driver” and gradually built up a successful balloon display business.

After Tony Patey’s death, Glen worked towards becoming an inspector which took time and persistence but his background in engineering proved helpful. Glen can make and repair anything – indeed, he has built, modified and repaired (and flies) several two- seat aeroplanes and has flown them as far afield as Switzerland and the south of France. His skills have resulted in him having a civilised way to get to foreign balloon trips!

More recently Glen was invited to join the Technical Committee and, drowning under paperwork, he took it upon himself to re-write the inspection forms and make them as simple and easy to fill in as possible within the rules. This took several months of full-time unpaid for effort for the benefit of everyone.

Behind the scenes, he was also the voice of reason behind Liz Meek’s tenure as editor of Aerostat: a stalwart critic, an encouraging mentor, IT guru and calm saviour in cases of complete computer (and mental!) breakdowns.

He’s a thoughtful diplomat, a capable teacher and a tenacious problem-solver. He is most definitely the person to trust and rely on in a crisis!

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### **Janet Webb – Enthusiastic crew member**

Janet celebrated her 80th birthday on 1st February and must be one of the oldest active regular crew members in the BBAC. Janet lives close to Clumber Park which was used for 1989 Nationals. After watching many flying over her house she developed a deep fascination for them. This

resulted in her late husband John, booking a surprise flight for them both with Ian Hooker in September 1990 to celebrate their 32nd wedding anniversary.

Five years later after hearing about Nottingham & Derby Hot Air Balloon Club both Janet and her husband became regular balloon crew. After 22 years Janet continues to come out with the balloon club as often as she can and is said to be one of the clubs keenest members having notched up over 150 balloon flights.

Janet has served on the committee of Nottingham & Derby Hot Air Balloon Club for several years and is currently editor of the club newsletter. Janet likes to attend balloon meets both in the UK and abroad. In the last 6 years alone Janet has played an active part crewing for the club balloons at meets in Ireland, France, Italy and India. Janet has already booked her place to attend Metz in July 2017 and has stated that she hopes to continue ballooning for many years yet.

Janet your enthusiasm and dedication to our sport is an inspiration to balloonists of all ages and we are proud to have you as a member of our group.

## **2018**

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### **Oliver Webb**

None of Oliver Webb's family was involved with ballooning, but he became inspired to be a balloon pilot whilst a youngster, seeing the rides balloons taking off from York racecourse. He took the initiative and offered to go along to help them.

A few years later Ollie started training to be a balloon pilot, mostly with John Till, bought a Cameron N56 and small basket - small enough to fit on a trailer rated under the limit requiring a towing licence, and able to be towed by his mother's car.

He went on to gain his PPL in 2013 and subsequently embarked on Instructor and CPL training. He achieved his CPL in October 2016 and now he is one of the pilots flying rides balloons from York racecourse - all achieved whilst still in his 20s.

This rapid achievement was brought to national attention by the Pennine Region and as such BBAC is pleased to recognise Ollie with the award of a BBAC Diploma.

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### **Steve Roake**

Steve has been dedicated to one man ballooning for many years. After gaining his pilot's licence in 2003 he finally managed to buy his first one man balloon in 2005. Shortly afterwards, he produced the first newsletter (Cloudhoppers) and then a website dedicated to one-man ballooning. The milestone of the 100<sup>th</sup> newsletter has just been reached and cloudhoppers.org is the main website for one man ballooning. Steve is also currently supporting Aerostat with pages on hoppers in each issue.

Steve was responsible for an attempt to get a world record number of balloons up to 42,000 cu ft in the air at one time during the 2017 Mondial Air Balloons Festival. A total of 36 hoppers in the air at one time beat the unofficial previous record of 29. This would have been far higher if the Mondial organisers had not double booked the hopper mass ascent with their "big line" take off. Steve endured a lot of hassles and stress on behalf of the one man corps.

Steve is very hands on and offers advice and support to pilots new to one man ballooning. He's always there for the BBAC and as such is a worth recipient of a BBAC Diploma.

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### **Alison Odell**

The competitions club would like to pay tribute to Alison (Ally) Odell's hard work and determination over many years in the field of competition ballooning. Outside of ballooning Ally has worked professionally in Higher Education sport management for over 30 years, retiring from the position of Director of Sport, University of Manchester in 2013. In 2007 she was appointed CBE for her work in development and support of sport.

<https://www.bucs.org.uk/news.asp?section=000100010002&itemid=995>

Ally has been involved with competition ballooning for many years and spent a number of years crewing in the 80's and 90's at competition events nationally and overseas and has also had her own brief flirtation with competition flying.

In the world of competition flying, both in the UK and elsewhere, Ally is best known as an Event Director (and assistant director). Over the last 30 years she has directed British National Championships and supported directors at both national and international events. Abroad she has directed world class events (such as the 8th ladies world cup in Auberville France) and travelled widely (Event Director of the 2001 Russian National Hot Air Balloon Championship).

She is an acknowledged Francophile and has directed and co-directed in France for many years. Her involvement with the balloon meet at Thouars (La Montgolfiade de Thouars) over several years was invaluable, as it enabled the Competitions Club to be able to hold its national championship at this meet in 2018. Ally not only negotiated and organized the joint venture but she also acted as competition director. As a consequence of excellent task setting and the challenging use of both terrain and weather conditions resulted in a first-rate national championships.

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### **David Barker**

This year David Barker took the decision not to re-validate his inspector rating thus ending a rather impressive number of years looking after the safety of balloons both at home and abroad.

David's biggest achievement was his work as the Chairman of the Technical Committee of the BBAC which he did voluntarily from 1978 to 1983 with responsibility to the CAA for all certifications (new types, new issues, and Certificate of Airworthiness renewals) for all UK balloons. During his time as chairman David persuaded the CAA to issue a non-expiring Certificate of Airworthiness which was subject to an annual inspection instead thus saving balloon owner a payment of a £60 annually for a new C of A th. In recognition of his work, he was presented with a Federation Aeronautique Internationale Tissandier Diploma by HRH Prince Andrew at the Royal Aero Club Annual Presentations in 1986.

In 2014, after 42 years as a pilot David hung up his flying gloves, however he didn't stop inspecting until early this year when his rating expired. Ballooning and the BBAC owes him an enormous debt of gratitude and his services will be greatly missed. Although no longer carrying out annual inspections he remains an Airworthiness Review Certificate signatory for us so can still issue ARCs. Thank you David

## **Brian Trowbridge**

Brian Trowbridge has had a very long-standing interest and involvement in light aviation. Brian was for some time a fixed wing pilot flying in the Humberside region. Subsequently he became involved in ballooning, he was a balloon pilot and for several years he owned his own balloon. Brian was an active member of the Pennine Region of the BBAC and, for some years a member of the committee. At the same time, when he had moved to Derby, he became a member of the Nottingham and Derby Balloon Club and a member of their committee. More recently Brian has expanded his aviation interest to become the owner and pilot of a Gyroplane.

Brian was a member of the BBAC Main Committee for more than 6 years but, most importantly, Brian has filled the roll of the “go-to” person for the members of the BBAC Main Committee when we needed someone to devote extra time to getting something sorted out especially when it involved better computing skills that the rest of us could offer- so Brian helped us sort out problems in the membership systems, helped with the website and published Pilot’s Circular for several years. This award is, therefore, for service to the BBAC and especially to the Main Committee.

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## **Jeff Percival**

Jeff Percival joined the Nottingham Balloon Club in 1985. He bought his first balloon at the end of 1987 and he became a pilot in 1990. Jeff now owns 4 balloons including a special shape. But most importantly from 2000 to the present Jeff has taken on the role of organising the Chatsworth Park Balloon meeting at the Country Fair each autumn. Together with members of his family and assisted by a committee of friends from the East Midlands Balloon Group the Chatsworth Meet has filled an important part of the ballooning calendar. It is always perfectly organised and although the weather is not always good, the atmosphere there always is.

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## **Ian Hooker**

Ian has been involved in various aspects of ballooning for over 40 years and a member of the BBAC since 31 March 1980. He is one of the founder members of the Nottingham and Derby Hot Air Balloon Group, which has just celebrated its 40th anniversary. He has been involved in training many pilots since that time.

He has been a BBAC Inspector for around 30 years, especially supporting balloonists around the East Midlands.

He also ran a successful rides business Dragon Balloons, around the same area.

Ian became Chairman of the BBAC in 2009 and subsequently National Safety Officer in 2015.

Ian has decided that it is now time to retire from his role as an Inspector and this Diploma is recognition for his inspection work and advice.

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## **Tony Rapson**

Tony Rapson has been head of the General Aviation Unit (GAU) of the CAA for the last five years. He will be ending his term in May 2019. BBAC would like to recognise Tony's cooperation and

support during his time in charge of the GAU. During the last five years, there have been several major projects ongoing with EASA. The BBAC and CAA have generally been well aligned and Tony has been especially key in applying influence to EASA at key moments on several fronts. Tony has also been generally supportive of the sport and industry within the UK. Of course, there have been differences of opinion at times, but BBAC and CAA, through Tony, have maintained excellent relations, not least arising from Tony's willingness to engage, including taking several balloon flights.