

## **The Charles Green Salver**

This is the B.B.A.C's award for outstanding achievement in the sport of ballooning. It is to be awarded by the B.B.A.C. Committee not more than once in any calendar year, and only when the occasion arises.

Charles Green's two major contributions to ballooning were the introduction of coal gas for lighting balloons in 1821, though he is perhaps best remembered for his classic 480 mile balloon journey from Vauxhall Gardens in London to the Duchy of Nassau in Germany in November 1836. He made a number of important scientific flights, including the first ascent to carry out tests at high altitude, when he and his crew of three went to 19,200 feet. His one regret was that the need to earn his living prevented him from carrying out still more scientific tests. Charles Green was one of the first passenger ride operators, carrying more than 700 persons, "among whom I could mention some very distinguished names, and 120 ladies". He was much respected by the pioneers who followed him.

The inscription on the salver reads, "Presented to Mr Charles Green by his friend Richard Crawshay to commemorate their ascent from the City of Norwich, October 16th 1839".

- 1988 Per Lindstrand and Richard Branson  
First Atlantic crossing by Hot air Balloon
- 1990 Rodney Whittaker  
Creation of, and running for many years, the Flying Committee and the Records & Awards services of the BBAC
- 1992 Andy Elson  
First flight over Mount Everest
- 1993 Don Cameron & Rob Bayly  
Atlantic Balloon race
- 1998 Andy Elson  
Breitling absolute duration record for balloons
- 1999 Andy Elson & Colin Prescott  
Cable and Wireless absolute duration record
- 1999 Bertrand Piccard & Brian Jones  
First Round The World Balloon Flight
- 2001 David Hempleman-Adams
- 2004 David Hempleman-Adams
- 2008 David Hempleman-Adams
- 2009 **David Hempleman-Adams, Jonathan Mason**  
for winning the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett
- 2010 **Janet Folkes, Ann Rich**  
for setting a new women's world duration record
- 2011 **David Hempleman-Adams & Simon Carey**  
for their flight in the 2010 Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett

2012 **David Hempleman-Adams & Jonathan Mason**

David Hempleman-Adams and Jonathan Mason won the 2011 Americas Challenge Gas Balloon Race. Starting from Albuquerque in New Mexico, they eventually made a difficult night landing in a strong wind, finishing just 2km from the Canadian Border. They covered 1568 km in a flight time of 71 hours and 32 minutes, which was a duration record for the event.

2015 **The Dante Group**

The Dante Group is best known to balloonists as the group of people who ran the Icicle Meet every January.

In 1970, Pete Bish and Phil Dunnington, both aircraft nuts who spent all their spare time visiting airfields and air-shows photographing aircraft, attended the Observer Balloon Meet and got hooked.

They decided to form a syndicate and buy a balloon. Phil worked for BOAC then, and persuaded them to part with £500 as a sponsor in return for the BOAC speed-bird logo on the balloon. After much arm-twisting, eleven people met in a pub in Staines, contributed £100 each and ordered a balloon. The cost then was £1,600 which included a Trailrope. Don Cameron delivered it in December 1971. It was the first of many Dante balloons.

The Dante group grew a little by little and by 1992, 13 of the 18 members either worked for air traffic control or for airlines. But over the years members have either moved away or sadly died.

The Dante Group gained national status thanks to Dante member, David Liddiard. His generosity offering part of Marsh Benham farm as the Dante HQ and launch site gave hope to many aspiring pilots. Many balloons flew from his farm in the following decade. Plus the Dante Group gained International status when they held the 1<sup>st</sup> Icicle Meet in 1973 at Marsh Benham.

Members of the Dante group have contributed such a lot to flying, ballooning and ballooning organisations, the BBAC, the BBM&L, CAA for instance, and written many books between them.

The last Icicle was held this year after forty two years. Each meet required hard work and many hours organising the flying, the trade show and the social side. The team decided as the red tape got lengthier, PZs bigger, plus they were not getting any younger, they would call it a day, it was a very very hard decision. Everybody in ballooning will know at least two or three Dante members, which shows you what an intricate part of ballooning they have become.

2019 **Dominic Bareford**

Dominic started ballooning when he was only a couple of days old when he was flown from the maternity home after his birth. After practicing with a laundry basket, towel, pretend radio and a real marker as a small child, he finally obtained his pilot's licence at 17. It took him a few more years to start seriously competing and entered his first British National Championship in 2012 when he came 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Since starting to compete, out of the 26 National and International championships he has entered, Dominic has rarely been out of the top 10. In early 2018 he won his first event of the year in Luxembourg. He then went on to come 2<sup>nd</sup> in another event in France before winning the British Nationals Championship for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in a row. In September he was placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Junior World Championship. While all these medal winning results are splendid, his finest achievement of the year was becoming the youngest ever World Hot Air Balloon Champion in Austria in August. For his exceptional flying achievements, the BBAC have awarded Dominic Bareford the Charles Green Salver.