

The Debbie Warley Award

Debbie Warley loved ballooning but died very prematurely in her early 30s, after her struggle with cancer. Debbie will be remembered for her good humour, her infectious laugh, her determination to have fun and for her contribution in organising a number of ballooning events in the '70s notably the Zanussi Transatlantic Crossing in 1978. Prior to her death, Debbie bequeathed a prize to British ballooning to commemorate the happiness and friendship the sport had given her. The trophy, a beautiful glass prism on a glass plinth, in a hardwood box, is presented, at her request, for non-flying contributions to ballooning.

DEBBIE WARLEY AWARD WINNERS

1982	Anne Lewis-Smith
1983	Peter Bish
1984	Rodney Whittaker
1986	Ann Brown
1991	Kevin Meehan
1992	Nigel Tasker
1994	Giles Camplin
1996	Mike Moore
1997	Charles Saffery
1999	Julia Dean
2000	John Baker
2001	Derek Grimshaw
2002	Andy Caie
2004	Marcus Green
2007	Peter Vale
2008	Derry Moore
2010	Crispin Williams
2011	Hannah Cameron
2012	Liz Meek
2013	David Court
2014	Barbara Moreton

2015 **Phil Dunnington**

One of the things that Phil is famous for is for making flights in very many countries. Previously he has received the Adam Sparks trophy to recognise his achievement of flying in 100 countries (he is now up to 111).

The main reason for honouring Phil is to recognise his 30 years involvement in the running of the One Man Meet. In addition to providing an opportunity to fly alongside other "hoppers" it has also had the very important roles of facilitating exchange of ideas on techniques and technology, as well as inspiring newcomers into the world of one person ballooning. Phil has nurtured this event since the beginning and though it is now copied elsewhere, it has not been bettered. It has its own culture and folklore with an array of awards. Its particular foible of being after the main flying season was intended to allow commercial pilots and commercial hoppers to attend. These days, it provides a welcome extension to the season, and with

generally good choice of venue, often with valley shelter of one form or another, it has a surprisingly high success rate for flying for an October meet.

Phil's has had many other contributions to make in the field of ballooning, namely as an instructor, examiner and inspector. He has had a long service as chairman of the examiners panel and as a member and chairman of the flying committee, as well as being a current BBAC main committee member. He is also a Director of the Bristol Balloon Fiesta Company and works most years in the Flight Control Team at the Fiesta. He has and continues to take a particularly heavy burden on behalf of BBAC, in the ongoing work with EASA on new licensing and he has been instrumental in the foundation of the European Ballooning Federation. His diplomacy has helped form this pan-European body, to which EASA will actually listen. As its "secretary general" he is absolutely key to ensuring the BBAC / UK view is given high prominence.

2016 **Don Cameron – as told by Tom Sage**

As I was having tea last week with Don and members of the staff in the canteen he suddenly said " come to my office." He shot off at high speed and I had trouble keeping up. On the other hand when I sent him some early balloon photos I had an e-mail reply which said "How clear and new they look. If only we were as new looking after all this time."

Don has always been the "boffin" in the company. He pioneered Special shaped balloons. I remember well when we attempted to fly the Levi Jeans, Don in a basket under one leg and me in a basket under the other.

We got the Jeans upright but it wouldn't take off. When Don gave a burn hot air rushed down the leg I was under and when I burnt the same happened to him. Don immediately weighed up the problem, closed up my leg and it lifted perfectly.

Don is not only a "boffin" he is also very brave with his first Hot Air Balloon flight over The Alps and then his Atlantic race and flight to Russia.

Not many people in their mid-70's would still be as active as Don. Apart from running Cameron Balloons he is also very active in local politics and a town councillor. Don knew Debbie Warley well, so it is very fitting that on his retirement from many years on the BBAC committee he should be awarded The Debbie Warley Trophy.

2018 **Tim Wilkinson**

Tim Wilkinson has provided huge support and stimulus to ballooning, based at of his facility at Sackville. He was recognised in 2013 with a BBAC Diploma, but the time has come to mark his contributions with a major award. Tim is very active in home-building, in fact it would be true to say that he has stimulated the whole "sector" in recent years, with several other pilots using Tim's facility and guidance to build their own "Annex 2" envelopes. This is probably sport ballooning at its purest and has helped to encourage new people into the sport. Tim continues to offer hangarage, a launch site and loan of equipment to a significant number of pilots. This is all done in parallel with being a working farmer. The "Grass Roots" meet reached a milestone of ten years at Sackville and BBAC recognises the major role Tim has had in its evolution and success. In summary, Tim is a generous supporter of sport flying.

2019 **Rupert Stanley**

Rupert Stanley has given selflessly and enthusiastically over many years to the running of the Competitions Club. His organizational skills and his calm logical approach to the rules of competitive flying led to him being appointed as chief observer and he had a major role in arranging the English version of the observer's handbook. As a pilot, Rupert has also flown internationally, representing Great Britain in events such as the world championships in Battle Creek in 2012 as well as a number of other Category 1 events. He has also acted as ground support to the British team at international championships.

Rupert has served on the comps club committee for many years and behind the scenes he has been a tower of strength spending huge amounts of time and effort in the day to day organization of the club.

Rupert has also made a major contribution to the BBAC with the instigation and maintenance of the BBAC Insurance scheme for young drivers. This scheme has particularly enabled our young competition pilots to be able to use their friends under 25 as crew. These young crew members have also been able to get actively involved in ballooning for anyone at a very small cost. This scheme has had a major benefit to balloonists in the UK and the BBAC has honoured Rupert by awarding him the Debbie Warley Trophy.

2020 Not awarded