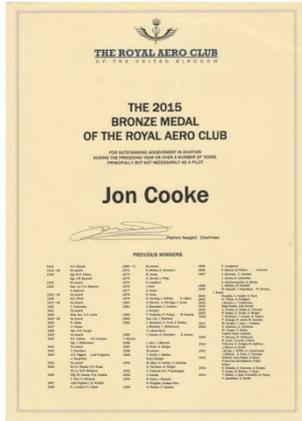




THE ROYAL AERO CLUB OF THE UNITED KINGDOM



The Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom awarded Jon Cooke a Bronze Medal in 2015 for his outstanding achievement in aviation. Having been flying since he was a teenager, Jon is an airline captain, FIC instructor and examiner with On-Track Aviation. He is also a founder member of the Light Aircraft Association's coaching scheme, which aims to improve flight safety by enhancing the piloting skills of LAA members. Jon is the chairman and Head of Training for the scheme.

The Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom

In 1901, three wealthy motorists, Frank Hedges Butler, his daughter Vera and the Hon Charles Rolls, had proposed a motor tour, but this was cancelled when Vera's Renault 4.5 caught fire. The lady arranged a balloon flight with the distinguished professional Stanley Spencer, as a distraction. Over a glass of champagne during the subsequent voyage, passing near Sidcup in Kent, they agreed that an Aero Club should be formed and after landing this was done without delay.

The club rapidly became the social as well as a political centre of the new sport of aviation. Starting with a banquet in 1901 to honour Alberto Santos-Dumont, the first man to fly effectively in Europe, the Royal Aero Club's dinners for distinguished guests became famous, and from 1922 were joined by annual dinners for the winner of the King's Cup Air Race. Offered in 1922 by King George V as an incentive to the development of British light aircraft and engine design, this most prestigious of all air races is still competed (and the winner dined) as enthusiastically as ever. More practical recognition of achievement is also offered on an annual basis including Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals, Diplomas and Certificates of Merit all for outstanding achievement of aviation persons in every flying and related activity, through the work of the Medals and Awards Committee.