

--- BEGINS ---

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LAA PRESIDENT ROGER HOPKINSON AWARDED MBE



LAA President and former Chairman, Roger Hopkinson has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's 90th Birthday Honours List, for services to the UK's General Aviation Community. Roger joined the Board of the then Popular Flying Association (PFA) in 2004, becoming its Chairman in 2005 and leading the modernisation and revitalisation of the Association; including its rebranding in 2009 as the Light Aircraft Association (LAA).

Roger has also played a key role in advocacy with government, national and international regulators. In 2004 he helped found the UK General Aviation Alliance (GAA), a partnership of sports & recreational flying associations, forming a coordinated front in regulatory matters. He became its Facilitator, working on behalf of nine member sports aviation bodies representing 72,000 subscription paying members in the UK.

His GAA role led to his election as the Chairman of the General and Business Aviation Strategic Forum; initially established to oversee implementation of the 2006 Strategic & Regulatory review of GA by CAA. Following the Government's successful Red Tape Challenge initiative it has become the forum where senior Government officials and CAA management meet with GA representatives to foster the development of a safe and sustainable GA sector in UK.

Roger is a founder and first elected President of the European Federation of Light, Experimental and Vintage Aircraft (EFLEVA), which represents the interests of 15 associations in 14 European nations on matters of regulation across Europe working, in close association with Europe Air Sports, with EU Aviation Authorities.

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Recognised by Sport England. Member of General Aviation Awareness Council, General Aviation Alliance, The Royal Aero Club and EFLEVA - European Federation of Light, Experimental & Vintage Aircraft. The representative body in the UK for amateur aircraft construction, recreational and sport flying.

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Roger's passion for aviation started with building model aircraft (with two examples of his skill on display in the lobby of LAA HQ at Turweston), before moving to full size aircraft flying and building his own Vans RV6A kit aircraft. He subsequently became the first builder in Europe to complete a four seat Vans RV10. Both aircraft have been used extensively, particularly for European touring.

Prior to retiring in 2004, Roger, who graduated as a Mechanical Engineer, worked in engineering management where he held senior positions in design, manufacture and marketing of capital equipment. He oversaw multi-site operations as well as latterly working in the defence industry.

Roger is married to Gill and they have three children and two granddaughters. His "other hobby" is church bell ringing!

The Light Aircraft Association – Making Dreams Fly.

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--- NOTES FOR EDITORS ---

About the Light Aircraft Association

With a history extending over 70 years, the UK Light Aircraft Association promotes safe and economical operation of sports and recreational aircraft. Representing the aviation interests of over 7,000 recreational pilots, amateur-builders and enthusiast members, the LAA oversees the operation of more than 2,500 light aircraft and the construction or rebuild of another 1,600 projects, whilst providing sector-leading consultation and advocacy in aviation-related regulatory matters both in UK and Europe.
www.laa.uk.com

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