



# THE LAA WINGS AWARD SCHEME

LAA Pilot Coaching Scheme Chairman, Jon Cooke encourages you to improve your skills for fun and safety

**T**ony Rapson, Head of the CAA's GA Unit, recently said, "We know that pilots who continue to develop their flying skills are safer than those who do not. That is not a surprising fact, so we therefore really want to encourage all private pilots to find the time to acquire new skills and complete additional training after getting their licence, other than their biennial flight check that is. They will hopefully find that flying becomes more rewarding as a result."

Aviation currently doesn't offer much by way of recognition of your achievements beyond initial licence issue. Even the licence itself is now a somewhat less than impressive miniaturised version of what we used to get issued. Once we've obtained our pilot's licence, then what? Accident statistics, and many recent AAIB reports, provide sufficient evidence to support the opinion that there are many areas where we could be doing much better as both pilots and aircraft owners.

The CAA has now published the Pilot Recognition for Operational Up-skilling and Development (PROUD) scheme, which provides a framework for pilot training programmes to meet in order to achieve the CAA endorsement. This new scheme to improve the skills levels aims to encourage 'lifelong' learning for private pilots to help improve safety. The CAA has stated that the new initiative is to not only to close individual skills gaps, but also to help tackle the high dropout rate amongst recently qualified PPLs, many of whom lack confidence and motivation.

You may know that the LAA Pilot Coaching Scheme has an existing pilot development programme, the 'LAA Diploma', which achieves a similar aim. We've been running the scheme for a number of years but it is

**Are you confident about your recovery from unusual attitudes? Some aerobatic training would certainly brush up your skills.**

somewhat underutilised – it was previously called the 'PFA Diploma' offering Bronze, Silver, and Gold level awards. To support this CAA initiative, and also encourage continued pilot development by LAA members, I have amended the requirements of our existing LAA Diploma awards to meet the recently published framework for CAA recognition under the new 'PROUD' endorsement and renamed it the LAA Wings Award Scheme.

The Light Aircraft Association (LAA) will retain the existing three levels of award: LAA Wings - Bronze Award; LAA Wings - Silver Award; and LAA Wings - Gold Award

The new scheme meets the CAA's PROUD requirements and I am pleased to announce that at the LAA Rally, the CAA presented us with a certificate which officially endorses our LAA Wings Award Scheme.

We aim to encourage the continued development of pilot knowledge, skills and attitudes through a number of activities, as well as encouraging pilots to gain additional skills through further training and qualifications. The scheme also encourages development of non-technical skills such as Threat and Error Management, which are also embedded within the many recognised activities, along with encouraging personal development and flight safety awareness.

Since many pilots never venture out of their local area, which is both limiting in terms of enjoyment and fulfilment, but also stifles development and confidence, the LAA Wings award includes a requirement for pilots to complete extended navigational flights towards each award.

The LAA Wings award scheme is open to all qualified pilots of aeroplanes or rotorcraft, and is available to all licence holders, whether you're a LAA member or not. Applicants complete a simple application form and present supporting evidence locally to a LAA Coach, LAA Strut Coordinator or CFI at a Registered Facility or an Approved Training Organisation. It is then submitted to LAA Head Office.

## LAA WINGS AWARD

In accordance with the CAA requirements for PROUD recognition, each of the awards requires you to fulfil the stated requirements in each of the following sections:

Minimum Flight Times  
Achievements  
Safety Event Attendance  
Extended Navigational Challenge

We hope the requirements will provide you with a challenge whilst encouraging you to expand your skill set and broaden your knowledge and non-technical skills.

### 1 Minimum Flight Times

Each award requires you to show that you've met minimum total flight time requirements and minimum experience as pilot-in-command. For aeroplane pilots, experience counted must be gained in single-pilot class ratings such as:  
Single Engine Piston (SEP)  
Single Engine Turboprop (SET)  
Multi-Engine Piston (MEP)  
Touring Motor Glider (TMG)  
Self Launching Motor Glider (SLMG)  
Microflight.

The minimum flight times for each award are as follows:

**BRONZE** 100 hours total time including 50 hours as pilot-in-command

**SILVER** 250 hours total time including 200 hours as pilot-in-command

**GOLD** 500 hours total time including 400 hours as pilot-in-command

We would like to encourage your participation in the scheme from soon after your initial flight training. As a result we have set the LAA Wings BRONZE award for both the total flight time and pilot-in-command experience fairly low.

### 2 Achievements

To develop your flying skills and proficiency, we've included achievements for the LAA Wings Award Scheme across a diverse range of qualifications and training. Whatever your aspirations as a pilot, hopefully you will see >



# LAA WINGS



The CAA's Mark Shortman (centre) presents LAA Chairman Brian Davies (left) and Pilot Coaching Scheme Chairman Jon Cooke (right) with a PROUD Certificate of Endorsement for the new LAA Wings Award Scheme



Many pilots have concerns about their navigation which restricts their flying. Spread your wings and take advantage of the travelling opportunities an aircraft provides. This is the 2000 year old Pont du Gard aqueduct in France, feasible as a weekend trip for many LAA aircraft.



Operating a taildragger from a grass strip can seem a world away from your ab into training but it opens up all kinds of flying opportunities.

a course, qualification or training which might inspire you to progress through the required number of achievements for each award.

For the achievement category the qualifications, certificates, training, and activities recognised include:

#### Pilot qualifications:

- Night Rating
- IR(Restricted) Rating
- Instrument Rating
- Mountain Rating
- Aerobatics Rating
- Addition to EASA PPL of another class rating (SEP, TMG, MEP)
- Addition to EASA PPL of a Seaplane class rating
- Addition to NPPL of another class rating (SSEA, SLMG or Microlight)
- NPPL or EASA LAPL converted to EASA PPL
- Class Rating Instructor certificate or Flight Instructor certificate
- Display Authorisation

#### Certificates:

- Radio Navigation certificate
- Ground Instructor certificate

#### Training:

- LAA Online Course (coming soon!)
- LAA Strip Flying diploma
- LAA Cross-channel checkout
- LAA Proficient Pilot diploma (new!)
- Royal Aero Club Records, Racing & Rally Association Air Race School

Two items of differences training as required by the ANO and/or EASA such as retractable gear, variable pitch propeller, turbo charger, pressurisation, tailwheel conversion, single power lever controls (SPLC) and aircraft with electronic ('glass') flight instruments

Conversion to three additional and distinct types of aircraft (state types in application)

#### Activities:

- Complete a LAA World Record (coming soon!)
- Complete one Royal Aero Club handicapped Air Race
- Complete one British Aerobatics Association Aerobatic Competition
- Complete one British Precision Flying Association Precision Flying Competition
- Complete one Royal Institute of Navigation Top Nav Competition
- Complete any other organised event with the prior approval of AOPA.

You should note that achievements are not limited to the above lists. If you've completed a course with a suitable training provider, you can submit an alternative achievement - this will be considered when you submit your application.

Achievements required for each level of LAA Wings Award are:

- BRONZE** 1 achievement
- SILVER** 3 achievements
- GOLD** 5 achievements

#### 3. Safety Event Attendance

We're keen for pilots to expand their knowledge - this is shown to reduce the probability of an accident and improves the foundation upon which sound decision making is made. There are a number of excellent aviation seminars from a variety of providers already available across the UK which we have approved. I'm in the process of approving a number of

other safety seminars, with a number of LAA Online Courses which are currently under development and will be added to the LAA Wings Award Scheme website ([www.laawings.co.uk](http://www.laawings.co.uk)) during the winter.

- Currently approved Seminars are:
- LAA Online Courses (available soon)
  - LAA Class Rating Instructor seminar
  - LAA Engineering course (Wooden aircraft structures, working with aluminium, Rotax, etc)
  - GASCo Safety Evening
  - GASCo Safety Seminar (such as Loss of Control Seminar)
  - GASCo Flight Safety Forum
  - GASCo Sea Survival Course
  - Flight Instructor Refresher Seminar
  - Military Civil Air Safety Day
  - Weather School courses (various providers)
  - Irv Lee's PPL Masterclass
  - RAeC 'Three Rs' Race School Day
  - NATS visit with infringements presentation
  - Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Course

Evidence of attendance should be obtained from the course or seminar provider. This may be in the form of a letter, certificate, or a stamp in pilot's log book. For your LAA Wings Award, the minimum attendances required are:

- BRONZE** 1 Safety Event
- SILVER** 2 Safety Events
- GOLD** 3 Safety Events

**4. Extended Navigational Challenges**

To encourage pilots to venture out of their local area, the LAA Wings award includes an element of extended navigational flights to challenge you.

Qualifying navigational flight requirements are defined below in terms of total distance and number of intermediate take-offs or landings between the point of departure and the final destination. The intermediate take-offs or landings must be made at different airfields from the point of departure and the final destination. The applicant is to be the Pilot-in-Command and is to fly the take-off and landing for all flight legs for which the qualifying flight distance is sought.

You're required to show logbook evidence which demonstrates that you have met the flight requirements when applying for LAA Wings award as indicated.

Minimum qualification requirements:

**BRONZE** A total flight distance of greater than 200nm with at least two intermediate take-offs or landings.

**SILVER** Completion of BRONZE navigational challenge plus an additional total flight distance of greater than 400nm with at least three intermediate take-offs or landings, OR an additional total flight distance of greater than 200nm with a sea crossing (>20nm) and at least three intermediate take-offs or landings.

**GOLD** Completion of BRONZE and SILVER navigational challenges plus an additional total flight distance of greater than 600 nm with at least four intermediate take-offs or landings, OR an additional total flight distance of greater than 400 nm with a sea crossing (>20 nm) and at least four intermediate take-offs or landings.

We hope that you will enjoy the challenge and learning which the LAA Wings Award Scheme framework provides, whilst benefiting from continued development of your knowledge and skills as a pilot and the additional recognition of your achievements through the scheme. Find out more about the LAA Wings Award Scheme and how to apply at the dedicated LAA Wings Award Scheme website: [www.laawings.co.uk](http://www.laawings.co.uk)



Constant speed props, turbochargers and retractable gear are now much more commonplace. Learning how to operate them correctly can help you win a LAA Achievement Award.

**APPLYING FOR AN LAA WINGS AWARD**

You can download your application form from the LAA Wings Award Scheme website and your initial application may be for any level of the LAA Wings award but must provide details of all the qualifying flights, achievements and safety events that relate to it. Your application (with supporting evidence) should be presented for authentication as described above, alternatively you may present it at LAA Head Office or at any event where a LAA senior representative is present such as the LAA Rally.

Note that the scheme is also aimed at developing the skills of professional pilots,

so if you're a commercial pilot we've chosen not to include flights which you may have conducted whilst exercising the privileges of your commercial pilot licences or any flight conducted in an aircraft covered by type ratings. However, if you're a Flight Instructor or Class Rating Instructor, you may include experience gained whilst exercising the privilege of your Instructor certificate in single-pilot aircraft which are within the privileges of a single-pilot class rating.

LAA members can apply for an LAA Wings Award free of charge. Non-members must include a £15 administration fee.

AWARD LEVEL	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Administration Fee (Non-Members)	£15	£15	£15
Administration Fee (LAA Members)	Free	Free	Free

Completed application forms, together with the appropriate fee, should be sent to LAA Wings Award Scheme, Light Aircraft Association, Turweston Aerodrome, Nr Brackley, Northants. NN13 5YD.

Providing you meet the relevant requirements we will issue your LAA Wings Award to recognise your achievement; this will be sent to your nearest LAA Strut for presenting or if you prefer, directly to you.

**SUMMARY OF CRITERIA FOR THE LAA WINGS AWARD**

AWARD LEVEL	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
<b>Criteria 1</b>			
Minimum Total Time	100H	250H	500H
Minimum PIC Time	50H	200H	400H
<b>Criteria 2</b>			
Number of Achievements	1	3	5
<b>Criteria 3</b>	<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>SILVER</b>	<b>GOLD</b>
Safety Event Attendance	1	2	3
<b>Criteria 4</b>	Extended Navigational Challenge		
	<i>As stated in Section 4</i>		