



Light Aircraft Association

LAA AWARDS

2025 EDITIONv1

S A MacConnacher

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JUDGING DEFINITIONS OF LAA

VINTAGE AIRCRAFT:

A factory built aircraft built and flown for the first time prior to January 1st 1950.

CLASSIC AIRCRAFT:

A factory built aircraft built and flown for the first time on or after January 1st 1950 but at least 35 years old on the day of the event.

This now encompasses the previous category CONTEMPORARY AIRCRAFT.

ORIGINAL AIRCRAFT:

An aircraft with a provenance that can be traced back to its original constructor. This is regardless of the replacement of parts made during the course of maintaining its airworthiness.

REPLICA & SCALE-REPLICA AIRCRAFT:

A copy of an original factory built aircraft produced either full size or scaled down. An aircraft for which plans were made available for amateur construction is not considered a replica unless it was built at least 40 years after the last production aircraft was built. .e.g. copies of the Chilton DW1 Monoplane and Comper Swift can be considered a replicas whereas a Falco or Jodel D140 cannot.

HOMEBUILT AIRCRAFT:

An aircraft constructed by an individual or group for recreational purposes.

PLANS-BUILT AIRCRAFT:

A homebuilt aircraft built from a set of drawings using raw materials and mainly non-dedicated standard aircraft parts.

KIT-BUILT AIRCRAFT:

A homebuilt aircraft built from a set of drawings using mainly prefabricated parts.

(Where the kit only consists of raw materials and standard aircraft parts the aircraft can be considered to be plans built. Where a designer offers, say, a special canopy and cowlings which are difficult to build from scratch this does not constitute a kit.)

COMPOSITE AIRCRAFT

A homebuilt aircraft built with fuselage and flying surfaces made of fibre reinforced resins. Aircraft may be either built from a kit or plans built.

CLASSIC HOMEBUILT

An amateur plans-built or kit-built aircraft that is over 25 years old on the day of the event.

CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A NEW TROPHY

- 1 To be named after a person or organisation who has been a long time supporter of LAA. To be a non-perpetual trophy i.e. given away each year until such time as LAA or the sponsoring organisation if a commercial organisation wishes to cease the sponsorship. In the case of a trophy to be given in an individual's name in perpetuity a sum of at least £400.00 to be held in trust where the interest will in the early years cover the annual cost of a trophy and its engraving.
- 2 To be capable of being judged in the time available at the Rally, if aircraft related. (i.e. 2 hours). If the judging criteria are applicable to most types then it would be impossible because of distance for the judges to reach all aircraft eligible.
- 3 To have a pool of potential winners so that a winner should be available each year. There would need to be a reasonable number of new or restored aircraft to make a type trophy worthwhile.
- 4 Aircraft trophies are to recognise workmanship in building or restoration so cannot be given to those types where judging would only reflect the factory Quality Control and the owner's ability to keep it clean.

THE AWARDS

THE PRINCE MICHAEL of KENT TROPHY

CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

The trophy was donated by His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent 2016.

The award is judged on overall appearance only. It is awarded to the owner of the aircraft judged to have the best overall appearance. Only award winners in certain classes listed below are eligible for this award. If the judges decide that an aircraft in a class other than the winner is the best on appearance it may be nominated instead

THE AIR SQUADRON TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST PLANS-BUILT AIRCRAFT

The trophy was presented to the PFA in 1971 by the 'Air Squadron' and is our premier award.

The award is made to the owner of the best homebuilt aircraft present at the Rally who must be the builder. The aircraft must have been built from plans without the major use of pre-manufactured kits for the airframe. The owner must have carried out at least 51% of the construction.

To be judged using amateur built judging rules.

THE R.A.A.(CANADA) TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST KIT-BUILT AIRCRAFT

A trophy was presented by the Devon and Cornwall Strut in 1991 and by the West London Strut in 1992. On the 11th May 1993 PFA was presented with a new permanent trophy by our equivalent organisation in Canada the Recreational Aircraft Association Canada.

The award is made to the owner of the best homebuilt aircraft attending the Rally that has been constructed using a pre-manufactured kit or kits. The owner must have carried out at least 51% of the construction (or 500 hrs).

To be judged using amateur built judging rules.

JOHN RANDALL TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST VINTAGE AIRCRAFT

The original trophy was donated to the PFA by John Randall

The award is made to the owner of the best Vintage aircraft. Until 1992 for an aircraft to be in this classification it must have been built prior to Jan 1950.

From 1992 the vintage definition changed to aircraft built prior to Jan 1946.

From 2010 the aircraft must have been built prior to Jan 1950

To be judged using factory built aircraft judging rules.

THE ROY MILLS TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST CLASSIC AIRCRAFT

A PFA trophy instituted in 1989 as the Restoration Trophy and renamed in 1991 in honour of Roy Mills a past chairman of the Association.

The award was originally given to recognise restorations of aircraft that were maintained on a 'Permit to Fly' issued by the LAA but were not eligible for an award in other classes e.g. SIPAs, Emeraudes, Minicabs, Condors, Champion Tri-Travellers, & Aircoupes. From 1992, the award has been made to the owner of best Classic Aircraft.

i.e. A factory built aircraft, built and flown for the first time on or after January 1st 1950 but is at least 35 years old on the day of the event.

To be judged using factory built aircraft judging rules.

THE SYWELL TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST CLASSIC HOMEBUILT

The trophy was donated to the PFA by Mike Newton & his fellow directors of Sywell Aerodrome Ltd., to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the aerodrome in 1928. Sywell was the home of the PFA rally during the rally's early years.

The award was previously for best new design but only open to British built and designed aircraft suitable for the amateur constructor.

New Citation

Classic homebuilt: An amateur plans-built or kit-built aircraft that is over 25 years old on the day of the event.

The award is made to the owner with the following conditions. The owner must have flown it for at least 30 hrs and have owned it for at least 2 years, and have built or rebuilt the aircraft. Factory built single seat homebuilt types such as the Nipper, Turbulent, Pitts that have been rebuilt by the owner are eligible.

To be judged using homebuilt aircraft judging rules

THE BENJAMIN TIGER CLUB TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST ORIGINAL DESIGN

The trophy was donated to the PFA by Lewis Benjamin of the Tiger Club who was PFA's Director of Airside Operations at the early PFA Rallies at Sywell.

Awarded each year for the best original design. The aircraft may be of non-UK origin but must be on its first flying visit to the Rally.

THE POOLEY SWORD

AWARDED TO THE BEST REPLICA AIRCRAFT.

The Trophy was donated to the PFA by Bob Pooley of Airtour International Ltd.

The award is made to the owner of the best replica of an aircraft originally built commercially or as a 'one off' at least 40 years before the day of the judging. The aircraft may be full size or scale. Particular attention is to be paid to the authentic qualities of the aircraft..

To be judged using amateur built judging rules.

THE ERNIE HORSFALL SWORD

AWARDED TO THE BEST JODEL

The trophy was arranged by and donated to the PFA by Ernie Horsfall and its name was changed from the "Wilkinson Sword" to its present title in 2024..

The award is given to the owner of best Jodel, either factory built with a tailwheel or amateur constructed.

To be judged using factory built aircraft judging rules with no special emphasis on authenticity.

THE PERSONAL PLANE SERVICES TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST DE HAVILLAND

The trophy was presented to the PFA by the late Doug Bianchi a former Chief Inspector of the PFA and owner of PPS.

The trophy was awarded to the owner of the best D.H. Moth. All single engine DH Aircraft, wherever built, are eligible as are the Rapide, Dragonfly and Dragon. The Trophy was restricted to Tiger Moths until 1992.

To be judged using factory built aircraft judging rules

THE JIM EMPSON TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST FABRIC COVERED PIPER

The trophy was donated to the PFA by Jim Empson.

The award is given to the owner of the best Piper Cub with a J- designation and including the military derivatives of those aircraft e.g. L-4 Grasshopper and AE-1 version of the J-5 Cub Cruiser of the US Navy. From 2010 all fabric covered Pipers are eligible.

To be judged using factory built aircraft judging rules

THE AUSTER ALTIMETER TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST AUSTER

The trophy was donated to the PFA by the International Auster Pilot Club.

Awarded each year to the owner of the best Auster, taking into account overall condition, authenticity, type of restoration (whether private or commercial), credit being given to individual effort. The aircraft may be in club, group or individual ownership. The aircraft may be a Beagle tailwheel aircraft of basic Auster design, e.g. Terrier, Husky.

To be judged using factory built aircraft judging rules.

THE ALBERT CODLING TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST PART COMPLETED HOMEBUILT

The trophy was donated to the PFA in memory of the late Albert Codling who was an experienced inspector, and licensed engineer, who spent most of his life with Auster Aircraft.

The award is restricted to LAA projects, is for the best part-built project at the annual Rally on which the owner has done more than 50% of the work. Aircraft on commercial display are ineligible. The aircraft cannot be complete and must show the elements of its construction.

To be judged using amateur built judging rules Nos.3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 10.

THE NOWICKI TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST RV AIRCRAFT

The salver was presented to the PFA in memory of Andy Nowicki at the 2003 PFA Rally.

It is awarded to the owner and builder of the best RV. The aircraft must have been constructed in the UK and be on a LAA Permit to Fly.

To be judged using amateur built judging rules.

THE MALCOLM ALLEN TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE MOST MERITORIOUS ARRIVAL BY AIR AT THE LAA RALLY

This trophy is dedicated to the memory of Malcolm Allen and was endowed by his parents. Malcolm lost his life in a flying accident in a Jodel D.9 in 1996. Prior to 1997 this was a PFA Award which had no trophy, only a certificate and at the early rallies at Sywell (?) it usually took the form of a Pooley's Flight Guide

The award is restricted to members of LAA, RSA, EAA, or other similar organisations, and is given for the most meritorious flight to the Rally taking into account the aircraft, the equipment carried and hazards en-route.

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LAA Service Awards

THE RODERICK TURNER TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE PERSON WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED MOST TO FLYING FOR FUN

The trophy was donated to the PFA by Roderick Turner's mother, family and friends as a permanent memorial to Roderick who was a Flying Instructor. The trophy is a magnificent silver Tiger Moth mounted on an Onyx base,

The award is given to the person or group whose achievements during the previous year or over a number of years has made a major contribution to Flying For Fun. Due to the valuable nature of the trophy it is not possible to add more names to the plinth.

THE LOIS PARKER TROPHY

AWARDED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION OF GREAT BENEFIT TO LAA.

The trophy was donated to PFA by her many friends in the organisation. Lois Parker was the much-loved wife of Frank Parker, a former Chairman of PFA. Until she was incapacitated by an ultimately fatal illness, Lois was a devoted and inspired secretary to the PFA. The Parker's front room was the PFA office and due to their efforts, a sound foundation was built from which the LAA has grown.

The award is restricted to LAA Members.

THE FRANK HOUNSLOW TROPHY

FOR SERVICES TO LAA IN ENGINEERING

Presented to PFA by Rollason Aircraft and Engines in May 1994. Frank Hounslow, who worked for Rollasons for many years, was also PFA's Chief Inspector until his death.

Awarded to the LAA member who has made a major contribution to LAA's engineering function e.g. in Inspection.

THE CHRIS PAUL TROPHY (President's Joy Stick)

AWARDED FOR SERVICES TO THE LAA .

The trophy, an AVRO 504N control column, was presented to the PFA by former President, Air Commodore G.J.C. Paul.

The award is made to the individual who has received no other award but deserves recognition for a particular act of devotion to the LAA cause, often behind the scenes and in connection with the LAA Rally, though not restricted to the Rally, and of great benefit to us all.

THE PETE CLARKE TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE PERSON WHO HAS MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO AIR SAFETY.

The cup was presented by Ivan Shaw to the PFA at its 50th anniversary Rally in memory of Pete Clarke who was killed during a flight demonstration at Old Warden in a Slingsby Firefly. Pete had carried out most of the test flying on the Europa during its development.

It is awarded to an individual or group who have greatly contributed to air safety.

THE DAVID FAULKNER-BRYANT STRUT TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE MOST ACTIVE LAA STRUT OR PERSON IN THE STRUT SYSTEM

The shield was presented to the PFA by our then Chairman David Faulkner-Bryant who created the Strut system within the organisation.

Awarded to the Strut which supports LAA as a whole, for example: in helping with the Rally, attendance at the National Council meetings, is efficient with correspondence, strut news, and information, holds regular meetings, organises its own rallies/fly-ins and other activities.

THE BILL WOODHAMS MEMORIAL TROPHY

AWARDED FOR A FEAT OF NAVIGATION IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

The trophy was donated to the PFA in memory of Bill Woodhams by his family and friends. Bill was a senior figure in the PFA in the 60s, serving on the Executive Committee.

The award is made to a LAA member who has carried out a worthy feat of distance navigation in the previous twelve months. A series of such long distance touring over a period is also taken into consideration.

THE TED MOSLIN MEMORIAL TRUST AWARD

AWARDED TO THE MOST PROMISING APPRENTICE OR TRAINEE IN LIGHT AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE.

The executors of the late Ted Moslin's estate donated a sum of money to be held in trust by the LAA for the purpose of making the award.

Awarded every other year to the most promising apprentice or trainee in light aircraft engineering especially connected with LAA type aircraft. The award is a set of tools to a value of about £300.

Other trophies held by LAA and no longer in use

PFA SPOT LANDING CUP

Not awarded after 1976 due to airfield traffic problems.

PFA(GROUP A/C) TROPHY

Not awarded after 1990 due to the change in nature of groups to simple co-ownership groups.

MASEFIELD TROPHY

Not awarded after 1990 to the best or most active group due to the same reason as above.

THE LOWNDES LAMBERT TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST CONTEMPORARY AIRCRAFT

Presented by Lowndes Lambert Aviation Ltd., the aviation insurers in 1992.

CONTEMPORARY AIRCRAFT:

A factory built aircraft built and flown for the first time between January 1st 1956 up to and including December 31st 1965.

(Includes all Piper PA22 series aircraft, Emeraudes, Condors, Beagle Terriers and Airedales which were built after the above dates.)

Date changed from 1960 to 1965 in July 2000.

To be judged using factory built aircraft judging rules without emphasis on authenticity..

Contemporary Category combined with the Classic Category in 2010. Class was based on EAA Rules.

THE "PILOT" TROPHY

CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

The trophy was donated by James Gilbert of *Pilot* magazine.

The award is judged on overall appearance only. It is awarded to the owner of the aircraft judged to have the best overall appearance. Only award winners in certain classes listed below are eligible for this award. If the judges decide that an aircraft in a class other than the winner is the best on appearance it may be nominated instead.

Trophy Winners which are judged for this award.

Best Plans-built homebuilt aircraft.

Best Kit-built homebuilt aircraft.

Best Vintage aircraft.

Best Classic aircraft.

Best Jodel.

Best Auster.

Best Composite aircraft

Best Moth.

Best Contemporary aircraft.

Best Gyroplane.

Best Replica.

Best Robin.

Best Piper J- Cub.

It had become difficult to judge in the time available.

An original cup very small is held in the Heritage collection.

THE HALTON TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST GREATER THAN 10 YEAR OLD HOMEBUILT AIRCRAFT

The trophy, a blade from an Rolls-Royce Olympus jet engine, was donated by Royal Air Force Station Halton. The station, which trained the technicians of the RAF, has a connection with the lighter side of aviation with the Halton Aero Club's series of light aircraft that were designed and built in the 1920's. The Halton Mayfly biplane, which without its lower wing, became the Halton Minus was designed by C.H. Latimer-Needham, an instructor at the apprentice training school, who later produced the first practical UK homebuilt the Luton Minor.

The award is restricted to PFA members who own a homebuilt type aircraft of greater than 10 years from first flight on the day of judging. The owner must have flown it for at least 150 hrs and have owned it for at least 4 years, and have built or rebuilt the aircraft. The aircraft must have a total flying hours of at least 250 hrs. Factory built single seat homebuilt types such as the Nipper, Turbulent, Pitts that have been rebuilt by the owner are eligible.

To be judged using amateur built judging rules less No.1.

The trophy had run out of room to add more winners and with an increasing numbers of classic homebuilts available to judge the Sywell Trophy has taken its place.

THE KEN WALLIS TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST GYROPLANE

The trophy was donated to the PFA by Wing Commander Ken Wallis. The award itself was instituted by PFA in 1979.

It is awarded to the owner of the best amateur built gyroplane at the annual Rally. It must either fly into the event or be flown prior to judging taking place.

The rules for amateur built aircraft will be followed suitably modified by the judges with emphasis on the safety needs of gyros.

THE PIERRE ROBIN TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST DIJON BUILT JODEL OR ROBIN

The Bowl was presented to the PFA by Pierre Robin during the annual dinner at the Rally at Cranfield in 1988.

It is awarded to the owner of the best Dijon (CEA) built Jodel or Robin of Jodel configuration either tailwheel or nosewheel including D1050, D1051, DR200 series up to the DR400. The aircraft must be 5 + years old.

To be judged using factory built aircraft judging rules with no special emphasis on authenticity.

No room for further winners to be added.

THE PFA (OLDEST PILOT) TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE OLDEST PILOT ATTENDING THE PFA RALLY

The awarded to the oldest pilot who has flown into the PFA Rally as pilot in command. Last awarded in 1996.

THE DON FORMAN TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST COMPOSITE AMATEUR BUILT AIRCRAFT

The trophy was presented to the PFA by Don Foreman who built the first Rutan Defiant, the first Rutan Long-Ez and was part of the team that built the first all composite aircraft in the UK, G-LASS a Rutan Vari-Eze.

Until 1999 it was awarded to the aircraft owner for the most innovative use of composite structure. In 2000 the criteria was changed to be awarded to the owner of the best amateur built aircraft of all composite construction, whether built from plans or a kit.

To be judged using amateur built judging rules

THE CORNWALL TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE YOUNGEST PILOT ATTENDING THE LAA RALLY

The trophy was donated to the PFA by the Cornwall Aero Club.

The award is given to the youngest pilot to have flown into the LAA Rally. He or she must be the pilot in command.

THE JOHN WALKER TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST AMATEUR RESTORATION OF A FACTORY BUILT AIRCRAFT

The award was instituted in 1995 and named in honour of F.I.V. (John) Walker during whose years as Chief Engineer and Vice Chairman the PFA grew from a tiny organisation catering for a few aircraft to the size it is today with many factory-built aircraft on a LAA permit. The permit system saved many light aircraft from destruction and saw the introduction of many economic light aircraft into the UK. This has both enriched our population of aircraft types and allowed many people to fly where the costs of club flying would have defeated them.

It is awarded so as to recognise the restoration of a factory built aircraft by an individual with minimum professional help. The aircraft must be eligible to enter the vintage or classic categories. Apart from attending the Rally, the aircraft must be presented to the judging team with a logbook on the restoration prepared by the owner which shall include details of the aircraft's history, the work carried out and a rationale on the materials and markings of the restored aircraft.

Judged using the rules applicable to the age category of the aircraft.

THE HUGH BANCROFT-WILSON TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE MOST MERITORIOUS FLIGHT TO THE RALLY BY AIR IN A GYROPLANE

This trophy is dedicated to the memory of Hugh Bancroft Wilson.

This is a fund held by LAA so that a trophy can be purchased for each winner.

THE COATES "SWALESONG" TROPHY

AWARDED FOR THE BEST DESIGN FEATURE

The trophy was awarded to the PFA by Mrs D. Coates and her sons in memory of her husband James who was a member of the PFA from its inaugural meeting as the Ultra Light Aircraft Association in 1946. He built and flew his first aircraft, a Luton Minor, in 1948 an aircraft that is still flown to this day, now by his son Richard. It is believed that this Minor called "Swalesong" was the first homebuilt aircraft to be built from scratch after the 1939 - 1945 war. The name is derived from his boyhood home in the Yorkshire Dales where he started to build a Flying Flea. During the war he served as a Flight Engineer on Halifaxes and later on the Yorks of the VIP unit 24 Squadron. and post- war served with the King's Flight and the Queen's Flight on Vikings.

The award is restricted to the amateur builder, and will be awarded for the design and construction of a part showing ingenuity as part of a LAA project. The award is intended to encourage the younger builder, though this will not exclude design ideas from more mature builders.

THE EUROPA TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE BEST EUROPA

The cup was presented to the PFA by Ivan Shaw at its 50th anniversary Rally at Cranfield on the 5th July 1996. Presented to the Europa Club 2021

Awarded to the owner and builder of the best kit built *Europa*.

To be judged using amateur built judging rules.

Now held by the Europa Club.