

THE ROYAL AERO CLUB



OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
The Coordinating Body of British Airsport Organisations

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
President: His Royal Highness the Duke of York, KG, KCVO

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Mr Jean-Marc Badan
FAI - Fédération Aéronautique Internationale
Maison du Sport International - MSI
Avenue de Rhodanie 54
CH-1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

8 September 2011

Dear Jean-Marc,

FAI Colibri Diploma

I have pleasure in attaching a citation for a nomination on behalf of the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom, namely:

Mr Dave Sykes, nominated for the FAI Colibri Diploma.

I trust that you will find the attached to be in order, but please contact me if there are any queries arising.

Yours sincerely

Dave Phipps
General Secretary

*British Aerobatic Association
British Balloon and Airship Club
British Gliding Association
British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association*

*British Microlight Aircraft Association
British Model Flying Association
British Parachute Association
British Precision Pilots Association*

*Formula Air Racing Association
Helicopter Club of Great Britain
Light Aircraft Association
RAeC Records, Racing & Rally Association*

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Member of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale

Member of Europe Air Sports



Citation for submission to FAI

United Kingdom

COLIBRI DIPLOMA

DAVE SYKES

Nomination for Dave SYKES (GBR) for his solo flight from England to Australia in a flexwing microlight.

Dave Sykes took off in a flexwing microlight from Rufforth airfield in northern England on 28 April 2011 with one goal - Australia. Flying in a P&M Quik, Dave was about to attempt a journey that would take him through 18 different countries and over thousands of miles of water.

Few have achieved this feat, but Dave had to overcome physical disability as well as all the other more normal obstacles. Following a road accident in 1993, Dave lost the use of his legs and has since relied on a wheelchair for his daily transport - hence his nickname 'Wheely Dave'. No other paraplegic has ever succeeded in flying from the UK to Australia in a microlight and, to underline the enormity of this achievement, Dave was flying solo.

The original plan was 55 days' flying. After sickness, monsoons and bureaucratic delays and, despite being airborne often for 8 hours each day, Dave reached Sydney 119 days after leaving Rufforth.

This outstanding achievement is testament to Dave's endurance and stamina. His flight was a major undertaking that most able-bodied pilots would not even contemplate, but Dave remained cheerful throughout and proved that determination can overcome disability. Dave is a worthy candidate for the Colibri Diploma.

Submitted by the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom

**Chacksfield House
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8th September 2011



**Dave Phipps
General Secretary**



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