

## CIEA Report From the Royal Aero Club United Kingdom

2012/13 was an active year despite poor weather in the UK, where aviation groups in the UK recognise that more needs to be done to encourage younger persons into aviation.

While last year's CIEA meeting was being held, the Youth and Aviation Support group (YES) were hosting an education conference at Brooklands Aviation Museum; attendees heard about the education efforts of several airports groups. This included the many Scout Aviation camps held in the past year and the progress of the Boeing sponsored 'Build a Plane' initiative started by Stuart Luck funding the first aircraft from his own pocket and driving the programme on to the two flying and four build projects operating today. The Gloucester Strut of the Light Aircraft Association (LAA), having in 2011/12 strived to teach the aviation skills badge to every Beaver colony (a pre Cub Scout movement) in Gloucestershire, has spent 2012-13 ensuring full coverage of this programme and including the new Beavers joining this year. The Education conference will again be held at Brooklands on April 26<sup>th</sup> this year, unfortunately while the CIEA meeting is in progress.

Early May saw the Air League hosting an event at Bicester airfield near Oxford, this is a platform where different sports and Aviation related careers can be presented to young persons. Industry, Scouts, flying schools and airports were on show while all day glider and power trial sessions were operating on the airfield.

An enlarged event will be held in 2013 at Bicester on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2013, CIEA members would be most welcome to attend, I will be assisting the Air League with this event.

The Aero-modelling world continues to be one of the first groups to come into contact with younger persons, their efforts being displayed at the annual winter aviation show held at the NEC Birmingham in November. Model building and flying demonstrations were available with model flying simulators and tandem control systems being very popular.

The British Gliding Association (BGA) Junior Gliding Centre initiative continues to be supported by many gliding clubs, the BGA have spent a great deal of time and effort with the European legislation being harmonised across European countries, as have all other sporting bodies. One positive outcome of this is the lowering of the age young persons can fly solo in the UK, it was not long before the first 14 year old went solo at Bicester, attracting much publicity from newspapers and national television, Callum Lavender, the youngest pilot in the UK for a few weeks unfortunately now finds he is too young to take advantage of many of the grants and sponsorships available in the UK, a situation that I am sure will be resolved.

As well as supporting the Youth and Education Support group, the LAA have made rapid progress with their programme of aviation related training courses for adults. Classes in metal, fabric and composite aircraft building skills as well as instrument panel building and engine maintenance are held along with the Pilot Coaching scheme to train or enhance flying skills.

Regards  
Alan Twigg  
CIEA second vice president