



www.helpforheroes.org.uk

www.battleback.mod.uk

Will you please help make a difference to the life of a disabled serviceman or woman?

With your help, and in support of *Help for Heroes* in association with *Battle Back*, we shall be awarding at least one scholarship to a disabled serviceman or woman in 2010; and of course the more donations you kindly make the more scholarships we can afford. Any funds surplus to the cost of these scholarships will be donated by FSD to *Help for Heroes*.

Help for Heroes, an independent charity, was formed in October 2007 to help those who have been wounded whilst serving in Britain's current conflicts. It does wonderful work for these servicemen and women by providing practical and direct support to those who have already given so much in the service of their country.

Battle Back, a department of the Ministry of Defence since July 2008, is a tri-service initiative that provides adventurous training and sporting opportunities for seriously injured military personnel. Together, *Help for Heroes* and *Battle Back* will work closely with us to ensure that those selected for a 4-week scholarship receive the full benefit of the scheme.

Donations to the FSD *Help for Heroes* scholarships can be made by completing the enclosed donation form, by going on-line to the donations page of www.toreachforthesky.org.uk (please make sure you select "A-H4H" in the "Additional Details" box on that page) or by sending them to Sue Whitby, FSD Director, Douglas Bader House, Horcott Hill, Fairford, Gloucestershire GL7 4RB (on the back of your cheque please write "H4H").

Thank you for your support. Together we can ALL make that difference to a wounded person's life.

2009 Scholars, Flying Schools, Sponsors and Donors

This year we were able to award seven 6-week scholarships, four 4-week scholarships and four 1-week scholarships. The 6-week scholarships at 43 Air School South Africa were awarded to:

Simon Crane	Luke Delahunty	Val Fisher
Sarah Gregory	Kevin Kevane	Sy King
Dan Rovnick.		

The 4-week scholarships with the BDFA at Lasham were awarded to:

Nathan Doidge	Ian Johnson	Frank Lees
Nick Poole.		

And the 1-week scholarships at the Goodwood Flying Club were awarded to:

Roy Griffiths	John Hayes	Sarah Jenkins
Mike Smith.		

Scholarships were generously sponsored by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, British Airways High Flight (2), the British Women Pilot's Association (in memory of one of their members, Lucy Rodger), the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators, the RAF Charitable Trust (2), RAF Marham, the Red Arrows Charitable Trust, and Skyforce Avionics.

Another scholarship was named after *Richard Chambers*, a 2007 FSD scholar who sadly lost his battle with cancer shortly after RIAT last year, and we are grateful to his family and friends for raising the funds to make this possible.

In addition the FSD Silver Jubilee Scholarship, the Paul Bowen Memorial Scholarship and the Freddie Hurrell Memorial Scholarship were financed by magnificent contributions from *Wings Around the World*, two very generous anonymous donors, readers of this Newsletter and other members of the general public.

The annual support of the *George Stewart Memorial Trust* and that of the *Swire Trust* is most welcome as are the annual contributions to the endowment fund by the *Vicarage Trust* and *Wings Around the World*.

A very big THANK YOU to British Airways High Flight

Over the past eight years this Charity has donated an amazing £216,000 to FSD, and at the FSD presentation ceremony at RIAT an award was made to mark this notable achievement. In the absence of BA High Flight's Chairman Captain Stratton Richey, it was accepted on his behalf by Captain Keith Bayliss. Keith is a member of the BA High Flight Committee and is also a Trustee of FSD.

Our Silver Jubilee Scholarship

As part of our celebrations to mark FSD's 25th anniversary last year we commissioned a one-off scholarship thanks to the generosity of many private individuals including readers of last year's newsletter.

It was awarded to *Nathan Doidge*, who despite having been born with cerebral palsy, has tried not to let his disability stand in his way of enjoying life to the full. Nathan told us that he owes his attitude to the support and encouragement of his mother and late father, who was an aircraft engineer as well as a glider pilot.



Nathan receiving his certificate from HRH Prince Feisal and flying suit from Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy at RIAT 2009.

So it came as no surprise that Nathan's ultimate dream has always been to fly and he heard about FSD from *Polly Vacher* when he joined her on one of the legs of her *Wings Around Britain* flight in 2007. After he had completed his 4-week scholarship with the BDFA at Lasham, Nathan wrote "All in all it was a gruelling four weeks by the end of which I was running out of steam; but it was also one of the best, most rewarding times of my life for which I will be eternally grateful".



Nathan Doidge at Lasham with Frank Lees, 2009 FSD scholar (left) and Emrys Harries from BDFA (right).

RIAT

During the last four years only the 2005 and 2006 Royal International Air Tattoos provided the perfect weather conditions for our presentation ceremony. In 2007 the ceremony had to be held under canvas, in 2008 the Tattoo was cancelled but not our ceremony, and this year due to torrential rain and gale force winds it had to be held once again under cover.



HRH Prince Feisal presenting Stephen Clifton with his wings at RIAT 2009.

However, unlike 2007, there was insufficient canvas to protect all the scholars' families & friends and many of them had to watch the proceedings from outside under hurriedly assembled gazebos and large umbrellas. As a result, and most unfortunately, a number of them were soaked to the skin.

Next year, if necessary, there will be a contingency plan for the ceremony to be moved to a location capable of protecting everyone from the wind and rain.

However, despite the atrocious conditions the scholars enjoyed the presentation ceremony and meeting HRH Prince Feisal who presented them with their certificates and wings, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy who presented them with their flying suits. Other awards included the George Stewart Memorial Trophy which went to 2008 FSD scholar *Stephen Clifton* and the Wings Around the World Salver which went to 2008 FSD scholar *Debbie Grice*.



Scholars waiting for the Presentation Ceremony to start at RIAT 2009.

The Duke meets Alex

Each year, provided the recipient has RAF connections, the RAF Charitable Trust very generously sponsors a 6-week scholarship at 43 Air School, South Africa.

Last year the RAF Charitable Trust scholarship was awarded to *Alex Krol* and he is seen in the picture talking to HRH the Duke of Kent at a Reception in the Freemasons' Hall, London. The occasion was the formal presentation of a cheque for £50,000 by the Freemasons to the RAF Charitable Trust. The Duke of Kent is not only the Grand Master of the Freemasons United Grand Lodge of England but also Patron of RIAT.



HRH the Duke of Kent talking to Alex Krol.

Air Traffic Controller sails round the world for FSD

Former RIAT volunteer Alan Moss is sailing round the world to raise enough money to pay for at least one 6-week FSD scholarship. Alan is participating in a round the world clipper race which set sail from the Humber estuary on Sunday 13 September. Ten boats are now on the high seas until next July, racing 35,000 miles round the globe with each one crewed by 16 amateur volunteers and one professional skipper.

Alan is a crew member on the Irish entry "Cork" and at the time of going to press she was lying fifth in the race. He has always dreamed of circumnavigating the world and to do this he has given up his career as an Air Traffic Controller at the UK ATC Centre in Swanwick to self-finance his ambition.

Before he set sail he managed to raise over £2,000 and he plans to add to this at his many ports of call. Meanwhile anyone can donate to his voyage by visiting the donation page on FSD's website.



Alan Moss.

D2D "Reach for the Islands" Challenge

On Thursday 18 June, in an attempt to win Pooley's famous Dawn to Dusk (D2D) Challenge and raise funds and awareness for FSD, four light aircraft, each carrying one able-bodied and one disabled pilot, flew in formation and landed at nearly all of Britain's outlying island airports. Starting in Jersey and finishing ten hours later in Inverness they visited 11 islands and perhaps achieved the longest formation flight undertaken over Britain in one day. And to cap it all the venture raised over £20,000 for future FSD scholarships. A magnificent effort by all concerned. The able-bodied pilots were Edwin Brenninkmeyer (lead pilot), Robert Lough, Timothy Nathan and Dierk Reuter, and the disabled pilots were FSD scholars *Carrie Begg*, *Steve Hopwood*, *Andy Lewis* and *Emma Suddaby*.



D2D party ready for take-off from Jersey.

A profitable round of golf!

The morning of Saturday 22 November last year was sunny, cold and crisp when 64 players arrived at The Berkshire Golf Club, Ascot for FSD's first Charity Golf Day. Sponsored by Aberdeen Asset Management, and organised by Colonel John Arthur, it proved a great success and raised nearly £12,000 for the Charity. John was inspired to do this for FSD after he attended one of Polly Vacher's talks.