



NOTICE TO COACHES

NTC 01/15

14th August 2015

LAA Wings Award Scheme

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Recently the CAA introduced a new scheme to improve the skill levels of private pilots, named the Pilot Recognition for Operational Up-skilling and Development (PROUD). The Light Aircraft Association Pilot Coaching Scheme has an existing pilot development scheme, the LAA Diploma, which achieves a similar aim. I have amended the requirements of the existing LAA Diploma to meet the published framework for CAA recognition and re-named it as the LAA Wings Award Scheme.
- 1.2 The Light Aircraft Association (LAA) will retain the existing three levels of award:
 - LAA Wings - Bronze Award
 - LAA Wings - Silver Award
 - LAA Wings - Gold Award
- 1.3 In association with the CAA, the new scheme is designed to improve the skill levels of private pilots. This initiative aims to encourage 'life-long' learning for members and other pilots as a route to helping improve safety.
- 1.4 The LAA Wings scheme meets CAA requirements for the Pilot Recognition for Operational Up-skilling and Development (PROUD) scheme for pilot training programmes. The CAA has stated that introduction of the PROUD initiative is intended to close individual skills gap and also to help tackle the high 'drop-out' rate amongst recently qualified PPLs, many of whom lack confidence and motivation.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

- 2.1 To encourage the development of private pilot knowledge, skills, and attitudes through:
 - Broadening pilots' activities and interests;
 - Additional skills gained via further training and qualification;
 - Development of non-technical skills such as Threat and Error Management;
 - Encouraging personal development and flight safety awareness;
 - Extended navigational challenges.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHEME

- 3.1 The LAA Wings award scheme is open to all qualified pilots of aeroplanes or rotorcraft. Applicants must meet Minimum Flight Time requirements, and complete Activities, attend Safety Events, and complete Extended Navigational Challenges as detailed in Appendix 1 in order to qualify for each LAA Wings award.
- 3.2 A summary of the CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF LAA WINGS is as follows:

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

- 3.3 Applicants must complete a simple application form and upon completion of the requirements present supporting evidence to a LAA Coach, LAA Strut Co-ordinator, or CFI at a Registered Facility or Approved Training Organisation. A small administrative fee is charged for issue of the LAA Wings award.

4 SUMMARY

- 4.1 Note that LAA Coaches and LAA Strut Co-ordinators may be approached for authentication of documentation in support of LAA Wings Awards. As such, you must familiarise yourself with the application form, the LAA Wings requirements and accepted Achievements and Safety Events.
- 4.2 Information about the LAA Wings Award Scheme is on the main LAA website and a new dedicated LAA Wings Awards website (<http://www.laawings.co.uk>).

Jon Cooke
 Head of Training
 Light Aircraft Association

APPENDIX 1

LAA WINGS AWARD SCHEME

There are three categories of LAA Wings award against which criteria are set: Bronze, Silver, or Gold. Each award requires completion of:

- Minimum Flight Times
- Achievements
- Safety Event Attendance
- Extended Navigational Challenge

In all of the flying activities undertaken in pursuit of the LAA Wings award, it is essential that applicants carry out these activities **safely**. Whilst meeting the requirements of the scheme the applicant is expected to seek to attain high standards in training, practice effective use of threat and error management, and display high standards of airmanship throughout.

1. Minimum Flight Times

The LAA Wings scheme is available to all licence holders, whether or not they are LAA members, who meet the minimum requirements for total flight time and as pilot-in-command. For aeroplane pilots, experience counted must be gained in the following classes of aircraft:

- Single Engine Piston (SEP);
- Single Engine Turboprop (SET);
- Multi-Engine Piston (MEP);
- Touring Motor Glider (TMG);
- Self Launching Motor Glider (SLMG);
- Microlight.

For LAA Wings BRONZE award, the total flight time and pilot-in-command time are set deliberately low to encourage participation in the scheme at an early stage following completion of initial pilot training. LAA Wings SILVER and GOLD award minimum flight times are higher, and are set to encourage continued development as a private pilot.

2. Achievements

As the pilot develops his/her flying experience from the LAA Wings BRONZE Award through to GOLD, each stage of the scheme requires Achievements to be completed. Achievements recognised in this category are listed below; these do not have to be accomplished in any particular order. However, the application for the LAA Wings BRONZE Award must show that one Achievement has been met, a total of three for SILVER (which could include the one cited in a previous application for Bronze) and, similarly, five for GOLD. For the purposes of this category the training, certificates, qualifications, and activities recognised as achievements include:

2.1 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

2.2 Certificates:

- Radio Navigation certificate
- Ground Instructor certificate

2.3 Training:

- LAA Strip Flying diploma
- LAA Cross-channel checkout
- LAA Proficient Pilot diploma (coming soon!)
- Royal Aero Club Records, Racing & Rally Association Air Race School
- Two items of differences training on complex features (eg. retractable gear, VP propeller, turbo charger, pressurisation, nose-wheel to tail-dragger and vice versa), aeroplanes with single power lever controls and aircraft with electronic ('glass') flight instruments.
- Conversion to three additional and distinct types of aircraft (state types in application e.g. PA28, C172, DHC1 etc)

2.4 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 LAA.

Achievements are not limited to the above lists. Alternative achievements may be submitted with the relevant supporting documentation and will be considered upon application.

3. Safety Event Attendance

For the LAA Wings GOLD award the applicant should be able to demonstrate that a minimum of three different types of approved Safety Events have been attended, two for the LAA Wings SILVER award, and one for the LAA Wings BRONZE award.

Currently approved Seminars are:

- LAA Online Courses (coming soon!)
- LAA Class Rating Instructor seminar
- LAA Engineering course (Wooden aircraft structures, working with aluminium, Rotax, etc)
- GASCo Safety Evening
- 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 R's" 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.

4. Extended Navigational Challenges

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 therefore includes an element of extended navigational flights.

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.

The applicant is required to show that the appropriate flight requirements have been met when applying for LAA Wings award as indicated.

Minimum qualification requirements:

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

SILVER: Completion of BRONZE navigational challenge plus an additional total flight distance of greater than 400 nm with at least three intermediate take-offs or landings, OR an additional total

flight distance of greater than 200 nm with a sea crossing (>20 nm) 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.

APPLYING FOR A LAA WINGS AWARD

Download the application form from the LAA website. The 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. The application (with supporting evidence) should be presented for authentication to a LAA Coach, a LAA Strut Co-ordinator, or a CFI at an Approved Training Organisation or Registered Facility.

Alternatively, the application (with supporting evidence) may be presented at LAA Head Office or at any event where LAA senior representatives are present such as the LAA Rally.

Note that holders of a professional licence may not include flights conducted whilst exercising the privileges of their commercial pilot licences or flight conducted in aircraft covered by type ratings. Flight Instructors may include experienced gained whilst exercising the privilege of a Flight Instructor certificate in the classes of aircraft listed in section one.

To cover the cost of administering the scheme the following fees are applicable to applicants:

AWARD LEVEL	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Administration Fee (Non-Members)	£30.00	£30.00	£30.00
Administration Fee (LAA Members)	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00

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

Provided the relevant requirements are met the appropriate LAA Wings award will be issued to recognise the applicant's achievement; this will be sent directly to the applicant. The LAA Wings award consists of a LAA lapel pin accompanied by a signed LAA Wings certificate.

SUMMARY OF CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF LAA WINGS

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