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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 2019 Air League Honours and Awards Announced

London, 30 May, 2019 - The President, Chairman and Council of the Air League today announce the recipients of major honours and awards to a number of individuals and organisations which have made an outstanding contribution to aviation and aerospace in the UK. The 2019 awards are presented with the approval of the Patron, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh at the Honours and Awards Reception held at St James's Palace.

Air Vice-Marshal Harvey Smyth OBE DFC MA RAF, on receiving the award on behalf of Number 1 Group, HQ Air Command, Royal Air Force, commented: "It is an enormous privilege to receive the Founders Medal from The Air League. Receipt of this award is a direct reflection of the exceptional efforts of the people within Number 1 Group, the Combat Arm of the RAF, who enable the successful delivery of decisive airpower from home bases or when overseas, on a daily basis, keeping our great nation safe. It is also important to recognise the phenomenal support we receive from our capability, acquisition and industry colleagues, who are sometimes forgotten but always play a critical role in enabling everything we do."

Alex Cruz, Chairman and CEO of British Airways on receiving the Gold medal on behalf of BA, said: "This is a very special year for British Airways as we mark our centenary, celebrating 100 years of taking Britain to the world and bringing the world to Britain. I am honoured to accept the Gold Medal award on behalf of British Airways in recognition of this landmark."

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"The Air League has inspired and motivated young people in the areas of science, technology, engineering and maths, an area we are extremely committed to. We were delighted to recently announce our latest joint scheme, Your Flying Future Experience Days, to engage more young people with a career in the flight deck."

John Steel, chairman of the Air League, remarked: "Tonight's award winners exemplify the values of the Air League which are, leadership, endeavour, ambition, growth, unity of purpose and empowerment which are vital to the success of the UK and the nation remaining a world leader in aviation and aerospace."

The honours and awards reception also sees scholarships and bursaries presented to young people who display the potential to become future pilots, engineers and aerospace leaders in the UK.

The individuals and organisations recognised for their remarkable achievements are:

The Founders Medal

The medal is awarded: For the most meritorious achievement in the whole field of British aviation, reaching its culmination during the calendar year under review.

The Founders Medal is awarded to No. 1 Group, Royal Air Force, Air Command recognising the retirement of the Tornado from the Royal Air Force after nearly 30 years of outstanding service, the embodiment of modifications on the Typhoon so the Tornado can be retired and successful introduction of the Lockheed Martin F35-B Lightning II.

The Gold Medal

The medal is awarded: For outstanding service to the causes of The Air League.

The Gold Medal is awarded to British Airways recognising its centenary year, being at the forefront of flight for 100 years and ongoing support of the Air League Trust.

The world's first daily international scheduled flight between London and Paris was launched in August 1919 by forerunner company, Aircraft Transport and Travel Limited. Over the past 100 years British Airways and its predecessor airlines such as Imperial Airways, British European Airways and British Overseas Airline Corporation have shaped the face of the global civil aviation industry and for an entire century have remained at the forefront of flight.

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In recent years British Airways has also been an instrumental supporter of the Air League Trust and to this day continues to engage with schools, universities and young people across the spectrum of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) within the UK. This year the Air League and British Airways are excited to announce their latest joint scheme, *'Your Flying Future 10 Days'* It will allow up to two hundred young people to take a trial flight in an aircraft or taster day at an airfield, many who have never had the opportunity to access aviation.

The Scott-Farnie Medal

The medal is awarded: For achievement in the field of air education.

The Scott Farnie Medal is awarded to Wing Commander Ian Revell RAFAC in recognition of distinguished career and long-term commitment as an adult volunteer with the RAF Air Cadets.

The Jeffrey Quill Medal

The medal is awarded: For an outstanding contribution to the development of air-mindedness in Britain's youth.

The Jeffrey Quill Medal is awarded to both Wing Commander Grant Kearns RAFAC and Wing Commander Mark Brayford RAFAC, for their selfless commitment to promoting air mindedness to the next generation within the Royal Air Force Air Cadets.

The Marshall of Cambridge Medal

The medal is awarded: For exceptional support of the Air League Trust by a recent scholarship winner.

The Marshall of Cambridge Medal is awarded to Flight Lieutenant Sean Link RAFVRT for his continued support of the Air League and work within the Leading Edge.

Framed Addresses

Saab UK

For their pioneering development of Digital Air Traffic Solutions and Remote Towers.

Mr Brian Jones OBE

Recognising his dedication to inspire others and encourage them to engage in aviation through ballooning.

Air Commodore Alistair Seymour

For his contribution to the delivery of all ranks flying training in the Royal Air Force.

Ms Carol Cooper

For her dedication to improving safety in General Aviation through training at Andrewsfield Aviation.

Cranfield University

For ground-breaking initiatives in the aerospace research and technology ecosystem.

Honorary Life Vice-President

Group Captain Terrance Holloway

In recognition of his considerable work over a number of years in supporting the work of the Air League.

The Billy Deacon Search & Rescue Memorial Trophy

Mr Scott Sharman

For the recovery of two injured climbers off the North face of Ben Nevis.

The Evelyn Saunders Memorial Cup

Miss Annabelle Cleve

The Evelyn Saunders Memorial Cup is presented to a female pilot annually this year goes to Annabelle Cleve. Annabelle is currently with the York University Air Squadron, and is hoping to join the Royal Air Force as a pilot.

Notes to Editors:

The Air League was formed in 1909. The Air League's mission is to generate national understanding of the importance to the UK of aviation and aerospace and to excite young people's interest in these areas by helping them to become involved.

The core objective of the Air League is to be "an influential champion for the future growth of aviation and aerospace in the UK". The Air League is committed to being at the forefront of influencing public policy by taking a leading role in the debate on aviation and aerospace in the UK.

The Air League fosters interest in the whole field of aviation, aerospace and defence, particularly in developing young people and providing opportunities for the less advantaged.

The Air League supports the UK's aviation and aerospace communities through the Leading Edge, Air League in Parliament, receptions, lectures and policy papers which articulate the advanced technologies and crucial industry skills which are vital to the economic success of the UK.

The Air League is also the UK's largest provider of flying scholarships and bursaries. Over the past decade, Scholarships worth over £2 million have been allocated to young people across the UK. The Leading Edge is designed for members aged under 35 years and complements the Air League Trust's formal scholarships and bursaries programmes and acts as a wider network for people interested in flying or wanting to pursue a career in aviation.

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