



New opportunities for pilots and engineers in the world of vintage aeroplanes

The de Havilland Moth Club has launched a new initiative to encourage pilots and engineers to become more familiar with the operation and maintenance of vintage aeroplanes.

The formation of ***the de Havilland Educational Trust*** was announced by Air Marshal Barry Thornton, CinC Personnel and Training Command, Royal Air Force and Air Member for Personnel, Guest of Honour at a dinner held in the House of Commons on Thursday 26 October, to celebrate the first flight exactly 75 years previously of the world's most famous training aeroplane, the de Havilland DH82 Tiger Moth.

The de Havilland Educational Trust (DHET) is to award annual bursaries for qualified pilots to convert onto the Tiger Moth as part of a programme devised in association with the Cambridge Flying Group. A short list of names will be drawn up from all applicants and selected candidates will be interviewed, followed by an assessment flight undertaken with a Cambridge instructor. The award, to be known as ***The Fiona McKay Flying Bursary***, will cover the cost of ten hours flying.

It is recognised that the maintenance, repair and overhaul of vintage aeroplanes and their engines requires special skills and aptitudes which are in danger of loss. ***The de Havilland Educational Trust*** will be seeking to award annual bursaries to young aircraft engineers in an effort to sustain and expand their practical and professional qualifications and to establish the necessary skills base for the future.

Announcing the formation of the Trust, Air Marshal Thornton said:

“Undoubtedly, the work undertaken by the Moth Club and its members over the last 31 years has preserved these magnificent aircraft for future generations, and I am delighted to be able to announce tonight a new club initiative; the de Havilland Educational Trust. To date, the Club has already raised over £10,000, which will enable it to award the first bursaries next year; a fantastic achievement.”

For further information please contact

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