



# BADER BRAVES

## YOUNG AVIATORS 2019



Our 2019 Young Aviators programme opened at Kinloss at the beginning of May where we were welcomed to Bonnie Scotland on the day preceding the event by freezing winds and leaden skies both of which delivered 5cm of snow on Elgin around tea time. However it didn't hang around and by the time we drove to the evening pre-event meeting the roads had cleared and we were assured by the met boys from Lossiemouth that all would be OK on the day ..... and it was!!

Kinloss, under the stewardship of George McKenzie and the flying club team, provided another great day which ran from 08.30 to 17.00 and included visits to the Moravia Museum & Planetarium as well as instruction on a flight sim; all great fun!!

From Kinloss we moved to Sleaford Aerodrome, home of the Shropshire Flying Club. The weather was markedly warmer and event co-ordinator Neil Edgeley had pulled together a band of club volunteers along with a couple of his family who handled the flying admin of the day. Sleaford is a great venue with loads of safe space for the youngsters to charge around as well as a small and quirky museum. Quirky in that I had to ask for the sign on a very crumpled undercarriage wheel to be moved as it was right next to our "Welcome to Bader Braves" banner:- the text read along the lines of "a wheel recovered from a Wellington Bomber which crashed near this spot whilst on a training flight in 1944 killing all five crew and two WAAFS on the ground crew".



Third weekend of May found us at Sandown Airport on the Isle of Wight, much better weather here on the tropical Solent!! Astonishingly friendly bunch of volunteers here, all so enthusiastic about the Bader story and his legacy that is The Braves. Entertainment was plentiful for the Braves and their families and conditions, unlike 2018, were pretty near perfect for flying.

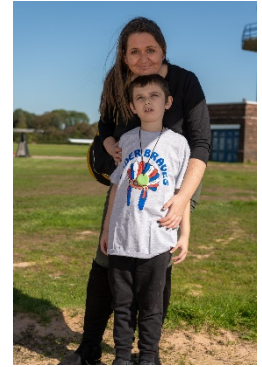
Next stop was at Beverley where Peter Spencer, CFI & joint proprietor of the airfield and home of the Hull Aero Club gave the Braves memorable flights out over the North Sea or down to Hull and over The Humber

Bridge. This is our smallest Bader Braves event due to the fact that it is not a very big club. That said Peter's infectious enthusiasm for flying and generous support of our programme has rubbed off onto some of the youngsters for it is here that two Braves are nearing the completion of courses to obtain their PPL's, all down to Bader Braves!!

White Waltham came next, always a big event and, of course, the very first venue for Bader Braves Young Aviators back in 2006. The West London Aero Club seem to always turn out a lot of aircraft, friendly and more than willing pilots and usually provide good weather; this year was no exception. It was a long day with some of the youngsters benefitting from pilots' generosity and receiving two or three flights.

On to Haverfordwest where the Pembrokeshire Flying Club under the leadership of new chairman, John Fisher, have really "upped the ante" and are developing both the club and our Bader Day into pretty major events in west Wales. Already pilots and aircraft are being recruited from other clubs at Swansea & Cardiff for 2020. The venue provides some spectacular coastal scenery to fly along and once over the water there is a great opportunity for some relatively low level passes over some of the seaside towns.

After Wales it was on to Ulster, Newtownards to be precise, home of the Ulster Flying Club. Again we were blessed with some great weather and some fantastic scenery over Strangford Lough for the Braves to enjoy. A very professionally run facility here where a plaque bearing Douglas' name holds pride of place as he was Guest of Honour at the club opening back in the 70's. As always it was a tremendous day greatly enjoyed by all of the youngsters and their families and UFC are already making their plans for next year.



Back to the mainland and the heart of Yorkshire for the next event this time at Sherburn in Elmet between Leeds & York roughly speaking. It's a great club here, well versed in charity flying and where a number of club aircraft along with privately owned aeroplanes are put at our disposal. There is good opportunity to increase participation here and this is being investigated for future events.

And so to the last scheduled event of the year at City Airport & Heliport Manchester and, yes you've guessed it, it rained and rained. However, thanks to the co-operation of Airport Director, Nick Duriez, the day was rescheduled to 21<sup>st</sup> September which turned out to be a masterstroke as the weather could not have possibly been better. A good number of aeroplanes were prepared for the arrival of the Braves along with a host of loyal volunteers provided by The Friends Of Barton Aerodrome (FOBA) who provided all of the ground support for the day. The Airport was a buzz of activity with so much going on quite apart from our event. Braves were treated to great flights, some going as far as Morecombe Bay and the Southern Lakes!! It was a fantastic way to bring the curtain down on our 2019 season.



## A Few Facts!

At this years events:-

- we have flown 176 Bader Braves & their families
- there will have been 284 sorties
- we have used 43 different fixed wing aeroplanes, 3 flex-wing microlights & 2 helicopters

None of this would have been possible without the co-operation and generosity of our friends and supporters around the country and at the Flying Clubs & Airfields; we are all truly indebted to each and every one of them for making our 2019 Bader Braves Young Aviators season (our 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation!) such a resounding success.

Plans are well under way for our 2020 programme and dates will be published on our website later in the year.



## HULL AERO CLUB



## City Airport & Heliport

