

### **Arthur Bentley Citation for BHPA / RAeC award**

Arthur Bentley has been heavily involved in parascending for over forty years at both club level and in the accuracy competition scene.

Arthur has been the main driving force behind the Birdwings Paragliding Club having originally set up the club, and undertaking the roles of Instructor and Coach. In an era when flying sites are difficult to find and retain Arthur has used his contacts and diplomatic skills to secure the use of South Cerney airfield for many years. In addition to running the club Arthur has been the ever present organiser of the annual Birdwings accuracy competition that is the longest running accuracy club event.

Arthur has recently gained his winch Operators licence since investing in a winch for the Birdwings club. As well as towing parascenders and paragliders, Arthur can now winch hang gliders, and this year has encouraged hang gliders to join in his club activities. He hosts regular club weekends and also facilitates the use of his site by GLSW and Surrey Scout PC to run their courses for scouts. This year Arthur played a huge part in the British Accuracy Cup by operating his winch and securing the use of South Cerney airfield for two of the competitions. At this year's Classic National Championships Arthur was awarded the Nigel Legg award for the second time for 'Services to Accuracy'.

Arthur has sat on the BHPA Accuracy Panel for many years where he has previously been Chairman, and currently has the role of Classic Accuracy Representative. Part of his role is European Grand Prix Liaison where he is a key figure in the organisation of this longstanding three-nations series. Arthur has also been meet director at numerous Classic Accuracy National Championships on behalf of the Accuracy Panel.

Arthur is also a talented accuracy competition pilot and still competes today when his body allows, most recently in the Dutch leg of the European Grand Prix series, in September. He has a long list of successes in accuracy competitions including 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the 1987 World Championships, six Classic National team wins, four times UK Classic Accuracy League champion (which is a record), twice Dutch Grand Prix champion and two second places in the overall European Grand Prix series. The Grand Prix successes have all been achieved whilst in his 60s!

Arthur's past endeavours and his current enthusiasm for the sport make him an ideal candidate for a BHPA or RAeC Award.