



British Aerobatic Association

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President, CIVA

Nomination for Leon Biancotto Diploma

Claude Bessiere (France)

Claude 'Coco' Bessiere has been an dominant figure on the world aerobatic scene for the last 30 years. He joined the French Air Force aerobatics team in 1976 and was five times French National Champion. His career as a pilot competitor culminated in Yverdon, Switzerland, in 1990, when he won the title of overall World Champion.

He then dedicated himself to the transmission of his skill and knowledge to the upcoming generations, and has been the French National Team coach for the past 20 years. Arguably the finest aerobatic coach of his generation, certainly one of the most successful, Coco has the ability to inspire others to dream more, to learn more, to work harder and to give their very best; to become great. Using all these skills, he produced a string of further Unlimited World champions ((Xavier de Lapparent, Christine Genin, Patrick Paris, Eric Vazeille, Catherine Maunoury, Renaud Ecalle), and numerous World Champion Teams – let alone several additional World Champions in the Advanced category in the last decade.

The way Coco has been able to resource and develop younger pilots and bring them to the pinnacle of the sport is the envy of all other nations. Coco's dedication extends to his flight instructor life where, for instance, he gives improvement training to aerobatics instructors.

Coco epitomizes competition spirit in the noble sense, with a perfect mix of passion, inspiration, enthusiasm, commitment, determination, perfectionism, demand, and style. A friend of the whole paddock, Coco's actions lay down a philosophy for aerobatics, for high-level sports in general, and for way of life.

In the never ending search for perfection, Coco is perhaps the one who has approached it most, both as coach and as pilot.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Cassidy MBE
Chairman
UK Delegate