

Q. When is this year's closing date?

A. Midnight on Monday 8th October. Judging of entries will begin immediately at the end of the judging year but new nominations received up to 21st October will be considered.

Q. What do you mean by "the judging year"

A. For 2018, it is the period from 6th October 2017 (last year's closing date) to Monday 8th October 2018. This allows judging to take place in the eight-week period between the end of the 'year' and the announcement of the awards on 24th November. As the aircraft are often widely dispersed, it takes that amount of time for all judges to see all of the nominated aircraft..

Q. What has to take place between those dates?

A. The nominated Air Tour must end between those dates (it can have started before the beginning of the 'year'). For Classic/Vintage Restoration and Homebuilt categories, the first flight must take place between those dates. It is not necessary for the Permit to be issued but the aircraft must have completed its first flight and be in its test phase at least.

Q. Who is on the panel?

A. The judging panel consists of the Chairman, Chief Inspector, Permit Secretary and the Events Coordinator.

Q. Who can enter for the Air Touring Award and the Airmanship Award.

A. Any current ILAS member who undertakes a trip in command of any kind of aircraft during the judging year can be nominated. Remember that both the Airmanship and Air Touring Trophies are awarded to ILAS members, regardless of the aircraft type or registration in which the trip was undertaken, as long as the member being considered planned the trip and was PIC for the majority of the journey. Crew do not need to be ILAS members and will also be recognised with a keepsake trophy.

Q. Who can enter the Classic/Vintage Restoration and Homebuilt categories

A. The focus here is on the aircraft. Any ILAS aircraft can be nominated, meaning that it must be a permit-type aircraft on the ILAS list of types and on the Irish register. It also means that the owners will be current members of ILAS.

Q. What are the criteria for the Airmanship Award?

This award will be judged on the basis of a description of the actions (or inaction) that demonstrate “exemplary airmanship”. The description can be as short as one paragraph or several pages long. It is not sufficient to simply nominate a member by name without describing why they should receive the award. Of its nature, airmanship can often consist of NOT doing something and decisions of that kind will be judged of equal merit.

Good airmanship is often defined as when a pilot uses his superior knowledge to avoid having to use his superior skills. In this way, demonstrating good airmanship can often involve purposely not doing something (and therefore will be difficult to judge!).

Some examples of good airmanship include:

- pilots making decisions which keep them (or others) safe.
- pilots making good decisions in emergency or unusual situations.
- pilots helping other pilots to stay safe while flying.
- pilots sharing their knowledge with others and training new pilots.

In recent years, this award has been given to honour a long career which has exemplified good airmanship rather than one single incident. Nominations on this basis will also be accepted and considered in 2018.

Q. What are the criteria for the Air Touring Trophy?

A. The distance flown, distance over water, duration, number of landings/fields visited, number of countries visited and weather conditions are all considered in relation to the capabilities of the aircraft. Safety measures taken are also considered. While a simple extract from the Pilot’s log is a minimum requirement, photographs and a written narrative will be taken into account.

Q. What are the criteria for the Homebuilt category

A. The workmanship demonstrated by the owner/builder(s) in the finished aircraft is the key criterion. Safety features of the aircraft is the second main consideration. The extent of the work undertaken by the builder(s) is also important and work that was largely undertaken by professional contractors for reward will not score well. The complexity of the project is also a factor, but a simple aircraft, beautifully constructed, may be judged above a complex build with lower workmanship standards at the judges' discretion.

Q. What are the criteria for the Classic/Vintage Restoration category?

A. Again, the workmanship demonstrated is the key criterion, and safety features of the aircraft are the second main consideration. Authentic and appropriate repairs and upgrades will score well. Nicely executed repairs that show the aircraft's 'provenance' need not necessarily be hidden or 'dolled up'. Once again, the extent of the work undertaken personally by the owner(s) is also important and work that was largely undertaken by professional contractors for reward will not score well. Aircraft that were merely moved onto the Irish register will not be considered at all.

Q. How do I enter the Air Touring Award competition?

A. Complete a trip during the judging year, get yourself nominated (or nominate yourself) and submit a log of the trip to chairman@ilas.ie or committee@ilas.ie before the closing date. The Committee will try to return all such logs after judging but will not accept any liability – it is best to send us (soft) copies and keep the originals please.

Q. How do I enter the Homebuilt or Classic/Vintage Award competition?

A. Complete your project and fly it within the judging year, then get your aircraft nominated (or nominate it yourself) before the closing date, and finally, make your aircraft available to the judges for viewing.

Q. Do you have to be an ILAS member to enter or be nominated?

A. Yes. Only current ILAS members in good standing, (paid up) and their aircraft will be considered in any category. That means there are approximately 270 people who qualify for nomination. Remember that not all of these are well known or even operating their aircraft exclusively within the ROI. The Membership Secretary will have the final say over any issues in this regard.

Q. Are postal entries/nominations okay (particularly Air Touring Award logs)?

A. Yes, post them to ILAS c/o 15 Herbert Park, Bray Co. Wicklow, or give them to any of the judges by hand at an ILAS event.

Q. Who has the final say?

A. The Judges. The Committee is involved only to ensure the judges have acted reasonably and fairly within the rules. However, they have no input to the scoring or the results. Unfortunately, appeals are not practically possible, but the competition is reviewed each year to take account of learning from the previous year and any submissions from members will be included in this review.