

Royal Appointment for Round the World Pilot

16th December 2011

A locally based pilot, Manuel Queiroz, had an appointment with The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh last week at their reception for Exploration and Adventure held at Buckingham Palace.

In 2006, Manuel set off from Gloucestershire Airport in a homebuilt aircraft to fly solo around the world, landing back at the airport 39 days later. He is the only British pilot to circumnavigate the world in a homebuilt aircraft, and broke 6 world records in the process. For his efforts he was awarded the Britannia Trophy from the Royal Aero Club, presented by their President, The Duke of York, which is their highest accolade, and awarded to the aviator who has accomplished the most meritorious performance in aviation during the previous year.

Last summer Manuel had his book published, *Chasing the Morning Sun*, which chronicles his amazing journey. Manuel experienced many highs and lows during his adventure, from being treated like a celebrity in San Francisco to engine failure over the Pacific ocean.

The invitation from the Palace was completely unexpected and Manuel was thrilled to be selected. "The highest honour to which I could possibly aspire was to be able to relate to Her Majesty details of my adventure."

Gloucestershire Airport's Head of Operations, Darren Lewington, said "I'm delighted that Manuel was invited to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's reception. Flying solo around the world, and in a single engine aircraft, is a massive achievement and I'm pleased that his success has been recognised at such a high level."



Manuel in the aircraft he flew solo around the world in.