

NEWS RELEASE – June 2021



EXCLUSIVE NEW FLYING SCHOLARSHIP LAUNCHED

“A Private Pilot's Licence to Start a Career in Aviation”

*Courtesy of Aetheris, publishers and producers of new book and film
‘Attagirls’, in association with Marshall of Cambridge*

(as featured on national and regional BBC News TV & Radio)

Created by Aetheris Publishing and supported by the book and feature film ‘Attagirls’, the ‘Attagirls Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship’ is an initiative to encourage young women to consider a career in aviation and particularly as a pilot. The scholarship awards a full Private Pilot’s Licence (PPL) to an individual who has demonstrated an interest in flying as a career.

The scholarship is named after Molly Rose (née Marshall), the heroine aviatrix whose incredible life story inspired the book and film Attagirls, which are based on her time in the Air Transport Auxiliary (‘ATA’) during World War II.

(Right – Molly Rose)



The successful winner of the scholarship will obtain her flying training with the Marshall owned Cambridge Aero Club, which was founded in 1930 by Molly Rose's brother Arthur (later Sir Arthur) Marshall.

Paul Olavesen-Stabb, the author, and partner of Aetheris Films and Aetheris Publishing, commented: "With the forthcoming publication of the book, *Attagirls*, I am determined that there should be a legacy. This view was shared by Molly Rose's family business, Marshall of Cambridge.

Paul added: "We are extremely grateful that Marshall of Cambridge is financially supporting this, the inaugural training scholarship in association with Cambridge Aero Club. We hope to develop the initiative in the coming years to embrace opportunities within the commercial sector with support from additional companies in the world of aviation.

"The scholarship is synonymous with Molly's story. She was not afraid to embrace opportunities that during that time were exclusive to men. She was an apprentice engineer at her father's company and thereafter a pilot, and at a time when it was extremely rare for women to take on such roles.

"The message of the book *Attagirls* is one of 'courage under pressure' - a message for young women to have the courage to embrace an opportunity despite its challenges - the challenges being an arena which is predominantly male oriented."

Terry Holloway, the Managing Director of the Cambridge Aero Club, said: "I flew Molly Rose to Farnborough to the SBAC show in the Marshall twin-engined Aztec some 60 years after she had last handled the controls of an aeroplane and quite deliberately flew her over Luton and White Waltham where she had been based as an ATA pilot. On the way back to Cambridge on what was a delightfully still evening I invited her to fly the aeroplane. She initially declined but then said she would "give it a go". She flew the aeroplane for around 30 minutes demonstrating great skill, and at about 200 feet on the final approach to land turned to me and said to me: I think you had better take over now and do the landing dear!

"My late mother would be smiling down and thrilled with the setting up of the *Attagirls* Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship," commented her eldest son, Graham Rose. "She enjoyed her visits to, for example, RAF Brize Norton, and she would hope more women would be in the air – both in the military and commercial airlines."

Notes

- Molly Rose was born in Cambridge on 26th November 1920 and died on 16th October 2016. See her [Wikipedia](#) entry.
- Marshall of Cambridge see [Company website](#)
- Cambridge Aero Club see [Aero Club website](#)
- Aetheris books and films see [Aetheris website](#)

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Paul Olavesen-Stabb - IMDB

Paul was born in England and is a film producer, writer and partner at Aetheris Films and Aetheris Publishing. He recently produced *The Moor with One Big Mop*; and which has since been Oscar qualified.

Paul is co-writer and producer of the feature film *Attagirls*.

Paul started his production career as the founder of Bahama Locations, a Caribbean-based agency for location management and reduction of production budget lines via contras. He was thereafter co-founder and Executive Producer at Ritz Entertainment in L.A.

Paul was co-creator & producer of *Hesteliv* ("Horselife") - a three-part documentary for TV2 Norway, which was hosted by HRH Princess Märtha Louise of Norway.



He has over 20 years of experience as an Executive Producer / Director with a career spanning the UK, Norway, USA and Caribbean. He is finance focused and holds a double Masters Degree in Business (MBA hons) from ESCP-EAP, Paris - one of Europe's leading business schools.

In addition to Paul's film experience, his TV work includes documentaries; sport; entertainment; commercials; celebrity charity events; live music festivals; and multi-national VNRs.

[The Moor - view trailer](#)

ALL MEDIA ENQUIRES:

Contact Jo Welch, The Cotswold PR Company, jo@thecotswoldprcompany.com, +44 (0) 7767 416 092.



Marshall of Cambridge was founded in 1909 by David Marshall as a chauffeur business before moving into Motor Retail and then into Aerospace & Defence. The Company remains private and independent, retaining a majority shareholding in Marshall Motor Holdings plc since it was floated in 2015. Marshall is headquartered in Cambridge and announced in 2019 its intention to relocate its aerospace business by 2030 as well as putting forward the current site for development as part of the next Local Plan.

In addition to the Motor Retail, Aerospace & Defence and Property businesses, Marshall is also involved in the transport refrigeration and tail lift sector through Marshall Fleet Solutions and in career development, apprenticeships and training through Marshall Centre. Marshall also has a small investment arm, Martlet Capital, an early-stage investor based in Cambridge, providing patient capital to deep technology and life science start-ups with high growth potential.

For further information, please contact: Sarah Oakes, Head of Marketing & Communication, Marshall, 07467941586.

<https://www.marshallgroup.co.uk/>

Cambridge Aero Club



The Cambridge Aero Club is one of the longest established flight training schools in the world and has been training pilots for more than ninety years. Today CAC operates a fleet of three “newly modernised” 152 training aircraft, two Cessna 172 touring and training aircraft, one Cessna 182 and one Extra 200 aerobatic training aeroplane.

<https://cambridgeaeroclub.com/>

Author Statement – Paul Olavesen-Stabb – Attagirls

I first heard about the Air Transport Auxiliary (‘ATA’) after a party in London. After hearing the World War 2 story of a group of brave young women who risked their lives against incredible challenges both on the ground and in the air, I was hooked, and I knew that Attagirls would be my next film.

My enthusiasm went even further into overdrive when I met Graham Rose, Chairman of the ATA Association and the son of the heroine of the Attagirls story. During what I thought would

be a regular recce trip to the ATA Museum in Maidenhead to gather some facts, dates, etc., Graham happened to mention the remarkable story of his mother in a matter-of-fact way and with such modesty that it really was one of those life-changing moments for me.

Over the next 18-months, I joined my business partner RAF Squadron Leader (rtd) Andrew Rawcliffe in the south of France where we wrote the feature film screenplay. Once complete, we pitched the idea to a few studios both in the USA and the UK and we were in production discussions when the COVID pandemic put a stop to everything.

I was determined not to waste time sitting around during one lockdown after another and so I decided to adapt the screenplay as a novel. It was during this past year that I've been able to further research the personalities and depth of the characters and the more I wrote, the more I realised that here was a story which could be inspirational to women and girls across the world. Rather than focus on the class differences that permeated the ATA, as many of the girls were from privileged backgrounds, hence having access to aircraft before the declaration of war, I focussed instead on the challenges of being a woman in what was then the male-dominated world of the RAF.

In addition to the daily dangers that the pilots faced, such as rogue Luftwaffe aircraft, adverse weather conditions, barrage balloons, 'friendly' air fire, and flying without weapons, radio or navigation equipment, they also had to defend themselves on the ground against endless criticism from all directions ... the press, the public, some members of Parliament and even from various sources within the RAF itself.

Having two daughters myself, I am no stranger to the challenges that young girls face in today's world, and throughout the writing, my main goal was to give my daughters and girls all over the world an inspirational story. I know that there are already many inspirations available other than my writings, but this is a story about a person who experiences extreme personal tragedy but still 'carries on' in a way that sets an example to us all. The book is a gift to my daughters and to all the other girls out there who may at some point need to find courage under pressure ... those who are being told that they're not good enough for one reason or another. I hope that this book changes things for them ... redefining their habits of freedom for many years to come.

Graham Rose quote:

Attagirls is a great story, and it is, as Paul Olavesen-Stabb the author describes: a fictional story based on facts. My father was born in 1916 and my mother in 1920. They met in 1938 when he was studying music at Cambridge, Molly's home city, and fell in love. With the war declared in September 1939, they decided to get married and face whatever the war put their way as a married couple, and they married in December 1939.

Bernard was called up in late 1940 and joined the Northants Yeomanry, a tank regiment, and he then volunteered to sail to Egypt and join the County of London Yeomanry, again: a tank regiment. He became part of the North Africa Campaign.

Back home mother was an aero engineer in her father's business, in the hangars at Cambridge Airfield. In 1942 an invitation came from the Air Transport Auxiliary for her to join as a pilot. As she had only 18 hours 50 minutes flying solo, she was surprised to receive the

invitation. Her reasons for accepting were and I remember her quoting it many times: "I lost my father in July 1942 and Bernard was in North Africa, so I had no-one to ask, and I thought ... go for it!" Bernard and Molly Rose were no different from so many of their generation. They were patriotic to the core.

Molly delivered 486 aircraft including Spitfires, Hurricanes, Wellingtons and Bostons – to name just 4 of the 36 types of plane she flew.