

AETHERIS

An ‘inspiration’ themed evening at The RAF Club for the launch of the new book *Attagirls*, a novel by Paul Olavesen-Stabb, and with a foreword by Minnie Churchill DL



A high-profile evening of friends, family and press at the RAF Club, Piccadilly to celebrate the launch of the book *Attagirls* which is ‘Inspirational to Women Everywhere’, was a successful night.

Courtesy of Aetheris, publishers and producers of new book and film ‘Attagirls’ (as featured on national and regional BBC News TV & Radio)



The media launch of the new book *Attagirls* and The Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship, which supports the book, took place on Wednesday 21st July 2021 in the Churchill Suite at The RAF Club in London. The event was attended by several journalists and radio presenters as well as those involved in the *Attagirls* project during the past three years. Film producer and author Paul Olavesen-Stabb hosted the evening and made a speech highlighting what inspired him to write the novel about heroine aviatrix pilot Molly Rose of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA).

The theme of the evening was one of ‘inspiration’ following on from comments from critics and journalists who have read an advance copy the novel, and noting particularly how Molly’s character sets an example to young girls everywhere.

Paul elaborated: “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 and will hopefully inspire young women everywhere who may at some point need to find courage under pressure. Hopefully they’ll take a leaf out of Molly’s book, so to speak... embrace every opportunity and not take ‘no’ for an answer if it’s something that they really want, because that’s exactly what Molly did”.

He continued: “Molly’s daily objective was to get from A to B and she perfected the art. That’s in a way synonymous with every young girl’s plan for their future... they need to get from A to B too. Molly had a goal and nothing was going to get in her way, which sets a good example when considering the obstacles that young girls have to face in today’s world. Molly was brought down to earth with a thud on more than one occasion, but she would always get back up, dust herself off, re-evaluate, re-focus and carry on. I’ve been saying this to my daughters for many years... you have to believe in yourself and most importantly, never feel that a woman can’t do anything as well as a man”.

The evening also saw the launch of the Attagirls Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship, 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.

Said Paul: “We hope to develop the scholarship initiative in the coming years to embrace opportunities within the commercial sector and with support from companies in the world of aviation”.

Paul announced the appointment of Zoe Cameron as the scholarship’s Ambassador. Zoe is one of the few female pilots for Virgin Atlantic, and flies some of the largest aircraft in their fleet.

Minnie Churchill, great-grand-daughter-in-law of Winstone Churchill and writer of the book’s foreword, was also in attendance. Minnie’s father Baron Gerard John Regis Leo d’Erlanger conceived the idea of the ATA, and was thereafter its Commanding Officer until the organisation was disbanded.

Graham Rose, the son of Molly Rose, attended and kindly brought along some of his mother’s memorabilia.

Attagirls is to be published on 1st August 2021.

NOTE 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](#)

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<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 young 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.