

BGA accident/incident summaries

AIRCRAFT

Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	Place	Age	PILOT Injury	P1 hours
94	Olympia 2	substantial	27/06/15, 14:20	Cotswold GC	54	none	200
Hard landing during pilot's first flight on type. The glider was seen to be slow on the approach before descending from about 10ft agl and landing heavily, breaking the fuselage behind the wing trailing edge. The pilot reports that he rounded out, but didn't have time to close the airbrakes.							
95	JS1	substantial	27/06/15, 11:45	Bicester GC	68	none	4302
Landing in crop field after low-level aerotow launch failure. The glider pilot had asked for "maximum speed" from the Pawnee tug pilot before taking off with a fully ballasted glider into a light wind. After passing the airfield boundary the tug started to turn to the right away from a noise sensitive area, but the glider pilot reports having insufficient aileron authority to follow the tug. As the two aircraft diverged, the glider's left wing dropped and the pilot was just able to recover from the stall before landing in a crop field. Analysis of the trace suggests that the tug cleared the 50ft high boundary trees by about 40ft at an airspeed above the glider manufacturer's recommended minimum aerotow speed of 65 knots, but below the recommended turbulent speed of 70kts. The glider pilot reports an airspeed of 60kts and "some aileron authority" before reaching the trees.							
96	DR 400	minor	24/06/15, 16:45	Lasham GS	22	none	not reported
Tow rope and aerotow rings struck parked car. The approach to the cross runway passed over boundary trees, trailers and parked cars and gliders. The tug's approach was flown too low to allow for the trailing aerotow rope, causing minor damage to a parked car.							
97	ASW 20	substantial	30/05/15, 16:40	Lasham GS	62	none	211
Undercarriage collapsed on landing. During his final glide, the pilot realised that he would not reach the airfield and made a late field selection. He lowered the undercarriage, but then used the undercarriage handle rather than the airbrake. Realising, he lowered the wheel again, but failed to lock it down and the fuselage and a wing were damaged when the wheel retracted on landing.							
98	Cirrus	minor	27/06/15, 14:00	Black Mountains GC	69	none	1383
Undercarriage retraction during take-off caused minor damage. It is thought that a parachute strap may have caught on the undercarriage handle and lifted it out of its locking detent at the end of the previous flight.							
99	K-21	minor	03/06/15, 17:50	Southdown GC	-	none/none	not reported
Wingtip caught in crop during a field landing; the glider groundlooped leaving a crack in one wingtip.							
101	DG-808	substantial	03/07/15, 14:30	Midlem airfield	67	none	300
Wingtip caught in grass on take-off. After visiting a farm strip, the pilot lined up for departure on the 25m wide grass runway. Just as the glider started to take off, one wingtip caught in the longer grass at the edge of the runway, turning the glider which then flew low over the long grass for 50m before landing in the grass and groundlooping, hitting a fence and hedge in the process. The fuselage broke, the canopy shattered, one wing was substantially damaged and the other had minor damage.							
102	Astir	substantial	04/07/15, 16:00	Cotswold GC	53	none	103
Glider hit airfield signs after landing. After touching down, the glider turned slightly out of wind and the port wing was damaged after hitting two signs on posts at the edge of the landing area.							
103	K-21	substantial	05/07/15, 14:00	Bicester GC	30	none	9
Field landing accident. The low-airtime pilot got lost while local soaring and landed heavily in a rough field. The fuselage snapped, the tailplane and nosewheel were damaged.							
105	K-13	destroyed	06/07/15, 18:15	Buckminster GC	55/13	none/minor	400
Crash landing at the end of a trial flight. As the glider was landing, one wing dropped and dragged on the ground, yawing the glider which then passed over a hedge before crashing nose down into the adjacent field. The air cadet P2 reported a twisted ankle.							
106	Duo Discus	minor	09/06/15, 15:30	La Motte du Caire	68/62	none/none	1500
Wheel-up landing.							
107	Discus	substantial	27/06/15, 14:10	Booker GC	40	none	380
Field landing in to a crop field. Preparing to land out at a gliding club, the pilot noticed another glider circling nearby and headed towards it. Unable to find lift, the pilot prepared to land in what appeared to be a stubble field, although he could see tractor wheelings. He made a couple of attempts to start the turbo on the downwind leg before concentrating on landing. On final approach, the pilot realised that the field contained mature, deep crop. He rounded out over the top of the crop, intending to touch down at the slowest possible speed. The glider fell through the crop and landed heavily, damaging the undercarriage. One wing was creased after being caught in the crop.							
108	ASW 20	minor	09/07/15, 13:30	Booker GC	71	none	759
Wheel-up landing. Flying cross-country, the pilot was looking for lift near another gliding club. Getting low, he made a hurried approach before landing on the airfield with the wheel up, causing minor damage to the underside. The pilot recalls releasing from the aerotow in lift and while concentrating on thermalling he omitted to raise the undercarriage, subsequently raising the wheel on approach to land.							
109	ASW 24	minor	11/07/15, 16:00	Cambridge GC	-	none	36
Undershot approach. The pilot opened the airbrakes to maintain separation from another glider slightly above and ahead, but ended up landing in a crop field 20m short of the runway. A winglet was damaged in the ensuing groundloop.							
110	Discus	substantial	11/07/15, 14:15	Fenland GC	75	minor	213
Wheel-up landing. The pilot tried to lower the undercarriage before touching down, but landed heavily on the runway with the wheel still retracted. The glider had substantial internal and external damage, as well as damage to the tailwheel and a wingtip. The pilot suffered back pain.							

BGA accident/incident summaries *continued*

AIRCRAFT

Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	Place	PILOT Age	Injury	P1 hours
112	K-18	substantial	16/07/15, 14:55	Stratford GC	71	none	54
Glider landed in trees. After getting low on base leg, the pilot was unable to reach the airfield flying into the 15-20kt wind.							
113	Jantar	substantial	17/09/14, 15:30	Dartmoor GC	72	none	1570
Glider ran through pothole on landing run. The pilot chose to land slightly across the airfield to compensate for the gusting crosswinds. This approach took the glider across a track down the centre of the airfield and, after hitting the pothole, the glider was tipped on to its nose. The pilot could not see any damage and the glider was flown again on another day. A partly delaminated and loose spar pin bushing was later discovered in one wing root.							
115	K-6	minor	18/07/15, -	Essex GC	79	none	not reported
Glider landed in crop field adjacent to the airfield. During the early stages of the winch launch, the glider's airbrakes came open and remained open for the rest of the flight. After releasing, the pilot noticed the high sink rate, but not that the airbrakes were open. The pilot returned to the airfield, but the circuit flown did not adequately allow for the high sink rate and the glider landed in a crop field, damaging the underside of the nose in the process.							
116	K-13	minor	18/07/15, pm	Norfolk GC	54/-	none/none	not reported
Airbrake bellcrank mounting bracket failed during flight. After a spin recovery demonstration, one airbrake was seen to be standing approx 1cm proud of the wing top surface. Fully opening and then closing the airbrakes cured this, but the airbrake was then sucked out again after flying at more than 60kts.							
117	Discus	minor	18/07/15, 11:30	Cambridge GC	59	none	not reported
Wheel retracted during winch ground run. Although the pilot released, the glider's momentum caused it to slide over a tarmac track, damaging the underside of the fuselage, the gear doors and the winch hook.							
118	Junior	substantial	19/07/15, 13:45	Devon & Somerset GC	-	minor	not reported
Hard impact as glider failed to round out. The pilot reports that the glider attitude and wind noise were consistent with the usual approach speed, but that he didn't check the ASI. Late in the approach, there was no response to elevator inputs and the glider landed heavily nose first, damaging the cockpit and canopy. The pilot suffered back pain and a cut to his face. The pilot's report suggests that the glider may have stalled in the wind gradient. The elevator was found to be disconnected after the accident although, as the elevator was effective during the flight, the pilot suspects it may have become disconnected during the impact.							
120	K-6	minor	19/07/15, 17:00	Bidford GC	34	none	123
Crop field landing damaged the tailplane. The pilot had selected a suitable landing field, but then elected to try to return to the airfield. Undershooting the final glide, the pilot made a late field selection and landed in crop near the airfield.							

Incidents

93	Libelle	none	27/06/15,14:30	-	-	-	-
Wheel-up landing on grass runway.							
100	Junior	none	03/07/15, 17:00	-	-	-	-
After the take up slack signal was given, a passing pilot pointed out that the winch cable was attached to the aerotow hook.							
104	K-13	none	06/07/15, 14:30	-	-	minor	-
The instructor was sitting in the rear seat with his right hand resting on the top of the fuselage side when the wind blew the canopy shut, trapping his hand between the canopy and the fuselage.							
111	Puchacz	minor	12/07/15, 18:00	-	-	-	-
While the batteries were being removed, the glider canopy blew shut leaving a large crack in the canopy.							
114	Olympia 463	none	28/05/15, 15:25	-	-	-	-
Airbrakes came open during a bungee launch. Unable to gain airspeed, let alone soar, the glider descended to a safe field landing. The pilot was without his usual back cushion and, although he shut the airbrakes at the start of the launch, he inadvertently opened the airbrakes again after take-off.							
119	DG-505	none	12/07/15, 14:45	-	-	-	-
Glider took off on an aerotow with the airbrakes unlocked. While waiting for the tug the P2, on a familiarisation flight, opened and closed the airbrakes and verbally confirmed they were locked to the ground crew before accepting the tow rope. The slow climb rate seemed normal while being towed in the lee of a hill and there were no signals from the tug, but as they passed through 1,000ft the instructor gave the lever another push and it moved into the locked position.							
121	Grob Acro	none	25/07/15, 14:00	-	-	-	-
Winch cable fell across public road. The glider released the broken cable at 900ft and, as it drifted down under the parachute, the crosswind took it off the airfield. The runway in use was R26, the wind was 15-20kts from the NNW.							
122	LS3	none	23/07/15, 17:00	-	-	-	-
Wheel-up landing. After a long aerotow retrieve, the pilot spent 45 minutes local soaring before preparing to land. The undercarriage was mistakenly retracted during the pilot's pre-landing checks.							

In a recent S&G survey, you told us that you would like to see more in-depth coverage of accidents and incidents. Edward Lockhart is now providing a little extra detail, where available, in the listings on these pages. We would also like to publish (anonymously) your stories of particular flights that have taught you a valuable flying lesson. Please send details to editor@sailplaneandgliding.co.uk or by post to the address on p3.