

Safety

Managing Risk. 'Managing Flying Risk' is a helpful BGA documents within Laws and Rules that gives clubs and all pilots guidance to help understand, minimise and manage risks associated with gliding operations including with powered gliders and tug aircraft. Following a long period of development and consultation, the latest version was published on 14th November and includes 'must have' information including specific guidance for those who carry passengers or instruct. Regardless of your experience level, please have a read through the document at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/2016/11/14/bga-publication-managing-flying-risk/>

BGA

EASA FI and Examiner Refresher Seminars. A series of two day FI(S) refresher seminars have been scheduled for the next 12 months. The confirmed dates are 17th/18th December, Dunstable; 14th/15th January, Rufforth; 11th/12th February, Dunstable; 14th/15th October, Lasham; 2nd/3rd December, Portmoak. For more information and details of the full range of BGA seminars and courses, please see <https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses/>. Bookings should be made via Debbie Carr at the BGA office (debbie@gliding.co.uk or 0116 289 2956)

BGA Courses and Seminars 2017. Details of all BGA facilitated airworthiness, safety officer and instructor courses and seminars can be found at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses/>. Unless otherwise stated, bookings are made through the BGA office. Please contact Debbie Carr (details above).

2017 BGA Conference. The 2017 conference, kindly sponsored by Sydney Charles Aviation Insurance, along with the BGA exhibition and awards dinner will be held the Nottingham Belfry Hotel on Saturday 25th February. With a technology theme running throughout the event, presentations will include 'Connectivity Explained - Do Your Instruments Talk to Each Other' and 'The Technology Behind the Bite of the Shark'. The exhibition is quickly filling up and a list of exhibitors is on the conference web page (link below). Tickets for the Gala Awards Dinner are now available online. Please book soon to avoid disappointment. Details of the event plus information about hotel bookings, as well as lunch and dinner reservations, are on the conference web page at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/conference>

Office Christmas Opening. The BGA office will close for the Christmas break at 4pm on Thursday 22nd December and will re-open at 8am on Tuesday 3rd January. We hope everybody has a good holiday and look forward to good soaring in 2017.

Regulatory

EASA Self-Declared Maintenance Programme. EASA's Self-Declared Maintenance Programme (SDMP) is a recent development which reflects the current aim of reducing burdens and empowering EASA aircraft owners. The SDMP results in owners having responsibility for their EASA aircraft maintenance programme. The current BGA airworthiness system is more than capable of supporting the new approach, and we will provide any necessary support and

guidance to all owners in due course. For most, the SDMP will not apply until 2018 but there are exceptions, including new sailplane imports (applicable now) and EASA powered aircraft operating under the historic CAA LAMP programme (applicable before 30th September 2017). Please note that the SDMP does NOT apply to non-EASA (Annex II) aircraft. More information is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=27675>

Collision Avoidance Technology Equipage Survey. We've been asked to let UK sailplane owners know about a survey to assess transponder, GPS and collision avoidance/warning technology equipage. The survey, which is being run by EASA and supported by FASVIG, aims to gather data that will help rule-makers assess the potential needs and options for future surveillance requirements in Europe. Several General Aviation associations are taking part in this work to protect the interests of GA users. The BGA supports this work and asks that as many individual owners and clubs as possible participate. Full details and a link to the survey are at <http://fasvig.org/easa-ga-equipment-survey-transponder-gps-collision-avoidancewarning-system>. Responses are requested by 15th December but absolutely no later than 15th January 2017. Note that the survey includes a question 'aircraft IFR equipped?' We suggest that if the sailplane is equipped for cloud flying, it is appropriate to answer 'yes'. Thanks for your help.

Competitions and Cross-Country

Aim Higher. A fantastic programme of Aim Higher events is planned for next year, offering something for both aspiring and experienced cross-country pilots. The programme includes two-day ground schools during the winter off-season (5 venues), two week-long mountain flying course in the Alps, week-long club-based soaring courses (5 venues so far), a one day competition briefing, and a week-long competition coaching course for juniors with 10-time world champion Sebastian Kawa. Thanks to our Aim Higher lead Kevin Atkinson for setting these up. Don't miss out on these fabulous opportunities - see <https://members.gliding.co.uk/2016/11/22/aim-higher-2017/> for more details.

2017 Nationals. Online applications are now being accepted for 2017 National Championships in all classes at <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/competitions/step1.php>. FAI licence renewal for 2017 can be done at the same time if required. With places significantly limited in some classes, pilots should ensure that their entry is placed before the deadline of 31st January 2017. Notes about the application process can be downloaded in advance of entry from <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/competitions/notes.htm>.

Details of the Nationals and all other competitions in 2017 are on the Competitions page of the BGA web site at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/>

FAI Competition Licences. You can now apply for your 2017 Competition Licence. You can either do this online when you enter a nationals competition (see above) or via the office. All intending competitors should note that, from 2017, FAI Licence cards will not be issued. Once your application has been received by the BGA it will be forwarded to the Royal Aero Club which will add or update your licence details on the main FAI database. Once this has been done, you will be able to verify the status of your FAI licence by entering your email address at <http://www.fai.org/about-fai/fai-sporting-licences>. An email will then be sent to you containing a link which will enable you to print out a card-style copy of your licence if required. Note that we believe this process may take up to two weeks so it is imperative that licence applications are made in good time prior to a competition or record attempt - last minute licence applications will no longer be possible.

SGP Finals. Congratulations to Andy Davis and Mike Young who finished fourth and seventh respectively at the final of the World Sailplane Grand Prix series held last month at Potchefstroom, South Africa. 18 pilots from 4 continents competed in a closely fought event where the leading five pilots all went into the final race with a chance of winning. The next SGP series starts next week at Horsham in Australia with the series final scheduled for January 2018 at Vitacura in Chile. Full details are at <http://www.sgp.aero/>

Notable Flights. More great flights in Scotland in the last few weeks. John Williams did a very fast 506km at 194.5kmph as well as a slightly more sedate 502km flight a couple of weeks earlier. There were also two 500ks for Roy Wilson and one for Sant Cervantes. Top height gain was 17994ft (max height 21200ft) from Aboyne for Simon Brown. Full details are on the BGA Ladder site at <http://www.bgaladder.co.uk>

Juniors

Air League Scholarships. Applications are now being accepted for 2017 Air League gliding scholarships. These are for post-solo pilots, who will be aged under 26 on 1st April 2017, to help them advance their gliding skills in areas such as aerobatics, cross-country and SLMG training. Applications should be made online to the Air League by 17th February at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/scholarships/gliding-scholarships/> where more details can be found.

General

Award for Aviation Journalism. Congratulations to Nigel Everett (Devon & Somerset GC) who has been awarded the Honourable Company of Air Pilots' Award for Aviation Journalism. The award, which is for an outstanding contribution to the promotion or public awareness of aviation in general or of any important aspect of aviation activity, was given to Nigel for his work as editor of the GASCo Flight Safety bulletin and Flight Safety Extra as well as for his regular contributions to Pilot magazine.

Ann Welch Information. We have received a request from a student at the University of St Andrews who is making a documentary on the life of Ann Welch asking for information from those that may have known Ann or knew a lot about her. If you are able to help please can you contact Rebecca Jackson at rjj4@st-andrews.ac.uk or 07871 625185.