

Safety

Inflatable Cushions. We have become aware of the existence of inflatable cushions in gliders. Such cushions are very dangerous in a crash and should not be used. Firstly, in a crash you will initially continue to descend as the cushion compresses (or even bursts) and then encounter a compensating higher deceleration as you meet the glider structure. Secondly, if the cushion does not burst, it will elastically bounce you away from the glider structure and you might then experience an even more severe second deceleration. Some gliders were fitted with inflatable cushions as original equipment. Please remove any inflatable cushion from your glider and replace it with an energy absorbing cushion.

Soaring Protocol. Following a recent review, the soaring safety protocol has been updated to include ridge soaring protocols. The latest version of the protocol is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/04/Soaring-Protocol.pdf>. No matter how experienced you are, please refresh your understanding.

GASCo Safety Evenings. The annual series of GASCo Safety Evenings is now well under way. The evenings are designed to provide an opportunity to reflect on General Aviation safety as it affects you and the people you fly with. Each event lasts 2 hours with a short refreshment break during which log books can be endorsed. More details and a full list of venues and dates are at <http://www.gasco.org.uk/safety-evenings.aspx>

BGA

2017 BGA Conference. A final reminder that the BGA Conference and Exhibition, along with the annual awards dinner and BGA AGM, will be held at the Nottingham Belfry on Saturday 25th February. This promises to be another great event with a full conference programme that offers something for everybody, an exhibition featuring the latest sailplanes, avionics, gliding destinations and services, and the chance to let your hair down in the evening. The main conference hotel is now fully booked but rooms are still available in surrounding hotels. Dinner bookings can be made online until 17th February. Full details, including the full conference agenda, exhibitor list, hotels information and online dinner and lunch bookings are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/conference>.

BGA Annual Report. The BGA Annual Report for 2016, describing the Association's activities during the year has been published at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/governance-documents/bga-annual-report-2016/>.

Regulatory

8.33kHz Radio Equipage Funding. The form for claiming funding to partially off-set the cost of equipping aircraft with 8.33kHz radios has not, at the time of writing, been published by the CAA although this is expected very shortly. EU funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis so, if you are eligible, you are advised to monitor the situation closely and apply at the earliest opportunity. We will advise owners as soon as we are informed that the application form

is available but you can check the latest situation at <https://www.caa.co.uk/General-aviation/Aircraft-ownership-and-maintenance/8-33-kHz-radios/>

Handheld 8.33KHz Radios in Class D Airspace. A recent CAA update about the LA3 equipment approval for 8.33KHz capable radios inadvertently removed the ability to use these devices in class D airspace. This was not the intention and the CAA has made an update to reinstate the permission. The latest LA301075 approval certificate is now on the CAA website at <http://www.caa.co.uk/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=4294978578>.

Drone Consultation. We wrote in the January Newsletter about the consultation the Department for Transport is currently conducting about on proposals ‘to harness the positive benefits of drones for public and commercial services and the benefits to the UK economy’. Pilots who are considering responding may be interested in the BGA comments, available at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/2017/02/05/department-transport-drone-consultation/>. The consultation closes on 15th March 2017 and details can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/benefits-of-drones-to-the-uk-economy>



Competitions and Cross-Country

World Gold for Russell and Team Gold. Great news from Benalla. Russell Cheetham won gold in the Open Class with Andy Davis third after a final day tussle with German pilot Michael Sommer. A bronze for Mike Young in the 18m class and a strong performance from the rest of the 6 man team gave the UK yet another Team Cup gold. Congratulations to all the team. Full results are on the competition website at <http://www.wqc2017.com> and you can read the team reaction at <https://www.britishglidingteam.co.uk>.

Nationals Entry Lists. The 2017 Nationals entry lists have been published at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/competition-licence-nationals-entries/2017-nationals-entry-lists/>. Places are still available in most of the Nationals and entries are welcome, most especially in the Standard, 15m and 20m classes. Entries can be made online at <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/competitions/step1.php>. If the entry list becomes full you will be placed at the end of the reserve list. Details of the Nationals and other competitions throughout 2017 are in the competition calendar at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions>.

New Record. Congratulations to Ed Downham who has broken his own British National 15m Class 750km Triangle Speed Record. Ed achieved a speed of 146.64kmph flying an ASW27 from New Tempe, South Africa on 4th December, beating the record he set 11 years ago by more than 15kmph.

Involved in Organising Competition? A wealth of information for competition organisers is available on the BGA website at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/comp-organisers>. In addition, the Competitions Committee has set up a Facebook group for competition organisers to share information, get answers to comp FAQs, check planned dates for competitions and generally help you to run a more successful, more fun comp, more easily. All you have to do is email compscommittee@gliding.co.uk to be subscribed to the group.

Competitions Committee. Due to retirements, the BGA Competitions Committee is looking for new members who can complement the mix of skills and interests of the existing members. The committee would particularly like applications from people keen to represent the Juniors but would like to hear from you whatever your age. The Committee is responsible for promoting all

forms of competition gliding and for policy and management of UK and international competition matters including ratings lists, competition bids, nationals entries and British team selection and funding. Key work areas currently include coaching, creating better and more fun competitions, funding and communications. The committee meets around five times each year during the winter; working groups meet outside those sessions to pursue key development areas. If you would like to help improve the UK competition scene, please consider joining the committee. Apply by Email to compscommittee@gliding.co.uk giving details of yourself and your gliding history and what you would bring to the committee. Please apply by Sunday 26th February as we aim to appoint during early March. We look forward to receiving your application.

Juniors

Honourable Company of Air Pilots Scholarships. We are delighted that the Honourable Company is, once again, offering gliding course scholarships in 2017. These are designed for those aged over 16 (no upper age specified) with little or no flying experience who might otherwise not have the necessary resources to experience gliding. The scholarship will cover the direct training costs of either a week-long residential course, or training at a Junior Gliding Centre on a lesson-by-lesson basis. Details and an application form can be found at <https://www.airpilots.org/career-matters/scholarships/flying-scholarships-2017/>. Applications must be received by 29th March.

Funding Reminders. Applications are still being accepted for Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries and for Air League Scholarships. The RAeC bursaries, worth between £500 and £1000 are for post-solo pilots aged between 14 and 21 (and up to 24 years old for follow-on bursaries). Applications must be made by 24th March. The Air League Scholarships are also for post-solo pilots but have an upper age limit of 26. The deadline for applications for these is only a few days away - 17th February. Full details at <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries> and <http://www.airleague.co.uk/scholarships/gliding-scholarships/>. Note that applications for RAeC Trust Bursaries are to be made to the BGA.

General

Gliding on TV. Gliding has had a bit of exposure on national TV recently. The CBBC series All Over the Workplace heavily featured Derby & Lancs in a half hour programme featuring two young aspiring airline pilots while BBC Yorkshire had a short piece on based around the two-seater competition at Pocklington as part of the Yorkshire Wolds Way programme - a national screening is expected shortly. The two programmes are available on the BBC iPlayer for the next couple of weeks (All Over the Worlplace Series 2, Episode 3; Yorkshire Wolds Way, Episode 2).