

BGA accident/incident summaries

AIRCRAFT

Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	Place	Age	PILOT Injury	P1 hours
54	Skylark 4	minor	26/04/16, 12:28	Shenington GC	78	none	1232
Glider hit hedge on approach. The right wingtip caught on the hedge, yawing the glider which came to rest with its nose buried in the hedge preventing the pilot from opening the canopy. There was some damage to the fabric of the right wing.							
55	Astir	substantial	30/04/16, 14:00	Bristol & Glos GC	16	none	21
Forward fuselage frame found to be cracked. The damage was thought to have occurred during a field landing into a cross slope. A wingtip caught on the slope at low speed and the glider groundlooped through 90°.							
58	Astir	substantial	08/05/16, 17:00	Bath, Wilts & N Dorset GC	57	none	508
Undercarriage collapsed during landing. The pilot and a witness both report a slight bounce to no more than 18" agl after an otherwise normal landing. On the subsequent touchdown, the undercarriage collapsed, the wheel fork was found to be fractured and bent.							
59	DG-300	substantial	11/05/16, 12:00	Cairngorm GC	57	none	118
Canopy came off at 3,000ft during aerotow. The visiting pilot reports pulling the release and easing back on the stick to avoid the aerotow rope, the tug pilot reports the tail being pulled up and the weak link in the tow rope breaking. The canopy frame remained attached at the rear and the pilot was able to land safely.							
60	JS1	substantial	03/05/16, 13:30	Santa Cilia, Spain	62	none	978
Wing hit by vulture while thermalling. The impact left an indentation in the wing surface, as well as damaging the tip flaperon and bending the tip retaining pin.							
62	DG-500	minor	30/04/16, -	York GC	-	none	185
Field landing with the wheel up. The report mentions the importance of early field selection and pre-landing checks.							
64	LAK 19	minor	14/05/16, 18:50	The Gliding Centre	59	none	1187
Field landing after the engine failed to start left minor scuffing to the underside of the wings.							
66	ASW 20	minor	16/05/16, 12:55	Edensoaring	53	none	215
Bounced touchdown and subsequent crash. After encountering sink while returning to the airfield, the visiting pilot made a low turn on to final and elected not to use landing flap. The glider touched down at speed on the main wheel before bouncing up to 25ft agl, pitching nose down and then crashing.							
67	DG-400	substantial	30/04/16, 15:10	Oxfordshire Sport Flying	47	none	1500
Heavy landing damaged main and tailwheel, as well as the main frame in the fuselage. On his first flight in the glider, the pilot was on approach in the lee of a line of trees downwind of an approaching rain shower when the glider stalled at about 15ft agl.							
72	LS4	substantial	24/05/16, 14:30	Booker GC	60	none	not reported
Field landing accident. After attempting to climb away from low level, the pilot drifted too far downwind on his base leg in the strong wind and, after a low final turn, landed amid saplings some 60m short of his selected landing area.							
73	LS7	minor	12/04/16, 13:40	Cerdanya, Spain	74	none	250
Undercarriage collapsed during aerotow take-off.							
76	Discus	substantial	23/05/16, 13:30	Yorkshire GC	57	none	25
Wheel-up landing. The pilot retracted the undercarriage after the aerotow, lowered it again when returning to the airfield and then on short final thought that the wheel was still up. He swapped hands on the stick and raised the undercarriage, but lost control of the glider, resulting in a heavy landing which broke the canopy.							

Incidents

53	K-13	--	24/04/16, 16:35	-	-	-	-
A police helicopter flew past the airfield in close proximity to an early solo pilot in the circuit. It later transpired that the helicopter did not know the club's radio frequency and was talking to another airfield five miles away.							
56	Discus	none	04/05/16, 15:00	-	-	-	-
The low-airtime pilot drifted downwind of the airfield in a thermal and then hit sink after leaving it. The pilot lowered the nose to increase speed and was just able to fly over the airfield boundary fence before touching down and then running into a pile of soft earth. The report notes that the pilot passed over several landable fields on the way back but, lacking any field landing training, chose to return to the airfield.							
57	LS4	substantial	05/05/16, 11:15	-	-	-	-
The glider was being towed by a motorhome and, when the vehicle made a tight turn, the ladder fixed to the rear of the motorhome damaged the glider's elevator.							
61	Puchacz	none	05/05/16, 15:30	-	-	-	-
A lorry that had delivered its load drove back across the runway in use as a winch launch was in progress, becoming entangled with the wire. The glider was climbing through 600ft and experienced a violent jolting before releasing and landing safely. The lorry driver had not been briefed on airfield operations.							

BGA accident/incident summaries *continued*

AIRCRAFT				PILOT			
Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	Place	Age	Injury	P1 hours
63	Mosquito	none	14/05/16, 14:00	-	-	-	-
Wheel-up landing. The pilot was distracted and omitted his pre-landing checks.							
65	K-21	minor	15/05/16, 16:05	-	-	-	-
A K-13 wingtip hit and damaged the K-21 elevator as the glider was being pulled forward.							
68	Twin Acro	none	08/05/16, 14:45	-	-	-	-
After taking off on an aerotow, the pilot felt the rudder pedals moving away from him so released and landed ahead safely. On investigation it was discovered that the pedals would not properly lock into place after adjustment. Cleaning and lubrication cured the problem.							
69	Twin Acro	none	08/05/16, 13:50	-	-	-	-
P2 in the front seat reported a rudder control anomaly during flight. After landing it was discovered that one of the front cockpit rudder cables had hooked over a rudder toe strap attachment.							
70	Super Dimona	none	22/05/16, 11:15	-	-	-	-
The TMG took off with a chock still attached to one wheel strut. It remained attached during the flight before falling off on landing.							
71	Nimbus 2 Vega	minor minor	22/05/16, after 18:00	-	-	-	-
Wingtip of towed Nimbus hit the Vega wingtip damaging both wingtips. While putting away club equipment at the end of a long day, a club member momentarily forgot that the Nimbus was still attached to a club tow vehicle as he got into the car to put it away.							
74	K-13	none	21/04/16, 10:00	-	-	-	-
The battery was connected, but not secured, and after a flight involving spinning was left dangling in the fuselage among the control connections behind the rear seat.							
75	Pawnee	none	27/04/16, am	-	-	-	-
Towplane ran out of fuel at 1,000ft agl, gliding back to a safe landing at the airfield. After a late re-allocation of tugs and pilots, it was not made clear to the replacement Pawnee pilot that the aircraft needed refuelling. The pilot also forgot to check the fuel state before take-off.							
77	PW6	none	24/0516	-	-	-	-
A spring in one of the lap strap buckles had come loose and entangled in the passengers clothing and parachute strap.							

In an 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.

