

Safety

BGA Accident Review. There are only a few types of gliding accident and they frequently repeat themselves. The BGA Review of Accidents in 2016 offers headline guidance on how everyone can help to avoid a repetition of the more important categories of accident. By understanding the issues and learning from them, we can all contribute to a safer 2017. If you haven't already done so, please obtain a copy either from your club CFI or by downloading from <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=28421>

Managing Flying Risk. Following consultation with clubs and direction from the Executive Committee, we have reviewed BGA Recommended Practices and other gliding good practice that for many years had been published in a range of documents. The aim was to consolidate the relevant information into one place. The result of that work is 'Managing Flying Risk', one of a series of documents published on the BGA website under Laws and Rules at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/general-safety-publications/managing-flying-risk-guidance/>. Managing Flying Risk has now also been published as a printed booklet which will be supplied free to club pilots. Copies have been sent to club Safety Officers for distribution to members - please see your CSO for a copy.

Energy Absorbing Cushions. We have issued an update to the safety booklet about the benefits of fitting energy absorbing cushions in gliders. The update contains new information about the hazards of inflatable cushions. The booklet can be downloaded from <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety/safety-foam/>

Listening Squawk Reference Card. Following the airspace infringement seminar held in London last year, FASVIG have analysed airspace infringement data from across the country and concluded that the use of listening squawks and radar services significantly reduce infringement risk. However, the availability of these services was not well understood and although details are listed in the AIP and in commercial flight guides there was no ready reference available. FASVIG has now produced 30,000 copies of a reference card suitable for planning and in-flight use by GA pilots. A supply of these printed cards has been delivered to the three companies that distribute CAA charts in time for a copy to be included with the UK South chart which was effective on 4 March 2017. Copies will also be included with other new charts distributed over the coming year. In the meantime, transponder-equipped pilots can download a copy from <http://airspacesafety.com/downloads/>

Airspace

Glider Operations Above FL100 - Good News. The CAA has published ORS1217 allowing non-transponder equipped gliders and SLMGs to fly above FL100 and up to FL195 in the notified Non-SSR Gliding Areas (NSGA). The new exemption runs until 31st March 2018. The NSGAs are detailed in UKAIP ENR5.2 and diagrammatically in ENR 6-3-0-1 (see the NATS website - <http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/>). ORS1217 is available on the CAA website at <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?appid=11&mode=detail&id=7811>

Exeter ACP. Exeter Airport has published details of the consultation over its proposal to establish Class D airspace. The consultation runs until 9th June 2017. The BGA, along with member clubs and its GA Alliance partners, will be developing and submitting a response. The consultation document is at <https://www.exeter-airport.co.uk/content/uploads/Exeter-Airport-ACP-Consultation-Document-Issue-1.pdf>

Newcastle ACP. Newcastle Airport has also published details of a consultation over its proposals to implement Area Navigation (RNAV) Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Approaches and Standard Terminal Arrival Routes (STARs). This consultation will run until 2nd June 2017 and full details are at <http://www.newcastleairport.com/approach-consultation>. Again, the BGA and its partners will be developing and submitting responses.

Hawarden RMZ. The CAA has approved the Airspace Change Proposal for the Hawarden Radio Mandatory Zone. As part of the process, a General Aviation Guide for the new RMZ, which became effective on 30th March 2017, has been produced. It can be downloaded from <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=28378>. It's hoped the guide will assist pilots with the airspace change and help reduce airspace infringements. Any queries should be addressed to Hawarden ATC at atcopshawarden@airbus.com.

Airspace Change Process Consultation. The CAA has launched its own consultation over proposals to modify the way in which future airspace change proposals should be carried out. The proposals define what will happen at each of the seven stages of the new process for considering permanent changes to UK airspace – from initial objectives and principles, through to post-implementation review. It details what a sponsor of an airspace change must complete at each stage, the stakeholders they must engage with and the CAA's expectations of that engagement. The guidance also covers how the CAA will assess the proposed change before making its decision. The BGA will be responding and you can view the proposals and consultation documents at <https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/draft-airspace-design-guidance>. The deadline for consultation responses is 30th June 2017.

CAP 1434. The CAA has asked us to draw pilots' attention to CAP 1434 'UK Flight Information Services: Guidance from the CAA' which was published last year. The leaflet provides guidance to pilots on the types of air traffic services that are available to all flights operating within Class G airspace and, where notified, to VFR flights operating in Class E airspace. CAP 1434, which supplements CAP 774 'UK Flight Information Services' can be downloaded from <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/cap1434>

Chart Errors. The latest 1:500k VFR charts contain a number of errors concerning gliding sites. Five sites on the Southern England and Wales chart (edition 43) and two sites on the Northern England and Northern Ireland chart (edition 40) are shown as disused airfield whereas they, in fact, have intense gliding/hang-gliding activities taking place around them. Details are at http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/public/index.php%3Foption=com_content&task=view&id=676&Itemid=301.html

Regulatory

EGU Newsletter. The European Gliding Union has published its latest newsletter. This provides a very useful overview of the regulatory progress being made in Europe, particularly in respect of the hoped-for lighter regulation for gliding, Part-Gliding. The newsletter is available on the EGU website at <http://www.egu-info.org/dwnl/EGU%20newsletter%201-2017.pdf>

BGA

Club Management Conference. A date has been set for the 2017 Club Management Conference. It will be on Saturday 11th November at Highgate House, near Northampton. The conference will feature sessions for chairmen & managers, treasurers, CFIs and for people involved with junior gliding development. Due to the popularity of last year's conference, we won't be hosting the Inspectors' Workshop on the same day this year. We will be contacting club volunteers for their input from May onwards, but if anyone has any suggestions for sessions or themes, please do email Alison Randle - alison@gliding.co.uk.

Competitive Gliding Sponsorship Working Group. We are inviting applications from volunteers who wish to join the newly formed Competitive Gliding Sponsorship Working Group (SWG), a sub-committee of the BGA Competitions & Awards Committee. The purpose of the SWG is to: develop competitive and related elements of British gliding to attract sponsorship; deliver value to existing sponsors with a clear aim of providing a return on their investment; identify and pursue new sponsorship opportunities; ensure all sponsorship is properly managed with a consistent approach. More details are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=28541>. Applications should be made by Emailing Charlie Jordan - charlie_sierra75@hotmail.co.uk - with a brief introduction to yourself and how you feel you could contribute to the SWG. The closing date for applications is the Wednesday 12th April 2017.

Air League Award. The BGA is delighted to have been awarded the Air League Scott-Farnie Medal for successfully encouraging young people in aviation. The award is fantastic recognition of all the great work being undertaken by a dedicated team of people.

Instructors

Instructor Training. Volunteer instructors are the life blood of any gliding club and we are really fortunate to have so much experience occupying the rear seats of our training gliders. But, of course, as in all areas of gliding, we need a constant flow of newly qualified people to help out. Basic Instructor courses take place at clubs and are arranged by the CFI with the local SRE. Assistant Instructor training takes place at clubs and on BGA facilitated courses. Details are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses/bga-assistant-instructor-courses/>. Any pilot with a Silver badge who is interested in improving their flying skills, giving something to the future of gliding, and having lots of rewarding flying should talk to their CFI about instructor training.

Competitions and Cross-Country

BGA Waypoint List. The 2017 Waypoint List (Start Points, Turn Points, Control Points and Finish Points) has been published and can be downloaded via <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/airspace-files/bga-waypoint-list>

Notable Flights. The last month has seen a stack of great early season flights, which will probably keep our Badges Officer busy for some time. Initially it was mostly all about Scotland and the north of England, with 9th March seeing 500ks from Roy Wilson (Deeside), John Williams and Tony Spurling (both SGC). Tony's flight included a 12865 ft height gain which Bill Fuller (also SGC) trumped with 13688ft. Yorkshire also featured with a 12244 ft gain from Jesper Mjels at Sutton Bank. The following week saw Alastair Mutch logging 434k from Portmoak and Rob Rose achieving an undeclared 474k from Currock. The action then moved south with five digit height gains from Trevor Steward (Nympsfield), Phil King (Shobdon) and

Henry Ford (Mendip, flying from Talgarth) over the weekend of 25/26th March with Paul Fritche (Southdown) achieving 413.1 km. April has come in like a lion with 30 or so flights over 300k on the second and third of the month, including 425.9k before landing out from Steve Lynn, 406k from Tim Jenkinson after a remote start at Banbury and 402k by Patrick Naegeli from Lasham. At the same time, Lleweni Parc saw a number of 10k+ height gains. Full details of all these flights are on the BGA ladder at <http://bgaladder.co.uk>. We've tried to include details of as many flights as possible within the space available; apologies if we've not mentioned yours.

Juniors

Help the Junior Team at JWGC. The Junior Team is raising money to help fund the costs of competing at this summer's Junior World Gliding Championships in Lithuania. You can help the team bring home more medals by donating at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jwgc>

Women.

Comp-ette. WomenGlide are organising another of their Comp-ettes, consisting of a training weekend, a mini competition, prizes and more, at Sutton bank on 10/11th June. Entry is free but you do need to book in advance. Men are also allowed, but no prizes for them. More information is at <https://www.ygc.co.uk/women-glide-2017/>.

Bicester Training Weekend. After the huge success of the Training Camp in 2016, all women pilots wanting to improve their XC and racing skills are invited to join the Women Glide team at the Bicester Regionals in 2017 (5th -13th August). Bicester has once again made the offer of reduced entry fees for women so we encourage you all to come along, take part, race and learn. There will be briefings, coaching and debriefs/trace analysis after flying and it's hoped that some two-seaters will be available. More details at <http://www.womenglide.co.uk/>

General

Stolen Glider. A Ventus 2cM glider, registration G-III0, serial number 41, and trailer along with the tow car (a grey metallic BMW530d registration WG 08 ULV) were stolen last month near Arlon, Belgium. The trailer was last reported seen in Oelegem at 2030 on the 26th March. Please contact the owner, Steve Clark, with any information - aquaclark@aol.com