

BGA accident/incident summaries

AIRCRAFT

Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	Place	Age	PILOT Injury	P1 hours
109	Grob Acro	substantial	03/07/16, 13:50	Herefordshire GC	56	none/none	1923
Field landing accident. Late in the approach the pilot tried to turn to change the direction of landing. The wingtip caught in the grass, groundlooping the glider and breaking the fuselage.							
111	LS6	substantial	17/07/16, 16:30	Cotswold GC	75	none	not reported
Wheel-up landing on a runway damaged the fuselage underside.							
112	Grob 102	destroyed	19/07/16, 15:45	Lasham GS	59	minor	28
Heavy landing after aborted winch launch. A wingtip touched the ground during the ground run; the stop signal was given, but there was enough momentum in the cable and drum to accelerate the glider into the air. The cable back released at about 4ft agl, but the glider continued in a shallow climb for a couple of seconds before the pilot lowered the nose. The pilot was able to round out, but there was insufficient energy to arrest the descent rate and the glider landed heavily on the main wheel, damaging the wheel mounting structure and fuselage. The pilot suffered back injuries.							
115	Vega	substantial	18/07/16, 12:30	Yorkshire GC	69	none	235
Field landing groundloop. The pilot thought that he had selected a grass field, but landed instead in a barley crop. The low speed groundloop removed the tailwheel, bent a wing main pin and damaged the elevator mount.							
116	K-21	substantial	30/07/16, 13:10	Ulster GC	53	none/minor	324
Aborted aerotow launch. After two aerotow launches, the launchpoint was moved to allow for a more into wind take-off diagonally across the field. Soon after the glider took off, the tug ran over some longer grass and slowed. Both the tug pilot and glider P1 released, allowing the tug to take off, but the glider went through a wire fence before coming to a stop on the beach. The front seat P2 was cut and bruised, the glider had multiple impact damage and scratches.							
117	K-13	minor	21/07/16, 17:05	Midlands GC	50	none/none	628
After landing, the P1 was unable to close the airbrakes and discovered that the lower brake had some impact damage. It is presumed that the glider must have hit a sheep during the approach.							
118	Vega	substantial	06/07/16, 15:25	Norfolk GC	71	none	563
Groundloop during landing broke a tailplane mounting fixture.							
119	K-21	substantial	21/07/16, 13:00	Yorkshire GC	58	none/none	1300
Heavy landing. The instructor attempted to take control late in the approach, saying "I have control". The P2 did not hear the P1 and continued to try to fly the glider, resisting the P1's inputs. The glider landed on the nosewheel and bounced a few times, pushing the nosewheel in and deforming the surrounding structure.							
123	ASG 29	destroyed	21/07/16, 11:45	Lasham GS	60	fatal	--
AAIB investigation							
126	LS4	substantial	30/07/16, 16:00	London GC	41	none	376
Field landing accident. The pilot selected a suitable field and, not noticing any significant wind or slope, chose to approach from the end without trees. As it turned out this meant landing down a slight slope with a slight tailwind. Unable to stop, the pilot attempted to groundloop the glider. The glider went into a barbed wire fence, damaging the nose, wings, undercarriage doors and breaking the canopy.							
127	Discus	minor	31/07/16, 15:00	The Gliding Centre	28	none	180
Competition field landing. The visiting pilot landed in a crop field, damaging a winglet while groundlooping.							
128	ASW 20	minor	31/07/16, 14:30	The Gliding Centre	65	none	1572
Wheel-up landing on runway during competition landout. The pilot had lowered the wheel before joining the circuit, but then raised the wheel while trying to climb away again. After losing the lift, the pilot flew a quick circuit and forgot to lower the wheel again.							
129	DG-400	substantial	31/07/16, 16:15	Norfolk GC	not reported	none	2200
Tailwheel damage. After landing on the runway, the tailwheel ran through a pothole, breaking the tailwheel fork and tyre.							
130	Nimbus	substantial	31/07/16, 13:00	Cairngorm GC	40	none	372
Wing drop during an aerotow ground run resulted in a groundloop. The fuselage was cracked near the fin.							
133	LS6	substantial	03/08/16, 16:30	La Motte du Caire, France	63	none	2161
Field landing accident. The visiting pilot found himself low over difficult terrain with just one landable field. After carefully assessing the field, the pilot had to make a late change of landing direction and approach over a power line. Touching down about halfway into the field the pilot tried to steer towards the corner of the field using the rudder. The glider passed over a dip in the field, became airborne again and yawed significantly before landing sideways, damaging the undercarriage and fuselage.							
134	Grob Acro	minor	03/08/16, 17:25	Trent Valley GC	61	minor/minor	667
Trial flight field landing. Flying a winch launch trial flight in a 20kt wind, the instructor noticed a band of rain approaching from upwind. There was strong sink on the base leg and after turning final the P1 decided to land in a field rather than attempt to reach the airfield. The field had crop in it and was rutted, the glider landed heavily before groundlooping, damaging the nosewheel mount.							

BGA accident/incident summaries *continued*

AIRCRAFT

Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	Place	PILOT Age	Injury	P1 hours
135	Janus	substantial	05/08/16, 16:30	The Gliding Centre	-	minor/minor	180

Competition field landing accident. The approach was flown into wind, but down an (unnoticed) slope. More than halfway down the field and still airborne, the pilot shut the airbrakes, raised the flaps and tried to turn around to land in the other direction. Impact evidence suggests that a wingtip caught on the ground and that the glider then landed nose first, rupturing the front fuselage and damaging the rear fuselage, wings and tailplane. The pilots escaped with cuts and bruises.

137	ASH 31	substantial	07/08/16, 08:30	Deeside GC	67	none	3606
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When the pilot returned from an early morning wave flight, a standing wave was overhead the airfield. Soon after touching down, a gust recorded by the club anemometer as more than 30kts hit the glider which then took off, dropped a wing and rotated 180° about the dropped wing. The fuselage broke in half and the tailplane was damaged.

Incidents

110	not reported	none	-, 12:30	-	-	-	-
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Tug upset. At about 150ft ato, as the combination flew off the airfield towards the valley, a radio message was passed from the ground to the glider pilot informing him that the airbrakes were open. The pilot quickly closed the brakes, but in the process the glider ballooned behind the tug, lifting its tail. Both aircraft were able to recover safely after both pilots released the rope.

113	PA 18	substantial	11/06/16, 17:00	-	-	-	-
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The tug was parked outside the hangar when a club vehicle was reversed into it, damaging the port wing struts.

114	DG-505	none	17/06/16, 17:10	-	-	-	-
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Gear-up landing on grass. The pilot believes he may have omitted to retract the undercarriage after releasing from tow, raising the wheel during his pre-landing checks. The avionics battery had drained during the afternoon, depriving the pilots of the benefit of the fitted undercarriage warning.

120	K-13	none	22/07/16, 17:30	-	-	-	-
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Aerotow launch failure during first solo flight. The tug engine started to run rough and lose power just before take-off so the pilot dropped the rope and was just able to stop the tug before the airfield boundary. The glider was already airborne and the pilot made a safe landing in a nearby field. The tug pilot had been using carb heat at all times except when towing, even so carburettor icing was suspected. However, test flights the next day were able reliably reproduce the rough running when using MOGAS; switching to AVGAS eliminated the problem. The club suspect that the MOGAS in the fuel tank of the tug left parked in the sun on a hot day may have exceeded the maximum allowed temperature for MOGAS, leading to vapour lock in the fuel system.

121	Discus	minor	23/07/16, 10:30	-	-	-	-
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While towing the glider behind a car, one wingtip hit a windsock pole, breaking the tail dolly catches and yawing the glider until the other wing hit the back of the car. Both wings and the car were damaged.

122	PA 25 CAP 10	substantial substantial	21/07/16, 12:45	- -	- -	- -	- -
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After warming up the Pawnee engine outside the hangar, the pilot looked out of both windows before taxiing, colliding with the CAP 10 parked at the fuel pumps 40m from the Pawnee hangar. The CAP's starboard wing was extensively damaged, the Pawnee's prop was broken.

124	Duo Discus	minor	23/07/16, 14:20	-	-	-	-
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After landing, the tow gear was attached and one of the pilots stood beside the rudder to signal to the club Gator as it backed up to the towbar. As the Gator reversed it moved suddenly, knocking over the pilot, hitting the rudder and stopping on the pilot's leg. The pilot was bruised and the glider had a split in the rudder.

125	Grob 102	none	29/07/16, 16:00	-	-	-	-
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Canopy opened early on during winch launch. The launch was abandoned and the glider landed safely.

131	DG-600	none	02/07/16, 11:00	-	-	-	-
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Wingtip caught in grass during winch launch. The glider yawed and rolled as it took off, reaching about 90° of bank with the wingtip about 15m above the ground before the pilot was able to level the wings and land safely. The grass was about 6" long, the wingtip holder reported feeling a down load on the tip, the pilot reported letting go of the release as the launch started and not noticing that the wing had gone down until the glider started to yaw.

132	Grob Acro	none	03/08/16, 17:00	-	-	-	-
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Wingtip caught in crop at the end of the landing groundrun, yawing the glider through 90°.

136	Grob Astir	none	06/08/16,17:35	-	-	-	-
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Wheel-up landing after the pilot omitted his pre-landing checks.

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.