

BGA accident/incident summaries

AIRCRAFT

Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	PILOT Injury	P1 hours
79	K-21	substantial	13/05/17, 11:30	none/none	3680
Heavy landing. After rounding out, the P2 suddenly pushed the stick forward and, despite guarding the controls, the P1 was unable to prevent the glider from hitting the ground.					
82	K-21	minor	21/05/17, 14:40	none/none	104
Field landing. The landing ground run passed over a track and there was some damage to the main wheel.					
83	Ventus	substantial	24/05/17, 11:15	none	832
Aborted aerotow. The glider pilot reports that the tug's ground run seemed to take longer than usual. During this phase, the glider wheel touched down again and the glider bounced back into the air. By now 30ft agl, right wing down and out of position, the pilot released. With no room to land ahead, the pilot continued the right turn, but the wingtip touched the ground and the glider crashed and groundlooped. The fuselage was broken and the tailplane, ailerons and engine mount damaged.					
84	ASW 19	substantial	24/05/17, 13:10	none	84
Airbrakes came open at the start of the winch launch. The pilot reports achieving a low height from the launch and then constant sink while searching for lift. Realising he would not be able to fly a normal circuit, the pilot landed at the upwind end of the airfield; a wingtip touched the ground and the glider groundlooped, breaking an aileron. At no time did the pilot realise that his airbrakes were open and he believes that he must have omitted the airbrake check during his pre-flight checks.					
86	EuroFOX	substantial	28/05/17, 10:30	none	not reported
Tug engine failure at 350ft ato. The tug pilot released the glider and turned back towards the airfield, but a wingtip caught on a tall bush just short of the airfield. The tug yawed round before landing backwards, damaging the propeller, undercarriage, rear fuselage and rudder. The glider released and was able to make a safe return to the airfield.					
87	SZD 30 Pirat	substantial	20/05/17, 12:50	none	30
Glider landed in crop field adjacent to the airfield. Despite being low on the downwind leg, the pilot was unwilling to turn in early in front of another glider on base leg. On base leg the pilot decided that he would not be able to fly over the trees at the downwind edge of the airfield so elected to extend the base leg to fly around the trees and land in the crop next to the launchpoint. The glider groundlooped, damaging a wing.					
88	EuroFOX	minor	28/05/17, 14:30	none/none	not reported
Aircraft taxied over a cable lying in the grass. The cable was picked up by the propeller and wound around the propshaft, stopping the engine and leaving a small scratch in the propeller and a small groove in the lower cowling.					
90	SZD 55	substantial	01/06/17, 14:15	none	20
Winch launch wing drop and groundloop. Although the pilot pulled the release the glider yawed, damaging the fuselage and tail.					
94	Pegase	substantial	04/06/17, 13:55	none	358
Wheel-up landing onto a runway damaged the underside of the glider.					
95	Twin Astir	substantial	13/06/17, 17:00	none/none	688
Undercarriage collapsed on landing. The wheel had been left down throughout the flight and verified as down and locked during the pre-landing checks. Some pre-existing damage and mis-adjustment to the locking mechanism meant that the wheel was not locked, even with the handle in the down and locked position.					
96	Grob Acro	minor	14/06/17, 15:00	none/none	2,941
Field landing accident. The field looked like a cut silage field from the air, but the grass was long enough to hide deep undulations. The front wheel fairing was damaged during the landing.					
97	Pegase	substantial	16/06/17, 16:00	none	260
Field landing groundloop. The pilot encountered turbulence and sink in the lee of some trees on approach to an uphill landing. Despite closing the airbrakes, the glider cleared the hedge at a lower height than planned and landed before the intended touchdown point. The glider started to groundloop and the side loads damaged the undercarriage struts.					
98	Mini Nimbus	substantial	18/06/17, 16:10	none	1931
Glider hit trailer. The pilot intended to land long and stop by his trailer. When the pilot applied the wheel brake the Bowden cable failed and, despite groundlooping, the glider ran into a trailer, leaving substantial impact damage to the leading edge of a wing and minor damage to the trailer.					
99	Slingsby Venture	substantial	19/06/17, 14:00	none	<1
Propeller strike. Touching down after a bounced landing, the TMG started to drift off the runway heading. It crossed onto the threshold of a cross runway before running off the side of the cross runway almost perpendicular to the runway edge. The tailwheel was seen to rise as the mainwheel struck the raised grass edge of the runway.					

BGA accident/incident summaries *continued*

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Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	PILOT Injury	P1 hours
100	LS4	minor	10/06/17, 15:00	none	105
Wheel-up landing. The pilot lowered the wheel as part of the pre-landing checks, but then climbed away in a thermal without retracting the undercarriage. When he returned to the airfield, the pilot again actuated the undercarriage as part of his pre-landing checks, this time retracting the wheel before landing.					
102	Open Cirrus	destroyed	22/06/17, 16:05	serious	179
Glider hit ridge while ridge soaring.					
103	LAK 17	substantial	26/06/17, 14:00	none	207
Field landing groundloop. Being slightly higher than planned on final approach, the pilot tried to fly the glider onto the ground. The glider bounced and on the subsequent touchdown dropped a wing and groundlooped, damaging an aileron.					
106	Nimbus 3	minor	03/06/17, 16:50	none	3,000
Wheel-up landing onto hard runway. Returning from a cross-country flight, the pilot flew a fast, low approach to a 1km finish ring before pulling up to over 300ft agl. Assessing obstructions, where to land and the weather while configuring the glider for landing, the pilot omitted to lower the undercarriage.					
108	Ventus	minor	24/06/17, 11:00	none	not reported
Groundloop after landing in long grass caused minor damage to an aileron.					

Incidents

80	K-21	none	18/05/17, 16:00	-	-
Wingtip hit vehicle. The glider was being towed through a narrow gap, the wingtip holder reported being unable to judge the distance between the other wingtip and the vehicle and at the same moment the wingtip hit the vehicle, leaving a small dent in the bodywork.					
81	Grob 103	none	20/05/17, 12:30	-	440
Loss of situational awareness during trial flight. The P1 had been demonstrating the effects of the controls while flying into wind away from the airfield and it wasn't until turning round that the pilot realised how far away they were from the airfield. The P1 flew back intending to land straight in on a crosswind runway before making a very low turn onto a more into wind runway.					
85	ASW 19	minor	27/05/17, 15:00	-	-
Broken canopy. The fuselage was out of the trailer undergoing routine maintenance when a strong gust of wind rotated the fuselage in the dolly.					
89	K-13	none	31/05/17, 21:35	-	-
Glider targeted by laser pen during flight.					
91	Discus	--	03/06/17, 14:00	-	300
Control restriction noticed during pre-flight checks. The gaiter around the base of the control column sagged below the seatpan and the rudder pedal adjustment handle had fallen into the gap.					
92	Libelle	--	04/06/17, 9:00	-	-
The glider was left rigged overnight and the next morning the pilot found that someone had disconnected the aileron controls and battery connection.					
93	K-8	substantial	09/04/17, pm	-	-
Canopy of parked glider blown open by the wind, breaking the perspex.					
101	Ventus Ventus	none minor	16/06/17, 13:00	-	-
Glider being towed behind a car struck two other gliders, damaging the flap of one glider.					
104	ASW 27	minor	18/04/17, 14:00	-	-
The glider was parked nose to the peritrack on the edge of the airfield. It was later found to have damage to the trailing edge of the rudder, presumably having been struck by another glider.					
105	K-21	substantial	22/05/17, 17:00	-	-
The glider was attached to the tow cart using an extendable towbar attached to the tail dolly. The towbar had not been locked in the extended position and as the cart reversed the towbar compressed, allowing the cart to hit the trailing edge of the rudder.					
107	DG-1000	none	21/06/17, 12:00	-	300
The glider was winch launched with the tail dolly still attached.					

During BGA Club Safety Officer seminars it was proposed that, to further encourage reporting, it would be a good idea to remove site names from summaries. This has been reflected in the summaries on these pages. Edward Lockhart continues to provide a little extra detail, where available, in these listings. 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.