

BGA accident/incident summaries

AIRCRAFT

Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	PILOT Injury	P1 hours
94	K-21	minor	25/05/19, 12:45	none/none	690
<p>Winch parachute hit the wing. The instructor briefed the student for an ultra low level launch failure demonstration; the winch driver was briefed to cut the power immediately after the glider lifted off. The instructor felt the power failure just as he started to rotate, he lowered the nose only to see the parachute open just in front of and to one side of the glider. The parachute hit the wing and draped over the top surface until after the glider landed. One of the fixtures punctured a 2cm hole in the outer skin. The report suggests that the gusty wind may have contributed to the parachute inflating and recommends that winch drivers use the brakes to stop the drums rotating.</p>					
95	ASW 19	destroyed	01/06/19, 13:50	none	308
<p>Pilot tried to operate the airbrakes with the undercarriage lever. The visiting pilot had flown a check flight earlier in the week, been cleared to fly the host club gliders and had a two-hour soaring flight in a Discus a few days prior. Witnesses report watching the glider fly a fast approach with the airbrakes closed and the undercarriage cycling up and down. The glider flew past the end of the airfield with the airbrakes still shut and the undercarriage retracted, across the next field, underneath some power lines and it was only as he crossed a second field that the pilot realised his mistake, lowered the wheel and opened the airbrakes. As the glider touched down, one wing caught on the ground, the glider groundlooped and went backwards into a dry stone wall, breaking the fuselage, damaging the tail and rudder as well as a wing and aileron. The duty instructor cannot recall the exact conversation but was under the impression that the pilot was current on the ASW 19 when the pilot asked to fly it; in fact his last flight in it was during a previous visit a year earlier.</p>					
97	LAK 19	minor	03/06/19, 17:00	none	315
<p>Wheel-up landing caused minor damage to the underside of the glider.</p>					
98	Grob 102	minor	05/06/19, 12:00	none	not reported
<p>Glider tipped onto its nose. The first touchdown was bounced, after the subsequent landing the pilot applied full airbrake and wheel brake, tipping the glider forward. There were some abrasion marks and missing gel coat under the nose.</p>					
99	DG-500	minor	05/06/19, 12:30	none/none	1,360
<p>Front canopy came open in flight. The trial flight instructor watched a club member close the canopy and then watched the P2 lock the canopy shut. The launch point helper reports that the canopy seemed closed and locked as he attached the aerotow rope. Some time after releasing at 3,000ft, while the P2 was handling, the canopy came open and quickly shut again, leaving a crack in the canopy. The P2 locked it shut again and the flight continued as normal.</p>					
100	ASH 25	substantial	06/06/19, 13:40	none	636
<p>Wheel-up landing caused severe scratching and scuffing to the underside of the fuselage. The pilot had lowered the wheel when starting the circuit. On final approach, after setting landing flap and airbrake he became convinced that he had forgotten the undercarriage so he moved the gear handle, retracting the wheel. The landing ground run passed across a Tarmac runway, increasing the severity of the damage. The glider was fitted with a gear warning system but it was u/s at the time of the flight.</p>					
102	Libelle	substantial	07/06/19, 11:10	none	394
<p>Glider hit launch point vehicle. A witness reports watching the glider fly a multiple bounce landing and then, during the ground run, the glider hit a tractor parked at the launchpoint, damaging a wing and the nose. No pilot report.</p>					
104	Puchacz	minor	15/06/19, 15:50	none/none	not reported
<p>Burst tail wheel tyre. The instructor had to verbally coach the student round the circuit, he also had to remind the student to maintain the approach speed a couple of times on final approach. When the P2 opened the airbrakes he let go of the handle and the airflow held the brakes fully open, the instructor asked the student to keep hold of the airbrake handle. As the glider approached round out, the airspeed was still 15 knots less than the agreed approach speed, but the instructor thought that the situation was manageable. The P2 made no attempt to round out so the instructor took control, shut the airbrakes and pulled back on the stick. Although the touchdown on the main wheel was gentle, the tail wheel hit the runway hard, bursting the tyre and damaging a rudder hinge.</p>					
105	Vega	substantial	09/06/19, 14:15	minor	363
<p>Field landing in crop. The pilot arrived at the field at about 900ft agl, noting that it was large, flat, grass-coloured and without visible tramlines. After circling to lose height he joined the circuit on a base leg and made a normal approach and round out, thinking that he was landing in a grass field. As the glider settled into the 3ft high rapeseed crop it came to a very rapid stop in the space of three or four metres. The pilot suffered some minor whiplash as his head was thrown forward, the main wing pin was bent. The battery, which had been secured into its mounting by an elastic strap, came loose in the impact and struck the pilot's head a glancing blow before breaking through the canopy.</p>					
109	Grob 102	minor	02/07/19, 14:30	none	38
<p>Field landing damage. The pilot landed in a recently ploughed field and the underside of a wing and aileron were damaged by large flint stones.</p>					

BGA accident/incident summaries *continued*

AIRCRAFT		Damage	Date, time	PILOT Injury	P1 hours
Ref	Type				
110	PA 25	substantial	26/06/19, 13:30	none	not reported
Tug hit hangar. The tug had landed 'downwind' in the light and variable wind and was in the ground run when the pilot applied the wheel brake. The starboard brake failed and the tug veered to the left and hit the side of a hangar. One wing was damaged and the engine shock loaded.					
113	DG-1000	substantial	30/06/19, 16:05	none/none	6,390
Undercarriage collapsed during field landing. The pilot started the turbo and the glider climbed away. However, after a few minutes the engine lost power and then stopped so the pilot set up a circuit into what appeared to be a suitable field. It wasn't until rounding out that the pilot noticed that he would be landing across some undulations in the field. The wheel retracted on touchdown, damaging the undercarriage, doors and the underside of the nose.					
114	Cirrus	substantial	06/07/19, 14:20	minor	178
Hit fence during field landing. The pilot flew an approach and landing into what seemed to be a suitable field. It wasn't until the ground run that he noticed the wire mesh fence, supported by steel wire held up by angle iron posts across his landing run. The mesh fence separated but the supporting wires rode up over the nose, smashing the canopy, hurting the pilot and trapping him in the glider. The pilot was able to call his retrieve crew, but was trapped for 90 minutes before his crew were able to extract him. He suffered some minor cuts from the broken perspex, the glider had damage to the nose, undercarriage doors and both wings. The CFI reports that there was no noticeable colour difference in the field surface either side of the wire fence.					
115	Grob Astir	substantial	08/07/19, 12:55	serious	127
Heavy landing. The glider was seen to fly straight into the ground with little or no round out. After two bounces it eventually landed and then groundlooped at the end of the ground run. The pilot reported back pain and remained in the cockpit until extracted by paramedics. While waiting, the pilot reported that he realised on short final that he had forgotten to lower the wheel and had to take his right hand off the control column to lower the wheel. The pilot had broken a vertebra, there was no energy absorbing cushion fitted to the glider. The canopy was broken during the landing and later a crack was found in the bottom of the fuselage.					
117	SF 25C	substantial	11/07/19, 12:00	none/none	53
TMG landed on the runway with left rudder applied. The TMG veered off the runway into the adjacent crop field, leading to a prop strike.					
119	DG-300	substantial	25/05/19, 17:00	none	323
Competition landout. The pilot was low with a group of other gliders downwind of a grass airfield. He pushed into wind but was unable to find lift so elected to land on the airfield. Too low to fly a circuit and land into wind he chose to land downwind. Faced with a downwind, slightly downhill landing into a short airfield the pilot flew a relatively slow approach. When he tried to round out, the glider's attitude remained unchanged and the glider landed heavily, collapsing the main wheel.					
120	Carman JP 15	destroyed	12/07/19, 16:05	minor	450
Field landing accident. Getting low, the pilot picked a field and, thinking that he was lower than he was, he flew towards it and started his circuit. In his rush to land he had misjudged the wind direction and set up a downwind landing. High and fast on approach, he touched down more than halfway into the field and ran into the far hedge at speed. The pilot managed to extract himself from the glider, despite the barbed wire strand that came to rest across the cockpit. He suffered some cuts to his head. The glider fuselage was broken, the wings damaged and the canopy also broken.					
121	PA 18	minor	15/07/19, 15:00	none	1,900
Bolt on the tug tail wheel sheared on landing. The tail wheel was pushed into and damaged the bottom of the rudder.					
123	Ventus	substantial	12/07/19, -	minor	not reported
Competition crop field landing. The engine failed to start and the glider landed wheel up in a crop field before groundlooping. The pilot bruised his back. No pilot report.					
Incidents					
96	ASH 25	substantial	May 19, -	-	-
Rudder damaged in trailer. The tailboom securing strap broke at some point as the glider was being towed back from France, allowing the fuselage to move backwards and breaking the rudder trailing edge. The strap had shown no signs of wear, but was thought to be nearly 30 years old.					
101	DG-800	-	06/06/19, 12:00	-	-
After starting the engine and getting ready to taxi the pilot noticed that a winglet was loose.					
103	ASW 20	none	01/06/19, 14:20	none	850
Left aileron not connected. The glider had an independent rigging check and positive control checks during the DI. During the second flight of the day the pilot noticed that the handling and stick position were unusual. After landing, a second control inspection with the help of the previous owner found the disconnected l'Hotellier.					

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BGA accident/incident summaries *continued*

AIRCRAFT				PILOT	
Ref	Type	Damage	Date, time	Injury	P1 hours
106	Grob 109	minor	20/06/19, 15:00	-	-
A headset had been left on top of the instrument panel and when the one piece, front-hinged canopy was lowered, the headset cracked the canopy.					
107	Duo Discus	minor	24/06/19, 11:00	-	-
While reversing the club tow car back towards the glider to attach the tow bar, the driver misjudged the distance and the car hit the glider, damaging the trailing edge of the rudder.					
108	Ventus	minor	29/06/19, 17:30	-	-
A Pawnee tug was being pushed backwards in the hangar, between gliders, when a wingtip hit the canopy of the Ventus, cracking the canopy.					
111	Discus	none	27/06/19, 13:20	none	150
Undercarriage retracted during landing. The pilot thinks that it may not have been properly locked down.					
112	LS 10	none	27/06/19, 16:00	none	639
Undercarriage retracted during landing. The pilot had operated the handle in the normal way and could not explain why the wheel had not been properly locked down.					
116	EuroFOX	none	08/07/19, 12:35	none	19,500
Tug upset. The tug pilot reports waving the glider off at competition release height and then seeing the glider pitch up. The tug rapidly pitched to a steep nose down attitude before the pilot cut the rope. The glider pilot reports pulling the 'release' and then starting a climbing turn before verifying that the rope had released. In the event, he had pulled the gear extend knob instead of the release knob.					
118	K-13	none	10/07/19, 11:10	none	34
Glider landed in undershoot field. The pilot set up a long final approach and opened the airbrakes. Halfway down the approach he realised that he was undershooting and reduced the airbrakes. Realising that he was still undershooting, the pilot opened full airbrake and landed in the undershoot field.					
122	PA 25	minor	11/07/19, 19:00	none	1,875
An exhaust mount bracket had failed, allowing a coupling sheath to slide out of position. Hot exhaust gas was able to vent out of the gap onto the inside of the cowling, burning a hole into it.					

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.



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