

## About the British Gliding Association

### A quick guide for new club members

The British Gliding Association (BGA) is the national governing body for the sport of gliding in the UK. While you've joined a specific club, your club is part of a much wider gliding community, and the BGA is at the heart of it.

The BGA is made up of member clubs across the UK. While you aren't an individual member of the BGA, your club is, and that connects you to the wider sport.

### What the BGA does

The BGA supports clubs like yours by setting training and airworthiness standards, issuing pilot qualifications, and helping clubs stay safe, well-run, and connected. It also represents gliding nationally and internationally, including with government bodies. Our Office is based in Leicester and we have a small support staff comprised of full and part time employees and contractors.

### Why it matters to you as a club member

While you probably won't deal with the BGA much during your first few weeks, you will come across it as you begin to fly more, train, and progress.

You are likely to use BGA resources when:

- **Learning to fly:** your training will follow the BGA syllabus; instructors are trained and approved within that system.
- **Progressing in your training:** your instructor may reference BGA progress cards, training resources and other guidance.
- **Applying for pilot qualifications:** the BGA processes glider pilot licences, badge claims and cross-country achievements.
- **Registering a glider:** if you later buy or co-own one, the paperwork will go through the BGA office.

### Where to find more

- **Website:** <https://members.gliding.co.uk> for resources and information for members, including:
- **Stay up to date:** [sign up for the BGA newsletter](#) via the button on the home page.
- **Magazine:** [Sailplane & Gliding](#) is published bi-monthly, with stories, news, and advice from across the UK gliding community.
- **BGA Sporting Conference:** is held each February featuring talks, workshops and trade stands. It's a great way to meet other glider pilots and feel part of the bigger picture.

### Final note

You don't need to know everything straight away, but it helps to know that there's a wider support system behind your flying journey, and the BGA is a big part of that. Your club is your home base. The BGA is part of the network that helps make it all possible.