

# British Gliding Association

## *Aims, Objectives & Strategic Plan*



*British Gliding Association*



## About Gliding

Gliding is the ultimate free flying experience. It is a truly diverse sport that can be enjoyed at all levels: from the thriving club scene, to aerobatics, to the international racing competitions, where the British Team continues to lead the world.

Gliders soar using the same air currents that birds fly with, but have also been designed with the aerodynamic efficiency that enables top speeds of up to 170 mph. Distances of over 600 miles have been covered in one day in the UK and heights of almost 40,000 feet have been achieved. Gliding gives you the freedom to explore the world from a unique bird's eye view and discover the many moods of the sky.

Gliding is also a sport for all ages - from those who go solo on their 16th birthday through their club cadet schemes; there is no upper age limit.

Whatever your gliding aspirations, the basic principles remain the same - using the energy in the atmosphere to stay aloft. Without this, any glider would return gently to earth. There are three types of energy that a skillful pilot can use to soar with - thermal, ridge and wave.

Thermal soaring uses columns of rising warm air. The glider circles - often quite tightly - in these and goes up with the air. Thermal soaring forms the basis of most long cross country flights.

The glider pilot can also soar on air as it is deflected over a hill. This ridge lift can be very consistent and opens up the possibility of long duration flights.

In suitable atmospheric conditions, when air flows over a mountain range it starts to oscillate up and down in a wave motion downwind of the mountains. These oscillations can be many times higher than the mountains themselves and by flying through the rising part of the wave pilots can obtain great heights.

Competitive gliding is about maximizing the opportunities that the environment offers and coupling these with navigational, airmanship and tactical skills to complete a predetermined course in the fastest time.

## The British Gliding Association

The British Gliding Association (BGA) is the governing body for the sport in the UK whose mission is to provide effective leadership and continuity of UK gliding and soaring. The vision is to facilitate the development of UK gliding and soaring by providing an environment and framework in which a wide variety of individuals can excel and realize their ambitions and potential. The pinnacle of ambition is for British pilots to win world championships - this has been achieved on no less than 7 occasions over the last 3 years. The BGA wants gliding to be recognized as a challenging, rewarding and accessible sport available to all.

The BGA's philosophy and core values can be summarized as:

- \* Opportunity and equality for all, commensurate with safety
- \* Freedom to experience adventure through responsible risk taking and setting personal goals
- \* Excellence at every level
- \* Respect for the natural environment
- \* Providing for people's aspirations through teamwork and comradeship - Gliding is its people.





## BGA Role

The BGA was founded in 1929 and is an association of member gliding clubs, each of which provides gliding facilities to its members and the local community. The BGA's roles are to:

- \* Provide the national leadership of gliding in the UK
- \* Represent the interests of glider pilots externally and in particular with the government, local government, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
- \* Represent UK gliding internationally, in influencing technical and sporting development as well as ensuring future freedoms to fly in the increasingly regulated environment developing now in Europe
- \* Regulate gliding in the UK as a self regulated sport, supplemented where appropriate with delegations from the CAA or other authorities
- \* Set and monitor standards in flying, instructing, operations and safety
- \* Seek to retain maximum airspace freedoms
- \* Promote and market gliding and encourage participation, open to all
- \* Provide the framework in which competitive gliding can be conducted and provide the resources to enable British teams to compete successfully at international level
- \* Establish and develop structures to improve the quality and availability of coaching for performance and excellence at all levels
- \* Provide resources for the training of glider instructors and glider pilots
- \* Maintain and supervise airworthiness standards of gliders and motor gliders in the UK
- \* Advise and assist in the development of high quality and environmentally friendly launching winches and other related equipment
- \* Influence the planning framework for the retention, use and development of gliding sites
- \* Provide advice and specialist services to clubs and individual pilots
- \* Ensure good communications between the various elements of the gliding community
- \* Be the source of expert knowledge on gliding and provide advisory services to member clubs
- \* Seek and secure external funding for gliding at all levels





## BGA Organisation

The direction of the BGA is led by an Executive Committee of 12 elected members, all of whom are active pilots and volunteers. The Executive Committee is responsible for overall strategies, policies and direction.

The Executive Committee is supported by sub-committees, which are responsible for various aspects of the sport:

- \* Safety
- \* Instructors and Coaching
- \* Technical
- \* Airspace
- \* Competitions and Awards
- \* Development
- \* Marketing and Communications
- \* Strategic Planning and Finance
- \* Staff and Administration

These teams are supported by the office-based team, led by the Secretary. Much of the policy formulation work and management of specific programmes of the BGA are carried out through the sub-committees, by individual employees or contractors and by individual volunteers. These also represent the Association in various external forums, including:

- \* Civil Aviation Authority
  - Engineering (aircraft)
  - Airspace
  - Pilot standards, instruction
  - Medical standards
- \* General Aviation Awareness Council
- \* General Aviation Safety Council
- \* International Gliding Commission (FAI)
- \* European Gliding Union
- \* Europe Airsports
- \* International Sailplane Panel (OSTIV)
- \* Medical Advisor
- \* Parliamentary Spokesman

UK representatives have over the years held a number of leading positions in the various key committees of these organisations.



## Current Aims & Objectives

The BGA's broad strategy in support of its mission can be described as follows:

### More People

- Recruit more members
- Improve membership retention rate at clubs

### More Places

- Improve security of tenure for gliding sites

### More Medals

- Better provision of club coaching and instruction
- More first solos
- More international (FAI) badges
- More international gliding champions

Detailed aims and objectives are described in the BGA's Strategic Plan document produced by and regularly updated by the BGA Executive.

The following represents a summary of the key activity areas from the current strategic plan.

### Leadership of Gliding in the UK

The BGA will continue to provide effective national leadership of the sport, particularly in those areas which require actions at a national level and to retain and enhance its role as a self-regulating governing body.



### **External Representation**

The BGA will seek to maintain its effective voice in the national and international forums that influence the various aspects of gliding. Through this, the BGA will attempt to ensure the continued ability of glider pilots to participate in the sport with the absolute minimum intervention from external agencies, commensurate with the responsibilities of glider pilots to other people. Increasingly, the BGA will be required to liaise with and lobby new European agencies on behalf of UK gliding.

### **Airspace**

The BGA will continue to be a powerful voice in the UK and in Europe on airspace matters and will strive to ensure the continued availability of the airspace necessary for the sport to survive and thrive.

### **Communications, Marketing and Promotion**

The BGA will provide strong, effective promotion to help increase membership from all sectors of the community and to raise the profile and public image of the sport. This is essential if increased levels of external funding are to be gained. The BGA will also work to spread a coherent and consistent message and to keep members in touch with national developments.

### **Increased Participation and Access**

The BGA will work to increase the popularity of the sport and to ensure that gliding training is made available to as many people as possible. It will encourage people with physical and other disabilities to become involved wherever feasible. The BGA will keep member clubs open to all to ensure that the sport remains socially inclusive and diverse in its reach to communities. Emphasis will be placed on promoting the sport to the young people who will ensure its future and it will aim to keep operating costs as low as possible in order to provide gliding to more people.

### **Enhanced Progress**

The BGA will aim for increased flying progress amongst its members at all levels of participation and performance.

### **Competitive Gliding**

The BGA will provide a wide range of opportunities for pilots to develop their skills and compete against each other at all levels. The BGA aims to increase the standards of its pilots in general, reinforcing the success that the UK has had in competitive international gliding. To this end, the BGA is working to further improve the quality and availability of coaching.



### **International Competition**

The BGA will facilitate the participation in international gliding events by teams and individuals selected on merit with the objective of winning. The BGA will therefore continue to provide and improve a structure of squad training and to identify and develop new talent. The BGA will identify and access sources of funding and other resources to support the development of squad and team activities.



## **Flying and Safety Standards**

The BGA aims to improve the general standards of flying and safety. In particular, it will provide guidance, within which individual clubs can set and monitor operational safety standards, work to improve the skill development of pilots at all stages, and improve standards in the selection of instructors.

## **Training**

The BGA will continue to be the recognized source of training of civilian gliding instructors in the UK. The BGA will provide a consistent and high standard of instructor training and will provide specialised training to enable instructors and other members to develop and improve their flying skills. The BGA will provide a forum and a mechanism for clubs to benchmark their standards and systems.

## **Technical**

The BGA has responsibility for the supervision of standards and airworthiness of aircraft within the BGA's control. The BGA will seek to retain this responsibility and will maintain the highest standards of airworthiness in aircraft within its control in order to enable their safe operation at an acceptable cost to owners and members. The BGA will also continue to provide technical and developmental advice to clubs in funding, procuring and operating launch equipment.

## **Planning and Development**

The BGA will work with clubs to help them to retain current gliding sites and to develop new ones where needed. In addition, the BGA will provide assistance to clubs threatened by planning restrictions, including, where appropriate, financial assistance from the BGA Planning & Environment Fund.

The BGA will aim to influence future planning issues favourably by ensuring that, wherever possible, provision is made for gliding in local structure and development plans.

## **Source of Expertise and Advisory Services**

The BGA is responsible for providing clubs and individual members with reliable information and advice on a wide range of issues including operational safety, business management, funding, marketing and sports development.

## **External Funding**

The BGA seeks to obtain, on behalf of its members, the maximum financial assistance from sources external to the gliding movement, including the National Lottery, government, industry and other sources. The BGA also works to ensure that clubs are aware of the opportunities for financial assistance from these external sources.

## **Governing Body Secretariat and Membership Services**

The BGA's professional staff provides high quality administrative support for member clubs, individual pilots and elected officials. They also administer the record keeping, including sporting achievements, pilot licences, and airworthiness certification.





## Targets

Development priorities for the BGA have been agreed following comprehensive canvassing with member club chairmen. Based on this, the BGA's strategic and sports development plans define some challenging targets for the sport.

CATEGORY	TARGET
Membership	10,000 full flying members by 2006 (up 13%)
Pilot Achievement	1,000 first solos per annum by 2006 (up 107%) 500 bronze badges per annum (up 142%) 400 cross-country endorsements per annum (up 94%) 100 BGA 100km diplomas per annum 300 silver badges per annum (up 136%) 100 gold badges per annum (up 132%) 150 diamond qualifying flights per annum (up 117%)
Equal Opportunities	900 full flying women members by 2006 (up 26%) Member clubs to provide training and assistance to disabled pilots Clubs' membership to reflect ethnic makeup in immediate local area
Instructors	Train 40 Basic and 40 Assistant rated instructors per annum
International Competition	Win a total of 2 gold and 4 other medals in World, World Junior and World Women's Championships and World Air Games in the period to 2006 A place in the top 50% in world aerobatic championships Stage a world gliding championship in the UK by 2012

The strategic plan is important to all glider pilots in the UK. Successful implementation will see our sport in a healthier state by:

- \* Increasing participation levels at all standards
- \* Ensuring the continued freedom to participate with the minimum of external regulation
- \* Continuing the strong tradition of excellence in training and safety that the British gliding movement has always enjoyed
- \* Fostering an environment where UK teams can compete internationally with success
- \* Raising the profile of gliding with the public and helping to ensure the participation of the next generation of glider pilots
- \* Continuing to improve the image of gliding with external agencies, helping to ensure positive reaction to development proposals, funding propositions, etc.
- \* Working to ensure that gliding is available to the widest possible cross section of the community.

The BGA is committed to working its hardest to achieve the objectives detailed in the strategic plan. Each member can contribute to the success of the sport in their own way. For example:

- \* Contributing to the running of their own club, whether in an administrative, management, technical or instructing role
- \* Becoming involved in the work of the BGA
- \* Striving to improve their sporting performance
- \* Taking on a role that helps others to develop their gliding, for example instructing or becoming an official observer
- \* Recruiting a new member to their club
- \* Being encouraging and welcoming to newcomers to the sport
- \* Spreading the message about our wonderful sport at every opportunity



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