



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter April 2006

New BGA Chairman. Patrick Naegeli has been elected as the new chairman of the British Gliding Association, succeeding David Roberts who stands down after six years, the maximum term allowed by the Association's constitution. Patrick, a previous chairman of Lasham GS, has served on the BGA Executive Committee since 2003 and is chairman of the BGA's Strategic Planning & Finance sub-committee. He is the SRE for the SE region and was a member of the UK team at the European Championships last year. More information is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/press/releases/2006/pnchmn.doc>

New Executive Committee Members. We are pleased to welcome the following new members of the BGA Executive Committee: Pete Harvey, Rose Johnson, and Bruce Tapson.

BGA Awards and Trophies. The following BGA awards were presented at the BGA Conference last month: BGA Silver Medal – Carr Withall; Bill Scull Safety Award – Arthur Doughty; BGA Diplomas – Tim Harrington (RAFGSA), Peter Poole (Surrey Hills GC), Barry Walker (Bristol & Glos GC), Simon Waters (Channel GC). Congratulations to all the award winners. A full list of the BGA trophy winners can be found at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/competitions/trophies.htm>

Lilienthal Medal. We are delighted to inform readers that at the recent meeting of the IGC, it was decided to award the Lilienthal Medal to Ian Strachan for his outstanding record of eminent service to world gliding over a long period of time, and especially for his work in developing motor glider instructional techniques; identifying and publishing GPS-based turning points; and evaluating and approving flight recorders for records, badges, contests and everyday flying. The last time the medal was awarded to a UK pilot was to George Lee in 1981.

MDM032 Working Group. The first meeting of the EASA MDM032 working group took place in Cologne on 16 March. The working group has been set up to develop a concept for the regulation of aircraft other than complex motor powered aircraft when used in non-commercial activities. The group will deliver its interim report in July. Gliding is represented on the group by David Roberts (BGA) and Roland Stuck (EGU).

2006 Competition Rule Book. The revised competition rule book for 2006 is now available. It can be downloaded from the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/competitionrules2006.pdf>

BGA Waypoint Database. The 2006 BGA Waypoint database has now been published at <http://www.spsys.demon.co.uk/turningpoints.htm>

Gliding's Future. What do we – as clubs and as individual pilots – want the sport to look like in five years' time? That was a key question for the first BGA Executive Committee meeting to be run by new BGA Chairman, Patrick Naegeli. The committee – the Association's Board of Directors – met in early April following an induction session for new members. When discussing BGA strategic review proposals, members were in full agreement that input from clubs and individuals has to be an integral part of any successful process. So over the next few weeks and months the BGA website, newsletter and S&G will let you know how you can get involved. It's your sport: please watch this space.

New BGA Duo Discus. The BGA's new Duo Discus X has now been delivered and it has gone straight into service, being used for the first time on April 4th. Clubs can see information about hiring this fantastic new glider at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/2006duoavailability.pdf>

Juniors Competition Training. Once again the BGA will be running a Competition Training course on the back of the Junior Nationals Grid. If you are under 26 and are free for the duration of the competition (22/7/06 - 30/7/06) contact the BGA office with a short note detailing why you want the training. More details are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/juniors>

Development training at Women's Pre-Worlds. As the venue for the next Women's Worlds has changed, the Women's development group is now planning to offer development training during the Nationals at Issoudun, 13 - 19 August. It is intended to offer training places to two or three people. All interested are asked to submit a gliding CV and covering note explaining why you would benefit from this training. It is hoped that sponsorship will be available to cover some of the costs, so please don't let finance stop you from applying. Applications to Liz Sparrow - ebertoya@iee.org

2007 World Sailplane Grand Prix. New Zealand has won the bid to host the 2007 World Sail Plane Grand Prix. The exact dates are still to be finalised, but the event will probably be held during December 2007. 20 competitors will contest the event – those finishing 1st or 2nd in the 9 qualifying grands prix plus the two highest ranked third place finishers. The 9 qualifying grands prix include the British Grand Prix, being held at Gransden Lodge in September.

UK Qualifying Grand Prix. Entries are now open for the UK Qualifying Grand Prix being held at Gransden Lodge between 3rd and 9th September. You can enter online at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/competitions>. Entries close on 31st May and are limited to 20 competitors.

New Controlled Airspace near Luton. Two new Class D CTAs near London Luton airport have been approved by the CAA and will take effect on 11 May. Existing Letters of Agreement between NATS and the gliding clubs at Dunstable and Halton have been modified to take into account the revised airspace arrangements. Details of the changes are published in Aeronautical Information Circular 47/2006 (Yellow 203) dated 30 March 2006. (Available on the AIS web site <http://www.ais.org.uk>) Pilots should note that the 1:500,000 Chart 'Southern England' and 1:250,000 Chart 'England South' (Sheet 8) will not be updated to incorporate these changes until February 2007 at the earliest. The BGA Air Space team was heavily involved in negotiations to reach an acceptable solution to Luton's airspace demands. More details are in the Airspace section of the BGA web site <http://www.gliding.co.uk/airspace>

Royal International Air Tattoo, Fairford. This year, as usual, there will be Temporary Restricted Airspace established for the benefit of RIAT, Fairford. This year, however, the TRA will be in force for a longer period than in the past: from Wednesday 12 – Sunday 16 July. Details will be published on the BGA web site later in the year, but clubs should bear this in mind when planning competitions, task weeks, etc.

Child Protection Awareness Training. A further training seminar will be held at Kent GC on Saturday 6th May (0930 for 1000 start). Aimed at child protection leads, deputies and committee members the session gives a valuable insight into legislation, best practice and provides an opportunity to have your questions answered. The training is certificated and lasts 3 hours. Each club is entitled to 2 free places; extra places are £10 per person. To book, contact Phil Burton at pjbconsultancy@aol.com or 07799 831 504. We are looking to run sessions at Cambridge, Aston Down and Husbands Bosworth in 2006. If your club would like to host another session, please also make contact.

Criminal Records Checking. We have negotiated a special rate administration charge of £7.50 for BGA clubs needing to make a CRB check. This is the lowest charge that we are aware of for sports participants. More details are on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/clubmanagement>

Fly! The London Air Show. This major exhibition takes place at Earls Court from April 21st to 23rd. The BGA is once again exhibiting, along with four BGA clubs – Booker, Lasham, The Soaring Centre and Windrushers. The award-winning show encapsulates the very best of general aviation including fixed wing, helicopters, microlights, ultra-lights, gliders and air sports, flying clubs and schools, avionics and pilot accessories. More information is at <http://www.londonairshow.co.uk>

BBC Feature. The BBC is considering a short (10 minute) feature about a UK pilot who goes to surf the Morning Glory in Australia. If any pilot is thinking about doing this later this year and would like to be followed by a BBC camera team, please would they contact keith@gliding.co.uk

European Driving Licence. The European Council has reached a political agreement on the new European driving licence. During long negotiations, the gliding community took a strong position against a proposed tightening of weight restrictions for trailers. We are delighted to report that this lobbying was successful and that the new rules for vehicle-trailer combinations are actually somewhat less restrictive than at present. You can see full details at http://europa.eu.int/comm/transport/home/drivinglicence/doc/2006_memo_driving_licence_en.pdf. We are grateful for the excellent work done by EAS and EGU, and especially Jannes Neumann.

Ann Welch Memorial Award. Nominations are invited for the Ann Welch Memorial Award. The award is open to all BGA, BHPA and BMAA instructors and also to non-instructors, whose activity has made a significant contribution to education and training in Gliding, Hang-gliding and Paragliding and Microlight aviation. This activity will normally be in flying instruction but, exceptionally, may include proven aids in associated subjects such as navigation and meteorology. More information about the award is on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/annwelchaward.pdf>

IGC Plenary Meeting. The IGC (International Gliding Commission) held its Annual Plenary Meeting on 3/4 March 2006 in Lausanne. Notes from the meeting are available at <http://www.fai.org/gliding/node/273>

Speech to IGC. The text of EAS President, Sir John Allison's address to the IGC (FAI International Gliding Commission) is available to read on the BGA web site - <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/igc3mar06.pdf>. The speech provides an excellent summary of the regulatory issues currently facing air sports in Europe and an insight into some future issues.

Regional Safety Officers. A full list of Regional Safety Officers (RSOs) has been published showing the allocation of clubs to RSOs. The list, together with a summary of the role and responsibilities of the RSOs is available in the Safety section of the BGA web site – <http://www.gliding.co.uk/safety>

IGC Approval for LX7007F Flight Recorder. The LX Navigation LX7007F GPS flight recorder has been added to the IGC-approval document for the LX7000 series of recorders, effective 17 March 2006. The LX7007F has a FLARM module mounted inside the secure recorder box, and both the FLARM and recorder functions share the same uBLOX GPS receiver board. The updated IGC-approval document will appear on the IGC GNSS web site shortly.

Cambridge Gliding Centre. Effective 31st March 2006, Cambridge Gliding Club at Gransden Lodge Airfield has rebranded itself and in future will trade as the Cambridge Gliding Centre. The CAA has agreed to let Cambridge Gliding Centre use 'Gransden Lodge Radio' as the official call-sign on their dedicated radio frequency of 131.275. The only significant limitation is that this must not be used further than 10nm from Gransden or above 3,000 feet.

BGA Office. Staff changes and subsequent training at the BGA Office may result in instructor and technical administration in particular to suffer from a reduced level of service during April. We would be grateful for member's patience as we work towards returning to a normal service level as soon as we can.