



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter April 2007

BGA National Coach. In late 2006 the BGA invited applications for the newly redefined post of BGA National Coach. The high standard demonstrated by the applicants made the selection task difficult. Following very careful consideration, the BGA is delighted to announce that Mike Fox is appointed as BGA National Coach with effect from the 2nd April 2007. Mike, 31, a member at the Wolds GC at Pocklington in Yorkshire, is an established gliding instructor examiner, a successful competition pilot and a cross country coach. Mike will be working full time for the BGA and, therefore, its member clubs, providing vital professional support to glider pilot development and gliding instructor training activity throughout the UK.

Class C Airspace. A reminder that Class C airspace was adopted above FL195 on 15th March. For more information, see <http://www.gliding.co.uk/airspace> and <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=1239> (click Documents). The airspace section of the BGA web site now has copies of local letters of agreement available for download.

Latest Charts. Edition 7 of the 1:250,000 Central England and Wales chart is due out on 12th April. The next edition (edition 30) of the 1:500,000 Northern England and Northern Ireland chart will be published on 10th May. These will be available from the usual stockists.

Airspace Update. BGA Airspace Committee Chairman, Carr Withall's annual airspace update has been published in the latest edition of *Sailplane & Gliding*. Copies are available at many clubs or from the BGA office. Alternatively, why not subscribe on-line and make sure you don't miss a copy of the world's number one gliding magazine – <http://www.sailplaneandgliding.co.uk>

BGA Executive Committee. At the recent AGM, four long-standing Executive Committee members stood down, having served the maximum time allowed on the committee: BGA Vice-Chairman Mike Jordy, Diana King, Jon Hall and Paul Hepworth. Our thanks to all of them. Keith Mansell and John Birch were re-elected for further terms and Chris Gibson of Lasham was elected for the first time.

BGA Awards. A number of BGA service awards were also presented at the AGM. The BGA Bronze Medal was awarded to John Bradley, the former BGA Technical Committee Chairman. BGA Diplomas went to Chris Berry (Aquila), Alan Holland (Dartmoor), Andrew Hulme (Cambridge), Les Merritt (Buckminster), Peter Molloy (Dorset), Derek Phillips (Stratford), John Swannack (Dukeries) and Tom Snoddy (Ulster).

FAI Honour. The FAI has awarded a Pirat Gehriger Diploma jointly to Brian Spreckley and Keith Nicholson for their development of the world ranking system for glider pilots. The diploma is one of the main international gliding awards and may be awarded annually for eminent services to international gliding.

Waypoint Database. The 2007 waypoint database is now available for download at <http://www.spsys.demon.co.uk/turningpoints.htm>

EASA CofA Transition. As already announced (BGA newsletter, March 2007), the BGA and the CAA are currently putting procedures in place to ensure the transition of C of A renewals for the UK glider fleet from BGA CofAs to EASA CofAs. The transition period will run for one year from 28th September 2007. This transition period will apply to gliders that either have a CAA issued CofA, a BGA CofA, or have approvals to fly issued by the Air Cadets or the Ministry of Defence. The CAA understands that there are a small number of gliders (around 20) in the UK that do not fall into any of these categories but which nonetheless are subject to European regulations. Unless the owners of these gliders either comply with the new regulations or obtain a certificate of airworthiness from the BGA, they cannot legally fly their aircraft after 29th March. The owners of any such aircraft should contact the CAA for advice as soon as possible. The CAA has issued a press release relating to this matter – available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=14&pagetype=65&appid=7&newstype=n&mode=detail&nid=1432>

Change to OR1.9. A change to the BGA's Operational Regulation 1.9 was approved at the BGA AGM. OR1.9 now reads: All gliders must have BGA approved identification markings displayed as large as practicable on each side of the fin and/or rudder (if not possible, on the fuselage) in a substantially vertical plane. All BGA certified gliders must have the BGA certification number displayed on at least one side of the aircraft. The number should be on the fin or fuselage in 20mm high characters in a contrasting colour. The preferred format is "BGA 9999".

BGA Online Forums. Winching and club marketing forums have now been launched on the BGA web site. If you have responsibility for the winch at your club or for promoting your club and haven't already received your invite and would like to join these discussion groups, please contact Andy Holmes or Alison Randle (andyh418@yahoo.co.uk or alison@gliding.co.uk) for the winching forum or Keith Auchterlonie (keith@gliding.co.uk) for the club marketing one.

Women's Development Weekend. Female pilots of all experience levels are invited to a development weekend at Nympsfield on 14/15 April. Tasks will be set and there will be talks and discussion in-between. Please let Liz Sparrow (ebertoya@iee.org) know if you intend to come so that she can give Nympsfield an idea of numbers. Keep an eye on the webpage where further details will be published as they are finalised.

GASIL. The March edition of GASIL, the CAA general aviation safety leaflet can now be downloaded from http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gad_gasil1of2007a.pdf

Caroline Trust. The Caroline Trust is a charity which exclusively supports young people and disabled people in gliding. In 2006, the Trust awarded 26 bursaries including 19 to pilots under the age of 17 from 15 different clubs and two bursaries to disabled people. They also awarded £300 to the "cadet of the year" - Sam Roddie from Wolds Gliding Club. The Trust now has a website – <http://www.carolinetrust.org.uk> - and they are asking all gliding club webmasters to put up a link to this. Their online application form is a fast and easy way for young pilots to apply for a bursary.

World Air Games 2009. The team preparing the UK bid to host the World Air Games 2009 have informed us that, reluctantly, they have decided to withdraw from the bidding process. The primary reasons for their decision were the short timeframe which they were presented with as late entrants into the bidding race and the lack of promise of support, in the way of funding/investment, from the UK government and regional authorities. With the approaching 2012 London Olympics, the government explained that it has a clear and absolute mandate to focus on Olympic sports only.