



Newsletter

April 2011

Safety

RA(T)s. Gliding has a reasonably good name with the CAA in respect of airspace safety performance. However, our reputation for getting it right took a severe knock last year following an incident involving a number of gliders and a RA(T) established to protect a Red Arrows display. It is incumbent on all pilots to plan their flights to avoid restricted airspace including RA(T)s. As we all know, in the eyes of the law, ignorance is no excuse. A briefing note, based on a recent S&G article regarding Airspace Safety and RA(T)s has been published at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/documents/rats.pdf> Please read. The BGA maintains a month-at-a-view summary calendar of RA(T)s that may affect gliding operations at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/rats.php>. Pilots should, however, always check the definitive AICs at http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/public/index.php%3Foption=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=162&Itemid=59.html

Airspace Files. A reminder to all pilots who use GPS navigation systems that there have been significant changes recently to UK airspace, including the change in transition altitude in the Birmingham, East Midlands and Daventry CTAs. To help minimise the risk of infringing controlled airspace, you should download the latest airspace files. These are available in various formats from the Worldwide Soaring Turnpoint Exchange web site at <http://soaringweb.org/Airspace/UK>

Airworthiness Directive. The following airworthiness directive has been issued:
DG808c: Landing Gear Bolt Incorrectly Fitted (25 March 2011). EASA has published AD 2011-0053-E: a before next flight inspection of the landing gear control bell crank bolt for correct fitment and possible damage to airbrake control rod or the flap control rod. Details at http://ad.easa.europa.eu/blob/easa_ad_2011_0053E.pdf/EAD_2011-0053-E_1

2010 Accident Review. The review of 2010 gliding accidents has been published and can be downloaded at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/safety/documents/summary2010.pdf> By being aware of the nature and causes of the most common accidents, individual pilots may be able to anticipate the possibility of these accidents and avoid them. The accident review document offers advice in the hope that lessons can be learned from past accidents and that future accident levels can be reduced. This is recommended reading for all glider pilots. Our thanks to Hill Aviation Insurance Services and Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty Insurance for their generous sponsorship of this publication.

GASIL. The latest edition of the CAA General Aviation Safety Information Leaflet (GASIL) is now available. This is the last edition that the CAA will post to owners; in future, all distribution will be electronic. You can register to be notified when each new issue is published at <http://www.caa.co.uk/subscriptions>; the magazine itself is available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/gasil>

CAA Charts. Edition 34 of the N England & N Ireland 1:500,000 VFR chart will be published on 5th May.

BGA

Email. The BGA is increasingly using Email to communicate essential information to the gliding community. At present, this channel is used extensively to communicate with club officers and we are starting to send appropriate information to inspectors and instructors in this way. To ensure that this

information reaches you, please would you add office@gliding.co.uk to your safe sender list. We will not use this channel to send inappropriate material, nor will we share your Email details with any third party.

The Wally Kahn/BGA Library Project. The BGA is supporting a library project being organised by Wally Kahn of Lasham and Peter Redshaw of the Lakes GC. The key project objectives are a catalogued BGA library of UK gliding books and an eBook library of all out of print UK gliding books. Both will be freely available and searchable through a BGA website facility and follows the completion of the major scanning project of all UK gliding magazines from 1930 to 2000. The project is making rapid progress. Nearly £7000 has been raised to fund professional scanning of the books and project completion should be by the year-end, subject to raising the rest of the £10000 required. This is where you can help. Further donations can be made online; those making larger donations will be offered a free set of CDs containing a copy of all the UK magazines at high resolution (for personal use only). You can find out more, check progress and donate at [http://www.lakesgc.co.uk/mainwebpages/Wally Kahn Book Collection.htm](http://www.lakesgc.co.uk/mainwebpages/Wally_Kahn_Book_Collection.htm)

Regulatory

8.33kHz Consultation. Eurocontrol has published a consultation on the draft Implementing Rule for 8.33kHz channel spacing in the VHF band below FL195. These proposals indicate that 8.33 will definitely be rolled out in Europe from 2014-2018, and will in due course impact on occasional users of VHF radio including gliding. The change from 25kHz to 8.33kHz increases the number of available VHF frequencies, which will significantly benefit commercial air transport while imposing significant but zero-benefit costs on private pilots and owners. We are working with GA Alliance partners to respond to this. We are focussed on the continued use of 25kHz channel spaced radios in class G airspace for as long as possible. Meanwhile, the long standing BGA advice remains that if you plan to replace your radio, consider an 8.33kHz compatible product. Consultation details are at http://www.eurocontrol.int/enprm/public/standard_page/enprm_11001.html

Pilot Licensing. The CAA has published a summary document (35 pages) giving its expectations and interpretation of what the European legislation relating to flight crew licensing currently being developed will mean for UK pilots. The BGA is very actively engaged with the CAA and EASA over this issue. You can read the CAA document at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?gid=2061>

Competitions and Cross-Country

2011 Waypoint List. The 2011 Waypoint list is now available at <http://www.spsys.demon.co.uk/turningpoints.htm>. Background information relating to the changes made is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/competitions/waypoints2011.pdf>

2011 Competition Rule Book. The 2011 Rule Book is now available. To download it, go to www.gliding.co.uk/forms/competitionrules2011.pdf

FAI Qualifying Sailplane Grand Prix. Pilots are reminded that there is a range of Qualifying Sailplane GP events taking place this year (most within Europe), with the final at the Wasserkuppe in Germany in late July. Many still have places available. For dates and contact details of the events, please go to the FAI website at <http://events.fai.org/calendar?id=30>

Juniors

Inter-Unis. The 2011 Inter-Unis will take place at Cotswold Gliding Club, Aston Down on 6-14 August 2011- see <http://www.interunis.com> We're sure it will be a great week and hope that as many university clubs as possible can be there.