



# Newsletter

British Gliding Association

## BGA Newsletter April 2008

**Mode S.** We are appealing to all pilots to monitor the BGA Mode S Transponder Consultation page - <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/modes2008.htm> - and to respond to the current CAA consultation. The new CAA proposals, although slightly less draconian than their original, still represent a major economic threat to the future of gliding in this country. They will affect all UK gliding enthusiasts. It is critically important that the CAA understands the views and the strength of feeling of all UK glider pilots, so please take the time to understand the issues, form your views and respond in your own words. The BGA will publish advice on the web site in approximately one week, following a further meeting with the CAA, so please keep checking. We will also be asking pilots to notify us when they respond (there will be a web form to do this on) so that we can monitor the level of response – our collective response in 2006 was central to getting the CAA to modify their original proposals, so please pull out all the stops to help again.

**Mode S Open Meetings.** Two further open meetings have been arranged with the CAA to discuss their latest Mode S proposals – at Shobdon, 12<sup>th</sup> April and Husbands Bosworth on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Previously announced meetings are at Lasham this Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April and at Wolds Gliding Club (Pocklington) on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April. All meetings are at 7pm. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity to hear more about what these proposals mean to you and to let the CAA hear your views prior to responding to the formal consultation. If you have not already attended one of the earlier open meetings, please make every effort to attend to help ensure that the strength of feeling over this issue is not underestimated. (NB space at Shobdon is limited so please let Diana King know if you plan to attend - [diana618@btconnect.com](mailto:diana618@btconnect.com))

**Energy Absorbing Cushions.** A reminder that energy absorbing cushions can save lives and protect from serious injury. The BGA strongly recommends that all gliders are suitably equipped. For more details, see RP38 in Laws & Rules.

**Red Arrows Displays – Advance Warning.** Although formal AICs have not yet been issued, the following dates for Red Arrows displays have been unofficially notified: Southend (25-6/5); Cosford (1/6); Waddington (5-6/7); Silverstone (6/7); Fairford (12-13/7); Goodwood (13/7); Farnborough (14/7); Shrivenham (17/7); Cranwell (17/7); Farnborough (18-20/7); Weston/Mare (23/7); Marham (24/7); Lowestoft (24-25/7); Portsmouth (25/7); Middle Wallop (26/7); Long Marston (26/7); Swanage (27/7); Sunderland (27/7). Pilots are urged to check NOTAMS and AICs on the AIS web site (<http://www.ais.org.uk>) and to ensure that display areas are not infringed. As well as potentially causing the cancellation of displays to the disappointment of thousands of spectators, such infringements are very dangerous and will only heighten calls for the introduction of transponders. The BGA web site will provide summaries of all Temporary Restricted Airspace throughout the summer season. Check at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/rats.php>

**GASIL.** The latest edition of the CAA General Aviation Safety newsletter, GASIL, is available for download from <http://www.caa.co.uk/gasil>.

**Nationals Entries.** There are still a small number of places remaining for this year's national championships (the Club Class is full). For more details and to enter online, see <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/competitions/news.htm>

**Competition Rulebook.** The 2008 Competition Rulebook can now be downloaded from the BGA web site - <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/competitionrules2008.pdf>

**Inspector Seminars.** Further dates are now available for the seminar series introducing the new and revised procedures for BGA inspectors under the EASA umbrella. Dates and venues are: RAF Halton, 5 April; Ulster GC, 19 April; Husbands Bosworth, 7 June; Lasham, 27 June. More information and booking details are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/news.htm>. Inspectors should note that these seminars will probably be the last in the series. Inspectors who have not attended a seminar will be unable to renew their BGA inspector authorisation in September 2008.

**Transition Report.** Processing of EASA glider C of A transitions received by the BGA office is progressing well. However, the CAA processing has still not received EU authorisation, although this is expected soon. A number of owners have expressed concern about what will happen if this is not received before the expiry of their temporary BGA CofA. The CAA is aware of the problem and we can advise that no glider will be grounded because of this.

**Motor Glider and Tug C of A Renewals.** There is a new, simplified processing for the renewal of motor glider and tug Cs of A through the BGA. Full details of the process are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/news.htm>

**Distress and Diversion Telephone Details.** The previously published telephone number for the D&D cell is no longer valid. The new number to pass information such as an overdue aircraft to the Distress and Diversion cell is now 01489 612406. The service available on the VHF emergency frequency 121.5MHz remains unchanged. (The D&D Cell has requested that pilots let them know if they have landed out and have had to leave their glider in the field overnight or if, for any reason, they believe that the landout has caused or is likely to cause alarm. In these events, please call the D&D Cell, letting them know the location and confirming that there are no casualties.

**Half Million Charts.** The following 1:500,000 VFR charts will be published within the next few weeks: Southern England and Wales Edition 34 - 10th April 2008; Northern England and Northern Ireland Edition 31 - 8th May 2008. Copies are available from the usual stockists, at the slightly increased price of £14.99.

**Visit ATC.** Over 20 UK Air Traffic Control Units will be taking part in the first national Visit ATC event in May. The MoD, NATS and independent air traffic units throughout the country are participating in the scheme which is aimed at increasing the knowledge of both pilots and controllers of each other's skills and limitations. Places must be pre-booked and are open only to holders of pilot licences (NPPL, PPL, BGA certificate etc) – you will be required to show their licence to gain entry. A full list of participating units and dates, and registration details are available on the AIS website at: <http://www.airspacesafety.com>. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. All the events are free of charge.

**RAF Medical Services Conference.** The Royal Society of Medicine is organising a one day conference celebrating 90 Years of the RAF Medical Services. The event will be in 24<sup>th</sup> April at the RAF Museum in London. More details are at <http://www.rsm.ac.uk/academ/une105.php>.