



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter December 2007

Sportswomen of the Year Award. The British Women's Gliding Team was one of nominees for the Champions Award at the Sunday Times Sportswomen of the Year ceremony, held at Lords Cricket Ground on 20th November. The award was won by world water ski slalom champion, Nicole Arthur, but being one of only three shortlisted for the award was a fantastic recognition for the gliding team that was so successful in the 2007 world championships. This recognition can only help raise our profile, both with the public, potential sponsors and the media. Congratulations.

EASA C of A Transition Progress (1). Those who have submitted completed transition packs may be alarmed by what appears to be a slow turn round. The CAA has been held up by a regulatory problem caused by one (minor) EU member state opposing the EASA agreed transition process, thereby holding up European Commission approval. The BGA worked with the DfT and the CAA to address this issue as rapidly as possible. Immediate progress is now expected allowing the CAA to approve BGA recommended EASA C of A and ARCs for transition gliders.

EASA C of A Transition Process (2). There has been a small change to the way in which the BGA office is processing transition packs. Once a pack has been verified as satisfactory, the BGA C of A will be renewed up to 28 September 2008. This allows time to process the packs and ensure that the aircraft can continue to fly with a minimum of disruption. This does not affect the transition process in any way.

GP07. The FAI World GP Gliding Championship will be held at Omarama, New Zealand between 19 and 24 December, where the UK will be represented by Pete Harvey and Steve Jones. For more information, including how to watch the live internet coverage, see <http://www.gpgliding.com>

2008 Nationals and Ratings. Entry forms are now at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/nationalsentry>. Entries must be received by 31st January 2008. The provisional ratings list to prioritise places for the entries is also on the BGA web site. You can find out how to check your rating, including the protest procedure, and download the full ratings list at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/competitions/ratings.htm>

Energy Absorbing Cushions. A recent report into a serious accident that occurred last year stated that: "These (energy absorbing cushions) had a major effect in reducing the hazard of compressive spinal injuries in what were very significant impacts." The BGA reminds all owners and operators that energy absorbing cushions can save lives and strongly recommends that all gliders are fitted with these inexpensive aids. For more details of our recommendation, see RP38 in Laws and Rules.

Funding Seminar. The BGA Development Committee is running a Funding Seminar for clubs on Sunday 20th January at The Park, home of the Bath, Wilts and North Dorset GC. The seminar will run from 9.30am - 5pm and will cover aspects of project planning and securing funding, including how to tackle funding application forms. There is a charge of £10 per person, to cover lunch. Places are limited and will be secured once payment is received by the BGA Office. For more details contact debbie@gliding.co.uk

Inspector Seminars. Further inspector seminars have been arranged for as follows: 12 January - Bristol & Glos GC, Nympsfield; 26 January, Cambridge GC, Gransden Lodge; 17 February, SGU, Portmoak; 5 April, RAF GSA, Halton. Booking details are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/news.htm>

Marketing & Critical News Seminars. Places are still available for these seminars at Lasham on Sunday 3rd February (Club Marketing) and Saturday 16th February (Critical News Management). For more details, including how to book, see <http://www.gliding.co.uk/clubmanagement>. The seminars being held at Husbands Bosworth are now fully subscribed.

Royal Aero Club Awards. The RAeC have announced that 7 awards for 2007 have been made to members of the gliding community. Those honoured are: the Britannia Trophy for the British aviator accomplishing the most meritorious performance to John Williams; the Prince of Wales Cup for the most meritorious performance, feat or event by a team or group to the British Women's Gliding Team; a RAeC Gold Medal to Derek Piggott; a Silver Medal to Pete Harvey; and a Bronze Medal to John Glossop (all for outstanding achievement in aviation); a RAeC Diploma for services to sporting aviation to Jack Harrison; RAeC Certificates of Merit to John Blackmore and Derek Platt; the Old and Bold Trophy for a person aged 65 who has been conspicuously involved in sport aviation for their work, initiative, devotion or in other ways to Jim O'Donnell; and the Nexus Trophy for the journalist, producer or author of the outstanding media item on sporting and recreational aviation during the previous year to Michael Bird.

BGA Diplomas. A reminder to clubs that nominations for BGA Diplomas should be received by the office no later than the end of January. As usual, diplomas will be awarded at the BGA AGM and Conference on March 8. Diplomas are awarded for Services to Gliding and should be submitted by clubs in respect of any members who, whilst not eligible for one of the major national or international aviation awards, have given particularly good service to gliding within the club or BGA structure. Nominations in writing (not more than 8 to 10 lines) to Pete Stratten (pete@gliding.co.uk). To help clubs decide on nominations, a list of previous Diploma recipients is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/bgadiplomas.pdf>

Half Million Charts. A new edition of the 1:500,000 chart for Scotland (ed 25) will be published on 20th December. This will be available through the usual channels.

BGA Conference. Please note in your diary – the BGA conference and AGM will be held on 8 March at Hellidon Lakes Golf & Country Club, near Daventry (the same venue as this year). The format of the event will be different to previous years and we are confident that there will be something for everyone. More details will follow shortly.

GPS Jamming Trials. GPS jamming trials will take place a) at RAF Buchan on 7 December and b) at MoD Donna Nook, Humberside on 3-7 December. The Buchan trial will affect an area, radius 6 nm, while the directional Donna Nook trial will affect an area, radius 13nm between 092°T and 188°T.

Review of the CAA. The Secretary of State for Transport has commissioned an independent review of the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). As part of this, interested individuals and organisations have been invited to comment. The BGA will be responding to this invitation, but is not asking members to take any direct action. More information is at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/domestic/caareview2007>

R/T Quiz. The CAA has added an interactive R/T quiz to the Airspace & Safety Initiative web site. You can try it at <http://www.airspacesafety.com/content/news.asp>