



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter
December 2008

Regulatory

NPA 2008-17. The BGA has now published its draft response and explanatory notes concerning the EASA consultation about its proposals for pilot licensing. These proposals, if accepted, will bring about significant changes to the way in which pilot licensing (including glider pilot licensing) is structured and managed throughout Europe. A number of these changes will directly (and seriously) impact us, including potentially removing our ability to fly closer than 1.5 km horizontally or 1000' vertically from cloud above 3000', the proposed new medical examination process, the removal of an instructor rating equivalent to the Basic Instructor, and restrictions on the ability of instructors without an ICAO class 2 medical to instruct for all classes of glider pilot licences. In view of the potentially serious implications of the proposals, the BGA is encouraging all pilots to read and understand what is being proposed and appreciate the context and content of the BGA response. It is likely that the draft BGA response will be updated within the next week or so – please monitor the web site for updates. We hope that you will be encouraged to respond to EASA, in your own words. *We have just been informed that the deadline for submissions has been extended to 28th February.* Full details at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/nppl/futurelicensing.htm>

Airworthiness Review Certificate (ARC) Dating Policy. The CAA has advised that the glider ARCs issued on transition are dated for 12 months from the date of the BGA's final recommendation for transition. This means that, in most cases, these first ARCs will be dated two to three months after the pre-transition annual inspection was performed. It is critically important to understand that, regardless of the ARC expiry date, a glider is not airworthy (and therefore may NOT fly) if it has not had an annual inspection signed off by a BGA inspector within the previous 12 months. Further information about how ARCs will be issued under the BGA airworthiness system will be made available by the end of January. (NB this information supersedes previously issued information).

NPA 2008-15. The BGA has also responded to this consultation concerning Aviation Environmental Protection. The BGA response is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/bgacommentnpa200815.pdf> and the EASA consultation documents on the EASA Comment Response Tool page at <http://hub.easa.europa.eu/crt/docs/>

BGA

2009 Nationals Entries. Application forms for the 2009 nationals are now available on the BGA web site. You can apply online (and renew your FAI licence) at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/competitions/news.htm>. The provisional rankings list, which is used to prioritise places for the championships, is available at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/competitions/ratings.htm>.

BGA Conference. A reminder that the BGA Conference will be held on Saturday 7th March, returning once again to Hellidon Lakes Hotel near Daventry. Full information will be published on the BGA web site shortly, but please put the date in your diary now. Initial soundings suggest that the dinner will be a sell-out so, if you would like to book your place or reserve a table for your club, you are recommended to do this as soon as details are available.

FI(SLMG) Course Groundschool. Arrangements have now been confirmed for the groundschool element of the 2009 CAA FI(SLMG) Course. This will be held at Husbands Bosworth from 9th to 12th January. The rating qualifies a Full Category Gliding Instructor to teach students for the NPPL. Full details are available from the BGA SRE(Motor Gliders), Andy Miller 01249 821 031

Equality Standard for Sport. The BGA is currently working towards the Foundation level of the Equality Standard for Sport. Closely related to issues and challenges surrounding membership recruitment and retention, widening participation in gliding will reap many benefits and help ensure that our sport remains vibrant in the future. The BGA is taking advantage of the support available from a leading expert as part of a Sport England-funded, CCPR-run scheme.

Club Management

Chairmen's Conference and Treasurer's Forum. The traditional format of separate BGA Conferences is being resumed this year. The 2009 BGA Chairmen's Conference and Treasurer's Forum will take place on Saturday 24th January at Woodside near Kenilworth. The programmes for this must-attend event are filling with items of topical interest for those running gliding clubs. In addition, this year, both agendas will include speakers who will be discussing the current economic climate. Further details and a booking form are available from the BGA website

<http://www.gliding.co.uk/clubmanagement#cconf> and the BGA Office. In the morning of the BGA Conference (on Saturday 7th March at Hellidon Lakes) there will be an extra opportunity for Club Chairmen to meet Patrick Naegeli and Pete Stratten, the BGA Chairman and Chief Executive respectively, for a discussion, which will follow up on some of the topics raised at the Chairmen's Conference.

Club Chairmen's Web Forum. The web based forum specifically for Chairmen of BGA clubs has just been launched. It has been set up and is being run by the Development Committee with relevant contributions not just from them, but also the rest of the BGA and the BDFA (British Disabled Flying Association). The forum offers the opportunity to converse directly with other Club Chairmen. Invitations with an access code for the forum have gone out by Email. If you think you should have received one, but haven't, please Email alison@gliding.co.uk

CCPR Sports Club of the Year Award. The CCPR has announced the launch of the 2009 competition. The BGA is entitled to endorse applications from a maximum of three gliding clubs for a chance to win up to £6,000 and the title Sports Club of the Year. You can find out more about the award and what qualities the judges will be looking for at www.ccpr.org.uk/scoty. Applications from clubs should be submitted to the BGA for endorsement no later than 30th January.

Juniors

Air League Scholarships. Applications for the 2009 Air League Educational Trust scholarships opened on 1st December. These gliding scholarships offer financial assistance for cross-country gliding, aerobatic gliding or SLMG flying to gain flying experience and new qualifications. Applicants must be 16 but under 26 on 1 April 2009. The closing date for applications is 27 February 2009. Full information and application forms are available at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/scholarships.html> and there is a poster describing these and the other Air League scholarships at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/documents/alet2008.pdf>

Air League Newsletter. The Air League's November/December newsletter includes an interesting article about their young members' flying day which was held at Windrushers GC in August. You can see the newsletter at http://www.airleague.co.uk/downloads/The_Air_League_Newsletter_Nov_Dec_2008.pdf

Juniors Dinner. A Juniors dinner has been arranged for 17th January at Hus Bos. There will be a 3 course meal with a free bottle of wine per person (not table) thrown in. The evening will have a live band and music, a fully stocked and staffed bar and waiter service to the tables. The event will cost £15 a head. All cheques to be made payable to The Gliding Centre, or if you want to pay by card, ring the office on 01858 880 521. The evening is shirt and tie...hopefully posh enough for people to make an effort, but not too posh that they have to hire DJs etc. Accommodation is available, but is likely to be snapped up very soon. We hope that as many university gliding club members will come, but everyone – juniors, pre-juniors and juniors alumni – are welcome.

Safety

Airprox Board Report. The latest report into Airprox in UK airspace involving general aviation pilots (including gliders) has been published and is available at <http://www.airproxboard.org.uk/docs/423/gab15web.pdf>. This latest report focuses on the issue of aircraft flying close to or over active glider sites. As always, the report contains information that we can all learn from.

GASIL. The first of the now monthly editions of GASIL, the CAA General Aviation Safety publication has now been published and can be downloaded from http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gasil4of2008.pdf. Amongst items of interest to glider pilots is a reminder to be aware of wake turbulence from heavy air transport when flying under controlled airspace. It has been estimated that the wake of an A380 may present serious problems as much as 1000ft below its flight path.

Energy Absorbing Cushions. A further reminder that energy absorbing cushions can save lives and protect from serious injury. The report into a 2006 accident 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 strongly recommends that all gliders are suitably equipped. For more details of our recommendation, see RP38 in Laws & Rules.

General

RAeC Newsletter. The autumn edition of the Royal Aero Club newsletter has been published and can be downloaded from <http://www.royalaeroclub.org/news08y.pdf>

Met Course. Lasham is running its Advanced Met for Glider Pilots course again in early 2009. The two day practical course is designed to meet the specific needs of active glider pilots who want to take their understanding of soaring weather further. The cost is £89 and dates for 2009 are 17/18 January and 21/22 February. More details at <http://www.lasham.org.uk/learning/met.asp> Please note that this course assumes a reasonable level of meteorological knowledge, and is unsuitable for anyone who has not yet passed the bronze theory paper or equivalent.