



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter February 2003

EU Insurance Proposals. The European Commission has proposed that all aircraft operating in Europe should be required by EU law to carry insurance covering liability for damage to third parties, including damage resulting from war and terrorism. Although gliders are presently exempt in the draft legislation, motor gliders, self launching sailplanes and tugs are not. Also there are murmurings in Brussels and in some EU countries to remove the current draft exemption for "non powered aircraft" from the legislation. A briefing note from the Royal Aero Club has been enclosed with this Newsletter and is available on the BGA web site. The proposals are being vigorously contested. However, you are urged to lobby your MEP. Further details of what might go into a lobbying letter are contained in the RAeC briefing note. Please act soon as the proposals are due to be considered in early summer. Do not think that this is some one else's problem – it may affect you.

Ann Welch Memorial Service. The memorial service for Ann Welch will be held at Lasham on March 7th at 1200. All friends are cordially invited. Arrivals by air must contact the Lasham Gliding Society Office (01256 384900) before take-off. (Lasham is PPO). Motor cars will enter the airfield through the North gate from 'The Avenue'.

2003 British Juniors. These will be held between 30th August and 7th September at Nympsfield. As always, the BGA will be supporting these by subsidizing the cost of entry and by providing coaching assistance throughout the championships. Young pilots (under 25) are urged to enter – CFIs have details. Pilots who are not entering but would like to learn about cross country and competition flying can apply to fly with experienced competition pilots in the high performance BGA 2-seater fleet. 4 places are available and applications, supported by your club, should be made to Dave Bullock by 30th April. More details are on the BGA web site at www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/juniors/juniors.htm

Young Persons Soaring Course. This is a competition training course to be held at Bicester from 2nd – 8th August. 12 places are available and 6 high performance two seaters will be used. There will be a 2:1 student: instructor ratio. Applications are invited for this – again by 30th April. No qualifications are necessary, other than enthusiasm. See your CFI or www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/juniors/juniors.htm for details. Alternatively contact either of the BGA coaches, Dave Bullock (01869 357079/ 07901 553341, bullockda@talk21.com) or Simon Adlard (01694 724382/ 07773 017270, etusar@dircon.co.uk).



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Competition Rulebook 2003. The new rulebook is now available - a result of many hours of work, eliminating all of the duplications and anomalies associated with the old Competition Handbook. It is more concise, yet retains all the existing rules except those modified or changed for 2003. Thanks particularly go to Phil Jeffery for his efforts in undertaking and completing this task. The rulebook can be obtained from the BGA web site, www.gliding.co.uk/forms/competitionrules2003.pdf

IGC Ranking List. The first edition of the IGC pilot ranking list is now available and will be updated after each sanctioned competition. We are delighted to congratulate Steve Jones for achieving first place – making him officially the world's top glider pilot. With two more pilots in the top 20 (Mike Young 9th and Dave 12th) and no fewer than 9 in the top 50, the ranking list clearly demonstrates the UK's leadership in competitive soaring. The ranking list is produced as part of the IGC's strategy to make competitive gliding more widespread and accessible. The list will be updated after each competition to provide a dynamic seeding list of the world's best glider pilots. The full list can be found at rankings.fai.org/gliding/.

Another World Record for Pam! Pam Kurstjens-Hawkins has claimed another world record (Feminine Open Class – speed over an out and return course of 1000km) just two days after setting three other records. Pam completed the task from Corowa, NSW in her Nimbus 4T at an average speed of 133.8kmph. Congratulations again.

3000km Barrier Broken. Klaus Ohlmann of Germany became the first person to fly 3000km when he set a new free distance (up to three turning points) record on January 21st. He flew his Nimbus 4DT a distance of 3010.7km from San Martin de los Andes airport in Argentina. In setting the record, Klaus beat his own existing record by a small matter of 545.1km. His co-pilot was Austria's Karl Rabeder (Austria). The flight took 14 hours 40 minutes from a launch at 9.35am. Phew!

BGA Conference. A final reminder that the BGA AGM and Conference will be held on February 22nd at Eastwood Hall near Nottingham. Full details and a booking form are at www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/notices/conference.htm. The organizer, Claire Emson (Claire@eventia.co.uk), has requested that anybody requiring lunch please books this as soon as possible.

CAA Safety Evenings. Latest dates announced for CAA Safety Evenings (over and above these published recently in S&G) are 24th March, Husbands Bosworth and 27th March at Maidstone. For full details, please see the CAA web site www.caa.co.uk/srg/general_aviation/event.asp

GPS Safety. The CAA has produced a 'Safety Sense' leaflet (ref SSL25) on the use of satellite navigation systems (GPS). This is only available for download, from the CAA site at www.caa.co.uk/docs/224/srg_gad_ssl25.pdf