



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter February 2005

Airspace Changes & Mode S Update. Carr Withall, chairman of the BGA Airspace Committee, has provided us with an update on his committee's work, covering proposed UK airspace changes as well as transponders and 8.33KHz radios. The full article can be seen in the current (February – March) edition of *Sailplane & Gliding* and is also available for download from the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/CarrWJan05update.pdf>

Fitness to Fly. The CAA has asked us to remind all pilots that they should only fly when they are fit to do so. Many conditions, even seemingly minor ones, may affect your ability to fly and your safety and the safety of those on the ground or in the cockpit with you. Holding the necessary medical certification does not absolve from this responsibility. The Air Navigation Order is quite specific on this matter - individuals shall not be entitled to act as flight crew members if they know or suspect that they may be unfit to do so. The common cold, headache, recent blood donation, certain drugs, stress, fatigue, etc may all affect your ability (this list is by no means complete). If you are in any doubt – don't fly until you have taken medical advice.

Glider Instrument Panels. Many owners have replaced wooden or composite panels with ones made from sheet aluminium. Unfortunately, these can have one very serious disadvantage – poor crashworthiness. The BGA Technical Committee has instructed that all metal instrument panels should be assessed for crashworthiness and have produced guidelines for inspection and for building a wood/composite panel (Technical Notice Sheet 12/04 – available at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/tns/tns-12-04.pdf>). It is strongly recommended that where a metal instrument panel could cause injury, it should be replaced with a wood or composite one.

BGA Approved Modifications. Just to clarify, please note that all modifications approved by the BGA or BGA Inspectors are only approved for gliders and self sustaining sailplanes issued with a BGA C of A before 28 September 2003. All aircraft with C of As issued after that date may not be modified unless the modification is approved by the CAA, EASA, a design organisation or the manufacturer. Instrument panels fitted to the aircraft since the importation will require approval prior to the issue of an EASA C of A. A process will be developed for approving these panel installations. (NB All dates relate to issue of C of A – not to the annual renewal).

Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries. The Royal Aero Club Trust, as part of its Flying for Youth program, has launched a Bursary Scheme for young people, aged 16-21, who wish to upgrade their existing gliding qualification (for example, gaining bronze, silver, SLMG NPPL, etc). Nominations must be made through the BGA so, if you are interested, please return your completed application to Pete Stratten at the BGA office, to reach him no later than April 22nd. Full details and the application form are available on the Royal Aero Club Trust web site at <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/>

Flying in Southern France. The BGA has produced an information sheet detailing the requirements (pilot licensing and glider validation) if you want to fly in or take your glider to France. You can see the document at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/FIFBGAInfo.pdf>

Royal Aero Club Awards. Once again, gliding featured strongly in the Royal Aero Club Awards. This year, the Club's Gold Medal was presented to Russell Cheetham who, in 2004, won the European Championships and achieved the first ever 1000km FAI triangle to be flown in Britain. The RAeC Diploma was awarded to Roger Coote, the BGA Development Officer; and a RAeC Certificate of Merit went to Walking on Air, the Portmoak based charity which provides facilities to enable disabled people to take an active part in gliding. The awards were presented by HRH the Duke of York at the club's awards ceremony at the National Army Museum on February 3rd. More details are on the RAeC web site at <http://www.royalaeroclub.org/award04.htm>

New Cross Country Coaching Initiative. In recent years the British Gliding Teams have benefited greatly from a coaching scheme organised and run by several current and ex team members. To enable pilots who are involved with cross country coaching at club level to benefit from the team coaches' experience, BGA Team Manager Brian Spreckley will run a BGA coaching course with National Coach Simon Adlard, at Ontur in Spain in April. The objective of the course, which will use the BGA Duo Discus, is to establish guidelines and a framework for cross country coaching schemes within BGA Clubs. Experienced cross country pilots who are already involved in soaring instruction and coaching are invited to apply for a place. More details are available on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/instructors/index.htm>

Nationals Entry Lists. The Nationals Entry Lists are now available on the BGA website – see <http://www.gliding.co.uk/competitions>. You can still enter a Nationals if you have not done so. If places are no longer available in your chosen class, you will be placed at the end of the reserve list. You can enter online via the BGA web site. If you have already entered one national championship and wish to enter another, please email competitionentries@gliding.co.uk stating your request.

Gliders for Junior Worlds. The organisers now have quite a long list of Juniors from abroad who are looking to hire gliders for the Junior World Gliding Championships at Husbands Bosworth, from 31st July - 20th August. Some of these pilots, from places like Australia, are even offering a glider swap - so you could go and fly an ASH25 or LS8 in Australia in return if you wished! If you think you might be able to hire out your glider, please visit the web link below, where you will see details of pilots looking to hire gliders <http://www.worldgliding2005.com/gliderhire.php>

2005 Competition Rule Book. This is now available for download on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/competitionrules2005.pdf>. It contains a number of significant changes to the 2004 edition and includes an appendix designed to promote discussion on future major rule changes currently under consideration.

2005 List of BGA Waypoints. Suggestions for new waypoints to be included in the 2005 list which will be finalised this month are now requested. The BGA would also like to hear any suggestions for changes to the wording of existing waypoints and, if air space has changed in your area so that is desirable to change the details of an existing point, or even withdraw it from the list, we would like to know. Please email proposals to the list coordinator, Ian Strachan (ian@ukiws.demon.co.uk), with a copy to Tim Newport-Peace (tnp@spsys.demon.co.uk). The current list can be seen at <http://www.spsys.demon.co.uk/turningpoints.htm>

Tapio Savolainen. Tapio Savolainen, former IGC Vice President, died on 21st January after a long fight against illness. Tapio Savolainen's great work for international gliding will be remembered at the next IGC meeting and FAI General Conference.

Soaring Visions. A student from Oxford University Gliding Club has produced a set of striking gliding posters entitled 'Soaring Visions' that are available for sale in aid of OUGC funds. Details are at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/%7Egliding>

Fly! The London Air Show. The BGA will be exhibiting at the London Air Show, being held at Earl's Court from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th April. We will be joined by 5 clubs who will be promoting their courses, trial lessons and the benefits of membership. The show promises to have something for all aviation enthusiasts including the latest simulators (including the BA 747 simulator) and everything from the latest fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters to clothing and accessories. Visitors will also be able to enjoy a mix of information, education and fun in the seminar theatre, where a variety of topics ranging from the history of flight and its heroes to more serious aspects of aviation such as the role of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will be under discussion. Tickets for the Saturday and Sunday cost £14 (£11 in advance) with reductions for children and families. For more information, see <http://www.londonairshow.co.uk>. If your club would like to be represented, please contact Keith Auchterlonie (keith@gliding.co.uk or 01334 828830)

Europe Air Sports Technical Officer. Europe Air Sports has announced that its Technical Officer responsible for airspace and operations has had to relinquish his post, due to work pressure. They are now urgently seeking a qualified and interested person who is willing and able to start on this most important job on short notice and continue for at least 2 years. Europe Air Sports is the association co-ordinating European regulatory matters for National Aeroclubs and Associations within Europe and has been responsible for much of the recent work in negotiating with EASA, the EC and EuroControl over matters that so affect our future freedoms. More background information about EAS can be found at <http://www.europe-airports.fai.org/>; a document describing the role of an EAS Technical Officer has been posted on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/S3015aEASprocedures.doc>. More details are available from the EAS Secretary General, Harry Schoevers (europe-airports@wxs.nl, tel +31 23 5470205) to whom applications should be made.

Kyritzer Holzflugtage. Owners (plus families and friends) of wooden aircraft built before 1970, including gliders, are invited to take part in Kyritzer Holzflugtag, being held at Heinrichsfelde Airfield (EDBK), 50 miles NW of Berlin from May 5-8. More details are available at http://www.emeraude.de/Einladung2005_englisch.doc

European Health Cover. Pilots planning to fly in Europe this year (or even just taking a family holiday) are reminded that existing E111 forms are no longer valid. The E111 gives rights to health treatment during temporary visits to European Economic Area (EEA) countries. New E111s must be obtained for each family member. In addition, during 2005 E111s will be replaced by the European Health Insurance Card. This will be automatically sent to those who have applied for the new E111. More details are available at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAdviceForTravellers/fs/en>

PFA Rally. The PFA Rally will be held this year on July 1-3rd at Keble Airfield, Glos. Check the web site <http://www.pfa-rally.com/> for more information as it becomes available.

K-Series Weekend. Schleicher K-Series owners are invited to a weekend of fun and flying at Tibenham from Saturday 30th April – 2nd May (Bank Holiday Monday) As well as 2 winches and 2 tugs, there will be a BBQ on Saturday night and plenty of Beer. (All other Vintage Gliders are also welcome!). For more details, contact John Gammage 01379 674395 or email Schleicher@gliderracing.co.uk.

BGA Conference. Don't forget to book your place at this year's AGM, Conference and Dinner. Date – Saturday 5th March. Venue – Eastwood Hall, Nottingham. Book – online or call Debbie in the BGA office on 0116 253 1051. More details - <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/notices/conference.htm>

News Subscription Service. If you want to keep up to date with BGA news as it happens, sign up to the BGA News Service. This will deliver you Email alerts about all important information as it is released in the categories of your choice. You will also receive your own copy of the monthly newsletter straight to your desk. To sign up for this free service, visit <https://www.gliding.co.uk/subscriptions>

Club Management News

AGM Papers. The AGM papers, including voting papers, have been sent to all club secretaries. Clubs are advised that proxy forms must be returned to BGA office no later than 2.30pm on Thursday 3rd March 2005.

Sports Club of the Year Award. The Central Council of Physical Recreation and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts are again promoting the Voluntary Sports Club of the Year Award. This award, with prizes of £15,000 is given to clubs that can exhibit 'best practice' in their field. Gliding clubs have as good a chance as any to win. In 2003, Borders GC took second place, winning £4000 in the process. Nominations can only be made by the sport governing body so we are inviting all clubs who wish to be considered to complete the nomination form and return this to Pete Stratten at the BGA office. A decision on which clubs to nominate to the CCPR will be taken by the BGA Executive Committee at the beginning of March. Completed forms should therefore be returned to reach the BGA office no later than Monday, February 21st. The nomination form is on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/SCOTYForm2005.doc>

Disability Discrimination Bill. The Department of Work and Pensions is currently consulting on further stages of the DDA. Included in the consultation is the application of the DDA to Private Members Clubs (25 members or more). It is intended that the next stage of the DDA will make it unlawful for a private club to discriminate against a disabled person. The CCPR will be responding to the consultation, however, should clubs wish to respond individually, a PDF of the consultation document suitable for printing is at http://www.disability.gov.uk/campaigns/consultation04/consult15_12.pdf

Human Resources Training. The CCPR has organised two workshops on human resources issues. The first workshop will include training on essential employment law and will be held on 24 March 2005, and the second, on 31 March 2005, will address effective recruitment, selection and induction. Both workshops will be held at the CCPR offices in London. To book a place at the workshops please go to the CCPR web site at <http://www.ccpr.org.uk/evitem.cfm?ID=3142>. The workshops cost just £25 each.

2003 Licensing Act Fees. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport has now announced the new licensing fees for Club Premise Certificates. These represent a huge increase which will make it impossible for thousands of sports clubs to continue to run a bar, and will force the closure of many sports clubs altogether. The BGA wrote to the Department in late 2004 to highlight the injustice of levying fees based solely on the rateable value of a club's premises but our objections, along with those of many other sporting bodies have seemingly been ignored. The CCPR, on behalf of their members' 151,000 sports clubs and their 13 million participants, have now attacked the Government for failing to consider the negative impact of the fees on local sports clubs. The BGA and the CCPR ask all clubs to review the effects of these new charges on their finances and to consider lobbying their MP. More details, together with a pro forma letter are available on the CCPR web site at <http://www.ccpr.org.uk/nlstory.cfm?ID=12045&NLID=50264>

BAIC Ltd Proposed Solvent Scheme of Arrangement. A recent circular from the British Aviation Insurance Company Ltd describes how they are proposing a scheme that should lead to full payment of claims by policyholders and brokers in the shortest practicable time. Apparently there will be meeting on 15th March 2005 in London to consider and vote on the scheme. Details for anyone who believes that they are affected can be found at www.baicsolventscheme.co.uk

Community Amateur Sports Club Seminar. The CCPR is repeating its series of seminars which explain how clubs can take advantage of the many tax benefits for community amateur sports clubs, including mandatory rate relief and Gift Aid. The evening seminars run through February and March at various locations around the country (England only). More information can be found on the CCPR web site at <http://www.ccpr.org.uk/dyncat.cfm?catid=13897>.