



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter February 2007

Expansion of Class C Airspace. The final stage of an important change to the classification of UK airspace will be implemented on 15 March with the adoption of Class C Airspace at and above Flight Level 195. The BGA Airspace Committee has been involved in this change as it has considerable effects on those clubs where pilots fairly regularly fly above FL195. The Chairman of the BGA Airspace Committee, Carr Withall, has provided some background information at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/airspace>. Full details of the changes are at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=1239> (click Documents).

Pilot Briefing. New guidance material is now available on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/safety/bulletins/pilot-briefing-guidance.htm>

Laws and Rules. An updated version of Laws and Rules edition 15 is now available for download from <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/lawsandrules.pdf>. This update will only be available in PDF form but a new, printed edition 16 will be produced, probably in late 2007, when the results of current negotiations with EASA and others are concluded.

Executive Committee Nominations. In accordance with the BGA Articles of Association, a number of existing Executive Committee members must retire at the BGA AGM on the 10th March. Accordingly, nominations are sought for six Executive Committee members. Nominations should be made through member clubs on the appropriate form which has been supplied to club secretaries. This is an opportunity for individuals to get involved with BGA strategy, policy development and to help facilitate the ongoing success of UK gliding. Anyone who is interested in standing should in the first instance contact their club secretary or chairman. For advice regarding the level of commitment that may be required or other queries relating to these nominations, please contact the BGA office (office@gliding.co.uk)

Royal Aero Club Awards. We are delighted to report that the Royal Aero Club has recognised five glider pilots in their 2006 Awards List, published at the end of January. World 18m champion, Phil Jones, has been awarded the Club's Gold Medal and World Standard Class champion, Leigh Wells, the Silver Medal. Another Silver Medal has been awarded to Dr Peter Saundby, the BGA's medical advisor since 1967. The Ann Welch Memorial Award for significant contribution to education and training in gliding, hang-gliding, paragliding and microlight aviation goes to John Henry of the Scottish Gliding Union. 17 year old Christopher Lawrence wins the President's Rolex Trophy which is awarded annually to a young person (14-21) or group of young people for outstanding work, performance or achievement in connection with any aspect of aerospace activity.

Avian Influenza (AI). An outbreak of AI has been confirmed at a turkey farm at Holton, near Halesworth, Suffolk. A protected zone and surveillance zone have been established around the infected farm. The BGA will continue to monitor the situation and where appropriate will provide periodic updates through the website.

Red Arrows Restrictions. RA(T)s have been established for dates in February and March. See AIC 7/2007 (Mauve214) for details – www.ais.org.uk

BGA Conference & AGM. The full agenda for the 2007 conference and AGM can be seen at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/notices/conference.htm>. The day promises something for everyone, from inexperienced pilots through to pundits and club office bearers. As well as a range of talks, seminars and workshops, there is an exhibition where you can see the latest gliders and gadgets and, in the evening, the annual dinner and awards ceremony. Put the date – 10th March – in your diary now. You can book online via the BGA website or telephone the office.

Chairmen's Conference Report. A report covering all of the topics discussed at the 2006 Chairmen's Conference has been published and is available for download from <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/clubmanagement/documents.htm>. Many of the items may be of general interest to glider pilots.

Club Websites Will Need Updating. UK companies (including gliding clubs) must now include certain regulatory information on their websites and in their email footers. If this is not done, they will be in breach of the Companies Act 2006 and risk a fine. Every company should list its company registration number, place of registration and registered office address on its website. Any 'contact us' form must provide an email address and geographic address easily accessible on the site. If your organisation has a VAT number, it should be stated – even if your website is not being used for e-commerce transactions. More information is at <http://www.out-law.com/page-7594>

Financial Analysis Seminar. The Development Committee is running a 2 hour workshop at the BGA Conference designed to help club committee members analyse and understand the deeper meaning of their financial accounts. More details are at <https://www.gliding.co.uk/clubmanagement>. Places are limited – please book yours now with alison@gliding.co.uk

BGA Stand. The new BGA exhibition stand has still not been found. The club who last rented the stand and the BGA believe that it has been stolen and are about to place the matter with the police. Before we do this, please could everybody look at their own clubs – especially if you know that your club has used the new stand. You wouldn't want police investigations ending up on your doorstep! The stand is of the pop up variety. When fully opened out, it is about 2m high and 5m wide and it features a large White Planes image. It is stored and transported in a black container that bears a passing resemblance to a wheelie bin. If you know where the stand is, please Email keith@gliding.co.uk. No questions will be asked.

Air League Scholarships. A reminder that applications for these scholarships must be received by 28th February. More details are in a flyer available at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/documents/airleague2007.pdf> and on the Air League web site at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/> where an application form can also be found. The scholarships are designed to help young pilots (16-25 inclusive) who have already reached solo standard to gain experience and further their skills in either cross country, SLMG or aerobatic flying.

Torch Trophy Trust Awards. The Torch Trophy Trust awards bursaries to help volunteers improve their skills as coaches or officials. Bursaries between £100 and £1000 are available to meet 50% of total costs involved. Applications relating to gliding must be supported by the BGA. Gliding has received Torch Trophy awards in the past, but not for some years. Awards are made on a first come, first served basis. More information at http://www.torchtrophytrust.org/ttt_site.htm.

Juniors Party. The juniors are holding a party at Husbands Bosworth on Saturday 10th February. All young pilots are welcome, whether you have flown previous juniors competitions or not. Live band (to be confirmed), accommodation available at the club and, according to the organisers, tons of booze. No need to book -just let Steve Pozerskis (thepoz13@hotmail.com) know if you can make it.