



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter February 2008

Mode S Latest. The CAA has begun the next stage of consultation over their proposals to introduce Mode S transponders. Their new consultation document is available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1698&pagetype=90&pageid=9307>. The new proposals, whilst acknowledging some of the concerns of the BGA and the thousands of glider pilots who responded to the last round of consultation, still represent a major threat to the future of gliding in this country. The BGA is currently studying the revised proposals but will certainly be calling on glider pilots to make their views known once again in to help head off this threat. We ask all pilots to monitor BGA news sources and respond when the time comes. More details at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/modes2008.htm>.

BGA Conference. This year, the BGA conference has been completely restructured and will now feature two conferences in one – the BGA Sporting Conference and the BGA Governance Conference. Both events are on Saturday 8th March at the Helidon Lakes Hotel, near Daventry.

The Sporting Conference is aimed at **all** club pilots and features many entertaining and informative presentations and workshops from the latest must have cockpit gadgets, to insights into the psychological factor and improving your flying enjoyment. Full details are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/conference-programme-2008.pdf>

The BGA Governance Conference is especially for club officers. The Chairmen's Conference will run as one stream and there will be separate, specialist sessions – a treasurers' forum, an operational forum (which will be of interest to CFIs and their deputies) and a membership & marketing forum (relevant to all committee members – not just PR Officers). As well as briefings, there will be an opportunity to discuss current issues and to swap ideas with other clubs. Club officers can combine elements of both conferences to make a constructive, enjoyable, and educational day. Why not bring a team so that everyone can get the most out of the day? Details of the Sporting Conference are at <https://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/conference-programme-2008.pdf>.

Annual Dinner and Awards. Make a night of it and join us for the social event of the year! Stay on and attend the annual awards ceremony in the evening, hear our entertaining after dinner speaker, Pete Harvey as he tells us about 30 years of soaring - what not to do, the definitive statement! Have a flutter with some BGA bucks at the casino and dance the night away to the live band. Tickets are limited and sold out in 2007 – please book early. Details at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/notices/conference.htm>

Child Protection Workshop. Phil Burton will be running a workshop during the conference (afternoon) for Club Child Protection Officers, Youth Scheme Co-ordinators and anyone else, including instructors, who regularly work with young people at their gliding club. Please book your free place via the BGA Office (lunch not included).

S&G Editor. After more than eight years in post, Helen Evans has decided to change career direction and has therefore resigned as editor of S&G with effect from mid April. The BGA will be very sorry to see Helen move on, but understands her reasons. The BGA is now recruiting a magazine editor who has the vision, flair and experience to take the magazine into the next chapter of its 50 year history. We are keen to hear from anyone with

the appropriate skills to make the most of this exciting career opportunity. Further details of the post and how to apply are available at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/EditorAd.pdf>

Energy Absorbing Cushions. Following the recent reminder about the life saving properties of energy absorbing cushions, the BGA Safety Committee recommends that these are secured in position with suitable ties or Velcro. Loose cushions can work out, causing control restrictions, and, if not in position, can be both uncomfortable and ineffective.

Pilot Licensing. The latest edition of Sailplane & Gliding contains an article by Executive Committee member Chris Gibson about the moves that are taking place towards the establishment of an EASA glider pilots licence. We expect EASA to issue an NPA (Notice of Proposed Amendment) for public consultation towards the end of this quarter. The BGA will submit a formal response and there will be the opportunity for individuals to respond. More details will be published on our web site as they become available, including information on responses to the NPA – please keep an eye open for these. Meanwhile, the S&G article text is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/laplart.pdf>

NPPL Changes. Several changes regarding the UK NPPL came into effect at the end of January. An explanatory Aeronautical Information Circular was agreed at about the same time, but the AIC production process means that it physically cannot be promulgated until about the end of March. There is thus a rather awkward gap between the (difficult to understand) legislative change and AIC. A useful (but unofficial) summary of the changes is on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/nppl/changesfeb08.pdf>. The full ANO Amendment is at http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/pdf/uksi_20073467_en.pdf

Assistant Instructor Courses. The full 2008 schedule of Assistant Instructor courses is now available at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/bgacourses.htm>

Junior Gliding Championship. The Junior Championships take place on 2-10 August 2008 at Nympsfield. If your 26th birthday falls after 2008, you are eligible to enter. Although you must have a Silver badge and FAI Sporting licence to fly in the competition, you don't need to have them at the time of entry, as long as you complete them before the competition (should you be offered a place). Entries should be in by 31st March. Details of how to enter are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/juniors/juniors.htm>

ATSOCAS. We have previously reported about CAA plans to revise Air Traffic Services Outside Controlled Airspace (ATSOCAS) during this spring. After an initial evaluation of the responses from the public consultation, the CAA has decided to delay implementation of the proposed changes. More details are at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/ATSIN0125.pdf>. Further updates on this project will be given when available.

Trophy Rules. The BGA Competitions Committee has published revised rules relating to flights counting towards any BGA award or trophy. The revised rules can be found at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/trophyrules.pdf>

Airfield Security. The BGA would like to hear from clubs about ways in which they address the issue of airfield security so that we can forward examples of best practice to other clubs. We will not pass on details of individual clubs, just their methods. Please supply any information to Debbie Carr at the BGA office – debbie@gliding.co.uk

Southern England & Wales 1:500,000 Chart. The CAA has announced that publication of edition 34 of this chart has been postponed until 10 April. This delay is to ensure that the chart incorporates the TC SW airspace changes which come into effect the same day.

RAeC Newsletter. The Royal Aero Club's winter newsletter has been published and is available at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/documents/raec07q4.pdf>

Thwaites Grass Roots Sports Award. Daniel Thwaites brewery is seeking nominations from clubs for their Lancaster Bomber Sports Award. The award seeks to recognise the unsung heroes of grass roots sport. As well as recognition for the winner, the nominating club will receive a cash prize of £2000. More details at <http://www.thwaites.co.uk>