



# Newsletter

British Gliding Association

## BGA Newsletter February 2010

### Safety

**Airworthiness Directives.** The following ADs and inspections have been announced:

1. Thinback T104 and Slimpack T204 Parachutes. AD 2010-0009-E prohibiting use until inspected and reworked, of certain emergency parachutes manufactured by Fallschirmbau Buchsein/Hermesdorf GbR - Thinback T104 and Slimpack T204, due to ripcord cable faults that may cause parachute not to deploy.
2. Scheibe SF25C and SF25E. AD2010-0011-E for the before next flight inspection of tubular rivets used on the aileron hinges and tail plane connecting fittings and immediate replacement if brass tubular rivets found (Steel tubular rivets are OK).
3. PW5 and PW6. BGA Inspection issued Inspection 048/01/2010 issue 1 for the before next flight precautionary inspection of tail plane aft attachment fittings.

Fuller details of these and links to the definitive documents are on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/news.htm>

**Gadringer Gurte.** EASA has issued a Proposed Airworthiness Directive (PAD 10-010) at <http://ad.easa.europa.eu/ad/10-010>. Gadringer Gurte GMBH has supplied cockpit harnesses to many glider owners and repair both their own and other manufacturers' harnesses. We believe that this proposed AD does not apply to harnesses manufactured by Gadringer, but to ones from other manufacturers that have been repaired by Gadringer and the other companies named in the AD. The BGA is investigating this PAD and will respond to the proposed AD before the closing date of 10th February 2010.

**CAA General Aviation Safety Awards.** The CAA is inviting nominations for its General Aviation Safety Awards. Previous winners have been honoured for their display of good airmanship or practical skills and abilities when faced with potentially serious incidents directly related to flying. However, this year the CAA is also encouraging the GA community to nominate anyone who they feel has made a lasting contribution to aviation safety. Organisations can be nominated as well as individuals. Nominations can be submitted online on the CAA website [www.caa.co.uk/gasafetyaward](http://www.caa.co.uk/gasafetyaward) or by email to [richardd.taylor@caa.co.uk](mailto:richardd.taylor@caa.co.uk)

### BGA

**BGA Courses.** The 2010 programme of Assistant Instructors courses has been published at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/bgacourses.htm>. Last year, almost all places had been booked by April, so early booking is recommended. Courses must be booked through the BGA office – [office@gliding.co.uk](mailto:office@gliding.co.uk)

**Safety Committee Chair.** We are seeking a volunteer to chair the BGA Safety Committee to take over from Phil King as soon as practical. The task is to develop policies for the achievement of safe gliding and to influence those in gliding so as to bring about a reduction in the accident rate. Fuller details of the role are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/get-involved.htm> The Safety Committee meets approximately 4 times per year. Out of pocket expenses are paid by the BGA. Please apply in confidence or seek further information from Pete Stratten - [pete@gliding.co.uk](mailto:pete@gliding.co.uk)

**BGA Conference.** A reminder that the BGA Sporting Conference is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March at Daventry. As ever, the event is free to attend and, with presentations from some of our leading pilots, the upgraded BGA simulator and an exhibition of all things gliding, there is something for everybody. In the evening, there is the ever-popular awards ceremony and dinner, so why not make a week-end of it? Full details are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/notices/conference.htm>

**Competition Development.** After the success of the inaugural Comp-ette last year, the usual suspects have been prevailed upon to run the 2nd North and South Compette at Lasham and Pocklington on 24/25 April 2010. As last year, there will be cross-country racing when weather permits, as well as de-briefs and analysis. Details, celebrities and entry fee etc are not yet confirmed, but please do let us know if you want to reserve a place: Tim Milner ([timmilnervs@googlemail.com](mailto:timmilnervs@googlemail.com)) for Pocklington or Liz Sparrow ([ebertoya@iee.org](mailto:ebertoya@iee.org)) for Lasham. This is the competition with a difference: it is for everyone to learn how to fly faster and not necessarily about winning. But, having said that... (if you're a southerner) it is a chance to avenge last year's sneaky capture of the N&S trophy / (or, if you are a northerner) make sure we rub the faces of the soft southerners further into the dirt!

## Regulatory

**Competition Anti-Doping Procedures.** Further to previously published advice, we have received a small number of Emails asking us to clarify whether testing will be introduced at BGA rated competitions and whether, as a consequence, competitors will be required to obtain TUEs for therapeutic drugs that they need to take but which may contain banned substances. The BGA is not currently under any pressure, nor does it have any plans in the foreseeable future, to introduce testing at national or regional competitions, or to introduce out of competition testing. For more detail see <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/competitions/news.htm>

## General

**GPS Files for Club Access.** With the increasing use of satellite navigation aids in cars, Geoff Brown of Cambridge GC has created a Points-of-Interest file which identifies the road-side access point for the airfield of each UK gliding club. The complete file can be loaded into a Garmin or TomTom Sat Nav. The files can be downloaded from <http://www.gliding.co.uk/findaclub/clubgps.zip>