



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter January 2006

Glider Identification Markings. Following a recent incident with a glider carrying unapproved markings and which involved the CAA Enforcement Branch, the BGA would like to remind all pilots, owners and clubs that they must comply with the established BGA rules and procedures for the allocation and display of glider identification markings. Whether nationally registered or not, and regardless of use, all gliders should carry either an approved BGA tri-graph or competition number. This is not only a regulatory issue; fin identification markings have been proven to aid situational awareness in crowded soaring environments. BGA inspectors are being reminded that C of A applications will only be accepted where the correct markings have been clearly described on the accompanying BGA Form 267. More details about BGA trigraphs/ competition numbers are available at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/GliderIdentification.pdf>. Advice about national registration and G-nnnn markings is available in AMP Leaflet 3-7, available at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/ampmanual/3-7.pdf>.

Registering Gliders. On a similar theme, comments received suggest that it is worth reiterating a couple of points about registering gliders with the CAA. At present, this requirement only applies to new or newly imported gliders being registered for the first time in the UK. 1) The registration marks must comply with CAP 523 (available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/homepage>) regarding the font, format, size, spacing and position. AMP leaflet 3-7 (see link above) helps with the interpretation of these rules. 2) The registration process is usually in two parts: allocation of a registration mark to allow painting etc; and the actual registration itself. The glider is not registered until the CAA has issued a Registration Document and is not allowed to fly until that has been issued. It is illegal to fly a CAA aircraft unless it is displaying the correct marks and is registered

Transponders Update. Carr Withall has provided us with an update on the current situation concerning transponders. The Regulatory Impact Assessment has been delayed, but we believe that a formal consultation process will begin in Spring 2006 and last for 12 weeks. We will provide further updates when available.

8.33KHz Radios. We have been assured by the CAA that current VHF band radios will remain in use for at least a further 15 years.

Marketing Seminars. The BGA is running its Club Marketing Seminars again over the next month. These cover all aspects of marketing but will focus on: identifying the target audience and messages for them; how to get your message across; and working with the media. The seminars are presented by Keith Auchterlonie, the BGA Comms Officer and Helen Evans, Editor of S&G. Dates and venues are: Sun 22 January - Husbands Bosworth (fully booked); Sat 4 Feb – Lasham; Sun 5 Feb – Rufforth. Attendance is free, but places are limited so please book yours as soon as possible with Keith - keith@gliding.co.uk. A copy of the agenda is on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/clubmanagement>.

Conference Update. The BGA conference programme is taking shape. Confirmed workshops provide something for everyone and include the British Team coaches explaining how team coaching processes can benefit you and your club; aerobatic experts explaining the fun to be had from this highly skilled extension of our sport; a marketing seminar offering practical advice about running a media day at your club; a discussion of glider cockpit technology developments; and a presentation by two of the UK's most successful cross country racing pilots highlighting the fantastic opportunities associated with thermal and wave soaring. The usual trade stands as well as exciting new products will be on show and there will be ample opportunity to catch up with old mates. The BGA AGM will take place in the afternoon followed by further presentations and our keynote speaker. The evening event promises to be another good one – book your club table ASAP to avoid disappointment! Once again the wide array of BGA Silver will be presented to the fastest, highest, bravest and, dare we say, occasionally luckiest of 2005! Don't forget to book a hotel room well before the event to qualify for a discount. Further details are on the website. Bookings can be made online at <http://www.glidering.co.uk>, by printed booking form or by phone. Call 0116 2531051 and ask for Debbie Carr.

NPPL SLMG Theoretical Examinations. With effect from 28th February 2006, NPPL SLMG applicants are required to pass the JAR-FCL PPL theoretical knowledge examinations. NPPL SLMG licence applications will be rejected if any UK PPL A theoretical examinations are used after this date. Where UK PPL A examination papers have been used before 28th February 2006, the full period of validity will apply. All NPPL SLMG flight and ground examiners were issued with the JAR-FCL examination papers in December 2005. These are effective from 3rd January 2006. Pilots currently working through the NPPL theoretical exams are advised to discuss these changes with an NPPL SLMG examiner.

British Team Development Training. Applications are invited for this year's team development training. The training, run by members of the senior coaching squad, will be in April at Ontur in Spain. The training is open to pilots of all ages, who have the potential to fly for the UK in the future. Young pilots are particularly encouraged to apply – 4 of the 2005 junior team are ineligible to compete in the 2007 championships and replacements need to be identified now. Further details and an application form are available at <http://www.glidering.co.uk/competitions>. *Note: Due to an Email problem, we are asking everybody who has already applied for inclusion in the programme to resend their applications to training@gliding.co.uk. Applications need to be received by 16th January.*

Women Pilots' Development Day. The British Team has organised a women pilots' development day at Bicester on Saturday 14 Jan. The agenda will include an introduction to international competitions, how to fly faster, objective setting for 2006 and further information on what development training opportunities are available. British Team members will be leading the sessions. If you are female, a cross-country pilot (or aspire to be) and you haven't yet done so, please contact Liz Sparrow (ebertoya@iee.org) and let her know if you will be attending. (If you're not sure about whether you approve of all-female gliding events, come along, listen, harangue those who have become convinced, and make your own mind up!)

BGA Executive Committee Nominations. All BGA Clubs are reminded that nominations for BGA Chairman and BGA Executive Committee members must be received by 27th January 2006 on the forms supplied to all club secretaries during December 2005.

CAA Safety Evenings. Further dates and venues have been added to this winter's schedule of CAA safety evenings. A full list is at <http://www.caa.co.uk/ga>