



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter January 2009

NPA2008-17. The deadline for responses to NPA2008-17, the EASA consultation on pilot licensing, has been put back to 28th February. Given the great significance of these EASA proposals to us, we are asking all pilots to consider them and respond with their own views. Over the last few weeks, the BGA has further developed its response and the latest draft of this, together with additional information, is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/nppl/futurelicensing.htm>. Glider pilots who have used an earlier BGA response text to form their own responses to NPA 2008-17 are urged to consider the latest BGA response before finalising their own comments. You can respond using the EASA Comment Response Tool at <http://hub.easa.europa.eu/crt>.

European Mandatory Insurance Update. As stated in BGA Operational Regulation 1.9, EC mandatory insurance requirements are based on an aircraft's MTOM and are denominated in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs). In 2004, an SDR was worth £0.80 so, for single seat aircraft with a MTOM of 500 to 999 kg, the mandatory minimum requirement of 1.5M SDRs had a Sterling equivalent of around £1.2M. The BGA Operational Regulation limit of £1.3M looked prudent and safe. However, recent falls in the value of Sterling mean that £1.3M is now insufficient to satisfy the 1.5M SDR requirement. BGA OR 1.9 will be addressed in due course but, in the meantime, the BGA advises that aircraft and glider owners ensure that their insurance cover meets EC requirements. A leading broker has advised that increasing cover from £1.3M to £1.75M will result in an annual premium increase in the order of £15 per glider.

Mode S. The CAA has published a summary of responses to last year's Mode S consultation. This also contains their response to the key issues raised and sets out their proposed further development of Mode S policy. The documents are at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=1698&pagetype=90&pageid=9307>. The BGA is currently considering its position and will inform members about its response in due course. There was a total of 1982 responses to the consultation of which 1582 (79.8%) were from those involved in gliding. We thank everybody who took the time to understand the CAA proposals and respond to the consultations.

Chairmen's Conference and Treasurers' Forum. Saturday 24th January, Woodside, Kenilworth. Time is running out to book your place at this year's conference. The annual conundrum (how-to-squeeze-everything-in-to-just-one-day) has been solved (we think!) and shaped into a draft agenda. This and all the other details you need to book your place are now available on the BGA website at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/clubmanagement>. If you need further information or have any questions, please contact alison@gliding.co.uk

RAeS Gliding Scholarships. Once again, the Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial Scholarship Fund has generously provided funding for us to offer up to 20 flying scholarships. These are available to young glider pilots and to other young people wishing to take up the sport. To apply, you must be between 15 and 17 years old, in full time education, and not yet have flown solo. Both existing club members and newcomers to the sport are eligible. Applications, which must be countersigned by your

CFI, must be made to the BGA by 26 February; successful applicants will be notified during April. Full details and an application form are on the Juniors page of the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/juniors>

Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries. A reminder that applications for Royal Aero Club Trust Flying for Youth 2009 bursaries must be received by the BGA no later than 1st March (to allow time for counter-signature and submission before the RAeC deadline of 31 March). These bursaries, each of up to £500, are for anyone between 16 and 21 who wants to progress their interest in either air sports or aviation. Many young glider pilots have benefited from these bursaries in previous years. Details are available at <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries.html>. We are very grateful to the Trust for once again making these bursaries available.

Air League Trust Gliding Scholarships. These are also currently open for applications from pilots aged between 16 and 26. See the December newsletter for details or go to <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/juniors/juniors.htm>

BGA Marketing Grants. The first BGA Marketing Grant has been made to Bath, Wilts & N Dorset GC. The grant, for £290, is to assist with public gliding displays within final glide of the Park, with the aim of raising profile and increasing membership. Funds are available on a first come, first served basis – more at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/clubmanagement/documents.htm#mktg>

Improve your Competition Flying in 2009. Make a New Year resolution to improve your competition flying by putting the following dates in your diary: Sunday 8 February - Bicester. British Team members and coaches will be covering topics and tips on how to fly faster and score more points. This will be based around interactive sessions and will include master-classes in areas such as getting more out of task setting, the weather and instrumentation. Sat 25/Sun 26 April - Spring 'Comp-ette' - Lasham. This week-end will pick up on the topics covered in February and let you put them into practice in the sky (and later in the bar!) Bring your single seater - we hope to have some two-seater places available. Priority at this will be given to those who attended the February session. To register interest and book a place on the day and the Comp-ette, email Liz Sparrow ebertoya@iee.org

GASIL. The latest edition of GASIL (December 2008) is available on the CAA web site at http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gasil5of2008.pdf. This edition includes, among other topics, an item about crossing ATZs within MATZs and a listing of upcoming CAA General Aviation Safety Evenings.

Military/Civil Air Safety Day (MCASD). The MoD will be hosting another MCASD at RAF Shawbury on May 20th 2009. All pilots and others involved in General Aviation are invited to attend. Details and an application form are at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AirSafetyandAviationPublications/FlightSafety/Mcasd20091.htm>

RAeS Sailplane Aerodynamics Lecture. The Royal Aeronautical Society is hosting a lecture on recent advances in Sailplane Aerodynamics at 6pm on Tuesday 17th February. The lecture, in the RAeS headquarters at 10 Hamilton Place, London W1, will be given by Loek Boermans, the President of OSTIV and Associate Professor of Aerodynamics at Delft University. There is no charge but you are asked to let the organisers know if you plan to attend. More details are at <http://www.raes.org.uk/conference/indexlect.html>