



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter July 2002

Junior Subscriptions: Thank you to all clubs who provided information about junior member numbers. This has now been analysed and the Executive has agreed in principle that the junior capitation fee will be set at 50% of the new adult rate. This decision needs to be ratified by an EGM of the Association. National office will be writing to all clubs giving details of this shortly. This new policy should be welcomed and will hopefully make it easier for clubs to attract and retain junior members.

European Championships: These are being held this year at Békéscsaba in Hungary between the 14th and 27th July. The UK team is competing in all four classes and hopes to repeat last year's successes which resulted in 5 individual world champions. Good luck to the guys.

Windfarms: A Threat on the Horizon? The proliferation of wind turbines is causing serious concern. At least two gliding sites have been actively threatened by windfarm developments in recent months. Clubs without formal airfield safeguarding policies may need professional help to challenge and remove any threat to operational safety posed by windfarm developments. If you are concerned about site security, for whatever reason, please contact the BGA as a first step. The Development Committee can recommend specialist help and the BGA Planning and Environment Fund is available to support clubs faced with professional charges in such cases.

2002 Chairman's Conference: This will be held at Husbands Bosworth on Saturday 2nd November. Further details will follow in due course but make a note in your diary now.

100km Diploma: Last year, with the change of handicapping system the handicapped speed required for the 100km diploma was increased from 60kph to 65kph. There are still some claims being made using the old forms which state the old speed. Please could all clubs make sure they have a copy of the latest form to avoid making claims which are not fast enough. The new form is available for download from the BGA web site.

National Pilots Licence: The National Private Pilots Licence (NPPL) has now been introduced as a recreational flying licence with the aim of reducing the cost of flying, whilst maintaining standards. A new section has been added to the BGA web site explaining more about the NPPL. To find out more, see www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/nppl/introduction.htm

PFA Rally: The BGA stand at the PFA Rally at the end of June was a great success, being visited by a lot of genuinely interested people who want to try gliding – everybody from jet pilots to microlighters. As well as providing good public exposure, we also sold about £600 worth of stock and the web site experienced a significant increase in activity during the following week. Thanks to everybody who helped out.

Accident Briefs: The 'Chief Flying Instructors Post Accident Guide' is now available on the BGA web site. Hopefully, the guide will be a useful addition to any information promulgated by clubs themselves. For details, see www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/safety/forms/cfipostaccident.pdf

Importantly, the AAIB are concerned that the format of our accident reports does not fall completely in line with the Civil Aviation Investigation of Air Accidents and Incidents Regulations 1996. Our documentation is fine insofar as it goes, but the 'CFI's conclusions and recommendations' and the final 'Chairman's report' (which is seldom if ever completed!) should conform to the format shown at Annex B to the Post Accident Guide. This is a simplification of the ICAO format used by all air accident investigation units subscribing to ICAO. It is not necessary to place narrative under every heading in the report. However, the heading should be completed, perhaps with 'not applicable' as comment. Using the guide will help to ensure that all aspects of any accident are covered and that findings, causal factors, conclusions and recommendations will be well supported by evidence.

S&G Survey: If you are one of the S&G subscribers who recently received a copy of the S&G readership questionnaire but haven't yet filled it in, please do so if you possibly can. Your views matter. If you received one and have already returned it, thank you!

Parachute Zones: Following the recent tragic accident at Hinton resulting in the deaths of a glider pilot and a parachutist we are concerned to be receiving more reports of potential conflicts between gliders being flown close to parachute drop zones and free falling sport parachutists. Please take every sensible precaution and exercise good airmanship when flying in these areas. An up to date list of all parachuting sites is being issued to clubs by the BGA office.

For Sale: BGA SCHEIBE SF25C FALKE. 1991, 2 litre Limbach engine & variable pitch propeller in good condition. Approx 2500 flying hours, CofA until June 2003. Offers. Contact Dave Bullock for further information on 01869 357079

Communications Officer: This edition of the newsletter has been produced by the new BGA Communications Officer (that's me!). My name is Keith Auchterlonie and I have been an active glider pilot for some 9 years. Until my move to Scotland (new job, new house) last week, I was a member at Bath, Wilts & N Dorset GC and now plan to fly from Portmoak. Apart from editing this newsletter (which will become a regular monthly event), my main tasks are to seek increased exposure for our sport in the media, provide communications and marketing assistance to member clubs and generally to improve communications between the BGA and its members. More information about these initiatives will follow. If anybody has news which they would like to see in the next edition, please contact me on 01334 828830 or by email: keith@gliding.co.uk