



# Newsletter

British Gliding Association

## BGA Newsletter July 2005

**GASIL.** The latest (June 2005) edition of GASIL is now available for download from the CAA web site -  
[http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/SRG\\_GAD\\_GASIL%202%20OF%202005.PDF](http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/SRG_GAD_GASIL%202%20OF%202005.PDF)

**International Competition.** The international gliding season has now begun. First off the mark are the men who are competing in the European Championships in Finland and Slovakia. Defending champion, Russell Cheetham is joined by Pete Harvey and Kim Tipple in the Open Class in Finland, together with Patrick Naegeli and Leigh Wells in the 15m class. In Slovakia, twin world champions Andy Davis and Jez Hood fly in the Standard Class along with Steve and Phil Jones in the 18m and Jay Rebbeck and Owain Walters in the Club Class. At the end of the month, the women's team of Rose Johnson, Sarah Kelman, Liz Sparrow, Gill Spreckley, and Lucy Withall start in the Women's World Championships in Germany. Daily updates are available at <http://www.glidingteam.co.uk>.

**GPS Jamming Trials.** GPS jamming trials are due to take place in Wales from 30 August to 16 September, and may affect reception over a considerable area. An AIC will be issued giving more details and pilots who intend using a GPS receiver during that period are advised to consult that AIC, which will be available on the AIS web site, <http://www.ais.org.uk>

**FAI/IGC Gliding Week.** A reminder that as part of the FAI Centenary celebrations, all pilots worldwide are being invited to log the kilometers that they fly (no matter how few) during the period 9-24 July (northern hemisphere). You can find full details at <http://www.fai.org/gliding/centenary>.

**Ted Lysakowski Awards 2006.** The Ted Lysakowski Memorial Trust will be making two awards for 2006 – a place on a one week cross country course at Lasham and a mountain flying course. The awards are designed to provide a stepping stone to another level of gliding experience that the recipient might not otherwise achieve, whether because of financial reasons, confidence issues or family commitments. Applications should be submitted by 31 October. For more information and an application form, see your club CFI. Alternatively contact George Metcalfe – [George\\_Metcalfe@uk.ibm.com](mailto:George_Metcalfe@uk.ibm.com)

**New SRE for North East.** Bruce Tapson has taken over as the new Senior Regional Examiner for the North East. Contact details for Bruce are on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/instructors/contacts.htm>

**Bogus Parts.** We have had reports of the elevator drive pins on the top of the fin in a Mini Nimbus bending. On investigation the parts were found to be counterfeit. Counterfeit parts are a recurring theme and a potential problem for everyone.

Extra vigilance is required to spot counterfeit parts. It may be tempting to use these if genuine parts are not immediately available. However, this is potentially dangerous. The message is – use genuine parts. Don't risk suffering an in flight failure.

**Accident Report Forms.** We are still receiving a fair number of accident/incident report forms which do not show the glider's BGA number. This is causing both the office and volunteers with significant extra work, trying to identify the glider from the other 'clues' provided. In some cases, this is almost impossible due to the lack of information provided by clubs. This extra effort, of course, takes up time that could be more usefully spent – renewing CofAs, etc. Clubs are asked again to ensure that they use the latest version of the form and that they complete it fully.

**Hay Fever Remedies.** Now that the hay fever season is in full swing, a reminder that some anti-histamines can cause drowsiness. If you need treatment, seek advice from an Aviation Medicine Specialist so that modern drugs, which do not degrade human performance, can be prescribed. Some anti-histamines, such as diphenhydramine, are marketed as 'over the counter' medications, specifically to aid sleep. They have been implicated as a contributory cause in several aircraft accidents. These drugs should not be used by flight crew. AIC 99 of 2004 (Pink 72) contains advice on 'Medication, alcohol and flying', and Safety Sense leaflet 24, available in LASORS 2005 and the CAA website (link through "publications" and "general aviation") - <http://www.caa.co.uk> - contains advice on pilot health.

**CAA Safety Evenings.** The first details of CAA Safety Evenings for this winter are now available. You can see dates and venues in the latest edition of GASIL.

**Metcheck.** Metcheck have upgraded their website with a new aviation page including gliding related info. The aviation page is at <http://www.metcheck.com/V40/UK/HOBBIES/aviation.asp>

**ATC Service Review.** The CAA is carrying out a review of Air Traffic Control services outside of controlled airspace. The BGA will be contributing to this via the BGA Airspace Committee. In parallel, the CAA is running a poster campaign related to this subject: "Tell us what you want – your view counts". This is, presumably, designed to gauge the general opinion of the GA community prior to formal responses. At this stage, however, the BGA is not asking for individuals to make representation to the CAA.

**Met Training for Glider Pilots.** Could you benefit from aviation met training? What topics would you like to see covered? The Met Office is considering introducing short training courses aimed specifically at glider pilots and balloonists, to be launched in 2006 given sufficient demand. They are currently seeking feedback to help them gauge demand and identify the most appropriate content. You can get more information and air your views at [http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/training/ct\\_aviation.html](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/training/ct_aviation.html)

**Dynafoam Seat Cushions.** It appears that mice like Dynafoam! A seat cushion was extensively eaten by mice when a glider was left outside one night. Our advice - if you must leave a glider out overnight, remove Dynafoam seat cushions.

**Flying Club Fund Scam.** Flying clubs (including the BGA) are currently being targeted in an Email scam. The Email, which appears to originate from South Africa, suggests that funds are available for flying clubs and their members. If you receive an Email about this, you are advised not to respond.