



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter July 2006

World Gliding Championship Success. Congratulations to all the British team on their outstanding performance at the World Gliding Championships which took place in Sweden in early June. The team won the overall team cup and there were individual gold medals for Leigh Wells in the Standard Class and for Phil Jones in the 18m Class. Jez Hood and Pete Harvey took bronze medals in the Standard and Open classes respectively. The scene shifts to Vinon sur Verdon in France later this month when Richard Hood, Jay Rebbeck and Luke Rebbeck take part in the World Club Class Championships. You can follow their progress between 15th and 28th July at <http://www.wgc2006.fr>.

Transponders. The CAA is proposing to amend the Air Navigation Order to introduce the carriage of transponders in ALL aircraft in ALL UK airspace from March 31st 2008. An article by Carr Withall, Chairman of the BGA Airspace Committee is at http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/tponds_art.pdf. In this, he asks individuals and clubs to download the CAA consultation document and ensure that your club and/or you as an individual replies. The BGA will also respond to the proposal and this response will be put on the web site by 31st July. The closing date for replies to the CAA is 29th August 2006. It will be helpful if any individual, BGA club, or gliding business responses are copied to the BGA office at office@gliding.co.uk.

RAeS Scholarships. Once again, the Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial Scholarship Fund has generously provided funding for up to 40 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 of age, in full time education, and not yet have flown solo. Both existing club members and newcomers to the sport are eligible. The scholarships will be paid in the form of a credit to the successful applicant's club flying account. Club CFIs have been sent full details of the scheme. Applications - which must be countersigned by your CFI - should be made to the BGA by 30 September; the successful applicants will be notified by 31 October. Full details at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/juniors>

Temporary Restricted Airspace. The list of TRAs most likely to affect gliding operations over the next few months has been updated and can be found at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/introduction.htm#AICS>. Pilots should remember that this list is not definitive and that they should continue to check the AIS web site (<http://www.ais.org.uk>) regularly to ensure that they are aware of air space changes that might affect them, in addition to checking NOTAMs before every flight.

Bristol/ Cardiff Airspace. The Bristol / Cardiff Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) has now been approved by the Directorate of Airspace Policy. The confirmed introduction date is 31 Aug 2006. The enhanced airspace will ensure connectivity for both airports with the en-route airways structure, whilst the ICAO classification will allow VFR aircraft continued access. SIDs and STARs (Standard Instrument Departure / Standard Arrivals) will be published for both airports as part of the

change. The CAA will be finalising details of draft Letters of Agreement soon. Both Bristol and Cardiff will be presenting a series of road shows to explain the airspace and its impact to the various flying communities.

New Charts. The following aeronautical charts have been or are scheduled for release: 1:500,000 Scotland, ed 14 (6 July); 1:250,000 N Scotland East, ed 4 (6 July); 1:250,000 England East, ed 7 (8 June).

Aerotowing Guidance Notes. Further to the article in the current S&G by BGA Senior Tug Pilot John Marriott, the BGA has now published a comprehensive set of guidelines for aerotowing. They are essential reading for all tug pilots; all glider pilots would benefit from reading them as well. The document can be downloaded from <http://www.gliding.co.uk/clubmanagement/documents/aerotownotes.pdf>

Tugging Information. There is a new section on the BGA web site, dedicated to the needs of tug pilots. You can visit it at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/tugpilots>. We have also set up a new Email alert category for this subject. You can subscribe to it (and all other categories) at <https://www.gliding.co.uk/subscriptions>

Part 21 Alignment. The BGA Executive Committee has agreed with the Department for Transport that gliders first flown in the UK after 28/9/2003 should all be aligned with Part 21 certification standards over the 12 months from March 2007. The BGA will be contacting all owners and operators shortly to explain the implications; however it is the aim of the BGA that owners and operators should experience the minimum of inconvenience during this inevitable transition to regulated certification.

NPA 06/2006. The BGA and the EGU are responding to this EASA Notice of Proposed Amendment to recommend that gliding sites should not be regulated with respect to aerodrome interoperability and safety as proposed in the NPA. However, the BGA is concerned that, where gliding operations run alongside other operations, these requirements do need to be taken into account within the regulation.

Met Course for Glider Pilots. Lasham is running a 2 day Advanced Met for Soaring Pilots course. The course is for active glider pilots who would like to take their understanding of soaring weather further. It is a practical course tailored to the specific needs of soaring pilots and presented by someone who has had an extensive career in hands-on aviation forecasting in the Royal Navy. The next two dates are October 14/15 and November 18/19. The cost is £89 (£75 for Lasham members). More details at <http://www.lasham.org.uk/learning/met.html>.

UK Soaring Forecasts. A new service providing soaring forecasts for the UK has been launched. This is a commercial service, available by subscription but access to UK forecasts is available free of charge until 16th July. You can try the system at http://www.wetter-jetzt.de/prod/020!022!paketGlidingAbo2h?area=uk&day=0&from=n1bga&lang=en_GB.

GASIL. The latest edition of GASIL, the CAA's General Aviation Safety Information Leaflet is available at http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gad_gasil2of2006.pdf

CAA Safety Evenings. The programme for the coming winter season (October to March) is almost complete. Organisations wishing to host an event are invited to contact the CAA by e-mail at david.cockburn@srg.caa.co.uk. Dates so far are at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=224&pagetype=69>