



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter June 2006

Rigging & DI. The BGA has recently received several incident reports which relate to very worrying instances of mis-rigging. Very fortunately, none of these resulted in injury or damage (hence the term incident), but the consequences could so easily have been tragic. Question – what is an incident? Answer – an accident waiting to happen! Please take the greatest care and concentrate 100% when rigging and DI'ing your glider – your life and those of your syndicate partners depends on it. More details are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/safety>

AICs. A large number of Aeronautical Information Circulars (AICs) have been published recently. Many of these relate to major events and may impact gliding operations in the busy summer months. All pilots should 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. A summary of those AICs most likely to affect gliding operations is on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/airspace> - pilots should note that this list is not definitive and should always refer to the AIS web site.

CAA Consultation on Transponders. The CAA has opened a consultation on the increased use of transponders. This runs until 29th August. The BGA will be responding and is working to retain existing freedoms and limit the potential social, economic and bureaucratic burdens so often associated with regulatory changes affecting our sport. We are asking all clubs to respond and will provide guidance shortly. Consultation details are at <http://www.caa.co.uk/dapconsultations>. It would be helpful if any responses from individuals, clubs or gliding business were copied to us at office@gliding.co.uk.

Aeronautical Charts. A new ½ million (1:500,000) chart for Northern England & Northern Ireland has been published. The chart, price £13.99, is available through normal channels. All cross country pilots must, by law, carry current charts for the areas they are flying in. A full list of current charts is on the CAA web site at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?categoryid=64&pagetype=90&pageid=571>

World Gliding Championships. The World Gliding Championships are under way at Eskilstuna in Sweden and continue until June 17th. The very strong UK team, ranked No 1 in the world, comprises: Standard Class – defending champion, Andy Davis, ex World Junior Champion, Jez Hood and last year's European bronze medallist, Leigh Wells; Open Class - Pete Harvey and Russell Cheetham, gold and silver European Championship medallists; 18m class – ex World Champion Steve Jones, 2nd at the last worlds and Phil Jones, 3rd last time around. See the competition web site <http://www.wgc2006.se> for the latest results and the gliding team web site <http://www.gldingteam.co.uk> for news, views and gossip.

CAP 413: Radiotelephony Manual. Edition 16 of this is now on the CAA web site at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP413.PDF>. Effective 1st May 2006, it incorporates recent changes to UK phraseology and communication procedures.

Regional Technical Officers. The BGA is seeking to appoint RTOs for two new regions, Central and Central North and, due to an unexpected retirement, Wales & W Midlands. Established inspectors interested in this fulfilling voluntary role should contact Debbie at the BGA office for an information pack. More details on the new regions are in BGA Engineering News – <http://www.gliding.co.uk/technical>

Change to C of A Renewals Administration. With immediate effect, BGA C of A's will be returned to the registered owner after renewal and not to the recommending inspector. It will be the owner's responsibility to affix the C of A sticker in the glider and keep the C of A in a safe place. This change comes after many requests from inspectors and owners and is in line with industry standards.

G Registrations. A reminder that all gliders that were registered with the BGA from 28/9/2003 until 28/9/2005 must obtain a CAA "G" registration at the next C of A renewal. Details of how to do this are in BGA AMP Manual leaflet 3-7 (<http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/ampmanual.htm>).

New Fire Safety Regulations. From October employers, premises owners and outdoor event organisers will be required to undertake fire safety risk assessments. Sports clubs are covered within the new regulations as 'small to medium places of assembly.' The Department for Communities and Local Government is developing guidance to help those affected to implement the new regulations. Further information is at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162101>

Oxygen Cylinders. Further to our advice on testing of Glider Oxygen Cylinders (May 2006 Newsletter), we have obtained clarification of the extremely complex Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations. It appears that there is an exemption for older aviation oxygen cylinders manufactured before May 2004. However difficulties in testing these cylinders may be experienced as the new system is adopted. New cylinders are subject to the regulations as and when they become due for periodic testing.

Royal Aero Club News. The latest edition of the Royal Aero Club Newsletter is available at <http://www.royalaeroclub.org/news064.htm>

Met Office Courses for Pilots. The Met Office is offering a Met for Gliders course designed to help glider pilots develop their knowledge of aviation weather. The two day course will be held at the Met Office in Exeter from 31 August to 1 September, price £249 + VAT. More details, including a syllabus and booking form are at http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/training/ct_aviation_syllabus.html#met4gliders

RAeS Lecture. The RAeS are hosting a lecture on Tuesday 4th July (6pm) to be given by Air Cdre Owen Truelove. He will describe how he justified, planned and undertook his flight in his Stemme 10V from the UK to New Zealand. There will also be a chance to see and discuss future motor glider designs. The lecture will be followed by a reception, sponsored by Stemme. The event will be at the RAeS HQ in Hamilton Place, London W1. All are welcome to attend but please RSVP first to conference@raes.org.uk. More details at <http://www.aerosociety.com>

BBC Nation on Film. The BBC is producing a 30 minute documentary about flying in their Nation on Film series. The series looks at the past through the medium of archive film footage. The producers are attempting to source gliding footage, preferably pre-war. If anybody can help, please would they contact Ben Laidlow (ben.laidlow@bbc.co.uk)?