



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter
June 2009

Safety

Fast Jet Displays. The AIC defining areas of temporary restricted airspace RA(T) to protect fast jet displays such as the Red Arrows has been published covering the period to late July. Please read this to help avoid any repeat of past incursions- see http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/aip/current/aic/mauve/EG_Circ_2009_M_028_en.pdf. The BGA web site has a calendar of all RA(T)s that may affect gliding – please check this regularly at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/rats.php>

Queen's Birthday Flypast. A large flypast of Buckingham Palace, comprising the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and 26 fast jets, will take place on Saturday 13th June. The fast jet formation will join up near Southwold and then route Colchester-Fairlop-Buckingham Palace-Northolt-Halton-Brize Norton, with the BBMF routing Waterbeach-Stansted-Fairlop-Buckingham Palace-Hendon-Northolt-Halton. Transit altitudes will be 1,500-3,000 ft amsl. Rehearsals will take place in East Anglia between 9 and 12 June. Pilots flying in the area should ensure they are aware of the restricted airspace in place for this event. The AIC detailing this is at http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/aip/current/aic/mauve/EG_Circ_2009_M_030_en.pdf.

Glider Cockpit Safety. In some glider types it is possible for a pilot to slide backwards and upwards on the launch under certain circumstances, such as a rapidly accelerating winch launch. When this happens, the control column may be pulled back, with an inevitable stall/spin potential. In the past there has been a fatal accident and a serious incident due to this cause. A technical solution to this problem is being developed for one particular glider, the Standard Cirrus, and in due course will be presented to EASA for approval. Gliders with purpose designed seat backs tend not to be affected. Meanwhile, it is suggested that, where sliding backwards could be an issue, an anti slip surface and/or solid cushions are used behind the pilot and the seat harness is especially tight before the glider is launched. There is a view that small pilots are particularly at risk.

Model Flying Near Airfields. Gliders and powered aircraft were recently seen flying over an area temporarily being used for model rocket flying to 7000ft, despite a NOTAM warning of the activity. The model flyers had not spoken to the local airfield operators. The BGA and the British Model Flying Association have discussed how to avoid a similar situation in future. Gliding clubs and pilots are respectfully reminded of the need for NOTAM checking when operating in the local area - not just when flying cross country. Model flyers are being advised by the BMFA to contact any nearby airfield before flying model aircraft and rockets even if they have a NOTAM in place.

Regulatory

Stansted TMZ. NATS has published the Stakeholder Consultation Feedback report relating to proposals for Transponder Mandatory Zones under the Stansted CTA. Following objections from 139 of the 168 responders, including the BGA, NATS will now proceed with an airspace change proposal (ACP) to the CAA for the introduction of a TMZ that will initially cover only the two stub areas. The report will be available on the NATS web site in due course – <http://www.nats.co.uk>

Norwich Class D Airspace. Norwich airport has put forward a proposal for a significant area of class D controlled airspace. The proposal document is at http://www.norwichairport.co.uk/downloads/Consultation_Document_Final_V1_1-20_April_2009.pdf. The BGA Airspace Committee will be responding. Guidance for those wishing to submit their own responses will be published in due course on the BGA website. The consultation closing date is 10 August 2009.

BGA

Instructor Course. Due to a cancellation we have one place available on Assistant Instructor Course 6/09 running from 6-14 June at Lasham. Please contact Debbie at the BGA office for more details - debbie@gliding.co.uk

Junior Cross Country Coaching. The BGA is providing a small number of places on a junior cross country course being run alongside the Junior Championships by Mike Fox with supporting coaches. Aspiring young pilots who have their Bronze badge are invited to apply for a place on this BGA funded course, to be held at the London Gliding Club, Dunstable, 22-30 August. Please submit an application in writing, giving your age, gliding experience, home club, a good reason why you should have one of the very limited places on the course and confirmation that you can definitely attend. Signed applications should be clearly marked 'Junior Coaching Application' and sent to the BGA office office@gliding.co.uk. In addition to the limited number of course places, BGA clubs are invited to join this BGA course with their own two seat glider and with a suitably experienced coach to fly one or more of their own Junior pilots. It's a bit easier for all to teach cross country flying with lots of markers on track and other experts on hand for briefing and debriefing. And, importantly, the more people that get involved, the more fun everyone will have! Clubs can contact Pete Stratten by email for more details including available funding – pete@gliding.co.uk

Bronze Endorsement Form. The Bronze endorsement form has been changed to reflect an additional test requirement. Prospective applicants and instructors should note that the BGA office will not accept Bronze endorsement applications after 1 July 2009 that are not submitted on this new form. The form is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/bronzeclaim.pdf>

Competitions

World Air Games. The World Air Games will take place at Turin between 6th and 14th June. All major airports will be featured. The gliding event, at which the UK is being represented by World Champions Sarah Kelman and Gill Spreckley will involve Grand Prix style racing. The six leading pilots after a four race series will qualify for the final. As all previous scoring will be disregarded for final, there will be everything to fly for in what should be an exciting head to head race. More information is at <http://www.wag2009.com/eng/>

International Championships. A busy summer of international championships in the traditional format gets under way when the FAI Junior World Gliding Championships begin on 24th June at Rayskala in Finland. The UK team is Mike Collett, Will Ellis and Shaun McLaughlin in the Club Class, with Stuart Carmichael, Tom Smith and Charlie Tagg in the Standard Class. The European Championship events for the flapped classes starts on 29th June at Nitra in Slovakia with the UK being represented by Tim Scott and Leigh Wells (15m Class); Russell Cheetham and Mike Young (18m Class); and Pete Harvey, Ed Johnston and Steve Jones (Open Class). The European Championships for the unflapped classes and the FAI Womens World Championships both follow in late July at Pociunai, Lithuania and Szeged, Hungary respectively.

General

RAeC Newsletter. The Spring 2009 edition of the Royal Aero Club newsletter has been published and can be read at <http://www.royalaeroclub.org/news095.pdf>

RAeC Trust Bursaries. The Royal Aero Club Trust has announced the list of recipients of its Flying for Youth bursaries for 2009. Our sport features strongly once again, with 10 of the 22 awards going to young glider pilots. The full list can be seen at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/documents/raecbursaryawards2009.doc>. The Trust is a registered charity. If you would like to assist the Trust in its aims and make a donation please contact the Trust Treasurer, Peter Crispin. Details of how to apply for a 2009 bursary will be posted on the Trust's website in September 2009 (<http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org>).

FAI Secretary General. The search has begun for a new Secretary General of the FAI to succeed Max Bishop who leaves in January 2010. The candidate brief for the post is at http://www.fai.org/sg_recruitment. The recruitment process is being handled by consultants Odgers Berndtson and applications for the job and any questions relating to the recruitment process should be addressed to them as indicated in the Candidate Brief, and should not be sent to the FAI.

Gliding with Red Kites. The BBC1 Countryfile programme due to be screened at 7pm on Sunday 7th June features the 20th anniversary of the reintroduction of red kites to the Chilterns. Part of this will involve the presenter flying with the kites in a glider from RAFGSA Halton.

Club Management

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act Latest. The BGA is aware of the new Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006), the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), and the Vetting & Barring Scheme (VBS). We are aware there are some minor changes to legislation this autumn, but the key parts of the Act relevant for sport will not have an impact until July 2010. This gives us a full year to prepare and provide clear guidance for members at every level of our organisation but, until the Government has issued the guidance specific to the sport and leisure sector, the BGA cannot make detailed plans nor consult in an informed way with members. We expect that this subject will receive significant press coverage soon - ahead of publication of the specific Government guidance. In the meantime the BGA strongly advises members to follow all BGA guidance on best practice in safeguarding children. For more information, see <http://www.gliding.co.uk/clubmanagement>

Water Rates Petition. We have previously flagged (Newsletter, November 2008) the threat posed to clubs by moves by water companies to charge for drainage based on surface area, rather than rateable value. The CCPR has launched a petition to urge the Prime Minister to instruct utilities companies to charge community sports clubs affordable rates for services. Please support this by signing up here: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/saveourclubs/>.