



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter March 2004

New Chief Executive. Pete Stratten has been appointed as the new CEO of the BGA. Pete (42) is well known in the gliding community and has a broad range of club and BGA experience. He has served on the BGA's safety, instructors and communications & marketing committees. He started gliding when he was 15, has all three diamonds and a 750k to his credit and has been CFI at Bicester and Four Counties. Pete will 'shadow' the retiring secretary, Barry Rolfe, before formally taking up his appointment on 10th May.

Electronic Subscription Service. You can now subscribe to receive the BGA Newsletter and web site updates electronically. The service is open to all interested – just register at <https://www.gliding.co.uk/subscriptions>. The newsletter will be delivered to subscribers by email every month. The BGA will continue to send paper copies of the Newsletter to clubs for display on noticeboards. You can also subscribe to be notified whenever new information is available in sections of the BGA web site that are of particular interest to you. The subscription service will be available by Friday 11th March.

Junior Nationals – 2 Seater Training, Discus Hire. The Junior Nationals will be held at Lasham between 14th and 22nd August. The BGA coaching organisation's major input to these competitions will continue in 2004. Two seat competition training will be available for pilots who are not entering as solo pilots but who wish to learn X-C and competition skills. The training will be run by Terry Slater, assisted by several of the UK's top competition pilots, flying high performance aircraft. The BGA Discus is available for the use of a junior pilot for the duration of the competition, free of charge. More detail about both opportunities is on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/juniors>. Applications for the 2 seater training and for the Discus hire should be made by letter to Terry Slater, Sky Brae, Bridewell Land, Botesdale, Suffolk, IP22 1DS to arrive no later than 30th April.

Young Pilots Cross Country Coaching Course. The BGA will be running a Cross Country Coaching course specifically for young pilots at Husbands Bosworth between 9th and 13th August. The course is subsidised by the BGA – there is no course fee and there will be a flying subsidy for every participant. The course will be run by Simon Adlard, assisted by some of the UK's top pilots and instructors. For more details, see <http://www.gliding.co.uk/juniors>. Applications should be made by letter to Simon Adlard, the BGA National Coach, to arrive no later than 30th April. Simon's address is 2 Victoria Court, Cunnery Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 2AF.

BGA Trophy Winners. The BGA trophies were presented at the annual conference held on Saturday, March 6th. A full list of the trophy winners can be found at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/competitions/trophies.htm>

BGA Awards. BGA awards for 2004 were also presented at the conference. This year, BGA Diplomas were awarded to Ian Barnes of Essex GC, David Benton of Stratford on Avon GC, Eric Boyle of Newark & Notts GC, and Paul Rice of Essex & Suffolk GC. The John Hands Trophy for services to competition gliding was presented to Harry Middleton, who has just retired as the British team manager and the Bill Scull Safety Award went to John Hoskins, the BGA's senior accident investigator.

EU Third Party Aviation Insurance Draft Legislation. Our latest information is that the 2nd reading of this legislation goes before the European Parliament on 10th March. Following over a year of representation and lobbying activity, much of it in 2003 led by David Roberts through the Royal Aero Club, the proposals now contain an amendment to exclude gliders from the regulation. The BGA was not against the principle of having legally binding requirements for third party insurance, but objected to the indemnity figures first proposed (£68m per aircraft!) and the scope of cover required, which included war, terrorism, hijacking (!) and sabotage. The indemnity levels are now far more realistic but the wide cover is still in the proposed legislation. Hence the BGA's backing for the amendment to exclude gliders in the absence of modification to the cover requirements.

BGA Waypoints List 2004. The definitive 2004 list of BGA waypoints and club sites is now available at <http://www.spsys.demon.co.uk/turningpoints.htm>. There are two revised club site points, four corrections and eight new Turn Points on the list. Including these, there are a total of 875 points on the BGA list.

Child Protection Seminar. A further Child Protection Awareness training day will take place at York Gliding Centre on Saturday 17th April 2004. The session begins at 0930 for a 1000 start and will finish at 1300. Lunch will be available at £5 per head. The training day is limited to 30 participants. To book a place, please contact Phil Burton on 01986 895314 or e-mail PhilBurtonD100@aol.com no later than 27 March. It is planned to hold a further seminar in May in the Kent area, followed by events in Scotland, the Gloucester area, and the south west during the autumn, with an final event at Husbands Bosworth in early 2005. Final confirmation of dates will be published on the April Newsletter

BGA 1000k Trophy. Long haul cross country pilots are reminded about the new BGA 1000k Trophy, which was kindly donated by BGA Vice-President Peter Hearne last year. The trophy will be awarded for the fastest flight of over 1000km during the year. Take off must be from the UK, but the flight can overfly or finish in other countries. Full details of the rules are on the BGA web site.

FAI World Rankings. The UK gliding team maintains its claim to be the best in the world with the publication of the latest FAI World Ranking List. Three of our pilots feature in the top 10 – Andy Davis, our world standard class champion, is ranked world no 2; Steve Jones is ranked 4, and Mike Young, 7. France, with pilots ranked at 7 and 9, is the only other country with multiple pilots in the top 10. The full ranking list can be found at <http://rankings.fai.org/gliding/>

BGA Support for Flying Organisations. The BGA Executive agreed at its March meeting to continue its support for the General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC) and to the General Aviation Safety Council (GASCO) and approved donations of £5000 to GAAC and £1100 to GASCO. At the same meeting, it was agreed to further the links between the BGA and the Faulkes Flying Foundation and a new annual grant of £3000 was approved.

Transponders. An informative paper from the European Gliding Union (EGU), written by Francois van Haaff, on the pro's and con's of transponders in gliders, has been published on the IGC site. You can read the paper at <http://www.fai.org/gliding/documents/transponders.pdf>.

Competition - The London Air Show. The BGA will be exhibiting at this new show, being held at Earls Court between 16th and 18th April. The exhibition encompasses light aircraft, helicopters, microlights, equipment and technology, air charter companies, flying clubs, schools and associations, aerospots, extreme air, non-flying aviation careers, services, accessories and clothing all under one roof. The BGA simulator will be there as well. Newsletter readers have the chance to win free tickets to the show. Just answer the following question (the answer can be found in the BGA web site) and email your entry to Debbie at the BGA office (debbie@gliding.co.uk) to reach her by 22nd March. The first two correct entries out of the hat will each receive a voucher for 2 tickets for the Saturday, worth £26. The question – how much does it cost per minute to soar in the BGA Discus? More information can be found at <http://www.londonairshow.co.uk>

Mobile Phone Warning. Not strictly a gliding related matter, but we have been advised of a scam where a missed call is displayed on your mobile with a number beginning 0709. Don't be tempted to call back – it will cost you £50 per minute.