



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter March 2005

Gray (Max) McAlpine Bacon. It is with great sadness that we that Max Bacon died peacefully late on Tuesday 8th February. As many will be aware, Max's interests spanned a wide field of aviation activity that included a long and distinguished career in the Royal Air Force and commercial aviation, as well as contributing enormously to sport gliding and other recreational aviation in the UK. Our thoughts are with Max's wife, Jean, as well as with his family and wide circle of friends.

European Update. The BGA has published a document giving an overview of new European legislation affecting gliding. The document provides information on what has already passed into law, as well as an update on the current state of play on new rules under consideration or in consultation and describes what the BGA is has been doing to ensure the best possible deal for UK glider pilots. You can see the document at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/handout-europe-lres.pdf>

Regional Technical Officers. The BGA is pleased to announce the appointment of the first Regional Technical Officers. They are: Doug Jones (South West); Ian Patingale (South East); Roger Hurley (Wales & E Midlands); David Mason (West Midlands & E Anglia); Reg Wooler (North England); Joe Fisher (Scotland).

CAA Web Site. The CAA have re-launched their web site – <http://www.caa.co.uk>. There is easier access to information and the news page is well worth checking regularly – <http://www.caa.co.uk/news>. There is also a new subscription service which will provide you with details of new and amended CAA publications as they are released. The service works in a similar way to the BGA subscription service (imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!) and this can be accessed at <http://www.caa.co.uk/publications>

Free Tickets for Fly! The London Air Show. The BGA, together with 5 clubs, will be exhibiting at Fly! The London Air Show which is being held at Earls Court between 8th and 10th April. The air show should make an excellent day out for anybody interested in aviation. There will be exhibits and seminars related to all aspects of flight including air sports; a wide range of aircraft on display; and a great selection of simulators, including the BGA's CyberGlide. For more details and ticket information, see the event web site at <http://www.londonairshow.co.uk>. We have 5 complimentary tickets to give away to the first 5 people drawn from the hat on Friday 11th March. If you would like a ticket, Email your name and address to keith@gliding.co.uk. Winners will be notified by Email on the 11th.

New Section on BGA Web Site. There is a new section – Regulatory – on the BGA web site. The section is intended to act as a one stop shop for links to all items relating to regulation and legislation affecting the sport. At the moment, there are only a few links available, but these will be added to shortly. You can see the page at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/regulatory.htm>

Bristol Airspace Changes. Following an article in the Guardian last week, there have been comments made about the need for lobbying of MPs. The BGA would like to reassure members that the BGA negotiating team, led by world champion and BA 777 pilot Andy Davis, are close to a solution that is acceptable to all parties. Unless we advise to the contrary, we advise that individuals refrain from any lobbying campaign.

Sponsorship for World Junior Championships. The organising committee would like to ask everybody in the UK gliding community to help identify organisations which might fruitfully be approached about providing sponsorship for the 4th FAI Junior World Gliding Championships being held this August at Husbands Bosworth. There are various sponsorship packages on offer, with a total sponsorship of £25,000 sought. If you know of any suitable organisation – your employer, a business partner, a local organisation, etc – the organisers would like to hear from you. Please contact Marilyn Hood (marilynhood@tiscali.co.uk).

Nottingham East Midlands Airspace Changes. The CAA has announced that, following further consultation, it has approved Nottingham East Midlands Airport's application for airspace changes to be introduced on 12 May. Advance details of the changes will be published in Aeronautical Information Circular 18/2005 (Yellow 161) dated 31 March 2005 – see the NATS web site for details in due course.

CAA Safety Evenings. The CAA has announced details of some additional General Aviation safety evenings. The extra dates are Sleaford – 8 March; and Barton (Manchester) – 15 March. More details can be found on the CAA web site at <http://www.caa.co.uk/news>

SLMG Training from Unlicensed Sites. The CAA has reissued the exemption that allows us to operate from unlicensed airfields teaching in private category SLMG aircraft. The reissue includes an updated list of approved sites. The document can be downloaded from http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/ORS4_541.pdf

Wooden Ships Competition. Once again, Sherington will be hosting the Wooden Ships competition on May bank holiday weekend April 30th, 1st & 2nd of May 2005. Format will be as previous years. Cheap bar, free membership and free camping on site. Entry fee £10 for the weekend or a bottle of wine per flying day. For further details e-mail John Watson with an expression of interest. coleshill.labs@virgin.net

Trailer Story. Now that the days of epic flights (and therefore landouts) are approaching, your thoughts might turn to ensuring the serviceability of your trailer. A salutary story appears in the next edition of S&G,

IGC Membership Report. John Roake has compiled the annual IGC membership report. This shows a continuing and escalating decline in pilot numbers worldwide which he attributes to costs and 'gross time wastage.' He proposes that next year's IGC meeting should be a "membership congress" so that the problems and solutions can be fully explored. You can read the full report at <http://www.fai.org/gliding/membership>