



# Newsletter

*British Gliding Association*

## **BGA Newsletter March 2006**

**Avian Flu.** Glider pilots will have seen in the media that a virulent strain of Avian Influenza (AI) is spreading across Europe. If you were affected by the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak, you will appreciate the impact that an AI outbreak might have on the farming industry and on outdoor pursuits such as gliding. Further information and limited advice is provided in a document titled Avian Influenza BGA Update 1, available on the BGA web site <http://www.gliding.co.uk/news>. As the situation develops and where appropriate, we will provide further updates via the website.

**UK Gliding Grand Prix.** The UK Qualifying Grand Prix has been added to the 2006 calendar. The event will be held at Cambridge GC in early September. The UK competition is one of a number of events worldwide which provide an opportunity to qualify for the 2007 World Grand Prix. Grand Prix gliding is a new form of gliding competition, intended to be media friendly and attractive to sponsors. Entry will be online via the BGA web site. More details at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/competitions>

**BGA Chief Accident Investigator.** The BGA is pleased to announce that Chris Heames has been appointed as Chief Accident Investigator, in anticipation of John Hoskins' planned retirement.

**Junior Nationals.** These will take place at Dunstable from 22-30 July. To be eligible, your 26<sup>th</sup> birthday should be after 31 December 2006 and have your Silver badge. (You don't have to have completed this at time of entry, but you must have the badge by the start of the competition). Entries close on 31 March. You can enter online – see <http://www.gliding.co.uk/juniors>

**Gliding Above FL195.** The BGA Airspace team will be attending more meetings in March to discuss access to airspace above FL195 (the new Division Flight Level, above which all airspace will be Class C). They ask that all flights above FL100 be posted on the national ladder site <http://www.aircross.co.uk/bgaladder> as this will help identify where the best and most used wave is, so that particular attention can be given to establishing wave boxes in these areas.

**BGA Glider Maintenance Schedule.** The new BGA glider Maintenance Schedule is now available. A copy will be provided for every BGA glider at its next C of A renewal but you can download a copy now from the BGA website at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/technical>

**Don't Forget To Vote.** Clubs are reminded that votes for the post of BGA Chairman must be received by the BGA office by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. AGM voting papers must be received no later than Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

**Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries.** The RAeC Trust annually awards bursaries to young pilots to enable them to achieve greater competence in their particular air sport. Bursaries of up to £500 are available to help recipients advance from one recognized level of air sport to the next (for example, gain your bronze badge or XC endorsement). Last year, 8 young glider pilots received bursaries from the Trust. Applications for a 2006 bursary must be received by the Trust by 30<sup>th</sup> April. Full details are at <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries.htm>

**Gliding Courses for Wheel Chair Users.** Walking on Air will be running two residential courses for wheelchair users at the Scottish Gliding Centre, Portmoak. The courses will use the WOA1 glider, a K21 which has been modified with hand controls to enable wheelchair users to learn to fly as easily as everybody else. Course dates are Monday 26 - Thursday 29 June and Monday 18 - Thursday 21 September. To find out more or to book please telephone Irene on 01592 840543 or email [sgcoffice@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:sgcoffice@dsl.pipex.com). More information about Walking on Air is at <http://www.walkingonair.org.uk>

**Southern England & Wales 1:500,000 Chart.** A new version of Southern England and Wales 1:500,000 ICAO Aeronautical Chart (Ed. 32) is available from 16 March for sale at the usual stockists.

**European Harmonisation Update.** An excellent presentation on the current status of the various areas of European legislation was given at the EGU Congress last month by EGU president Roland Stuck. You can see the presentation at <http://www.egu-info.org/dwnl/EGUCongress06.ppt>

**EASA Working Group.** EASA has set up a working group in charge of "developing a concept for the regulation of aircraft other than complex motor powered aircraft, used in non commercial activities". The EGU will be represented by Roland Stuck and David Roberts. The Terms of Reference of this very important Multi Disciplinary Measure MDM 032 can be found on the EASA web site at [http://www.easa.eu.int/doc/Rulemaking/TORs1/EASA\\_ToR\\_MDM\\_032.pdf](http://www.easa.eu.int/doc/Rulemaking/TORs1/EASA_ToR_MDM_032.pdf)

**Proposed EASA Change re Installation of Instruments.** EASA has issued NPA (Notice of Proposed Amendment) 20/2005 which deals with a change to "Part 21 and Part M" to allow the installation of non-certified instruments (such as variometers, GPS, final glide computers etc) in gliders and powered gliders as "Standard Parts." This would have the effect of removing the need for an EASA Form 1 signifying airworthiness. The document can be seen at [http://www.easa.eu.int/doc/Rulemaking/NPA/NPA\\_20\\_2005.pdf](http://www.easa.eu.int/doc/Rulemaking/NPA/NPA_20_2005.pdf)

**UK Airprox Report.** The 14<sup>th</sup> UK Airprox Board report has been published and can be found at <http://www.airproxboard.org.uk/>. With immediate effect, there is a new procedure for the publication of Airprox reports. As well as the six-monthly reports in book and CD form and on the UKAB website, Airprox assessments will now appear on the website some six to eight weeks after the Board's monthly meetings. The first batch of these is published on its website today.

**CAA Safety Evenings.** Further dates and venues have been added to this winter's schedule of CAA safety evenings. A full list is at <http://www.caa.co.uk/ga>