



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter May 2003

World Juniors. The BGA is delighted to announce that the UK bid to host the 2005 World Junior Championships has been accepted by the International Gliding Commission (IGC). The event will be held at the Soaring Centre, Husbands Bosworth and will attract the top junior pilots from around the world. This is fantastic news for UK gliding, although the work for the organising team now begins in earnest.

CCPR Sports Club of the Year. The Central Council for Physical Recreation has announced that Borders Gliding Club has been placed in the top three for their Sports Club of the Year awards. The awards, including the first prize of £10,000, will be made at the CCPR national conference on 20th May. The award is a recognition of the very real steps that Borders have taken to ensure that they make gliding as open and accessible as possible to all members of their community.

Silver Medal of the Royal Aero Club. Terry Slater was presented with the Royal Aero Club's Silver Medal at a ceremony in London on 30th April. Terry Slater has been gliding since 1961. He became CFI of an RAFGSA club in 1970 and a Senior Examiner in 1987. He has run many courses, particularly encouraging junior development. He has served on the BGA Executive and the Instructors Committee, and has recently played a major role in negotiating the introduction of the NPPL.

World Record Ratifications. Pam Kurstjens-Hawkins' five world record claims have now been ratified by the FAI. Pam claimed these new records over a period of just over three weeks between 14th December and 7th January flying from a variety of locations in Australia. The records are all in the feminine category and are for speed over a 100km triangle (159.06kmph); straight distance to a goal (965.3km); free distance (1078.2km); free distance using up to three turnpoints (1081.2km); speed over a 1000km out and return (133.89kmph). Five lots of congratulations are in order.

UK Nationals. At the time of writing, there are still places available for pilots wishing to enter the following classes: Club and Open Class (Lasham); 15m Class (Booker). Interested pilots should contact the clubs directly.

Return to Kitty Hawk Race. Places are also still available for this special event which is being held as part of the centenary of flight celebrations. The Return to Kitty Hawk race is a 12 leg event, starting in Llano, California and crossing continental USA to end at First Flight Airport in North Carolina. The event takes place between June 19th and July 4th. Further details can be found at members.aol.com/JPAviation/RTKH.htm

Pribina Cup. The 3rd Pribina Cup was held in April at Nitra, the venue for this year's Junior World Championships. The event was part of the practice and preparation for the Junior Worlds and attracted pilots from around the world for 8 days of competition. The UK was well represented, with four entrants plus crews making the journey to Slovakia. The top Brit was Jez Hood, who finished in second place overall, just 45 points behind the winner, Austria's Wolfgang Janowitsch. Luke Rebbeck and Leigh Wells, Jez's team mates in the World Junior team, finished 6th and 7th respectively and Anna Wells, who competes later this month in the Women's World Championships, was 13th.

Women's World Championships. The women's team are about to depart for the world championships, which are being held at Jihlava in the Czech Republic between 17th May and 1st June. Gill Spreckley will be defending her title and also aiming for gold are Kay Draper, Jan McCoshim, Liz Sparrow, Anna Wells and Lucy Withall. Good luck to everybody.

Churchill Awards. Junior pilots are reminded that a number of Churchill Awards are available every year. These are open to pilots who complete their bronze badge prior to their 18th birthday. Each award offers a sum of £100 which is paid to any club nominated by the pilot, for the credit of their flying account. Applications for awards should be made, in writing, to Barry Rolfe at the BGA office.

Rate Relief. Lord Phillips of Sudbury is leading cross party moves to support voluntary sports clubs in the House of Lords. An amendment has been tabled to the Local Government Bill to provide Community Amateur Sports Club with 80% mandatory rate relief. This is due to be debated in May 2003 and members are encouraged seek support for the amendment from any friendly members of the House of Lords. For more information please contact staylor@ccpr.org.uk

Financial Help for Gliding Clubs. Club management has steadily improved over the years and most now budget for an annual surplus. However, some clubs may not be aware of all the funding opportunities available to help with future projects or in supporting individual pilots' development and achievement. The BGA Development Committee has recently produced a new version of 'Funding Help for Gliding Clubs' and copies are available from the BGA office. Should your club be considering a project that requires or could benefit from external funding, the BGA Development Officer, Roger Coote, is ready to offer confidential and speedy advice, based on real life experience in helping clubs. Make sure that your 5 year plan is fully funded. Roger can be contacted on 01273 515373 or jrcoote@tiscali.co.uk.

World Record Claims. The FAI has introduced a charge for processing world record claims, effective 1st January 2003. This will affect any British pilots who a new World Gliding Record. Claims submitted to the BGA for homologation and submission through the Royal Aero Club to the FAI should now be accompanied by the fee of £50

Steve Fossett Reaches 42,000ft. Taking advantage of an excellent mountain wave system on 24th April, Steve Fossett and co-pilot Einar Enevoldson flew the Perlan Project high-altitude research glider to its highest altitude yet - 42,100 ft (12,830 m) – above California City, USA. "This was a very useful final systems qualifications flight" according to Einar Enevoldson. "Everything worked well". In addition to scientific and meteorological research, Fossett and Enevoldson are targeting the glider world altitude record set in 1986 by Bob Harris (USA) at 49,009 feet. See more at www.weatherextreme.com/Perlan/index.html