



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter May 2004

The Old Order Changeth. An era comes to an end this Friday, May 7th when Barry Rolfe, the BGA Secretary, retires. Barry has served the BGA for the past 33 years, nearly all of that time as Secretary. Barry will be succeeded by Pete Stratten on Monday 10th May in a role that has been re-designated as Chief Executive.

At a special dinner, hosted by the BGA Executive and attended by Barry, his wife, Jenny, and past BGA Chairmen, Barry was presented with the first ever BGA Gold Medal, a new award honouring exceptional service to the Association. Barry was also presented with a cheque, contributed to by clubs around the country.

Everybody in the BGA wishes Barry and Jenny our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Child Protection Awareness Training – Reminder. A seminar for BGA clubs on this subject will take place at Lasham on Saturday 22nd May between 1000 and 1300 (registration from 0930). The seminar is designed for those nominated as being responsible within clubs for child protection and for committee members. For more details or for bookings, please contact Phil Burton on 01986 895314 or email PhilBurtonD100@aol.com. Those who have already booked will receive paperwork during the next week. Awareness training dates for the autumn will be published in the near future. Venues are sought in the South West, South East and Scotland.

New Royal Aero Club Secretary. We are delighted to report that Diana King, a member of the BGA Executive Committee, has been appointed as the new secretary of the RAeC. Diana, who flies at Snitterfield (Stratford on Avon GC) and Shobdon (Herefordshire GC), has been gliding since 16 and has all three diamonds. She, and husband Phil, enjoy competing in 'unusual events' such as Euroglide (the round-Europe 2000 km race) and the UK Mountain Soaring Champs in their LS8.

Omarama Needs Your Help. Our friends in New Zealand tell us that the airfield at Omarama is being threatened by a planning application for a housing development just off the end of the runway. The soaring centre would be very grateful if pilots who feel strongly about this would write an opposing statement to the local council. This can be faxed to Terry Jones on +64 3 418 4961 – he will then copy your letter and forward it on to all necessary recipients. The deadline for submissions to be received at the Council is 10 May 2004, see the New Zealand gliding association web site at <http://www.gliding.co.nz/Misc/Omarama/consents.htm> for full details and pro forma responses.

Winch Safety. Carr Withall, the chairman of the BGA Airspace Committee, has written to all UK flying clubs advising them of the dangers of aircraft and helicopters flying low over gliding sites. Enclosed with his letter was a reprint of an article that appeared in Today's Pilot and a piece of winch cable to make sure that the message got home!

½ Million Charts. The new 1:500,000 chart for S England and Wales (edition 30) became available on 15th April – note the changed date. The latest chart for N England & N Ireland (edition 27) will be available on 13th May.

Transponders in Ireland. The BGA is pleased to have been able to help the Irish Gliding & Soaring Association when their CAA imposed the carriage of transponders on them. With Carr Withall's help, the IGSA have now been granted an exemption.

An Ozzie Invite to Juniors. George Lee has informed us that the first ever Australian Junior Nationals will be held at Temora, New South Wales between 6th and 12th December. The Australian GFA would be delighted to welcome any junior pilots from the UK. If you would like further details, including assistance with gliders and crew, please contact Adam Woolley at get_soaring@hotmail.com

Sackville Vintage Gliding Club. The club at Sackville has changed its name to Sackville Vintage Gliding Club. The club aims to collect as many vintage gliders as possible and to have as many as possible available to fly. Prospective members can join as full members, offering unlimited flying in all club aircraft. Alternatively day and associate (non flying) membership is available. More details from Tim Wilkinson on 01234 708877.

The White Stuff. Gel coats are something of a mystery to most of us. Martin Carolan of Severn Valley Sailplanes, a BGA Senior Inspector, has written a book about repairing and refinishing glider gel finishes based on his experience gained over 25 years. 'The White Stuff' covers a range of topics including types of finishes and the problems associated with each, general maintenance, inspection, repairs, advice on weighing and health & safety. The book is available, price £11.80, from Severn Valley Sailplanes on 01452 741463.

National Gliding Week. A reminder to all clubs to post details of your events on the National Gliding Week web site (<http://www.nationalglidingweek.co.uk>). If you've nothing planned yet, there is still time. A full marketing pack was sent to all clubs last month. If you would like to discuss any aspects of the week, please contact keith@gliding.co.uk. A3 posters and A5 flyers suitable for overprinting with event specific details are available free of charge from the BGA office.

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