



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter May 2006

Maximum Manoeuvring Speed. The report following the fatal accident involving a K7 that suffered structural failure in flight has indicated that glider pilots should be reminded of the significance of the Maximum Manoeuvring Speed – Va. Accordingly, the BGA has published a document to this effect. It can be viewed at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/instructors/documents/Va.pdf>. The document also provides a link to the accident report. It is strongly recommended that all glider pilots remind themselves of the meaning and significance of Va.

Glider Insurance – EC Compliance. Following a successful trial last year, the CAA will again this summer be checking glider insurance policies for EC Regulation 785 compliance. Checking a sample of the total glider fleet at competitions has proven to be a mutually acceptable method of meeting the enforcement requirement and the BGA therefore urges all pilots to ensure they have their insurance policies available on site, particularly during competitions. Competition directors are requested to assist the CAA in carrying out this task if asked - at one competition last year, all the policies were checked by the CAA in a couple of hours before briefing.

Advice for Task Setters. The BGA has published a code of practice for cross country flying and task setters. We recommend that all CFIs and task setters read the document at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/BGATaskSettingCodeofConduct.pdf>

Oxygen Cylinders. The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Receptacles Regulations 2004 come into effect on 1 July. This mandates periodic inspections and tests of most gas cylinders that are transported by road, including in glider trailers. From July, all periodic inspections and tests of cylinders may only be carried out by organisations specifically appointed for this purpose by the Department for Transport. The previous arrangements whereby inspections and tests could be carried out by self declared 'competent persons' will cease at this time. Owners of cylinders which are close to their next periodic inspection date may wish to check the availability of inspections after 1 July with their normal tester or have the next inspection and fill carried out before 1 July.

British Gliding Team Win Prince of Wales Cup. The British Gliding Team has been awarded the Prince of Wales Cup by the Royal Aero Club. The cup is awarded annually for the most meritorious performance, feat or event by a team or group during the preceding year. The award will be presented at an awards ceremony later this year.

Royal Aero Club Vice Chairman. David Roberts, who recently retired as the Chairman of the BGA, has been elected as Vice-Chairman of the Royal Aero Club.

EGU Input to MDM.032. The EGU has published a discussion paper on gliding as its input to the EASA MDM.032 drafting group. The group, which includes David Roberts and EGU President, Roland Stuck, is tasked with designing a new concept framework for light aviation in Europe. The paper, which presents the EGU opinion is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/mdm032-14apr04.pdf>

RAeC Awards for Safety Work. The Royal Aero Club has also announced the award of its Bronze Medal to David Wright for his work as volunteer manager and developer of the BGA's Accident and Incident Database. David has served the BGA for 20 years and in this time has also supplied accident summaries to Sailplane & Gliding and safety publications. His experience has often led to the correct resolution of conflicting accounts and data, and to reappraisal of evidence. He has also given long service on the BGA Safety Committee where his advice has been invaluable. At the same time, Hugh Browning has been awarded the Club's Certificate of Merit for his work in analysing over 2,500 accidents and incidents from 1987 to 2004. This has provided valuable statistics and enabled the BGA to focus its safety initiatives on the major areas of concern, including the BGA Safety Initiative's Safe Winch Launching project. Hugh's analysis and his ongoing role as a BGA Regional Safety Officer have made a significant contribution to glider safety.

Posthumous Award for Neil Lawson. Neil Lawson, who was tragically killed in an accident while photographing at the World Junior Championships last year, has been awarded the RAeC Nexus Sport Aviation Journalist of the Year Trophy.

Gliders Wanted for Juniors. Once again, the BGA is running a competition training course within the grid at the Junior Nationals this year. Many of the top UK competition pilots have volunteered to help, but we need a number of high performance 2 seaters which are insured for instruction (Janus, DG500, ASH25, Duo Discus etc). If you can help, please contact Mike Fox on 07752 615368.

AIS Website User Guide. Hopefully you will have read Mike Cross' article in the April-May edition of Sailplane & Gliding in which he explained how to use the Narrow Route Briefing facility on the AIS web site. NATS have now produced a AIS Website User Guide which expands on this and gives guidance on using other areas of the site. Copies can be obtained from NATS – telephone 020 8745 3471.

Fund Raising. The BGA development team are currently reviewing the 'Financial Help for Gliding Clubs' publication. Given that potential funders like to see their beneficiaries helping themselves as much as possible, they are considering including a section on fundraising. If any of you know of fundraising ideas that have worked, Alison Randle (alison@gliding.co.uk) would very much like to hear about them

NZGP DVD. 'Gladiators of the Sky', a DVD of this year's New Zealand Gliding Grand Prix is now available. The DVD captures for the first time a glider race live from start to finish. It shows the complex technologies required to turn gliding into a spectator sport, from world-beating graphics to the specialist air-to-air helicopter shots and over 30 miniature cockpit cameras. Gladiators of the Sky is available initially through Gliding New Zealand (www.gliding.co.nz), price NZ\$29.95

Open Class Glider Wanted. Andy Davis asks, on behalf of Dmitri Timoshenko of the Russian Gliding Team, whether any UK pilot or club has an open class glider that they would be willing to hire out for the duration of the World Gliding Championships in Sweden (28 May – 18 June). Replies directly to Dmitri please (97tim@mail.ru)