



# Newsletter

British Gliding Association

## BGA Newsletter May 2008

**Mode S Consultation.** The deadline for making a response to the CAA consultation on Mode S is 31<sup>st</sup> May. The BGA is urging all glider pilots to respond as a matter of priority. If the CAA proposals become law, the impact on UK gliding will be very significant. The proposals ignore the significant technical challenges of fitting Mode S transponders into gliders and, if they become law, owners will be forced to spend many thousands of pounds each in order to fly – even in many areas of uncontrolled airspace. The CAA justifies their proposals on grounds of improving safety given the rise in commercial air transport (CAT) activity. However, official figures show that, despite this rise in activity, airprox reports involving CAT at their lowest for over 10 years. The current system is working well and the Mode S proposals represent a totally disproportionate approach to a problem that does not exist. Please help us to secure the future of our sport by:

- a) reading about the issue – information and links are on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/modes2008.htm>
- b) responding to the consultation (links from the BGA web site). The BGA web site provides information and has a draft of the BGA response. However, it is important that you form your own views and respond as appropriate in your own words. Please do not simply cut and paste answers – the CAA is seeking informed opinion and is likely to discount boiler-plated responses.
- c) write to your MP. A sample letter is on the BGA web site but, again, please use your own words wherever possible.
- d) log that you have made a response using the link on the BGA Mode S web page. The information that you provide will enable us to track the level of responses, but will not be used in any other way.

This threat is real. Implementation of the proposals will make it uneconomic for many to continue to fly. A number of clubs may be forced to close. Please respond.

**Red Arrows.** The latest set of dates for this summer's fast jet displays and the associated areas of temporary restricted airspace has been published. A summary of these and other current RA(T)s is on the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/rats.php>. The original AIC describing the airspace restrictions is at [http://www.ais.org.uk/aes/pubs/aip/pdf/aic/EG\\_Circ\\_2008\\_M\\_031\\_en.PDF](http://www.ais.org.uk/aes/pubs/aip/pdf/aic/EG_Circ_2008_M_031_en.PDF). The BGA appeals to all pilots to ensure that they are in possession of the latest airspace / NOTAM information before every flight.

**Gliding on Sky Sports.** The feature filmed at last year's Club Class Nationals will be shown in three episodes on Sky Sports this month. Each programme will be repeated multiple times over the course of a week. You can see the full screening schedule at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/documents/skyschedule.pdf>. The programme provides an excellent insight into how a championship works and features interviews with many of the leading pilots.

**New S&G Editor.** The BGA is delighted to announce the appointment of Susan Newby as the new editor of Sailplane & Gliding. Susan, who has worked in both newspaper and magazine publishing, has experience in a range of sectors, from pharmaceuticals to aerospace. She has recently worked on Go Flying! Magazine which, she says, gave her a real interest in flying. Living just down the road from Gransden Lodge, she has taken the Go Flying message to heart and has already had her first glider flight in more years than she cares to remember. Susan will be working with Helen Evans on the June issue of S&G, before going solo on the August one.

**NPPL Changes.** Further to the article in the last issue of S&G, NATS have now issued Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) 30/2008 (White 146) describing changes to NPPL licensing. We recommend that all NPPL SLMG pilots and instructors read this. The document is available on the AIS web site (<http://www.ais.org.uk>) but, as this requires user registration, a copy has been posted at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/nppl/aicwhite146.pdf>.

**New RAeC Chairman.** We are delighted to announce that David Roberts has been elected as the new Chairman of the Royal Aero Club. David, a current Vice-President of the BGA, was BGA Chairman from 2000-2006 and continues to lead the UK team in numerous meetings with EASA and other bodies seeking to secure from EASA and from the CAA the freedom for sporting and recreational aviation to govern itself without undue red tape and European interference.

**Sporting Code.** An updated version of Annex A of the IGC Sporting Code is now available at <http://www.fai.org/gliding/system/files/sc3a.pdf>

**AVGAS Duty.** HM Revenue and Customs have published a summary of the responses received to their recent consultation on proposed changes to the taxation regime for aviation fuels used for private flying. The GA Alliance, which includes the BGA, submitted a response and continues to work with the Treasury to develop an appropriate way forward to minimize potential increases in Avgas fuel duty that are related to EU induced changes to existing national fuel duty. The full summary of responses is at [http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE\\_PROD1\\_028437](http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_PROD1_028437).

**Juniors Events.** There will be an informal Juniors Task Week from 23rd to 28th June at Husbands Bosworth. There will be subsidised launches, nationals pilots to lead and follow, met briefings and tasks set every day. The week will finish off with a party on the Saturday night.....

**Juniors Party.** Another Juniors Party will take place at Hus Bos on 28th June. There will be a live band, BBQ and plenty of space for tents, Anybody wanting a bunk room should book ASAP as they are being booked quickly.

**EAS Programme Manager.** Europe Air Sports is seeking to recruit a professional programme manager to replace Rudi Schuegraf, who is retiring. The successful applicant will be responsible for the collection, collation and dissemination of information to the EAS Board, technical officers and member organisations and for managing work programmes to support EAS representation in various forums. He/ she will actively work with pan-European aviation regulatory bodies to promote the best position for EAS and its members. Closing date for applications is June 1st. Full details at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/documents/s8020recruitmentbriefinal>

**Gliders Wanted.** If anybody has a spare 15m or 18m glider that they would be willing to rent out this summer, the Israeli gliding team would like to hear from you. They need gliders for the duration of the world championships at Lusse near Berlin from July 29 to August 16. If you can help, please contact Ms Netta Canfi - [ayalazvi@012.net.il](mailto:ayalazvi@012.net.il)