



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter
May 2010

Safety

New Chart Issues. A new edition (edition 33) of the 1:500,000 N England & Northern Ireland VFR chart is scheduled for publication on 6 May. The new edition will be available from the usual stockists. You can review the publication status of all charts and access amendment details at <http://www.caa.co.uk/charts>

GASIL. The latest edition of the CAA General Aviation Safety Information Leaflet, GASIL, is now available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/gasil>.

Aerobatic Competition – Bicester. An aerobatic competition is planned for this coming weekend (Friday 7– Sunday 9 May) at Windrushers Gliding Club, Bicester. During the competition, pilots will perform aerobatic manoeuvres in a sterile box centred over Bicester airfield. A NOTAM has been issued to warn transiting pilots to avoid the area within a 3km radius of the airfield up to 5000ft above local ground level. BIC is a popular turning point for cross country tasks. It is recommended that pilots do not task close to Bicester airfield during the period of the competition.

Airworthiness Directives. The following ADs have been issued:
AD2010-0053. Grob Astir with water ballast. Initial inspection must be completed before 30 May and repeated annually. See http://ad.easa.europa.eu/blob/easa_ad_2010_0053.pdf/AD_2010-0053_1

Libelle 201. The BGA strongly recommends that the aileron drive torque tube be inspected prior to next flight in accordance with Technical Note 201-33 due to an instance of an unmodified aileron drive torque tube failing. If a modified drive is installed then no further action other than normal annual routine inspection is needed. If an unmodified drive is installed it is recommended that the drive torque tube is inspected at each daily inspection. If a cracked torque tube is found it must be replaced prior to next flight. A torch and inspection mirror are required for the inspection. Further information will follow advising on terminating action compliance. More details are at <http://www.streifly.de/TN201-33.pdf>

Volcanic Ash Risk. The CAA has issued a Flight Operations Communication (FODCOM 13/10) giving guidance to general aviation pilots on deciding whether and where to fly when volcanic ash may be present. The FODCOM, which is particularly relevant to operators of motor gliders and tugs, is available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/FOD201013.pdf>

ASW28 and Cobra Trailers. Owners of ASW28-18 gliders (and possibly other models) with Cobra trailers will be aware of the aluminium tube which is used to secure the main wing section to the trailer lid when towing. Please be aware that this tube is not designed for holding the wing during rigging/ de-rigging. This warning follows an incident where the tube sheared during rigging causing the wing to fall to the ground with the potential for serious damage.

Regulatory

Flight Crew Licensing. EASA has published the Comment Response Document (CRD) relating to NPA 2008-17, its proposals for flight crew licensing. This follows last year's consultation which attracted over 10,000 responses. The CRD contains around 1000 pages of text and is the normal, second stage in the EASA rulemaking consultation process. The BGA will be responding to the CRD before the 9th June deadline. The BGA future licensing working group has started to review the document and there are many within the gliding community who individually are planning to do the same, if only to check that their own comments have been considered by EASA. The BGA is very interested in hearing about any significant issues affecting gliding that individuals may identify when reviewing the detail within the CRD document. Please submit your any comments by email to **FCLCRD@gliding.co.uk**, identifying the relevant document, page number and paragraph. We are unable to reply to the information you submit, but thank you in advance for your observations that will help us ensure that all the issues are identified and responded to.

BGA

Glider Archive Files. A reminder that owners can still apply to receive their glider archive documentation. As the BGA now holds all incoming EASA and Annex 2 glider documentation electronically, we no longer need to hold paper copies of this and we are planning to shred all unclaimed files during October. If you wish to receive the paper archive documentation that we hold for your glider, please complete the Glider Archive Request form available on the BGA website at **http://www.gliding.co.uk/forms/gliderdocs_application.doc** and either post it to Lizzie Pike at the BGA Office, or scan the completed and signed request and email it to **lizzie@gliding.co.uk**. This free service will be available until 31st.

Juniors

Junior Championships 2 Seat Training. The BGA will be running a small two seat course at the rear of the grid at the 2010 Junior Championships (21/8/10 - 29/8/10). The course, run by the BGA National Coach assisted by experienced volunteers, aims to prepare pilots to compete in the competition (or another rated competition) the following year. It would therefore be an advantage if pilots had made reasonable progress towards the silver badge in the last couple of years. You should be under 26 for the competition, and the course flying is free. If you would like to apply, please complete the application form at **http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/juniors/junior_train_app_2010.doc** and send it to **Mike@gliding.co.uk** before June 21st.

RAeC Trust Bursaries. Eight glider pilots have been named as recipients of Royal Aero Club Trust Flying for Youth bursaries. Congratulations to Alex Saunders, Ryan Berry, Stefan Astley, Luke Dale, James Gair-Stevens, Jonathan Phillips, Siena Whiteside and Antony Sales. The BGA thanks the RAeC Trust for their continuing generosity. Details of how to apply for a 2011 bursary will be available in September 2010.

Club Management

Good news! The Flood and Water Management Act (water rates)

As previously discussed in BGA Newsletters, this Act sees a shift in the way water companies calculate drainage costs – from rateable value to surface area. Following a campaign led by CCPR (the Central Council for Physical Recreation), a clause allowing water companies to set lower tariffs for surface water drainage for community groups was inserted into the Flood and Water Management Bill, which became law on 8 April.

More good news! Music Licensing – Performing Right Society (PRS) and Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL)

Also as previously covered, in addition to the current PRS licence that clubs must purchase, there are proposals to require sports clubs to purchase PPL licences with related cost and administrative burdens. The BGA has been working with the CCPR on this matter. In the time between the election being called and Parliament dissolving, the Government was unable to lay the statutory instrument implementing a requirement for sports clubs to purchase PPL music licences in addition to those required for PRS. So no change for now...

Business Rate Revaluation

Another side effect of the credit crunch and recent local authority business rate reviews is that some local authorities are removing discretionary rate reliefs. However, clubs who are registered CASCs (Community Amateur Sports Clubs) remain entitled to 80% mandatory rate relief. If you want more information about becoming a CASC, Email alison@gliding.co.uk

General

RAFGSA Reunion. A RAFGSA Reunion will be hosted by Windrushers Gliding Club on the weekend of 29th-31st May. All past, present and 'future' members of the RAFGSA, AGA and RNGA are very welcome to join in the fun. The main event will be on the Saturday, with a mini Grand Prix competition and live music and food in the evening. For further information please contact Marie or Terry at marie@ladsandlasses.co.uk