

BGA Newsletter November 2008

Safety

GASIL. The latest edition of GASIL (the CAA General Aviation Safety Information Leaflet) is now available at http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/srg_gasil3of2008.pdf. This will be the last edition of GASIL in its current format; from this month, GASIL will be published monthly.

AIS NOTAM Update Number. Because of an office move, the telephone number for accessing last minute NOTAMs has changed. This information can now be obtained from 020 8750 3939. The 0500 354802 number which can also be used remains unchanged.

CAA GA Safety Awards. These are presented to individuals and organisations within the UK to recognise their good airmanship or practical skills and abilities when faced with potentially serious incidents directly related to flying. Individual nominees should be over 16 years of age. Please note that only one-off incidents, rather than life-long achievements, will be considered. To nominate somebody for the 2007/8 awards, please visit http://www.caa.co.uk/ga_award. The closing date for nominations is 19 January 2009.

GA Safety Evenings. The programme for the Winter 2008/9 series of CAA Safety Evenings is now nearly complete. All pilots and others associated with General Aviation operations (including gliding) are encouraged to attend one of these events. Although the emphasis may be slanted towards the host organisation, the content is relevant to all forms of general aviation. More details, including the list of confirmed venues is at <http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=224&pagetype=69>

Regulatory

NPA 2008-17. A briefing regarding the implications of NPA 2008-17 (the EASA proposals for pilot licensing) is now available on the Future Licensing page of the BGA web site at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/nppl/futurelicensing.htm>. The briefing outlines the key issues for UK glider pilots as well as giving information about the current consultation process. The BGA licensing working group under Chris Gibson has spent many weeks studying the NPA. Their work is nearing completion and the BGA will publish its detailed response to NPA 2008-17 on the website during the first half of November. However, we would respectfully ask that

all pilots take the time now to familiarise themselves with the subject in anticipation of responding to the consultation with your own views.

More About NPA 2008-17. In the meantime, the Royal Aero Club is hosting a briefing and workshop on the subject at Turweston on 22nd November (0900-1200). The briefing will help attendees to understand some of the key elements of the proposals and to be in a better position to respond to the consultation, which closes on 15th December 2008. The proposals affect all pilots of aircraft within the scope of EASA, but the briefing will focus on the impact on pilots flying non-commercially with aeroplanes up to 2mt MTOM, light helicopters, gliders and balloons. If you would like to attend, please Email secretary@royalaeroclub.org by 18 November. Please use an email header 'NPA Briefing 22 Nov'. More details of the RAeC briefing are at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/documents/raecnpa17briefing.doc>

The EASA Consultation Deluge Continues. EASA has published its expected NPA 2008-22 proposals (another huge document) affecting flight training under EASA rules. The BGA is engaged with these issues and is working with the European Gliding Union and others to develop an appropriate response. The consultation closes in January 2009.

Glider Registration. The CAA exemption which allowed EASA gliders to fly unregistered in the UK has now expired. Any active EASA glider must now be UK registered, i.e. must have a G- registration. Any owner who is still unclear on this issue should review the existing advice at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/easa/introduction.htm>

Ofcom Radio Spectrum Pricing Consultation. The BGA has responded to the current Ofcom consultation about their proposals for spectrum pricing to the maritime and aviation sectors. These proposals, if accepted, could result in significant extra costs for clubs and glider owners. The BGA response is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/ofcompricingresponse.pdf>; the Ofcom consultation documents are at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aip/>

DfT Consultation re EASA Remit. The BGA has also responded to the department for Transport's current consultation about whether the remit of EASA should be extended to include aerodrome safety, air traffic management and air navigation services. You can see the BGA response at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/documents/dfteasaextensionresponse.pdf>

Power Licensing Advice. The CAA has issued clarification concerning the distinction between SEP and SSEA ratings and the privileges associated with these. The advice also discusses the exemption (ORS 711) which exempts pilots from the requirement to hold a JAA medical certificate when exercising SSEA, SLMG and Microlight aircraft privileges using a valid SEP class rating included in a UK issued pilot licence other than a NPPL. You can read the document at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/documents/anoamendcirc250908.pdf>

BGA Airworthiness Fees. Please note that, with effect from 1st October 2008, BGA Airworthiness fees have been revised to reflect additional costs for EASA aircraft ARC renewal. Please visit the fees section of the BGA web site for details - <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/technical/fees.htm>. To avoid any delay in processing ARC renewals, please ensure that your application is accompanied by the correct fee.

BGA Diplomas. Every year we award BGA Diplomas for "Services to Gliding" at the conclusion of our Annual General Meeting. We now invite nominations from clubs in respect of any member who, whilst not eligible for one of the major National or International Aviation Awards, have given particularly good service to gliding within the club or BGA structure. Nominations are invited in writing (not more than 8 to 10 lines) by the end of November. Alternatively email your nomination to debbie@gliding.co.uk.

Royal Aero Club Awards. A reminder that, once again, we are asking BGA member clubs to consider making nominations for three of the Royal Aero Club's major awards – the President's Rolex Trophy (for outstanding achievement by a young person aged between 14 and 21); the Old & Bold Trophy (for a person over 65 who has been conspicuously involved in aviation, particularly sport aviation); and the Ann Welch Memorial Award (for those who have made a major contribution to flying instruction). Nominations will now be considered by the BGA Executive at their December meeting and so should arrive at the BGA Office for the attention of Pete Stratten before 30th November. More details about the awards are on the RAeC web site - <http://www.royalaeroclub.org/awardhst.htm>. A nomination form is at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/documents/raecawards2008nom.doc>.

Motor Glider Seminars. Final preparations are now in place for the 2008 BGA Motor Gliding Seminars. These will be held at Bicester on 15th November and at Millfield on 16th November. Although originally limited to examiners, this year all senior motor glider instructors are invited and a particular welcome is offered to non-powered instructors who have responsibilities for supervising motor gliding. Start times will be 09:30 at Bicester and 10:00 at Millfield. Lunch will be available at both locations. Pilots wishing to attend are requested to contact Andy Miller, the BGA SRE(MG) on 01249 821 031 / andy@asmiller.freeseve.co.uk to ensure that the caterers have a clue about numbers. Agenda and homework (!) will be sent on return.

BGA Conference & AGM. The BGA Conference and AGM will be held at Hellidon Lakes Hotel near Daventry on Saturday 7th March. The format and content has yet to be finalised, but will include an early session for chairmen where the BGA Chairman and Chief Executive will be available to discuss any issues and take feedback and guidance. This session will begin around 9.15 and end before 11am. We expect to hold parallel sessions for CFIs, marketing people, etc regarding topical issues also ending before 11am. The rest of the day will be focussed entirely on the wider conference programme which will start at about 1030 am. Full details will appear on the BGA website in due course.

Club Management

Membership Marketing Grants. One of the BGA Communications and Marketing Committee's objectives is to raise the profile of gliding with the ultimate aim of increasing clubs' flying membership. We are introducing a new scheme which will offer financial assistance to clubs planning specific projects, with the objective of attracting new members. More details and application forms are available at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/clubmanagement>.

Water Rates. The CCPR has advised that, under new rules introduced by one water company, community facilities are being assessed and charged for surface drainage based on site size, rather than rateable value. This has apparently led to an average increase in one area of 318% (£1,374) across dozens of clubs surveyed, with one tennis club seeing a near 300 fold increase in their bill. The BGA development team would like to hear from any gliding club that identifies a significant increase in their water rates. They can be contacted via the BGA office.

Lucozade Sport Offer. Lucozade Sport is offering clubs a 20% discount on products purchased through <http://www.lucozadeshop.com>. For details, please contact the BGA office.

General

Women's Development Programme. The women's development programme organisers are currently working on their programme of events for the next year and would welcome suggestions about how they can help you. They would also appreciate anyone who attended the 2008 sessions Emailing them explaining how these helped (or didn't!). Emails please to Liz Sparrow – eberto@iee.org

Insurance. We have been advised that insurance companies are hardening their approach to genuine mistakes where the ANO and other rules are concerned. By way of example, a hull damage claim has recently been refused on the grounds that the pilot's medical had expired just before the accident. There were no medical implications in the accident. All pilots should ensure that they are protected against this type of issue by checking their medicals, ratings and licences etc for currency.

Per Oberg. Per Oberg, who was instrumental in the creation of the Club Class, died, aged 84, on 28th September. The aim behind the Club Class was to provide a less expensive format for championship flying. First introduced in Sweden, Germany and Holland, the first official European Club Class Championships were held in Orebro, Sweden, in 1979. Today, the Club Class is contested at all levels including at World Championships.

Air Ambulance Services. Many gliding clubs already support their local air ambulance service. Between them, the 16 air ambulance charities in England & Wales operate 22 helicopters, flying 17,500 missions a year. They are the busiest voluntary emergency service in the country and receive no government, NHS or lottery funding. If you would like to know more about your local air ambulance service, perhaps with a view to contributing to their running costs, you can find links to all Air Ambulance Charities at http://www.airambulancecharities.co.uk/find_your_air_ambulance.html