



Newsletter

British Gliding Association

BGA Newsletter September 2003

NOTAMs. A further reminder to ALWAYS check NOTAMS before any cross-country flight. The BGA has received more complaints about gliders penetrating restricted airspace. Such actions are dangerous to you and other users of the sky. They also do nothing to help our airspace committee members in their hard work of maintaining as much airspace access as possible for us to continue to enjoy our sport. Up to the minute briefings (NOTAMs) are available from the AIS web site at www.ais.org.uk (registration required, but free). If using the AIS service, please note the validity period for the VFR FIR Briefs carefully as these may be very short. Be particularly aware if you are downloading in the evening for use the following day. As a back-up only, pre-prepared briefs, updated twice daily, are available on the NATS site at www.nats.co.uk/operational/pibs/index.shtml

World Gliding Championships. Congratulations to the British team who had a very successful world championships. The highlight for the UK was Andy Davis' win in the standard class, a title he last won in 1993. Steve Jones, defending his title in the 18m class, took the silver with brother Phil just behind in the bronze medal position. Final British placings were

Standard Class: 1. Andy Davis; 19. Mike Young

15m Class: 4. Dave Watt; 37. Chris Starkey

18m Class: 2. Steve Jones; 3. Phil Jones

Open Class: 4. Pete Harvey

Full results are at www.wgc2003.pl and day reports from the British team at www.glidingteam.co.uk/competitions/2003/worlds/competitionnews.asp

More Congratulations. Congratulations are also in order for a very different sort of gliding achievement. Tom Edwards flew from Lee on Solent to Northampton West for his 300k in his K8 on 15th August.

BGA Safety Presentation. The BGA Executive has given the go-ahead to the establishment of a safety presentation to encourage increased safety awareness throughout the gliding community. The intention is to hold a number of regional gliding safety meetings during the coming winter months. More details will be available shortly.

CAA Safety Evenings. Venues have now been confirmed for a series of CAA Safety Evenings throughout the autumn. Every pilot in each area is invited and, indeed, strongly encouraged to attend. Most of the evenings, starting at 1930 and lasting 2½ hours, are free and there are opportunities to win prizes. The schedule of dates and venues is at www.caa.co.uk/srg/general_aviation/event.asp



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Ted Lysakowski Memorial Trust 2004 Awards. The Trust aims to help UK based pilots advance their cross-country and competition skills by providing opportunities which they would otherwise not have had. This year, for example, they are able to provide a week's cross-country course at Lasham, sent two pilots to a mountain flying course at Rieti, and two more shared a Nimbus 3DM with Nationals and British Team pilots Hors Concours at the Open Class Nationals at Lasham last month. Applications for the 2004 programme should be made by the end of October 2003. You can get a copy of the form from your CFI, or by e-mail from **George_Metcalf@uk.ibm.com**.

Glider Identification Markings. All glider owners are asked to remember and comply with BGA Operational Regulation 1.9:
All gliders must have BGA approved identification markings displayed as large as practicable on each side of the fin and rudder or on the fuselage in a substantially vertical plane. If under-wing markings are also present, they must be identical to those carried elsewhere on the glider. All gliders must have the BGA number displayed on at least one side of the aircraft. The number should be on the fin or fuselage in 20mm high characters in a contrasting colour. The preferable format is "BGA 9999".

New 1000km Trophy. BGA Vice-President, Peter Hearne, has very kindly presented a new trophy for the BGA to award annually for glider flights of 1,000km, starting – but not necessarily finishing - in the UK. Displaying the trophy on the last day of the Open Class Nationals, Peter told everyone why he had decided to offer it as a challenge to pilots. He hopes that it will be awarded every year, and in recognition of the first 1,000 km in the UK, he presented the trophy retrospectively "honoris causa" to Chris Rollings for his flight in the ASH25 with Chris Pullen in 1995. The BGA would like to thank Peter most sincerely for commissioning and presenting this new trophy.

Inter-Club League. The final of the interclub league was held at Bicester over the bank holiday weekend. The event was unbelievably close with 5 teams being separated by only 2 points. A tie break had to be used to separate the top two clubs - The Soaring Centre and Bath, Wilts and N Dorset GC - who finished level on points. In the final analysis, the Hus Bos team took the trophy on the basis of them having had more 1000 point scores than the boys from the Park. Third place went to the Rockpolishers team from the Long Mynd.

Chairmen's Conference. This has been confirmed for Saturday 1st November. Subjects covered will include EASA, Child Protection and the CAA's Adventure Aviation proposals. The topic for structured debate and syndicate work will be The Future of the BGA Coaching Operation. All club chairmen are invited – lobby your club chairman to make your views known to him!