

## PRESS INFORMATION



### Gliding at the Wenlock Olympian Games

It may come as a surprise to many, but gliding has an Olympic history. It featured as a demonstration sport at the 1936 games in Berlin and was formally accepted as a sport for the 1940 Games. However, as we all know, these Games became a casualty of the war and, since then, the dream of Olympic gliding has lain dormant.

With the Olympic Games coming back to London, it is an appropriate time to be involved with the Wenlock Olympian Games, the forerunner of the modern Olympics and to mark, once again, our sport's Olympic dreams. An official invitation to join the Wenlock Olympian Games for 2012 gives us an opportunity to symbolically mark Gliding's Olympic history, and remind us of just how close our sport came to being changed forever.

We are delighted to stage a Demonstration Gliding Event at the Long Mynd with the possibility of becoming a permanent fixture in the Wenlock Olympian Games calendar.

The Wenlock Olympian event will be competed for in gliders that reflect the history of the sport. One class will feature the Olympic gliders chosen for the 1940 games. Another will feature the Ka6 glider, one of the most successful

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wooden gliders of the 1950s and 1960s and the spiritual successor to the Olympic class gliders. The third class will be for the earliest fibreglass gliders, manufactured before 1985.

The Wenlock Olympian Gliding event will take place over six days. Each morning, subject to the weather, the pilots will be given the turning points that make up the day's course. It is hoped that at least one of these turning points each day will be over the town of Much Wenlock.

Points will be awarded for each race based on the time / average speed achieved around the course. Pilots who fail to complete the course will be awarded points on a graduated scale according to the distance flown. In addition, bonus points will be awarded on some days based on the maximum height gained during the flight.