

Everybody at the British Gliding Association Wishes All Pilots a Happy and Safe New Year.

Safety

Aerotow Performance. The BGA has published a new safety briefing highlighting the factors affecting aerotow take-off performance. This incorporates lessons learned from an accident during 2015 (which, thanks to prompt spin recovery action by the pilot, resulted in a repairable glider and no injuries), a BGA review of other aerotow incidents and available guidance, and consultation with a significant number of very experienced pilots and instructors. 'Aerotow Performance' is aimed at glider pilots AND tug pilots of all experience and can be downloaded from <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety-briefings/aerotow-performance/>

Occurrence Reporting. The BGA accident and incident reporting system contributes to reduced risk in gliding by ensuring that relevant information is reported, collected, carefully analysed and acted upon. You may be aware that the CAA operates a Mandatory Occurrence Reporting (MOR) scheme with the same objective but which is primarily designed for aeroplane operators and rarely results in analysis. A new European Regulation will soon result in changes to CAA CAP 382 to include revised lists of occurrences that must be reported to the regulator. The BGA will, in due course, provide advice on any necessary changes to reporting accidents and incidents to gliders. Until then, clubs and pilots reporting a gliding incident or accident should continue to follow BGA reporting requirements including the existing BGA accident and incident reporting form (see <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=16120> and <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=16694> respectively). Meanwhile, all clubs and pilots are reminded that the CAA MOR scheme can be used for reporting 'any incident which endangers or which, if not corrected, would endanger an aircraft, its occupants or any other person'. A number of clubs use MORs to report close encounters between passing aircraft and winch cables that don't qualify as an Airprox. It's helpful if these events are reported. MOR details, forms and a link to Airprox reporting are at <https://www.caa.co.uk/Our-Work/Make-a-report-or-complaint/MORS/>

Airworthiness Directives. BRP Powertrain (Rotax) 912/914 Engine Cylinder Head – Inspection / Replacement. EASA has issued AD 2015-0240 requiring a one-time inspection to determine the actual engine configuration and, depending on findings, engine re-identification and (depending on TC or STC holder installation) modification of the affected aircraft. Full details are at <http://ad.easa.europa.eu/ad/2015-0240> and the related Rotax Service Instruction is at <http://docusearch.flyrotax.com/files/pdf/d05601.pdf>

BGA

BGA Conference 2016. The full programme for the 2016 BGA Conference (February 27th at the Nottingham Belfry) is taking shape and includes presentations from LZ Design on Front Electric Sustainer (FES) technology, the medal winning Junior World Championship team, and the Deaf Pilots' Association. With a full conference programme and a packed exhibition, this is a must-attend event in the British gliding calendar. Tickets for the awards dinner are selling faster

than a South African 500k; you can book yours, and your lunch at <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/conference/conference.php>. Rooms are available at preferential rates; please book these directly with the hotel by calling 0845 074 0060 and quoting 'British Gliding'.

Regulatory

EGU Newsletter. The latest edition of the European Gliding Union Newsletter is now available and can be downloaded from <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/uncategorised/egu-newsletter-22015>. The newsletter contains a wealth of information about ongoing developments in the regulatory area, including the possibility of a so-called Part-Gliding. Although quite detailed in places, the newsletter is definitely worth reading.

Competitions and Cross-Country

New Junior World Champion. We have a new world champion! Congratulations to Tom Arscott and the whole of the British Junior team on a fantastic performance in the Junior World Championships at Narromine, Australia last month. Tom is the new world champion in the Club Class following two weeks of great soaring which also saw team mate Sam Roddie take bronze. Solid performances in the Standard Class (Matt Davis 10th and Mike Gatfield 15th) also gave Team GB bronze medal position in the Team Trophy. A championship review is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=24817> and a report will appear in the February/March edition of Sailplane and Gliding.

2016 Ratings and Nationals Entries. The provisional ratings list to prioritise places for the 2016 Nationals is now available. You can find your rating, along with details of how to check it, including the protest procedure, at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/competitions/2016-ratings/>. Nationals entries remain open until 31st January 2016. You can apply online and renew your FAI licence at the same time by going to <http://www.gliding.co.uk/nationalsentry>.

Competitions Committee. We are seeking new members to complement the existing mix of skills and interests on the BGA Competitions Committee. The committee is responsible for promoting all forms of competition gliding and for policy and management of UK and international competition matters including ratings lists, competition bids, nationals entries and British team selection and funding. Key areas currently in their sights include coaching, creating better and more fun competitions, funding and communications. The committee meets around five times each year during the winter (so as not to conflict with the UK competition season; working groups may meet outside those sessions to pursue key development areas). If you would like to help improve the UK competition scene, please consider joining the committee. Apply by Email to compscommittee@gliding.co.uk telling us about yourself and your gliding history and what you would bring to the committee. Applications, please, by Saturday 30th January 2016 as we aim to make appointments during February. We look forward to receiving your application!

Enterprise Trophy. Each year the Philip Wills Enterprise Trophy is awarded by the Enterprise Club for the flight judged to be the most 'Enterprising' of the previous calendar year. If you know of a flight made in the UK in 2015 that you feel has the necessary wow! factor, please nominate it for the trophy. Nominations should be made to the Secretary of the Enterprise Club, Andrew Reid at Andrew.G.Reid@btinternet.com

BAeA Glider Trophy Results. The British Aerobatic Association has announced the final results in its season-long Glider Trophy. The trophy is awarded to the pilot scoring the most points, expressed as a percentage of the total possible, aggregated over all competitions throughout the year. The 2015 winner is, once again, Dietmar Poll, with Graham Saw second

and Michael Corcoran third. Full results for 2015 are on the BAeA site at <https://www.aerobatics.org.uk>

Juniors

Honourable Company of Air Pilots Scholarships. Applications are now open for 2016 scholarships under the Honourable Company's Flying Scholarships Programme. This year, a number of gliding scholarships are being offered to people over the age of 16 to give the successful candidates the opportunity to fly on a one week residential course at a BGA Junior Gliding Centre. This course could take a candidate to first solo. Courses will take place on 25th-29th July and 13th-19th August 2016. The selection process will include an interview at which candidates will be asked to confirm their preferred course dates. Applications must be received by 8th March and full details are at <https://www.airpilots.org/career-matters/scholarships/> In addition to the gliding scholarships, a number of PPL(A) and FIR(A) scholarships are available.

Junior Nationals. The venue for the Junior Nationals has changed. The competition will now be held alongside the 18m Nationals at Tibenham from 20th to 28th August 2016 (dates unchanged).

fly2help Scholarships. The aviation charity, fly2help, and Gloucestershire Airport are gearing up to welcome ten lucky students to the airport during February half term for the annual fly2help Aim High Scholarship programme. The students will be given a behind-the-scenes insight into the county's airport – the busiest general aviation airport in the UK, combined with practical activities and industry talks as well as visits to RAF Brize Norton and regional aerospace giants such as Rolls-Royce and Airbus. The programme aims to encourage young people into the aviation sector. Applications are accepted from students aged 14 to 18 and must be received by 15th January. Full details and an application form are at <http://www.fly2help.org/aim-high/aim-high-scholarship-2016.htm>

General

Lleweni Parc Opportunity. Lleweni Parc (Denbigh, North Wales) is offering a scholarship to a suitable candidate who wants to make their career, and living, in gliding. The successful applicant will probably be a younger pilot who is or is aspiring to be a full rated instructor. The scholarship entails living in the area, and being based at Lleweni Parc. The aim will be to establish the individual with their own business to teach wave and cross country flying with a high performance two-seater glider at this superb soaring site. The scholarship will provide the financial support needed to settle the aspirant on to their desired self-employment path in gliding. More information is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/2015/12/15/opportunity-lleweni-parc/>

Derek Piggott. The first episode of a new television series, The Memory Team, features Derek Piggott - one of the best known personalities in the gliding world. The series meets people who have taken part in some of the most important moments in our history and are now challenged by the effects of dementia and captures their life story on film before it's too late. The programme was broadcast last month on the Community Channel but is still available on-demand on the channel's web site at http://www.communitychannel.org/video/8-DM7-ly38/the_memory_team_episode_1/

CAA Web Site. The CAA has launched a completely re-developed web site. As a result of this, many of the links from our web site to the CAA site were broken. We have done our best to re-instate as many links as possible, although some documents are no longer available on the new CAA site. However, we would be grateful, should you come across broken links that we have not yet corrected, if you would forward details to our Communications Officer via Email to keith@gliding.co.uk.