

Safety

Currency. The remarkably wet weather has kept many of us on the ground even more than is usual at this time of year. If you are going flying, please consider the guidance at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety/currency-barometer-pdf/>

Clued Up. The winter 2016 edition of Clued Up, the CAA safety magazine for general aviation, has been published. You can read it at <http://skywise.caa.co.uk/new-clued-up-safety-magazine/>

Airspace

Farnborough LARS Boundary Change. The Farnborough LARS boundary has been redrawn near Southend CTR and CTAs, where Southend is in a better position to work traffic. The new layout can be seen at <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/InformationNotice2016012.pdf>

Transponders. Please note that there is an update on the BGA Airspace webpage, titled 'Transponders', which describes the current situation re the ongoing non-transponder exceptions above FL100. Details at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/airspace/>

Survey on AIAA, ARA, ATA. The CAA and MoD are currently reviewing the utility of having AIAA (area of intense aerial activity), ARA (advisory radar area), and ATA (aerial tactics area) marked on maps and charts. To that end, they would like to know what the GA community thinks of the concepts and have asked FASVIG (Future Airspace Strategy VFR Implementation Group) to survey the UK GA community. Specifically, to what extent are you aware of AIAA (area of intense aerial activity), ARA (advisory radar area) and ATA (aerial tactics area) and do you operate differently when flying within them? The short (less than 2 minutes) survey is open until 20th March 2016 and can be accessed at <http://kwiksurveys.com/s/lvYv7RNL>. The BGA works with and supports FASVIG and would be grateful if you could take a moment to complete the survey.

Regulatory

Air Displays. Following the tragic incident at Shoreham, the CAA took a number of immediate steps, including identifying enhanced risk assessment criteria for all future air displays. Although the final report is not yet available, an action report has been produced describing a number of enhancements that the CAA, air show organisers, and others should carry out before the start of the 2016 air display season. The report is at http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP_1371_civil_air_display_review_actions_eval.pdf

BGA

BGA Conference and Exhibition. A last reminder about the 2016 BGA Conference and Exhibition, AGM and the annual dinner & awards ceremony, which will be held at the Belfry Hotel, Nottingham, on 27th February. The final programme has been published at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/governance-documents/2016-bga-conference-programme/> and it looks like being a great day. Attendees will receive a gift from the day sponsors, Sydney Charles Aviation Insurance (subject to availability). More details, including the list of exhibitors

are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/bga-conference-and-agm-2016/>. Tickets for the awards dinner, sponsored by Forbes Aviation Insurance, can still be booked at <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/conference/conference.php>

Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show. The BGA will be promoting gliding at the Telegraph Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show which is being held at ExCel in Docklands from 11-14 February. Details of the show are at <http://telegraphoutdoorshow.co.uk/>

Regulatory

Mounting Cameras. The CAA has published CAP1369, Policy and Guidance on Mounting Cameras on Aircraft. The document, at <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP%201369.pdf>, is applicable to non-EASA GA aircraft that are subject to CAA regulatory oversight, including permit-to-fly aircraft.

Competitions and Cross-Country

Aim Higher. By popular demand, Aim Higher club coaching lead Kevin Atkinson has arranged a programme of Aim Higher courses in 2016 at Bicester, Sutton Bank, North Hill and Husbands Bosworth. In addition, Kevin is intending to host a supporting visit by multiple world gliding champion, Sebastian Kawa. As well as flying with some club members from the hosting clubs, Sebastian will be giving evening lectures, and will be available to answer questions and discuss techniques. Venues for this fascinating event are Sutton Bank, Gransden Lodge and Bicester. More information and dates are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=24826>

2016 Nationals Entry Lists. The Nationals entry lists have been published at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/nationals-entries-2/>. There are still places available in each of the Nationals and you may still enter online at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/nationalsentry>. If the entry list becomes full you will be placed at the end of the reserve list. Details of the Nationals are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=25114>

Revised Rating List. A revised version of the 2015 rating list (effective for 2016 competitions) including the 20m Multi-Seat Nationals and correcting various other errors is now on the BGA web site at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/competitions/2016-ratings/>. The spreadsheet used to calculate the ratings is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/competitions/2016-ratings-spreadsheet/>.

Trophy Winners. The list of winners of the BGA sporting awards for season 2015 has been published at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/bga-trophy-winners/>. The winners will receive their trophies at the Annual Awards dinner, held in conjunction with the BGA Conference (see above) on 27th February. Congratulations to all the winners.

New Records. Two British National Open Class records have been set with flights from New Tempe, South Africa. Ed Downham claimed a new 1000km triangle speed record on 30th November with an average speed of 146.84 km/h in a JS1c (21m) to beat Pam Hawkins' 1998 record. On 18th December, Phil Jeffery beat the 750km triangle speed record that he set last winter with an average speed of 170.91 km/h in a Ventus 2cxt-18m.

Wenlock Olympian Games. Four years ago Midland Gliding Club hosted the first Wenlock Olympian Gliding Games at the Longmynd in partnership with the Wenlock Olympian Society, to coincide with the hosting of the London 2012 Olympic Games. As the event was such a success it is being repeated this year from 9th-16th July. The event is a single class handicapped competition open to all wooden or fabric covered gliders. Tasks are designed to give all a fighting chance and launching is by winch, aerotow or even bungee on suitable days. In 2012

there were entries from seven different European countries and more than 40 individual gliders; this time entries are limited to 40 gliders. To register your interest or make an online entry please go to <http://www.olympiangliding.com> or, for further information, call Midland Gliding Club on 01588 650206.

Juniors

Bursaries. A number of bursaries will shortly be closing for applications. Applications for Royal Aero Club Trust bursaries (up to £1000 available for post-solo pilots aged 14-21) must be received by the BGA by 17th March. Honourable Company of Air Pilot bursaries, which offer those over 16 a one-week residential pre-solo gliding course, need to be applied for by 8th March and applications for Air League Gliding Scholarships, offering help to post-solo pilots aged 16-25 close on 19th February. More details about all of these are on the BGA web site at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/junior-gliding/funding-opportunities/>

General

Keep Airfields Greenfields Petition. Last autumn, we highlighted how a 2003 'administrative oversight' coupled with a proposal in last year's summer budget statement would automatically allow planning permission to be granted for housing developments on designated brownfield sites. The 2003 oversight removed the clause that previously protected airfields from being classed as brownfield. This unintended consequence of wider policy on the development of redundant industrial sites has been described by Pilot magazine as "the darkest news to face General Aviation for some time" and there is already one gliding club under threat from proposed housing and industrial developments; there may be others in the future. We asked that you sign an online petition that had been set up to demand a review of the brownfield designation of airfields. So far, the petition has over 19,000 signatures and requires a further 81,000 to get the issue considered for debate in Parliament. If you haven't already done so, please would you take the few seconds that it takes to sign the petition at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/106779>.

RAeC Awards. The gliding community has once again featured strongly in the list of recipients of Royal Aero Club awards for 2015. Included in the list of winners is the British Junior Gliding Team which receives the Prince of Wales Cup for the most meritorious performance, feat or event by either a team or a group during the preceding year. Russell Cheetham and Julian Scarfe are awarded RAeC Silver Medals. Russell's award is for his consistently outstanding international performance and dedication to competitive gliding through both his flying and his years of work on the BGA Competitions Committee; Julian, although not a glider pilot, was nominated for the award by the BGA for the leading representational role that he has undertaken on a voluntary basis for non-commercial General Aviation (GA) and for sporting and recreational aviation in general. Bob Pettifer receives a RAeC Certificate of Merit for his lifetime involvement in gliding during which he has been club Chairman and CFI, Chairman of the BGA Instructors' Committee and a BGA regional FIE as well as organising air experience flying days over a 20 year period for people from the Southport Spinal Injuries Unit as part of their rehabilitation. Last, but by no means least, S&G editor Susan Newby wins the Nexus Aviation Journalist of the Year Award. The winners will be presented with their awards by HRH the Duke of York at the RAeC Annual Awards ceremony on 18th May 2016 at the RAF Club.