

## Safety

**Accident Review.** The BGA Review of Accidents in 2015 has been published. As well as analysing and reporting on the main sources of accidents, the review includes reminders of the key things we can all do to help prevent these accidents happening to us. CFIs have been sent copies for distribution to members - please ask for a copy - or download from

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/accident-and-incident-summaries/2015-accident-review>

**Field Landing Briefing.** A new BGA Safety Briefing on field landings has been published. There are a significant number of field landing accidents each year. Where the accident results from inadvertent stall/spin, the injuries are often life-changing. We have worked with various highly experienced pilots to develop the new briefing which covers the tried and tested key issues and reinforces the need, above all else, to fly the aircraft. The briefing can be downloaded from <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety/field-landing/>

**Spekon Parachutes.** Owners should be aware of the contents of EASA AD2016-0062 concerning Spekon E-5L serie 5+ emergency parachutes. The AD, which follows cases of the emergency parachute harness seams partially separating during drop tests, is available at [http://ad.easa.europa.eu/blob/EASA\\_AD\\_2016\\_0062.pdf/AD\\_2016-0062\\_1](http://ad.easa.europa.eu/blob/EASA_AD_2016_0062.pdf/AD_2016-0062_1). General BGA information and advice concerning parachutes is in the Pilot Resources section of the BGA website at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/parachutes/>

**New Electronic Conspicuity Proposals.** The CAA has published new proposals to allow GA pilots in uncontrolled airspace to use low cost, low power electronic devices to aid conspicuity. The proposals, which have been developed by the Conspicuity Working Group, of which the BGA is a member, aim to make it significantly easier and cheaper for pilots to be able to show other aircraft their position electronically. The CAA is keen to stress that there are no proposals to mandate such equipment in uncontrolled airspace. The proposals are in CAP1391, available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/cap1391>

## Airspace

**Flight Level 100 Transponder Exemptions.** Following protracted negotiations (thanks to John Williams, Kevin Hook, Neil Goudie and Pete Stratten for helping to support our case with logic and data through a series of meetings with CAA, NATS and the military), the exemption allowing glider flight above FL100 but below FL195 in designated areas has been renewed until 31st March 2017. The renewal notice, at <http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/1162.pdf>, however omits some key changes which we have had to agree to in order to secure the exemption renewal. For Area 1 - Scotland north of N55 - we will be required to give advance warning of flights above FL100 in the form of a NOTAM issued not later than 1500 the previous day. We will discuss the detail and mechanics of how best to achieve this ASAP with those most closely involved. For all other areas, there will be no change before April 2017, but there is intent to learn from experience of the Area 1 process with a view to implementing something similar in all other areas. Extension beyond April 2017 may hinge on this. The various areas are defined in section ENR5.2 of the UK AIP under the description of NSGA. The UK AIP is available on the NATS web site <https://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com>

**Southend Airspace Post-Implementation Review.** Following the introduction of controlled airspace at Southend in April 2015, the CAA is now conducting a post implementation review of the change to assess whether it has met its aims. The BGA welcomes the PIR and will be working with its GA and air sport partners in developing and submitting further feedback to the CAA. Details of the PIR are at: <http://www.caa.co.uk/Our-work/Consultations/Open/Post-implementation-review-of-Southend-controlled-airspace/>

**ACP Consultation.** The CAA has also opened its long-awaited consultation into its Airspace Change Process (ACP). This follows an independent review of the process carried out in 2015 by specialist consultants Helios. The BGA will be responding on behalf of British gliding but will advise if wider support from the community is required. Details of the consultation, which runs until 15<sup>th</sup> June, are at [https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/proposals-for-revised-airspace-change-process/consult\\_view](https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/proposals-for-revised-airspace-change-process/consult_view)

**P18 LoA Update.** The Letter of Agreement with Newcastle Airport permitting gliders to cross portions of P18 to the north of UVAVU (Newcastle Airport) has been amended to reflect the new 3 year validity period. The updated LOA is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/airspace/loa-crossing-portions-of-p18/>

## Regulatory

**8.33kHz Radio Update.** Most owners should now be aware that the Single European Sky voice channel spacing regulation requires that all radios used in aircraft must be capable of 8.33kHz channel spacing by 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2018 (details are in CAA Information Notice 2013 018 at <https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/InformationNotice2013018.pdf>). Following discussion with the BGA and others, the CAA recognises that situational awareness will be adversely affected if owners' own cost/benefit assessment of re-equipage for local flying results in more non-radio aircraft. The CAA has therefore agreed that a small number of 25kHz frequencies, including some gliding frequencies, will be retained for use under a temporary exemption. The detail has yet to be established. As we reported in the last newsletter, the CAA has submitted an EU funding application to support GA re-equipage with 8.33kHz radios. The funding application is for 20% of the 8.33 equipage costs per aircraft. There is no certainty that the funding bid will be successful. We will advise as and when we hear more from the CAA.

**EGU Newsletter.** The first European Gliding Union newsletter of 2016 has been published at <http://www.egu-info.org/dwnl/EGU%20newsletter%201-2016.pdf>. Although it is very detailed, it provides a good summary of the current state of play regarding the various regulatory changes in the pipeline that will affect gliding, including the so-called Part-Gliding.

## BGA

**Web Resources.** If you haven't checked out the new BGA web site, you probably won't be aware of the wealth of information for pilots that's held in the members section at <https://members.gliding.co.uk>. In particular, can we point you to the Pilot Resources section at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/> and the searchable library at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/> which contains all current BGA publications as well as links to many useful external sites.

**Instructor Courses.** A full schedule of the remaining BGA Assistant Instructor courses being held this year is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses/bga-assistant-instructor-courses/>. These courses are, as always, in great demand and you are urged to book your place as soon as possible by contacting Debbie Carr at the BGA office - [debbie@gliding.co.uk](mailto:debbie@gliding.co.uk)

**IFP Endorsement Documentation.** The BGA Introductory Flight Pilot endorsement was introduced in 2014 to ensure that risk associated with introductory flights with passengers who pay for the flight with licensed pilots is both managed and insured. The various documents on the website describing the Introductory Flight Pilot endorsement were originally written with unpowered glider pilots in mind and have now been updated to include detail associated with introductory flying in motor gliders.

**Diary Date.** The date for the 2017 BGA Conference, AGM, Exhibition and Awards Dinner is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February at the Nottingham Belfry. We will publish more details when available but, for now, get the date in your diary!

## Club Management

**Flight Logging Action Group (FLAG).** FLAG is a new BGA Working Group, formed to look at developing flight logging and data capture & management systems for gliding clubs, in response to clubs seeking solutions. Many clubs have systems that have been devised and managed by their members and several factors are now coming to the fore with these including the age of the originators, improvements in technology, greater levels of development-readiness at clubs, etc. The BGA has held two initial meetings with interested and experienced club treasurers and volunteers. FLAG is a BGA Development Committee initiative, co-ordinated by a small steering group, with small working groups focussing on specific work areas - currently fact finding and specification development. (Potential implementation options are not expected to be identified for several months yet.) Many hands make light work, so if you would like more information, or would like to get involved, please contact [alison@gliding.co.uk](mailto:alison@gliding.co.uk).

**Community Sport and Recreation Awards.** Nominations are now being sought for the Sport & Recreation Alliance's Community Sport and Recreation Awards. Awards are presented in the categories of Professional Club Community Programme of the Year Award, Innovative Project Award, Youth Volunteering, and Social Impact. Gliding clubs have previously featured in these awards which, as well as the kudos, offer cash prizes. More details are at <http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/programmes-initiatives/awards/community-sport-and-recreation-awards/award-categories-sponsors>

**CASC Update.** Following the changes to the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) scheme which came into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, HMRC has now closed its HMRC CASC Forum, of which the BGA was a member. Although the HMRC CASC Forum has ceased, the BGA will continue to work with other sports, the Sport and Recreation Alliance (S&RA) and HMRC. The BGA Development Committee would like to thank everybody who took the time to respond to our emails over the last three years. Thanks to the evidence supplied by clubs, gliding was given one of only 19 places for sport on the HMRC CASC Forum and we managed to make some changes to the scheme (such as the inclusion of life members and some critical wording in the regulations). Club input to BGA responses to consultations is what enables gliding to continue to punch above our collective weight in these situations. Thank you.

## Competitions and Cross-Country

**FAI Licences.** A recent change in regulations means that FAI Sporting Licences do not now become valid until they have been entered on the central FAI database. In the UK, the only body authorised to make these entries is the Royal Aero Club. Therefore BGA-issued FAI licences will not become valid until details have been sent from the BGA to the RAeC and then entered into the database by the RAeC. This can take up to a week and therefore it is no longer possible for the BGA to issue licences that take effect immediately. All competitors and those seeking new gliding records should apply in sufficient time to ensure that they have a valid FAI

licence for the record attempt or start of the competition. Licences run until 31<sup>st</sup> December in the year of issue and the BGA can offer licences for the following year from 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**LashamGlide Entries.** Next year, Lasham will host the European Championships for the 15m, 18m and Open Classes. As part of the build-up to this, the club hosts LashamGlide this year. LashamGlide will incorporate the 15m and Open Nationals and will also include an 18m competition which, although rated as a Regional competition, will be run to the Nationals requirements of BGA Competition Rules. With a very high standard of entries, including many experienced and highly ranked overseas pilots, these are expected to be a very exciting and competitive set of competitions. The organisers now invite further entries up to the agreed class limits which will be accepted in order of date of entry (late entries from British pilots entering the 15m and Open Class Nationals will be handled in accordance with BGA Competition Rules late entry procedures). More information is at <http://www.lashamglide.com/>

**2016 Waypoint List.** The 2016 list of BGA waypoints is now available. Full details and links are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/cross-country/bga-waypoint-list/> along with some advice from the Competitions Committee on their use. This year there are two lists: one has all the waypoints as before; the other has a reduced set, made by removing waypoints lying close to sensitive airspace such as ILSs, holds or active airfields. We'd be wise not to use the removed waypoints for large task groups with a large number of gliders.

## Women

**Women's Training Camp.** Women pilots wanting to improve their cross-country and racing skills are invited to a training camp at the Bicester Regional (13-21 August). More details are at <http://www.womenglide.co.uk>

**Amy Johnson Flying Initiative.** easyJet has launched the Amy Johnson Flying Initiative in partnership with the British Women Pilots' Association. This will underwrite the training loan of around £100,000 for six female new-entrant pilots. The initiative is one part of a long-term strategy to increase female pilot numbers. More information is on the easyJet web site at <https://careers.easyjet.com/pilots/female-pilot-opportunities/>

## Juniors

**Instructor Bursaries.** Honourable Company of Air Pilots/BGA bursaries to help pilots aged under 25 with the costs of training to become a Basic or Assistant Instructor are still available. The BI bursaries are £500 each; the Assistant Instructor bursaries are £1000 (and no BGA course fee). Details and an application form can be found at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/juniors/hon-co-air-pilots-instructor-course-bursary-application>

## General

**The One Show.** Guy Westgate and Tim Dews have been filmed performing their pyrotechnic aerobatics display in their G109 motorgliders at Portsmouth Naval GC. This will be broadcast in the One Show (BBC1, 7pm) on 21<sup>st</sup> April as part of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.