

Safety

Queen's Birthday Flypast. On 11th June, there will be a 30 aircraft flypast of Buckingham Palace as part of the Queen's Birthday celebrations. On departure from their individual bases, the fast formation elements will route to the Southwold Hold and then via Chelmsford to Buckingham Palace. Slower aircraft will route east of Stansted via Bury St Edmunds and Chelmsford, while rotary wing aircraft will route from RAF Benson via Milton Keynes, Bedford, Royston and the Lee Valley. The Red Arrows will route independently to join the formation after it has left the hold. Depending on weather, arrival at Buckingham Palace is scheduled for 1200 or 1600 (all times UTC). The main formation will then route to Northolt and Halton prior to dispersal in the Brize Norton area but some fast jet elements will leave the formation to conduct a flypast at RAF High Wycombe. The routes for the flypast and for the practice on 7th June (8/9th June also possible) are protected by temporary airspace - for details see AICs Mauve 041/2016 and Mauve 017/2016 respectively on the NATS web site at http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/public/index.php%3Foption=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=162&Itemid=59.html (note that the airspace for the practice, covering the Southwold-Marham-Cranwell-Waddington-Scampton area, is different to that for the actual flypast)

Self-Opening Throttles. Carburettors on some Rotax and other engines are designed with a return spring biasing the throttle open. A number of incidents and accidents have occurred in the LAA fleet following uncommanded throttle increase. You can imagine the potential result of this at a busy launch point or aircraft parking area! If you operate a Rotax-powered aircraft with this type of biased-open throttle arrangement (the Eurofox is one example), please be careful and consider the guidance published by our colleagues at the LAA: don't take your hand off the throttle until the aircraft engine has stopped; be aware that many of the throttle friction devices are unreliable in this class of machine; and, before start-up, check that your throttle is set correctly before pressing the start button.

Airspace

Farnborough ACP. The CAA has put the TAG Farnborough Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) on hold with a requirement that further GA stakeholder engagement take place. In earlier discussions, the CAA agreed that FASVIG should undertake a review of the ACP. This review is now complete and the report has been made public at <http://docs.fasvig.info/ACP/20160513-FASVIG-Farnborough-Airspace-Report.pdf> (FASVIG - Future Airspace Strategy VFR Implementation Group - is a collaboration between business and general aviation, the flight training industry, sporting and recreational aviation, NATS, airlines, airports, MOD and CAA to deliver the strategic CAA Future Airspace vision in a way that meets the needs of the VFR user).

Southend Post-Implementation Review. The CAA is carrying out the long-awaited post-implementation review of the Southend ACP. FASVIG has submitted a response, available at <http://docs.fasvig.info/ACP/20160513-FASVIG-SouthendPIRresponse.pdf>

Licence Suspensions. The CAA has announced that, with immediate effect, pilots who infringe controlled airspace could have their licences provisionally suspended while the incident is assessed if it is deemed sufficiently serious. The criteria used to determine the level of seriousness of a particular infringement has also been published in CAP1404 at <http://www.caa.co.uk/cap1404>. Following a recent incident at the beginning of the flying season, when a Red Arrows display was severely disrupted because of an infringement, the CAA has already provisionally suspended the licence of a (non-glider) GA pilot.

BGA

Instructor Courses. There are still a few places available on Assistant Instructor courses this summer. Availability is shown at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses/bga-assistant-instructor-courses/>. If you are interested in booking, please contact Debbie at the BGA office (debbie@gliding.co.uk) as soon as possible.

Regulatory

ANO Review Consultation. The CAA has published its response to the recent consultation about Air Navigation Order changes which aim to provide a simpler and more proportionate legal basis for the regulation of those GA activities that fall under national (and not European) regulation. The response, CAP1414, at <http://www.caa.co.uk/CAP1414>, addresses all of the policy decisions considered in the review process, and sets out which will be taken forward into the new ANO 2016. The BGA supports the CAA's approach to proportionate, risk-based regulation.

Competitions and Cross-Country

New Record. Congratulations to Wendy Head who has set a new British National Feminine 300km Out and Return record in the 15m class. Her flight on 6th January from New Tempe, South Africa at an average speed of 143.82km/h beat Gill Spreckley's 1997 record.

Outstanding Flights. The great start to the season that we reported on in the last newsletter continued into May. Since the last newsletter, there have been three 750k flights (Graham McAndrew, Roger Barber, and Ed Downham) and, on the 14th May alone, there were no fewer than 10 flights of over 600k.

Places Available. There is a full calendar of competitions taking place at all levels across the UK this summer. Many of these still have places available so, if you haven't experienced a competition before, now might be a good time to try. They are fun and are a great way of developing your skills while challenging yourself. To find out why pilots of all abilities fly in them, take a look at the article in the February/March 2016 Sailplane & Gliding. More information, including a full competition calendar, is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/>.

Competition Rules. The recent decision to adopt the IGC practice of allowing handicap adjustments in the Club Class which result in handicaps above or below the nominal maximum and minimum values has necessitated an update (v1.2) to the BGA Competition Rules. The latest update also includes drafting changes to the sections on 20m Multi-Seat Nationals and Club Class Nationals to clarify meaning. The latest version of the rules is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/competition-rules/bga-competition-rules/>

British Glider Aerobatics Championships. These were held at Saltby at the end of last month. The winners were: Club Class - Jonathan Welch (Lasham); Sports Class - Michael

Corcoran (Derby & Lancs); Intermediate Class - Dave Gethin (Bowland Forest); Advanced Class - Ramon Dormans (Netherlands). More information is on the BAeA web site at www.aerobatics.org.uk

Juniors

Instructor Bursaries. A reminder that 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>

Air League Flying Day. The Air League will host its annual Flying Day at Bicester on 9th July. The event will run in conjunction with the UK leg of the FAI Sailplane Grand Prix and is for young people looking at a career, flying and ground-based, in the UK aerospace industry as well as those who are simply interested in flying. There will be opportunities to experience gliding, powered flying and aerobatics, whilst meeting like-minded individuals, including FREE powered flying, winch gliding flights for £10 (aerotow £20), aerobatic glider flights and numerous static vintage & training aircraft on display. There will be dedicated career information stands with experts present to give career and general advice. BBQ, band and bar from 18:00 to late with free camping available to over 18s. Free entry for Leading Edge members with temporary membership available on the day. If you intend to be there, please register your interest at <https://theairleague.wufoo.com/forms/zjjs85w04wvw50/>

General

Sport England 'Active Lives' Survey – Gliding Needs You! Sport England has recently published its new strategy. As part of its new approach to supporting sport, it is changing the way it gathers information from the general population about its sporting habits. Pilots living in England might receive an invitation to take part in a 13 minute survey, entitled 'Active Lives' asking about their sporting activity over the previous 12 months. This replaces the telephone-based 'Active People' survey which some of you took part in (thank you). As Sport England will be basing a lot of its funding decisions on the data gathered by the new survey it would be very helpful to have gliding represented, as in previous surveys, so, if you receive a letter inviting you to take part, please do!