

Safety

Parachute Strap Warning. Parachute harness strap ends that are not restrained can become entangled with the glider seat or cockpit structure, thus slowing down or even preventing normal or emergency egress from the cockpit. Parachute leg and chest straps are usually fitted with effective elastic retainers, into which the loose ends of the strap are folded, removing the possibility of entanglement with the aircraft. Please use and adjust the retainers. Your parachute rigger/maintainer can help if they are missing or defective.



Skyway Code. The CAA has launched the Skyway Code - a guide to private flying rules, regulations and best practice. It is designed to provide private pilots with easy, quick access to the key information they need, including: pilot responsibilities, pre-flight checks and flight planning, airspace rules and regulations, radio phraseology, using aerodromes, risks and emergencies, flying outside the UK, and links to useful safety and regulatory resources. The Skyway Code can be viewed online or downloaded for later use at

<http://www.caa.co.uk/General-aviation/Safety-information/The-Skyway-Code/>

Clued Up. The summer edition of Clued Up, the CAA safety magazine for GA pilots is now available. Features include an analysis of the Self-Declared Maintenance Programme for ELA1 aircraft, including sailplanes, by our Chief Technical Officer, Gordon MacDonald. You can download from <https://content.yudu.com/web/fiqy/0A41qc0/CluedUpSum17/html/index.html>

Airspace

Exeter ACP. We've previously highlighted the Exeter Airport Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) to establish a large area of class D controlled airspace (CAS). The volume of CAS proposed is huge, dwarfs most others around UK airports and far exceeds any real or perceived need. We don't object to CAS where a risk assessment indicates that this is logical and proportionate. However, the CAS proposed here clearly isn't and we object to the airspace design proposed. We have proposed a number of significant changes that should meet the needs of commercial air transport and other Exeter stakeholders. ACP proposers must summarise all responses to their consultation to the CAA but we know from past consultations that sometimes the number of objections is portrayed as being small even when these have been made on behalf of organisations representing many thousands of members. To avoid such misrepresentation, it is important that Exeter receives a significant number of responses from objectors. If you are at all affected by the proposals please make your thoughts known by responding to the consultation. The changes may impact your cross-country flying even if you are based some distance from Exeter. Many of the great flights posted on the BGA Ladder in April from Lasham and further afield might not have been possible had the proposed CAS been in effect. The consultation document is at <https://www.exeter-airport.co.uk/content/uploads/ACP-Consultation-Document-Issue-1.1.pdf>. The consultation document is quite long so we have provided some background and guidance at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=28813>. The consultation closes on Friday 9th June 2017 so please make your views known before then.

Red Arrows Displays. Details of restricted airspace protecting Red Arrows displays throughout June and July have been published in AIC Mauve 031/2017. As we do every year, we want to stress the absolute importance of respecting these restrictions. Not only is failure to do so extremely hazardous, but an airspace violation can lead to the cancellation of a display causing disappointment to many thousands of spectators and resulting very bad press for our sport. The AIC is on the NATS website - <http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com>.

Queen's Birthday Flypast. A large formation of military aircraft will form Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Flypast on 17 June 2017. The Flypast formation will form up at Southwold, Suffolk and route via Ipswich, abeam Colchester, Chelmsford and enter the London City Control Zone south of Stapleford aerodrome; the formation will overfly Buckingham Palace and route via RAF Northolt and RAF Halton and disperse in the RAF Brize Norton area. Temporary restricted airspace has been established to protect the flypast. Various areas will be covered on a rolling basis; two alternative schedules have been established running from 1010 to 1235 and from 1410 to 1635 (all times UTC). Full details are in AIC Mauve 032/2017, available from the NATS website (link above). Additional airspace restrictions covering the rehearsal period between 13-15 June will also be in place covering the area between Scampton and Cranwell and a corridor through East Anglia to Southwold. These are detailed in AIC Mauve 023/2017.

Updated LOAs. The Letters of Agreement covering access to the AMPIT triangle and the Camphill Box have been updated and renewed. The new versions are available at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/airspace/loa-ampit> and <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/airspace/loa-manchester-leeds-class-a> respectively.

Regulatory

8.33 kHz Radio Equipage Claims. A reminder that the second claim round for 20% funding of the costs of equipping gliders and other aircraft with 8.33 kHz radios is open and runs until 30th September 2017. We understand that there is still a significant amount of the fund available but we do urge that you claim as soon as possible, remembering to include proof of payment with your claim. As well as the cost of the radio, certain associated ancillary costs may also qualify for funding. Details of the scheme, including an online claim form are on the CAA website at <https://www.caa.co.uk/General-aviation/Aircraft-ownership-and-maintenance/8-33-kHz-funding-application/>

EAS Newsletter. The Europe Air Sports newsletter provides a very useful summary of the latest developments regarding changing regulation for sports aviation, including gliding. The latest edition (April 2017) is available at http://www.europe-air-sports.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsletter/EAS_NL_April_2017.pdf

BGA

Becoming an Instructor. The BGA Executive Committee has agreed an Instructor Committee recommendation that the Silver badge element of the Basic Instructor minimum requirements should be changed to Bronze and Cross Country endorsements. The change applies with immediate effect. Younger pilots considering becoming an instructor are reminded that funds are still available to help with the costs of training - £500 for BIs and £1000 for Assistant Instructors. These funds are generously provided by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. To take advantage of this superb opportunity, please contact lizzie@gliding.co.uk. You can read about the experiences of two of our new BIs in the latest edition of S&G.

Competitions and Cross-Country

Women's Worlds. The 9th FAI Women's World Gliding Championships finished on Saturday (June 3rd) at Zbraslavice in the Czech Republic. The UK was represented by Claudia Hill, Liz Sparrow, and Ayala Truelove, who were all flying in the Club Class. After two weeks of intense competition, which involved 12 flying days, the new champions are Sabrina Vogt (Germany, Club Class), Aude Grangeray (France, Standard Class), and Katrin Senne (Germany, 15m Class). Top placed Brit was Claudia who was delighted with her seventh place which included a win in the penultimate race. Liz and Ayala finished just outside the top 10 in 12th and 13th places respectively. Well done to the whole team and to team captain Mel Andersson.

Sailplane Grand Prix. The second round of the 2017 Sailplane Grand Prix series, held last month at Santa Cilia in Spain, was won by Lasham's Jon Gatfield. Jon returned a consistent run of top 5 placings throughout the event, culminating in a final day win. This impressive result against a strong international field qualifies Jon for the FAI SGP World Final next January in Vitacura, Chile. Well done, Jon. Full details and results are at <http://www.sgp.aero/spain2017.aspx?contestID=28279>.

Aim Higher. Stratford-upon-Avon GC is hosting an Aim Higher course from 12-16 June. There are a few spaces left. The course, run by Aim Higher lead Kevin Atkinson, is suitable for those taking the first steps to cross-country flying as well as for established pilots are seeking to improve on current performance. The course comprises ground school and flying activity. To take full advantage of the course, participants ideally need to have their cross-country endorsement and will need access to a glider; there will be opportunities to fly in a two-seater. There will be a charge of £75 to cover costs. Please note that the club is a winch only site. For information about the programme see <https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/aim-higher/> and <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/instructors/bga-advanced-gliding-training-notes/> Anyone interested in taking part should contact Andy Balkwill on 07850 410263 or via chairman@stratfordgliding.co.uk.

Notable Flights. 2017 continues to shape up as a classic year. In the month since the last newsletter, Chris Starkey, Andy Aveling, Ed Johnson, Patrick Naegeli, Graham Paul, Ed Downham, Tim Jenkinson, Steve Woodcock and Robin May all achieved 600km+ flights. In total, there were no fewer than 27 flights over 500km and 66 over 400km recorded on the BGA ladder. Full information at <http://www.bgaladder.co.uk>

General

FAI Young Artist Competition. The FAI has announced the theme for its annual FAI Young Artists Contest for 2018. Youngsters between the ages of 6 and 17 are invited to submit drawings and paintings reflecting the theme of 'Flight into the Future'. Gold, Silver and Bronze FAI Medals will be awarded to the winners for three age categories (6-9, 10-13, 14-17 years old) following judging in April 2018. To enter, young artists must submit their artworks through the Royal Aero Club. The RAeC will select the three best artworks in each category and submit these as the UK entries. Full details are at <https://www.facebook.com/notes/fai-world-air-sports-federation/fai-young-artists-contest-2018-flight-into-the-future/1371162569605087/>