

BGA

BGA AGM. The BGA AGM will be held at the Belfry Hotel, Nottingham on Saturday 17th February 2018. Club secretaries will receive a pack of AGM related documents during December.

BGA Sporting Conference. The BGA Sporting Conference, AGM and annual awards dinner will be held at The Belfry Hotel, Nottingham on Saturday 17th February 2018. The conference is free to attend. Evening award ceremony dinner tickets are available to book now via the BGA Website. <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/conference/conference.php>

Overnight accommodation should be booked direct with the hotel. Please Quote 'British Gliding' when making your booking.

BGA Office. The BGA Office will be closed for business during 25th December through to 1st January inclusive.

Competitions, Cross-Country & Aerobatics

Competition and Awards Committee Recruitment. The Competitions and Awards Committee have a slot on the committee for someone keen to help us in our role to promote all forms of competition gliding. The BGA Competitions and Awards Committee is responsible for policy and management of UK and international competition matters. Each year, we manage the Nationals bids and pilot entries; we revise the competition rulebook in the light of IGC changes and feedback from pilots and competition directors; and we support non-rated competitions such as Inter-Club League. We oversee – with the British Team Manager - the British team development and selection – seniors, women and juniors - and fund and manage international entries. Key areas currently in our sights include coaching, creating better and more fun competitions, funding and communications. If you would like to join us, please apply by email to compscommittee@gliding.co.uk telling us about your gliding history and what particular strengths or focus areas you would bring to the committee. Applications close on Wednesday 13 December.

Applications for the 2018 Nationals. Online applications are now being accepted for 2018 National Championships in all classes at <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/competitions/step1.php>

Notes about the competition application process can be downloaded in advance of entry from <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/competitions/notes.htm> . FAI licence renewal for 2018 can be completed at the same time as applying for a Nationals entry.

Details of the Nationals and all other competitions in 2018 are on the Competitions page of the BGA web site at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions>

With places significantly limited in some classes, pilots are advised to ensure that their entry is placed before the deadline of 31st January 2018.

FAI Competition Licences. Applications for a 2018 Competition Licence can be made online or via the BGA office.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/competition-licence-nationals-entries/>

FAI Licence cards are no longer issued. Applications are forwarded to the Royal Aero Club which will add or update the licence details on the main FAI database. Once this process has been completed, pilots are able to verify the status of their FAI licence by entering their email address at <http://old.fai.org/about-fai/fai-sporting-licences> . An automated email will confirm the status of the licence.

Instructing and Training

BGA Training News. There is a new issue of Training News on the BGA website. To read it click here: <https://members.gliding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/11/BGA-Training-News-Issue-7-Autumn-2017.pdf>

Training Reference Cards. All-new training reference cards have been added to the instructor resources bit of the website at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/instructors/instructor-resources/> (at the bottom of the page). The cards are formatted for use on a mobile phone or tablet out on the airfield, although they can also be used on a PC. Diagrams are included, which we understand will be a relief to instructors and student pilots alike! The aim is that the cards provide an aide memoire for and support pre and post flight briefings. The BGA instructor manual remains authoritative when it comes to the content and conduct of exercises.

Safety

Infringements. Infringements of restricted airspace are potentially dangerous and disruptive – and ultimately result in curtailment of the freedoms to fly that all pilots need and enjoy.

Careful pre-flight planning and use of a GPS moving map with up to date airspace software are known effective tools that help pilots remain clear of restricted airspace. Pilots are recommended to use a GPS moving map wherever the airspace is complex or there could be other reasons why it may be difficult to establish the position of an aircraft relative to a horizontal or vertical airspace boundary. Wave soaring is a typical example of a situation where visually identifying airspace boundaries without a GPS moving map can be extremely difficult. There is more guidance at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/airspace/avoiding-infringements/>

FLARM. Owners of aircraft equipped with FLARM are reminded that the effectiveness and range of their FLARM is dependent on a number of factors. Advice and checking tools are available on the FLARM website. <http://flarm.com/>

Airspace

EGU Airspace Group. During November, the BGA attended the EGU Airspace Group meeting ably hosted by the FFVV. The event, which attracted delegates from 11 European gliding associations and included technical experts, was a useful exchange of information, including hot topics such as national airspace structures, regulator and ANSP engagement, electronic conspicuity, airprox, and infringements.

Airworthiness

BGA Technical News Sheet 1-2017. BGA Technical News Sheet 1-2017 has been published. This is important detail that all BGA inspectors must read. Owners, who are of course responsible for the airworthiness of their aircraft, will also find the information interesting and helpful. <https://members.gliding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/10/TNS-1-2017.pdf>

Regulatory

BGA Medical Experts. The UK CAA regulates pilot medical standards by implementing and standardising EASA and national requirements as applicable. In support of glider pilot's needs, the BGA provides subject matter expert input to regulators, as well as to individual GP's and AME's who may seek guidance on an individual basis. We are keen to retain that capability going forward and are currently seeking appropriately medically qualified people who are in a position to offer occasional guidance. If that's you, please do get in touch with Pete Stratten at the BGA office.

EASA Pilot Licences. Pilots of EASA aeroplanes in the UK are again reminded of the need to hold an EASA FCL PPL(A) or LAPL(A) by 8th April 2018. Pilots of EASA sailplanes in the UK must hold an EASA FCL SPL or LAPL(S) by 8th April 2020.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/pilot-licence-conversion/>

General

Launchpoint - Ted Lys Awards. Experienced glider pilots who wish to develop their gliding skills with a particular course, training or coaching can make a proposal to the trustees requesting a Launchpoint Ted Lys Award. There is no age limitation.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/launchpoint/ted-lys-award-application/>

Free Instructor Training. The Air Pilots are generously supporting young glider pilots who want to train as a Basic or Assistant Instructor. The application form which includes details is available at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/project-planning-and-funding/hon-co-air-pilots-instructor-course-bursary-application/>

The Air League Scholarships. Each year, the Air League generously provide a number of scholarships suitable for both new and experienced glider pilots. Details are available at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/scholarships/>

Please Stay in Touch! If you are reading this on a club noticeboard or by using a link from social media or a club email, why not sign up (free of charge) for BGA news to be sent direct to your email account via the BGA's online account management system, E-services? As well as news subscriptions, E-services allows you to maintain your contact information, renew other subscriptions and make a number of applications.

If you haven't received login details, you can access E-services by going to <https://members.gliding.co.uk/eservices/forgot-password> and entering the email address that you believe the BGA holds for you. If there is a match, you'll receive an email with temporary password with which you can access the system. If not, please contact the BGA office.

Or if it's easier for you, simply contact the BGA office by email or telephone 0116 2892956 providing a few details and we'll do it for you.