

BGA

Happy New Year! We hope 2018 brings you plenty of great soaring.

BGA AGM. The BGA AGM will be held at the Belfry Hotel, Nottingham on Saturday 17th February.

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, with confirmed exhibitor bookings from Southern Sailplanes (Ventus), HPH Sailplanes UK (Shark FES), Jonker Sailplanes, McClean Aviation (DG1001) and Alisport (Silent 2). The Conference Programme is being developed and will be available soon. Evening award ceremony dinner tickets are available to book now via the BGA website at <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.

Child Protection. The BGA recognises that sport can and does have a very powerful and positive influence on young people. Not only can it provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement; it can also develop valuable qualities such as self-esteem, leadership and teamwork. These positive effects can only take place if sport is in the right hands – in the hands of those who place the welfare of all young people first and adopt practices that support, protect and empower them. Most youngsters happily and safely participate in sport under the watchful and concerned care of dedicated instructors and club members. However, the reality is also that abuse does take place in sport and in some cases members of clubs and associations have been convicted. Every adult has a legal and moral responsibility to protect young people and disabled adults in sport from abuse.

The BGA provides guidance for clubs and provides policy and procedure templates for use within clubs, as well as facilitating training for club officials. More information is available at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/club-development/child-protection/>

Safety

Safe Winch Launching. The 6th Edition of the Safe Winch Launching safety briefing has been published. The content is drawn from the BGA's long term safe winch launch study and ongoing campaign, and includes new important advice on the wing drop hazard. This information is important reading for ALL glider pilots regardless of experience. Student pilots will find it very interesting as a vital element of their training. The information is potentially life-saving. <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety/safe-winch-launching-leaflet/>

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/>

BGA Safety Briefings. BGA safety briefings provide helpful risk management information for pilots covering a number of hot topics and presented in an easily absorbed format. <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety-briefings/>

Competitions, Cross-Country & Aerobatics

2018 Competition Dates. Dates and venues for next year's championships are listed on the BGA member website at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/>

Womens World Gliding Championship 2021. The Gliding Centre and the BGA have submitted a joint bid to host the WWGC at Husbands Bosworth during the summer of 2021. Our thanks to all those involved in preparing the bid.

Instructing and Training

BGA Assistant Instructor Courses. A number of BGA Assistant Instructor course modules are being held throughout 2018. Full details including dates and venues are available on the BGA member website at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses/bga-assistant-instructor-courses/>

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/>

Guidance for BGA Instructors with FI(S) Certificate. Gliding instruction at BGA clubs is carried out under BGA requirements and all instructors at BGA clubs are required to hold a valid BGA instructor rating. Gliding instructors are reminded that the BGA's instructor requirements recognise that a valid EASA Flight Instructor (Sailplanes) certificate – known as an FI(S) certificate – is equivalent to a BGA instructor rating, and therefore an instructor who holds a valid EASA FI(S) certificate can use a valid EASA FI(S) certificate to maintain the validity of their BGA instructor rating through his or her CFI using the normal CFI e-services revalidation process.

Those instructors who choose to hold an EASA FI (S) certificate are reminded of the BGA guidance on revalidating an EASA FI(S) certificate that is available on the BGA member website at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/instructors/revalidating-fis-certificate-guidance/>

Declared Training Organisation. Aided by great lobbying work by Europe Air Sports and support by UK CAA, the EASA pilot training rules now include the option of a 'Declared Training Organisation' (DTO). The DTO requirements are less onerous than those of an 'Approved

Training Organisation' (ATO). DTO's are subject to CAA oversight and associated costs. As soon as the CAA publishes its DTO guidance, the BGA will apply to convert its existing ATO to a multi-site DTO, add a sailplane towing course, and dependent on whether CAA has decided whether TMGs are included in the extended sailplane licencing opt-out, add a TMG training course. Ahead of the EASA sailplane licencing revised rules coming into force in 2020, the BGA will of course broaden its DTO to cover all sailplane training courses. Meanwhile, glider pilot instruction, assessment and qualification continues unchanged under BGA requirements.

Airspace

Oxford Airport and RAF Brize Norton Airspace Change Consultations. As anticipated, Oxford and Brize Norton have published their individual airspace change proposals. There is little doubt that these two disproportionate airspace change proposals pose a very significant threat to the viability of gliding and other recreational aviation in and through the area, and will significantly increase risk for the majority of airspace users operating outside of the proposed airspace. The consultations close at 5pm on 22nd March 2018. You can read more at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/representation-and-consultations/oxford-and-raf-brize-norton-acps/>

A BGA meeting of representatives of clubs impacted by the Oxford and Brize Norton ACPs will be held on Sunday 21st January. Representatives of the GA Alliance will be present.

Gliding Needs Airspace – and Airspace Needs You. “Me?” Yes, you! One of the greatest challenges to gliding and other forms of recreational aviation in the coming years is maintaining reasonable access to airspace. The BGA recognises the need to protect the public who are travelling in commercial air transport aircraft and does not automatically oppose all airspace change proposals - each is carefully considered on its merits. However, the increasing number of disproportionate airspace grabs based on speculative commercial interests and failure to cohesively design and manage lower airspace represent clear threats to our sport and other GA activities. The situation is becoming critical. Please keep a close eye on the usual communication channels for more information over the coming weeks and months. Your valuable input is likely to be requested, whether that's responding to a consultation, writing a letter to a politician, or if necessary making a donation.

And we are always looking for new people to join the BGA airspace team. If you feel that you can contribute, please contact John Williams via the BGA office.

Airworthiness

Maintenance. Winter can be the ideal time to get that all-important annual inspection and maintenance work completed and certified by a suitably qualified person. All tugs and motor gliders, as well as gliders imported or transitioned since October 2016, should be utilising a Self-Declared Maintenance Programme. All other gliders operating within the BGA CAMO can continue to utilise the BGA Generic Maintenance Programme until otherwise advised. Read more about airworthiness and maintenance at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/airworthiness-2/> .

General guidance for owners is summarised at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/amp-manual/general-guidance-aircraft-owners/>

Regulatory

Revised Basic Regulation. The Basic Regulation is the high level EU regulation that defines the essential requirements for aviation. Following extensive consultation by the EU and UK Govt, to which BGA responded in detail, and subsequent slow progress through usual EU rulemaking and political approval process, the final text of the revised Basic Regulation became clear during late December 2017. A number of significant helpful changes proposed by the BGA, EGU and Europe Air Sports appear to have been incorporated including those relating to proportionality and risk-based regulation, applicability criteria, and qualified entity criteria among others. A detailed analysis and the potential future impact will be published in due course.

All Party Parliamentary Group on GA. The AAPG GA, led by Grant Shapps, MP, promotes the objective set out in the governments GA Strategy of making the UK the best country in the world for General Aviation, and to stimulate interest in the sector. Three APPG GA working groups have been formed to address the three priority topics of airfields, airspace and taxation. BGA and GA Alliance representatives are involved. You can read more at <http://www.generalaviationappg.uk/>

EASA Pilot Licence Conversion. As previously reported, the EASA Committee of the European Commission has voted positively on extending the Aircrew Regulation opt-out date for sailplane and balloon pilots. The BGA pilot licence conversion guidance has been updated to reflect the revised date by which pilots of EASA sailplanes must hold an EASA FCL SPL or LAPL(S), ie 8th April 2020.
<https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/pilot-licence-conversion/>

Pilots of EASA aeroplanes are respectfully reminded of the need to hold an EASA FCL PPL(A) or LAPL(A) by 8th April 2018.

Transponders. Pilots of aircraft equipped with transponders are reminded that 'SERA.13001 Operation of an SSR transponder' identifies that where an aircraft carries a serviceable SSR transponder, the pilot shall operate the transponder at all times during flight, regardless of whether the aircraft is within or outside airspace where SSR is used for ATS purposes. Aircraft without sufficient electrical power supply are exempted from the requirement.

General

GA Alliance. The GA Alliance has a new website at <https://gaalliance.org.uk/>

BGA Social Media. As well as following your own clubs social media output, you can also follow BGA via Facebook – *BritishGlidingAssociation*, Twitter - @BritishGliding, and Instagram – *discovergliding*

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.
