

General

BGA Conference and AGM. The 17th February 2018 BGA conference programme has been published and includes presentations on a variety of topics including Airspace, OGN/Pilot Aware, Schempp-Hirth, the Gliding Heritage Centre, and much more. The closing date for booking conference lunch and awards dinner tickets is the 7th February.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/01/conference-2018-programme.pdf>

Child Protection. The BGA Child Protection Policy and Procedures document/template has been updated as the Jan 18 version. The update includes Child Protection Officer's responsibilities to check the DBS's and to take appropriate action.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/club-development/child-protection/>

GDPR. The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force during May 2018. We are advised that the GDPR aims to give people more control over how their personal data is used, and to give businesses a simpler, clearer legal environment in which to operate by making data protection law identical throughout the single market. BGA Development Officer Alison Randle is developing guidance for clubs. Meanwhile, more information is available at

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

Exhibitions. Our awesome volunteer BGA PR team will be attending a select number of major exhibitions this year with the simulator. These guys do a great job of raising the profile of gliding at public events and there is always a queue to try out the simulator. If you have some spare time, love gliding and are interested in getting involved in exhibitions as a BGA volunteer, please do get in touch with the organiser, Chris Pollard, via the BGA Office.

Marketing Officer. Following a longer than expected process of assessing some very strong applications, we look forward to announcing the appointment of a BGA Marketing Officer during February.

TMG's and the Sailplane Opt-Out. The BGA has been working with the CAA GA Unit to ensure that UK pilots who fly EASA sailplanes that are TMG's (eg Grob109, Falke, etc) are included in the EU's planned sailplane and balloon opt-out from EASA licensing rules from 8 April 2018 to 8 April 2020, when it is expected that simpler, proportionate rules for sailplane pilots will have been established. Whilst there is an expectation that TMGs (a type of powered sailplane) will be included in the opt-out, which will enable pilots to continue to use NPPL SLMG privileges until 2020, the CAA are unable to confirm that until the EU has published the sailplane opt-out requirements. Pilots of non-EASA aircraft are of course unaffected by EASA licensing requirements. As soon as the detail is available, it will be published at

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

Funding

Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries. The Royal Aero Club Trust, as part of its Flying for Youth program administers a Bursary Scheme for young people. The scheme includes flying

bursaries/grants for those wishing to advance from one recognised level of air sport to the next higher level and wish to upgrade their existing qualifications, as well as advanced Bursaries to enable well qualified air sports persons enter international or national competitions or other prestigious events or to advance their existing qualifications to a higher level to the benefit of the sport (eg to gain an instructor qualification).

Applicants for these grants must hold British Citizenship and be permanently resident in UK and aged 14-21 years (Advanced) Bursary - 24 years). Applications for 2018 bursaries are now available and can downloaded via links on this page. Closing dates for applications will be 31st March 2018. <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries>

Safety

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/>

Trial Lessons / Introductory Flights. A trial lesson is a paid-for first or early instructional flight. An introductory flight is a paid-for gliding experience flight. Clubs and pilots must minimise risk during introductory flights and trial lessons as well as during other passenger flying. Clear guidance on how to minimise the risk during trial lessons and introductory flights is provided in the BGA's Managing Flying Risk publication.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/04/Managing-Flying-Risk-v8.pdf>

Winch Launching. A recent winch launch failure resulted in the drogue parachute landing outside the airfield boundary resulted in no damage or injury. The thorough local investigation highlighted the need to ensure satisfactory club procedures and practice in correctly positioning winches, decisions on when and when not to operate in crosswinds, regular checks of launching equipment, and training in drift correction during the launch. Any incident of this nature should be reported. <https://members.gliding.co.uk/reporting-an-occurrence/>

GPS Software. A recent incident where a delivery driver crossed a runway has resulted in a Club Safety officer recommendation that BGA clubs may wish to check whether commonly used Sat Nav software could direct drivers to cross their operating areas. In this case, the club is taking action to ensure that drivers using GPS are routed correctly.

Club Safety Review. Clubs are reminded that a Club Safety Review is an opportunity for both the responsible club committee and those supervising flying to reflect on club operations and associated hazards. <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety/club-safety-review-guidance/>

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/>

Junior National Gliding Championships and two-seat coaching. The Junior National Gliding Championships and two-seat coaching will take place at Lasham from 18-26 August 2018. For more details and entries, please refer to <http://nationals.juniorgliding.co.uk/>

UK Glider Racing competition IT /technical platform. The revised BGA strategy notes that we will generate 'a strong external projection of UK competitions and British Team, contributing to wider public awareness and knowledge of British Gliding'. At last year's conference we flagged the Comps Committee's desire to develop a 'UK glider racing platform' to make it easier to run competitions and help develop the public face of gliding. We think this will support the strategy and we'd like to invite anyone who is interested in competition IT to a workshop at the BGA Conference from 12:30-13:30 in Chatterleys 1. This workshop will look at the emerging specification, what elements are already there, what gaps we need to fill to deliver the UK Glider Racing platform - and how we might start to do it. Please encourage anyone from your club who is involved in, or interested by, developing club IT /technical systems to attend. If you would like to be involved but can't make the workshop on the day, please email compscommittee@gliding.co.uk and let us know you're interested in this exciting project.

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. Bookings can be made by contacting Debbie Carr at the BGA office debbie@gliding.co.uk or call 0116 289 2956.
<https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses/bga-assistant-instructor-courses/>

Instructor Resources. The BGA Instructors Manual, demonstration videos, audio files and flight exercise reference cards that can be downloaded onto a phone, etc, are available at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/instructors/instructor-resources/>

Airspace

Oxford Airport and RAF Brize Norton Airspace Change Consultations. As anticipated, Oxford and Brize Norton have published their individual airspace change proposals. These proposed changes are being developed under the discredited CAP 725 requirements rather than the CAP 1616 requirements which came into force on 2 Jan 2018. 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 5th April 2018. You can read more at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/representation-and-consultations/oxford-and-raf-brize-norton-acps/>

Steve Noujaim (BGGC) is leading a consultation response team. If you are in a position to help, particularly on the topic of procedure design, please contact Steve at coordairspace@gmail.com or via the BGA office.

Exeter Airspace Change Proposal. On 15th December, Exeter airport submitted its post consultation report and proposal for a huge area of controlled airspace to the CAA. This proposed change is being developed under the discredited CAP 725 requirements rather than the CAP 1616 requirements which came into force on 2 Jan 2018. The response fails to take into account GA stakeholder consultation inputs. You can view the publication at https://www.exeter-airport.co.uk/content/uploads/70998-021-Exeter-Airport-ACP-Documents-Issue-1_CAA-submission.pdf

8.33 Data. The CAA intends to provide updates of airfield frequencies as they convert to 8.33 kHz frequencies during 2018. The first version of a supplement will be published during mid-February along with a NOTAM and will be updated on a weekly basis. An initial version is available under 'Updates' on the CAA's 8.33 webpage.

<http://www.caa.co.uk/General-aviation/Aircraft-ownership-and-maintenance/8-33-kHz-radios/>

Airworthiness

Courses and Seminars. The latest available BGA airworthiness courses and seminars are detailed on the BGA member website at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses/>

Transponder Maintenance. A new BGA AMP has been published describing Transponder Maintenance that replaces BGA inspection 052-08 and BGA airworthiness form 284.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/amp-manual/transponder-maintenance/>

Staying in Touch!

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*

Email News. 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.
