

### General

**David Roberts.** After many more years than he dares to count, David Roberts has now retired as planned from all aviation representative roles, including the Europe Air Sports presidency. The BGA is enormously grateful for all that David has achieved for gliding and other air sports across Europe and in the UK. In due course, we will be reporting in more detail on David's enormous contribution. Meanwhile, we wish David a happy 'retirement' from the many volunteer roles he has filled so successfully.

**GA Airspace Fighting Fund.** General Aviation including gliding is facing an unprecedented threat from the growth of restricted airspace. We need to work ever closer together within GA to push back against unreasonable demands for airspace. Although much of the work is carried out by volunteers, inevitably there can be significant costs. A trust fund is being put together by trustees to receive donations. More details are available at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/ga-airspace-fighting-fund/>

**Glide Britain!** Gliding activities across the UK are now being showcased in a series of videos published on Youtube and promoted by social media as part of a Glide Britain campaign to raise the sport's profile. Please 'share' with your gliding and non-gliding friends to show support for your sport and to encourage others to go gliding! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAsyazUSKdSI3yHjvzH5nag/videos>

**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/>

**EASA Pilot Licensing.** Pilots of EASA aeroplanes are reminded of the requirement to hold an EASA licence by 8 April 2018. Aeroplane pilot licence conversion is completed through the CAA. Tug pilots who convert are reminded to include sailplane towing as a licence privilege.

The CAA has been advised that a European Commission amendment to the Aircrew Regulation to extend the opt-out for sailplane pilots to 2020, which was agreed by the EASA Committee in 2017 and was meant to come in force through the amendment for 8 April 18, will not be published until June 18. Without some action by the UK CAA, pilots of EASA sailplanes who do not hold an SPL or LAPL(S) would find themselves unable to fly EASA sailplanes during the gap between 8 April 18 and June 18. Which is an unacceptable situation that is entirely outside the control of those pilots.

CAA has confirmed that it intends to publish exemptions to permit pilots of EASA sailplanes (which include powered sailplanes, including TMGs) to continue to operate under national arrangements beyond 8 April 18. Such an exemption is issued on behalf of the State via the DfT. CAA have stated that these will be published in time for the 8 April 18.

As you would imagine, the BGA is taking a very close interest in the detail and is in regular contact with the CAA. As soon as we hear more about this dynamic situation, we will advise pilots through the usual channels including their clubs.

## Safety

**Avoiding Mid-air Collisions.** The UK Airprox Board short video about avoiding mid-air collisions is at <https://www.airproxboard.org.uk/Topical-issues-and-themes/Collision-Avoidance/>

**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/>

*'Is your glider fit for flight?'* is just one example.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety-briefings/is-your-glider-fit-for-flight/>

**Safe Winch Launching.** Cartwheeling accidents happen as a result of not releasing the cable if the wing drops during the ground run. If a pilot cannot keep the wings level before take-off, release before the wing touches the ground. Wing tip holders must STOP THE LAUNCH if there is an up or down force at the tip. Please refresh your knowledge at

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/bga-safety-management/safe-winchng/>

**Infringements.** Each year, the UK experiences a large number of infringements of its widespread and complex areas of controlled and restricted airspace. All are unacceptable. The CAA prosecutes pilots for infringing, which can result in fines or worse. Please make sure you are aware of your responsibilities as a pilot and how to avoid infringements. There is some useful advice at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/airspace/avoiding-infringements/>

**½ Million Charts.** Pilots are reminded of the need to fly with a current ½ million chart. The NATS published chart dates are;

1:500,000 Southern England & Wales	02/03/2017 (Edition: 43)	29/03/2018 (Edition: 44)
1:500,000 Northern England & Northern Ireland	30/03/2017 (Edition: 40)	26/04/2018 (Edition: 41)
1:500,000 Scotland	09/11/2017 (Edition: 32)	20/06/2019 (Edition: 33)

Please note that an up to date hard copy chart doesn't necessarily reflect the real situation. You can subscribe to VFR chart email updates through the NATS AIS website via 'Home' – 'VFR chart update service'. <http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/>

**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 any 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 on the BGA member website.

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

## Funding

**Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial Scholarship Bursaries.** The Royal Aeronautical Society Centennial fund has generously provided the BGA with funds to help young pilots further their gliding career. Twenty scholarship bursaries of £300 are available to young pilots between the ages of 14 and 21. Applications are required by the 27<sup>th</sup> April for awards to be made by the 7<sup>th</sup> May. More details and the application form are available under 'RAeS Centennial Scholarship Funding' at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/junior-gliding/funding-opportunities/>

## Competitions, Cross-Country & Aerobatics

**Women Pilot Cross-Country Coaching Opportunities.** A few places are still available on the Women Aim Higher course 14 and 15 April at Cambridge GC at Gransden Lodge and on the Cross-Country Coaching Week 5-11 May at The Gliding Centre at Husbands Bosworth. Coaching will of course be adjusted to pilot's individual needs, so please don't be put off if you are very new to cross-country flying! Further sessions will be organised depending on demand. Please book soonest at <https://goo.gl/forms/ry21XDjYINi00SyG3>

**2018 Competition Dates.** Dates are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/>

## Instructing and Training

**BGA Assistant Instructor Courses.** 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](mailto: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 previously reported, Oxford and Brize Norton have published their individual airspace change proposals. There is no 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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Information to help pilots complete their own submission to the consultations is available at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/representation-and-consultations/oxford-and-raf-brize-norton-acps/>

**Non-transponder areas above FL100.** The exemption to permit gliders and SLMGs from a requirement to use secondary surveillance radar transponders at and above FL 100 up to FL 195 in designated areas has been reissued as ORS4 No.1258. Pilots intending to use the exemption must ensure that they fully understand the published details.  
<http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/1258.pdf>

**Parachute Drop Zone Frequencies.** The British Parachute Association has updated its drop zone frequency information.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/pilot-briefing-airspace/parachute-dz-frequencies/>

**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/>

**Oxford Airport Radio.** Oxford Airport radio frequency changes have been advised as;

- |       |                          |         |                                     |
|-------|--------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| • GMC | Oxford Ground            | 121.955 | Already in place                    |
| • APS | Oxford Radar             | 127.110 | As of 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2018   |
| • DIR | Director                 | 125.090 | As of 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2018     |
| • TWR | Tower ( <i>remains</i> ) | 133.425 | <i>Becoming</i> 133.430 in Dec 2018 |

**Shobdon Airfield Free Fall Parachuting and Frequency Changes.** Shobdon airfield, which is the home of the Herefordshire GC, now has freefall parachuting activity. The airfield plans to use an 8.33 kHz frequency with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 18. Read more at

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/2018/04/03/shobdon-airfield-parachuting-and-frequency-change/>

## 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/>

**Inspector Initial Issue and Refresher Course.** An inspector refresher course that includes human factors training will be held at the Scottish Gliding Centre at Portmoak on 12th May 2018. Please book via Debbie on 0116 2892986 or email [debbie@gliding.co.uk](mailto:debbie@gliding.co.uk)

**ARC Signatory Course.** An ARC signatory course will be held at the BGA Office on 28th April 2018 commencing at 9.30 a.m. Please book via Debbie on 0116 2892986 or email [debbie@gliding.co.uk](mailto:debbie@gliding.co.uk)

## 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.