

## NEWSLETTER June 2017

### FLYING ACTIVITIES

At last we have had some nice weather, even if it was a bit hot! The better weather came in time for our first course, run by Steve Male (thanks Steve and all the tug pilots!) So most of the course members had plenty of flying and there were lots of smiles all round when it was waving on Friday and several people got higher than they'd ever been before. John France's height of 9,000 ft. was the best, but everyone had a good time.

Unfortunately the Twin Astir undercarriage collapsed on landing during the week and some of the undercarriage structure has been bent. Thanks to Peter Poole and Geoff Harris who have the repair in hand.

### Courses

The August course (14 – 18 August) is now probably full, but if you are still interested, please let me know, as there may be some opportunities to join the course for part of the time.

During the course we will have tug pilots operating of course. So if you want to fly solo in club or private gliders during that week, you are welcome to do so. You should expect to contribute to some of the ground work before or after your own flight!

### Task Week

A reminder that Task week will be Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August. We will have weather forecasting available and advice on cross-country tasks to fly and solo local soaring. If you are a solo pilot of any standard looking to get a bit more soaring this year, put the dates in your diary now! We have more people signed up for the week than we have had for a few years, including two visitors from other clubs. Please put your name on the list in the portacabin if you are planning to be here, or let Phil or Diana know by phone or email.

### August Expedition

On Sat 12 and Sun 13 August, Shobdon airfield will be taken over by the annual air race, run by the Records Racing and Rally Association of the Royal Aero Club. This means that it will not be practical for us to fly. However – we have a cunning plan!

Nick Robinson has been investigating other gliding clubs within a reasonable distance and he has arranged for us to re-locate to the South Wales Gliding Club, near Usk (about 35 miles south of Hereford). *(Photo – SWGC website)*



SWGC has more members than we do; they have their own grass airfield, where they launch by winch and aerotow and have a fleet of three single seaters and three two-seaters. We can take our own gliders or we can fly theirs – they are checking whether they'd be happy for our members to fly their solo gliders; whatever the answer, it would of course depend on your experience and ability. We will all be expected to attend a site briefing and to take a check flight. More information is at [www.uskgc.co.uk](http://www.uskgc.co.uk).

If you haven't done winch launching before or not recently, this would be a good opportunity to learn or to refresh. Whatever your experience it is also an excellent opportunity to fly at somewhere different, with new and interesting views and a different way of operating. Flying at another site is always interesting and is an opportunity to expand our knowledge.

There is no on-site accommodation, but we can camp and there is a shower in the clubhouse. I'm sure they can recommend local B&Bs if camping isn't your thing. Some of us are planning to make a weekend of it, so that we build in some social time on the Saturday evening instead of all pushing off home after flying. The social side is sometimes one of the best bits of an expedition to another club!

Nick will be putting up a notice in the portacabin shortly to find out who is interested in going. Please add your name and details to the list if you'd like to come along, or let Nick know direct at [nickrobinsondesign@me.com](mailto:nickrobinsondesign@me.com) or telephone 01564 230644 or 07769 556469.

### **Breaking records**



We recently did a trial lesson for Ian Johnson, who wrote afterwards to say 'I have a 95 year old mum (who would probably have a go if we could fit her in the cockpit)'. I replied saying that we'd be happy to fly her and his response was 'You do not know what you have started. My 95 year old mother is up for a trip. Have you a pilot who is brave enough to take her?'

The answer of course was 'Yes!' and Ian and his Mum Ida turned up on Saturday. Bobbie was the lucky instructor to fly with Ida and they had a lovely time in spite of the dark

clouds looming. As far as we know Ida is the oldest person ever to have flown with HGC and we are hoping she will feel like coming back when she is 96!

*(Photo – Ian Johnson)*

### **PUBLICITY EVENTS**

**Shobdon Food & Flying Festival 2017; 1st & 2nd July. **This weekend!****

Nigel Snee says: Yes, it is that time again, a combination of two great experiences; food and flying! This event is always a great opportunity for HGC to sell trial flights and hopefully

recruit new members. We will be flying as usual on Saturday and Sunday. There may be more trial flights than usual.

We will need help escorting people who have purchased trial flights, to and from the launch point and at the HGC information desk in the main hangar. This year we have not hired the BGA glider simulator, but if there are enough people to help, we may be able to position a glider alongside the information desk, for those showing an interest in gliding and prospective members.

Please let Nigel know if you can help.

Tel: 01568 615401; Mobile: 07591 738107; email: [snee.fam@btinternet.com](mailto:snee.fam@btinternet.com)

### **Glide Britain** – reported by Nigel Snee

Dave Latimer, Chairman of the BGA Development Committee writes: “We have put together an initiative called Glide Britain, where a two-seater glider will undertake a tour of Britain during the Summer of 2017, visiting around 10 clubs that between them represent the diversity of British gliding clubs in relation to their location, predominant lift, launch & landing characteristics. Along the way we will meet many of the characters and understand the stories that make Gliding Great. We are calling this project **Glide Britain.**”

The production team and the glider will be visiting HGC at Shobdon on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. We need to put on a good turn-out and make the production team welcome. This could be a very valuable marketing and publicity opportunity for the club and for gliding in general.

See [www.kickstarter.com/projects/simongrice/glide-britain](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/simongrice/glide-britain) for more information. The organising team are still looking for more funding to make the project even better, so if you

feel inclined to get involved at this stage as well as at the time of the visit, you can contribute through the website.



In more detail, the national objectives of the project are:

- **To create a multi-part broadcast quality video documentary** covering all aspects of gliding in Britain. The documentary will be woven together as a journey where a young glider pilot and her instructor fly from club to club learning about the history & theory of gliding, the different launch mechanisms, lift & landing options, cross-country flying & aerobatics. It will initially be made available on the Internet/social media and there is a plan to attract a TV/digital media broadcast partner.

- **To create an associated coffee table style book** based on the photos, interviews and narrative of the documentary.
- **To create an (up to two minute) introductory video** for each of the clubs visited during the tour. Each club will also receive a full set of media resources for their use (photos, interviews & video clips).
- **To generate local PR & social media opportunities for each of the clubs visited.** The BGA will work closely with each of the clubs visited and invite local press & media to cover that club's participation in Glide Britain. Social media will be used during the tour posting clips, photos and updates.
- **To create a set of media resources that will form the basis for the Go Gliding Media Resource base.** This will include high quality photos, videos & interviews covering all aspects of gliding & the regions of Britain visited during the project.

When people make an internet search for gliding they will be directed to this media and get a really accurate understanding of what gliding is for various different participants.

## **TECHNICAL and MAINTENANCE**



Peter has completed the annual inspection on the Junior and it has been to Iain Evans and Rose Johnson for some TLC. They have done a beautiful job of polishing it and made it look better than it has looked for some years. Thank you to Peter, Iain and Rose.

The next bit is up to you, the members – and especially those of you that fly the Junior. Gliders only stay looking good if they're looked after properly. This means as an absolute minimum washing the bugs off the leading edges at the end of each day's flying and keeping the canopy clean. Ideally you will do a bit more ... wash the rest of the glider regularly, clean the mud off the underside and generally take a pride in it. If we all do this, the glider will perform better (because it slips through the air better), it will last longer and we can all feel proud of our club kit.

The same applies to the two-seaters. Take a pride in them and do your share in keeping them spic and span.

On the subject of maintenance, Martin Clark has offered to overhaul the Junior trailer and get it into working order and he has already made a start. Until this is done, those of you aspiring to do your Silver distance won't be able to go anywhere because the trailer isn't roadworthy! Many thanks to Martin for this (and also for a huge job of strimming around the trailer park).

## ***Energy absorbing foam cushions***

For some years we have been advised to fly only with cushions made from proper energy absorbing foam. This specialist material protects us and in particular our backs from injury if we should have a heavy landing or accident. If you are not familiar with the concept, have a look at the BGA advice [here](#). We have been short of the appropriate cushions and so we have now bought four cushions – two 1” thick and two ½” thick. They are being covered to protect them from damage and dirt and will be marked ‘HGC Property’. We need to make sure that they are available for all of us flying club gliders, so please:

- Keep them clean and dry by stowing them in the trailer when they are not in use;
- Don't put them in your car boot and take them away;
- If possible, don't use them in your private glider. Buy your own from Severn Valley Sailplanes! [www.svsponline.co.uk/confor-energy-absorbing-foam-cushions.html](http://www.svsponline.co.uk/confor-energy-absorbing-foam-cushions.html)

## ***MEDICALS AND LICENSING - Notes and updates***

I have realised recently that there is some confusion about medical requirements for gliding and also about the current situation regarding the European regulations and the need for glider pilot licences. So here is a potted update. It is intended to cover the situation for glider pilots; the position for power pilots is different and a bit more complicated, so I am not attempting to deal with that.

### ***Medical requirements***

These are the basic rules:

Pre-solo – no requirements, except that we ask students and Trial Lesson visitors to tell their instructor, in confidence, about any medical condition that might adversely affect the flight.

Solo, or with another pilot –

- a UK or EU driving licence, or for pilots under 25, a DVLA group 1 self-declaration\*; or
- a CAA national private pilot (NPPL) medical declaration; or
- A GP endorsed NPPL medical; or
- A higher civilian or military medical.

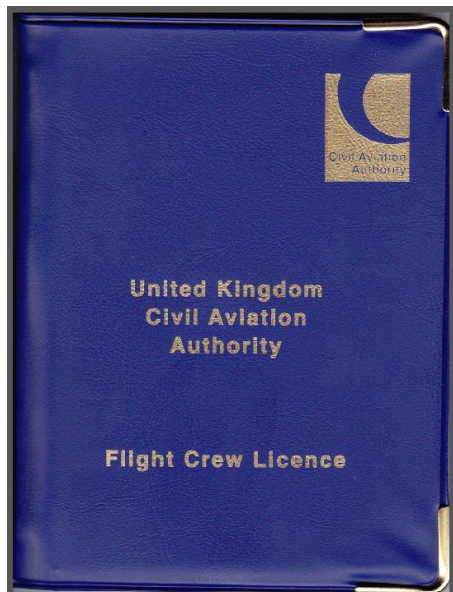
Instructors and pilots doing ‘passenger flying’ (Friends and Family in HGC terminology) –

- A GP endorsed medical declaration\*, which must be renewed at regular intervals; or
- An EASA Class 1, 2 or LAPL (Light Aircraft Pilots Licence) or an ICAO medical certificate; or
- An unrestricted GP endorsed NPPL medical; or
- A higher civilian or military medical.

For further details, including forms\* to be used, renewal periods and age limits, see <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/bga-requirements-guidance/pilot-medical-requirements/>

## Licences

Currently there is no requirement to hold a licence to glide in the UK. For some years we have been told that we will soon have to apply for a European (EASA) glider pilot's licence.



For various reasons, the deadline has been delayed several times and the official deadline is now April 2018. However, a lot of work is being done by European Gliding Union volunteers on behalf of glider pilots all across Europe, to develop a less onerous set of regulations for gliding. These regulations will be known as 'Part Gliding' and will include pilot licensing, maintenance of gliders and general operational matters. While this work is going on, EASA and the UK CAA have recognised that there is no sense in making us apply for European licences until we all know what the new rules will require. So we are expecting that the licensing deadline will be delayed yet again to April 2020 or possibly April 2021. Brexit will probably not change this,

as the UK will remain part of EASA.

The up to date official news on all this is published regularly in *Sailplane and Gliding (S & G)*. If you are not an S & G subscriber or reader, then perhaps you should be! There are subscription forms, including an introductory discount, in the portacabin.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Welcome** to new member Jerry Henderson-Newton, who has a vintage glider called a Swales. Jerry is getting back into gliding after some years away and hopes to be able to fly the Swales before too long.

Jerry is already contributing to the club effort – or at least his daughter is – by putting covers on our new Confor cushions. Thanks Jerry!

## Subscriptions

Thank you to nearly all members for paying your Subscriptions in good time. If you have not yet paid your subscription, please do so without delay and please let me know when you have paid, so I can keep our records up to date. The annual rates are:

### FULL MEMBERSHIP:

One year membership . . . . .	£ 350.00
Rota instructors . . . . .	£ 262.50
Under 25's or Pre-solo . . . . .	£ 175.00
Under 18's . . . . .	£ 88.00
Country membership . . . . .	£ 110.00

(residence over 100 miles in a straight line from Shobdon)

Additional close Family members 50% discount of the lower fee (calculating instructors at full rate)