

ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF MINORS AT LASHAM GLIDING SOCIETY.

Introduction

Lasham Gliding Society Ltd ("Lasham") wants parents and guardians of Youth members both when learning to fly, and when not involved in flying activities, to be fully aware of the limited levels of supervision the Society can practically provide for their child at whilst at the airfield.

Youth Scheme - Flying Training

Youth flying training takes place on Saturdays and Tuesdays, predominantly in the evening. John Barton is the youth flying lead member. All youth members will start their flying training under close supervision in the youth group activity sessions. Parental supervision is not required as the professional staff member in charge will be DBS checked.

A child may start flying training at 14 years old, as long as they fulfil minimum weight and height criteria¹ which is set by the CFI to afford the ability to safely fly a glider, and use a parachute if necessary. Children who have shown the requisite levels of flying ability and maturity are allowed to fly "solo" from their 14th birthday, as long as their parent/guardian agrees². Once competent "solo" (as decided by the CFI) an U18 youth member may be allowed to fly in a normal adult day group as long as their parents agree to the unsupervised nature of this activity, and are present at the clubhouse (for non-members) during their child's flying time.

- Induction: Potential new Youth Members will be offered an induction training flight before they commit to joining. This induction flight will consist of a 2000ft aerotow, at a significantly discounted cost of £50.00 giving the potential member a hands on feel for flying before committing to the Youth Scheme. Once joining forms are completed, the new Youth Member will be added to the Youth Members active list. Parents of the new Youth Member aged under 15 will be required to remain on site and invited to participate in the evening session, having completed the required forms including the disclaimer.
- Active List: The Youth Gliding Scheme is an Adventurous Training activity which
 attracts significant interest from many 14-26 years old. As a training activity, learning
 experience and confidence can only occur through regular attendance and
 instruction. As such, we will be introducing an attendance review process which will
 ensure those Youth Members who attend regularly remain on the Active List and are
 assured a booked flying slot. Our expectation is that an active Youth Member will
 attend at least 6 Saturday evening sessions within a 3 month period.

¹ Currently 1.5m tall and at least 45Kg.

² See LASHAM GLIDING SOCIETY – Parents of Youth Members Allowed Unescorted Access on the Airfield to Fly – RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ENTERING THE AIRFIELD.

- Training Groups: With the lowering of the Solo age limit from 16 years to 14 years we have seen an increase in the number of Youth Members under the age of 15 years. We recognise that our younger members needs are different from those who are aged 15 years and older. In light of this, we intend to create 2 team groups. One team being ab initio (14-15 year olds) and the other team being pre solo (15-18 years old). Our hope is that one of the pre solo team members would volunteer to support/guide the ab initio team. Moreover, we intend to keep a more comprehensive and accessible training/experience record so that all Youth Member are aware who has been trained on activities such a driving the buggies or connecting winch cables. As Youth Members reach the age of 18 we will review and discuss the opportunity to join the adult day training session which will create further opportunities experience such as cross country flying.
- Saturday Youth Member Club Timings: We propose the following Saturday Youth Member timings:

Instructor day to evening handover briefing: 1630
 Youth Group starts (meeting in Club House): 1700

Ground school subject briefing: 1710 - 1730

Flying training: 1800 – Sunset

Aircraft put away: Sunset + 30mins

Evening debrief / Social / Depart: Sunset + 1 Hour

- Post-Solo Group Flying: Once an under-18 youth member has gone solo, and
 continued to improve his/her flying standard, the Chief Flying Instructor will decide
 whether or not that young pilot could continue to fly on week days as part of one of
 our formal day groups, if that is requested by the member or parents. If the CFI
 agrees, then parents/guardians would be required to attend any sessions the youth
 member flies in as "chaperone" remaining in the clubhouse area for safety, but
 responsible for the well-being of their child.
- Youth Member Social: Gliding is a team and social sport and we hope to hold a
 number of Youth Member social events throughout the season, extending invites to
 parents. We have a great facility and John is keen to receive your ideas and
 suggestions.

Responsibility for Attendance. Lasham is an adult member's club, and all its members, regardless of age or experience come and go as they please with no formality. For young people, unlike in a school or college where teachers take on responsibility for part of the day, or a Scout Camp where the leaders are responsible throughout all the activities, coming to Lasham is very different. Apart from the very first day on a long course on-one checks to see whether people have arrived on time and there is no-one who can accept a charge for care and control of youths unless actually attending an arranged course. It therefore falls to the parents or guardians to retain a level of responsibility and ensure their children are where they think they are where attendance at Lasham is concerned.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks. Formal youth training sessions at Lasham will always be supervised by suitably qualified DBS checked individuals, either staff or members. Youths not involved directly in Saturday and Tuesday youth training sessions may not be supervised by DBS checked individuals. In this case it is the parents' responsibility to be aware of the risks, and be present at least in the club-house whilst their

children are flying with senior day groups. Parents of children/youths not flying remain the responsibility of their parents throughout their visit to Lasham.

U18 Specific Rules. Lasham tried to treat all members and visitors alike, no matter what their age. However certain restriction do apply to U18s:

- No U18 may stay overnight at Lasham unless supervised by a responsible adult who
 is staying in the same accommodation. Although Lasham has entry barriers and
 fences, these are not robust, there is no night-time staff cover at Lasham, and the
 possibility of unauthorised ingress from non-members is ever-present. Parents of
 U18 staying in caravans / tents / cabins must ensure they are happy with any
 potential risks and be clear that Lasham cannot be responsible for their child's safety.
- Any responsible youth member may drive Lasham vehicles in the pursuit of gliding, e.g. retrieving gliders using buggies or winch cables using Toyota pick-ups; once trained and assessed as competent. Parents who do not want their child to drive these vehicles must tell the staff.

Transport To / From Lasham. Unfortunately Lasham is relatively remote and not serviced by public transport. The safest form of transport for any youth member attending Lasham is a lift from parents. Cycling to / from Lasham is not recommended because the speeds reached by local car drivers on the Avenue approaching the clubs' premises. Parents need to be aware that Lasham cannot control who gives a lift to their children, and that it cannot be responsible for ensuring safe transport home after flying.

Concerns. If a youth member has any concerns about their treatment at Lasham, either on or off flying training, they should be advised to contact yourself by telephone or the CFI / DCFI or General Manager. If you as a parent have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at manager@lasham.org.uk or telephone the office on 01256 384900.

Gavin

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