

Lasham Gliding Society - COVID-19 update

(01-07-2020)

A little over three months ago, activities at Lasham came to a complete halt as the Government imposed wide-ranging restrictions on everyday life in an attempt to combat the spread of COVID-19. We hope that Lasham members and their families have remained healthy and are doing well otherwise during these difficult times.

In mid-May, we were able to restart solo flying after the DfT lifted certain restrictions. That we could do so promptly and safely was the result of a lot of careful pre-planning and work, much of it behind the scenes and invisible to most members, by Colin Watt and his team.

More recently, Jaison has been able to offer a take-away drinks service from the bar, and Abi and her team have been able to start the new catering operation going. Slowly, but surely, more of the 'fabric' of Lasham is being brought back to life. There is still some way to go before we are back to full and proper operation. Nevertheless, things are going in the right direction and we very much hope that there is no resurgence of COVID-19 that might threaten to set things back.

The Government will be relaxing restrictions further very shortly, and we will apply those relaxations as soon as is practically possible. In most cases, that will mean things will change at the same time as the government rules are changed. Where we need to obtain clarification, or to make sure that we can safely and properly implement the new measures, then there may be a slight delay as we phase things in.

At present, the following changes are anticipated:

- From 4 July, **Mutual flying** in privately-owned 2-seat gliders, and 2/4-seat aircraft can recommence as long as those on-board comply with recent DfT guidance¹.
- **Dual flying in club aircraft, including training**, will be phased in and recommence shortly after 4 July. Colin Watt will inform members of the required operating protocols separately.
- From 4 July, members will be able to stay overnight in their **caravans and log cabins** as long as they also follow the relevant government guidance²³.

If you are in any doubt whatsoever as to what can be done at Lasham then ask us directly and we will clarify things for you.

We all know that COVID-19 still represents a real and significant risk to health. We all know what we have to do in order to help contain and eliminate it. We urge you to comply fully with government rules – **especially those relating to social distancing**, there are no blanket or simple relaxations of the present 2 metre requirement.

In the meantime, stay healthy and come flying.

Patrick Naegeli
Chairman
1 July, 2020



¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-recreational-general-aviation/coronavirus-covid-19-recreational-general-aviation?mc_cid=84c6c5c593&mc_eid=175c42598a

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/opening-certain-businesses-and-venues-in-england-from-4-july-2020>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do-after-4-july>