

Safety

Airspace Safety. The Chairs of the BGA Airspace, Competitions, Flight Operations and Safety Committees have published an open letter to all pilots restating the crucial need to avoid airprox situations and reminding them of the precautions that must be taken to help maintain safety levels in Class G airspace. If you haven't seen the letter yet, please download a copy from <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=28282>

Land Ahead If Safe To Do So. A new safety briefing has been published reinforcing the established advice following a winch launch failure to 'land ahead if it is safe to do so'. The existence of heavy sink overhead or close to the launch site is an additional hazard associated with turning after a failed winch launch. The leaflet describes why sink during a turn following a launch failure is a hazard - following a winch launch failure, land ahead if it is safe to do so. Please download and read the leaflet at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety-briefings/land-ahead-safe>

BGA

BGA Awards. Recipients of BGA awards were presented with their medals and certificates at the BGA Conference which was held at the end of last month. BGA Medals were awarded to Dick Dixon (Bath, Wilts & N Dorset GC) for his exceptional service to gliding, including BGA Chairman from 1996 to 2000; Don Irving (Scottish Gliding Union) for his exceptional services to gliding instructing, coaching and examining, including many years as chairman of the BGA Instructors' Committee; and to David Howse (Cambridge GG) for his exceptional efforts on behalf of gliding, including efforts to ensure fair rating treatment for clubs. BGA Diplomas for outstanding service to their clubs went to Barry Hogarth (Mendip GC), Peter Malloy (Dorset GC), Bob King (Bicester GC), Bob Lloyd (Kent GC) and Richard Carter (Kent GC). Diplomas in recognition of outstanding service to the BGA were awarded to Edward Lockhart and Max Kirschner and a final diploma award was made to the Gliding Heritage Centre at Lasham. The Bill Scull Safety Award went to Daniel Bates (Black Mountain GC) whose cool thinking and skilful flying saved the day following a tug engine problem on his first solo flight.

BGA Trophies. The BGA sporting trophies were presented to the winners at the BGA Awards Dinner that followed the conference. The full list of trophy winners is on the website at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/bga-trophy-winners/>. Congratulations to all the winners.

Regulatory

8.33 kHz Radio Equipment Funding. The CAA has now published details of the process for claiming funding to partially off-set the cost of equipping aircraft with 8.33 kHz radios. EU Funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis so, if you are eligible, you are advised to apply at the earliest opportunity. Full details and the online claim form are at <https://www.caa.co.uk/General-aviation/Aircraft-ownership-and-maintenance/8-33-kHz-funding-application/>

Competitions and Cross-Country

Standard and 20m Nationals. The date and venue for the 2017 Standard and 20m Multi-Seat Nationals has been changed to Cotswold Gliding Club (Aston Down) from 22nd to 29th July. The Standard Class will now be incorporated into the 15m Class Nationals already scheduled for the venue as a single task group with 3% handicap increment whilst the 20m Multi-Seat Class will have its own task group. Both events will be run concurrently with the Open Class Nationals task group. Full details about the change are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=28292>

2017 Competition Rules. The 2017 Competition Rulebook has been published and can be downloaded from <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/competition-rules/bga-competition-rules/>. The new edition includes a number of significant changes which are summarised in the first few pages of the document.

Juniors

Funding Reminders. Applications are still being accepted for Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries and for Honourable Company of Air Pilots Scholarships. The RAeC bursaries, worth between £500 and £1000 are for post-solo pilots aged between 14 and 21 (and up to 24 years old for follow-on bursaries). Applications must be made by 24th March. The Honourable Company of Air Pilots Scholarships are for those aged over 16 (no upper age specified) with little or no flying experience. The deadline for applications for these is 29th March. Full details are at <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries> and <https://www.airpilots.org/career-matters/scholarships/flying-scholarships-2017/> respectively. Note that applications for RAeC Trust Bursaries are to be made to the BGA.

Young Instructor Bursaries. Funds are still available to help pilots under 25 years old to qualify as either a Basic or Assistant Instructor. The scheme, run by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and the BGA, provides BI training bursaries of £500 each and Assistant Instructor training bursaries of £1000 each (and no BGA course fee). Details are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/juniors/hon-co-air-pilots-instructor-course-bursary-application>

General

BWPA Scholarships. The Women Pilots' Association has announced that applications are now open for its 2017 Scholarships. Up to six Scholarships will be awarded to successful women applicants this year. Two of the scholarships, each valued at £1000, are open to women pilots in any form of aviation, including gliding; one is for new or inexperienced pilots, the other for the more experienced. Full details are on the BWPA website at <http://bwpa.co.uk/bwpa-2017-scholarships-open/> and applications must be made before 15th April 2017.

TopNav 2017. TopNav is a Royal Institute of Navigation-sponsored VFR navigation competition for private pilots held every year in May. This year it is to be held on Saturday 6th May at three venues (Peterborough Conington, Goodwood, and White Waltham). The competition is for a 2-person crew - pilot and navigator - and covers various categories - Aeroplane, Helicopter, Microlight and SLMG. Full details are at <http://www.rin.org.uk/Events/4784/TopNav-2017>