

Bristol & Gloucestershire Gliding Club

Chairman's Newsletter September 2017

Dan Welch (Chairman) & BGGC 2017 Committee



Welcome!

Hello all and welcome to another Chairman's Newsletter. Some of you may have been aware I was away during August and I would like to thank Steve Noujaim and the rest of the committee for picking up the slack and filling whilst I was away. I'm back now for a bit and things are in full swing.

New members

A big welcome to our recent new members.

Jonathan Poole - junior flying

Keith Eyles - associate

Mo Hon Hing - student solo and beyond

Brian House - retired

William Cave - adult

Laurent DeClerk - student

Sarah Summerell - associate

Henry Milner-Benham - cadet

Dyson Visit

Nympsfeld was invited to attend the Dyson Summer Party at former RAF base Hullavington. This was an excellent opportunity to advertise both the sport of gliding and our club. Thank you very much to Dave Ascroft and team who gave up a day to rig a glider at Hullavington and operate the stand. I am told that they received a very good reception and were able to introduce gliding and the Junior Nationals to a wide cross section of the public.

Upcoming Social Events

30th September - Oktoberfest! (yes it is spelt correctly)

We are arranging an end of season and Duggies 18th birthday party, Bavarian themed beer tasting party with a selection of real ales and traditional food at the club on the 30th. Lederhosen/beer wench costumes are encouraged but not mandatory. PLEASE BUY YOUR TICKETS ASAP in the café.

New Aircraft on Site

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we have had a shuffle round in the hangars. The sale of the K13 has allowed us some more capacity in the main hangar and as there was a spare club slot in the South hangar we have moved the K8 over there. With the Pawnee now in the main hangar we have 3 private aircraft using the old Tug hangar. This new arrangement has generated the club nearly £6000/pa.

The Schools Build a Plane project has arrived and is occupying one of the new power slots. Over the coming months there will be a period of flight testing and then the children who helped to build the aircraft will all be given a flight. The long term intention is that when this process is over the aircraft will be sold to fund another project.

Richard King, who is occupying the other slot very proudly flew in in his new piper cub the other day. Well done Richard she is a beauty!

Junior Nationals

Even when I am a crusty old “EGG” (Elderly **G**ent **G**lider pilot) I hope that I never forget the fact that juniors are the future of our sport. The junior nationals is the most important competition of the year in my book because it cultivates our ace pilots and secures our sport for the future.

Nymphsfield was tasked to host 55 glider pilots for the Junior Nationals and I am delighted to say we rose to the challenge. Our efforts were rewarded with 6 days of competition flying allowing us to turn a decent profit from the competition. We also managed to snatch the Gold medal with our very own Mr Jake Brattle - A huge congratulations from all of us Jake.



Special thanks go out to...

Steve Noujaim, Matt Davis and **Steve Pozerskis** for organisation and sponsorship

Dominic Conway for competition organisation

Ken Pyle and **Emily Tillet** for (wo)manning control and Robocontrol

Steve Jones for Directing

Sid Smith for weather briefing

Trevor Stuart for Task Setting

Dougie Vance who demonstrated superb leadership and organisation as launch marshal

All the **cadets** for rope running

Martin Talbot for organising a squadron of pilots and tugs

Café Staff for providing catering

Elaine Townsend and **Carrol Smith** for organising the bar and all the **volunteers** who worked particularly hard serving drinks each evening

All the **members** who kept flying operations going during the week and at the weekends during the comp

And finally **everyone else** who was involved with ensuring that the event was a success.

Thank you

Field Clearance

Richard Starling continues his field clearance campaign and I'm sure you will all have noticed the improvements, particularly at the East end of the trailer line. After many hours of committee correspondence we have successfully evicted one of the 3 (possibly 4) abandoned trailers and are working to remove the others.

There are also some nice new storage boxes for the fire extinguishers in the caravan park.

Midweek Instructor 2018

The committee are fully committed to finding a staff instructor for next year and the hunt has already started with adverts. In addition to this we will be making contact with gliding clubs all over the UK and sending flyers advertising the role.

A successful candidate will be given a competitive salary, full membership, free soaring fees in the club fleet and accommodation in our (soon to be) refurbished instructor's flat. It is expected that the candidate will work Monday to Friday, instructing our members, flying trial lessons and running courses. On non-flyable days he or she will carry out maintenance tasks at the club.

Please help us to find someone really excellent by spreading the word and get any interested candidate to contact the committee at committee@bggc.co.uk

We will keep you updated with our findings.