



BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE GLIDING CLUB

SOARING WITH THE BEST

Bristol & Gloucester Gliding Club Standard Operating Procedures Parachute Handling

V1.40, ~~December~~April 20178

~~Author:-~~

Owner: CFI

~~DRAFT FOR COMMENT~~



Preface

This Standard Operating Procedure provides instructions for the care and handling of BGGC Club parachutes.



Parachutes

Objective

This SOP describes the actions needed to maintain club-owned parachutes in a serviceable condition and to ensure that if the parachute is used, it will function as designed. Although the SOP does not apply directly to privately owned parachutes, private owners should follow the principles it sets out.

The SOP does not cover the wearing or emergency use of the parachutes; these aspects are covered by instructors as part of the training syllabus.

Administration

The Club has a designated parachute manager (Andrew Shearn), who oversees the management of parachutes. The current schedule for re-packing is every six months, apart from exceptional circumstances.

Numbers and Types

The club owns 15 parachutes, of roughly equal numbers, manufactured by Strong and Thomas Sport.

Location and Labelling

Every parachute has a label on the pop-top (numbers 1-6, 6A-11, 13 and 14, DG1 and DG2). Each parachute has its own bag, marked with the same identification labels, and has a designated slot in the parachute rack in the loft over the briefing room in the old clubhouse. The slots in the parachute rack are labelled to match the parachutes.

Operational Status

A status board is situated on the wall downstairs in the old clubhouse opposite the outside door. The board indicates whether a parachute is serviceable or not and the date it is due for re-pack.

Re-packing

Periodic re-packing is necessary to air the canopies and to get rid of any set creases. It also provides the opportunity to inspect the whole assembly. Manufacturers specify various frequencies for re-packing, but it is Club policy to re-pack all parachutes at 6 monthly intervals because of the heavy usage they receive from Club members.

Parachutes ready for re-packing or unserviceable should be placed in the re-packing container. The re-packing container is a large, open box located in the parachute loft.

Care of Parachutes

Parachutes must be kept clean, and in particular protected from moisture, oil and acid.



**BRISTOL AND
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
GLIDING CLUB**
SOARING WITH THE BEST

Page 4
BGGC.C.UK
A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

- Do not leave parachutes on the ground or damp surfaces.
- Do not use parachutes as wing weights whether in the bag or not.
- Do not leave parachutes exposed to the elements.
- Do not leave parachutes in the glider overnight.



Use of Parachutes

Before flying:

1. Select the parachute. Shorter pilots should use the Thomas Sports parachutes, because if the top of a Strong parachute is bent forward it will partly open the pack.
2. Take the parachute out of its bag and to the glider.
3. Inspect the parachute (Daily inspection). The inspection should include:
 - a. There is no sign of the pack coming adrift
 - b. The parachute is within its re-pack date as indicated on the label attached to the right hand side of the parachute strap, or if the label is missing, the status board in the clubhouse.
 - c. The whole assembly is dry.
 - d. The straps and buckles are in good condition
 - e. The clips function correctly.
4. If there is a perceived problem with a parachute, refer to an instructor. If the problem is confirmed return the parachute to its bag with a note explaining the problem, then place it in the re-pack box in the parachute loft. Note that the parachute is U/S on the status board.

At the end of flying

1. Replace the parachute in its bag. Return the parachute to the parachute loft.
2. Replace the parachute in its bag and put it back in its correct numbered slot.

Note: Sometimes parachutes are stored in the wrong bags. If this happens, try to find the correct bag, but as a minimum make sure the parachute itself is in the correct slot.