



Helios

The newsletter of
Windrushers Gliding Club



X97 awaits flight at Aboyne

Credit: Dave Smith

Issue number 1

January 2008

from The Chairman

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Happy New Year, and hope that 2008 is going to be the best possible year for everyone.

Last year certainly had its ups and downs—the weather was not good, we had to endure two AGMs, and sadly we lost two very dear friends from the club.

In many ways, it was not a year to ponder over too long, but instead makes us wish for something better in 2008.

This could be a crucial year for the club. We now have a new Management Committee in place, composed of the Best of the Best. Added to that the prospect that there may soon be a newly recruited full time Airfield Manager, and

we see that we are in an excellent position to do a lot of flying this coming season. And in case anyone had forgotten—that is mainly what we are here to do.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped within the club during 2007; keeping the flying going, and doing the hard work behind the scenes keeping everything else running smoothly. Running the club is most definitely a team effort, so if you see someone working on behalf of the club, how about going over and wishing them a Happy New Year, and thanking them!

See you all in 2008.

Chris Emson

from The CFI

Just a few thoughts for the forthcoming gliding season.

Cross-country: When you are planning your x-country, the Duty Instructor needs to know where you are going and when you return or land out; in my view it's the clubs duty of care. The x-country book will be on the bus when it's at the launch point or in the office at cease of flying. The Duty Instructor will be checking the book at the end of the day, so please book back in or at least phone the clubs mobile so that we can account for your whereabouts. We would hate to waste the valuable time of D and D services. Can you also record your kilometres flown for our statistics.

For those of you not at the AGM, we now have three new home grown instructors, Gail Stevens, Clive Dalzell, and James

Wilson; I am pleased to report they are doing well in their new responsibilities.

We hope to run some weekday courses during 2008, both beginners and advanced. This will depend on response from students, volunteer ground crew and instructors, although we will have two instructors on staff. Dates to be confirmed.

The new flying order book is now out, available on the web site and in the office. I would draw your attention to the slight changes in Flying Supervision sections 3 and 12—Operating Regulations sections 14 and 23d.

I feel that this coming year will be our best yet. With the help of all the club members we can really make this club grow.

Pete Brown

from The Office

Solo pilot refresher scheme

Pete Brown reintroduced this scheme last summer to encourage all solo pilots to fly with an instructor once a year as a refresher. The scheme requires you to take three winch launches and one aerotow launch—not necessarily on the same day—for a total cost of £30.

All launches will, initially, be charged at standard rates and once all four flights have been completed we will credit your flying account with the difference between the actual cost and £30. In order to claim your credit you must mark the log sheet with Solo Pilot Refresher so that we can maintain a record of these flights.

It's a very good deal and as Pete says "grab yourself an instructor and fly with them".

Details and a list of those wishing to take advantage of this offer are to be found on the Notice Board in Reception. Why not do it in the New Year before the soaring season begins and after several months of not getting airborne.

Members' guests

Members are always very welcome to bring guests—family members or friends—to Windrushers to fly. However to meet VAT regulations a guest must fly on their own account and pay a daily membership of £7.50.

Every guest, whether they are flying club gliders or a privately owned two seater, must complete a blue Temporary

membership form and the host member's name will be written across the top of it.

They will be given a T membership number and this is the number they must use on the log sheets—not the host member's number.

The host member will be responsible for ensuring that all flights and the day membership are paid for at the end of the day. In order to comply with the VAT regulations guests must not fly on a club member's account under any circumstances.

Log sheets and Trial Lessons

Log sheets are still causing nightmares in the office—please make sure that they are completed accurately with a membership number (everyone has one whether they are F, A, JC, J, C, RC, OS, OF, CS or T) unless they are trial lessons.

Trials will arrive at launch point with their voucher which has an issue number on the back—please mark the log with this number and send the voucher back to the office with the log sheets at the end of the day's flying.

We have massive problems with aerotows especially when we are launching remote from the launch point and have recently had to engage in some creative accounting in order to get these launches onto the system. If you are involved in remote aerotow launching please make out a separate log sheet for these flights giving all the relevant information for each flight.

“grab yourself an instructor and fly with them”

from The Office *club* Officials

Member's accounts

You will all have the necessary passwords to gain access to your account online via the web site at windrushers.org.uk—this is not a live database but it is updated every week mid-week so is about as live as it ever can be.

The club rule is that all members' accounts should be at zero or in the black at all times. Following a decision by the Management Committee several months ago, we will withdraw launch facilities to any member overdrawn by £100 and the account must be settled completely before launching again.

The list of those members affected by this rule is written onto the Daily Roster sheet at launch point.

If you are unable to access your account online we can always either check your account on the system over the phone or print a copy if you come into the office.

Board of Directors

Cris Emson—Chairman

Dickie Feakes

Nick Kelly

John Delafield

Gareth Cunningham

Pete Cadle

Alan Twigg

Management Committee

Dickie Feakes—Chief Executive

Dan Grey—Committee Secretary

George Tvalashvili—Treasurer

Terry Mitchell—Equipment, Operations Management

Ken Hartley—MT

Alan Smith—Press, Promotion and Publicity

Marie Mitchell—House Supervisor, Bar Supervision, Accommodation Manager.

Carol Winfield—Estates

Philippa Roberts—Oxford University Representative

winter Weekdays

Following the appointment of Mike Pettican as our winter part-time instructor, Windrushers are now operating on Wednesdays and Fridays as well as at weekends during the winter, before the start of seven days a week operation in April. Weather permitting, both aero-tow and winch launching will be available. Instruction for pre-solo pilots is offered, though help from any instructors who can come along on and help fly pupils on those days is most welcome.

summer Courses

Going For Solo

We have scheduled no less than five weeks this summer to be devoted to intensive Going For Solo courses.

Each week will have a maximum of four pupils and there will be two dedicated instructors available—each course will be tailored to the individual's requirements, but will be structured to give as much progress as possible to each pupil aiming for solo or as close as possible to solo.

You will be offered predominantly winch launches (typically 6 launches per day) but aerotow and motor glider launches where applicable—all at the normal club rates and with no course fee!

All we ask is that you pay a £50 deposit to secure your place—this will not be refunded if you subsequently cancel but will be credited to your account on the first day you fly on the week you book. Book your place early—these courses are being advertised outside the club and we anticipate them filling up quickly.

If you are able to help in any way with these courses, even for a day—either tugging, winching, running the launch point or anything else—please contact the office. Even if you are unable to commit right now because of shift patterns please make a note of these dates in your diary and let us know nearer the time if you are able to help us with this project.

Cross-country weeks

We are also organising two Cross-Country/Task weeks. We have booked

the BGA Duo Discus for one of these and we hope to have at least two two-seaters available for both of these weeks.

We are very pleased that the experienced competition pilot Dave Watt (2007 Booker Regionals winner) has kindly offered his very valuable experience to coach on one of these weeks.

For both of the weeks, we hope to enlist the assistance of more of our pool of experienced cross-country competition pilots ensuring a high level of instruction.

These weeks will cater for anyone hoping to improve their XC skills at any level—just discuss your needs on the phone.

Again, do book early.

GFS course dates

GFS1 14 – 18 April

GFS2 12 – 16 May

GFS3 9 – 13 June

GFS4 7 – 11 July

GFS5 8 – 12 September

XC course/Task Week dates

XC1 21 – 29 June

XC2 2 – 10 August

Booking

To book any of these courses either telephone the office on 01869 252493 or email admin@windrushers.org.uk.

“each course will be individually tailored”

the AGM

The 2007/2008 AGM was held in the bar on 17 November. For those who couldn't make it, here's what happened courtesy Cris the Chairman...

Trophy Winners

Several trophies were presented and each winner received a hearty round of applause.

LX Cup: Dave Watts

Al Far Memorial Award: John Wright

Chairman's Trophy: Clive Dalzell

Most Meritorious Flight of the Year: Jed Edyvean for his 750 km

Member of the Year: George Tvalashvili

CFI's Trophy: Alan Smith.

Directors

Before the AGM, the Directors had decided on the short term change of increasing the number of Directors to seven, allowing all three nominees to be voted in. The membership then had to vote on each individual Director, as each had to gain the majority support of the membership.

The following directors were elected:

Pete Cadle

John Delafield

Nick Kelly.

Management Committee

A number of positions were unopposed, but a vote was still held in order that each nominee received the support of the club membership before taking their positions. The new post of MT maintenance was created.

The following were elected:

Secretary—Dan Grey

Estates—Carol Winfield

PR and Marketing—Alan Smith

House member—Marie Mitchell

MT maintenance—Ken Hartley

Operations—Terry Mitchell

Treasurer—George Tvalashvili.

Motions Submitted

Two motions were submitted for consideration at the AGM, but after the proposers had spoken to them, they were then both withdrawn. Both proposers felt that each motion had a lot to offer, but neither completely addressed the requirements.

After some further discussions (including some ad-hoc show of hands from the membership), it was concluded that a new motion should be drafted, and presented to an EGM, such that the change to the Articles could be in place ready for next years AGM.

The consensus was:

1. Proxy voting was desirable, and should be pursued.
2. Postal voting was also an option that should be considered.
3. If a decision between Proxy or Postal voting was required, then Postal would be the preference.

Those involved in preparing the original motions will be asked to prepare a joint motion that includes the general feeling of the membership. If you have any comments, please feel free to forward them to the committee or Directors.

the AGM ctd.

Debenture Survey

Nick Kelly explained the likely financial needs of the club in the next 12 to 18 months and outlined how a debenture scheme could meet the club's needs and be significantly less expensive than borrowing money commercially. A five year period with a zero or low rate of interest was envisaged, although details have yet to be finalised.

It was mentioned at the AGM that Talgarth had used such a scheme to enable it to buy its site for example.

In order to assess support for a possible debenture, we would appreciate it if you could complete the Debenture Form at the end of the newsletter stating how much you think you might be able to offer the club and return it to Nick per the instructions on the form.

glider Utilisation

Ever wondered how much flying our gliders do?

Glider	04/05 year	05/06 year	06/07 year	Increase
				(over previous yr)
CCZ	534 launches 80.2 hours	717 launches 100.2 hours	1155 launches 155.90 hours	61% 56%
JXM	551 launches 88.67 hours	1162 launches 190.38 hours	1319 launches 198.39 hours	14% 4%
HMV	1510 launches 185.26 hours	897 launches 153.18 hours	1271 launches 195.24 hours	42% 27%
BSE	393 launches 63.82 hours	177 launches 36.55 hours	209 launches 48.21 hours	18% 32%
DFR	0 launches 0.00 hours	37 launches 22.4 hours	63 launches 78.12 hours	70% 249%
EED	8 launches 4.55 hours	82 launches 24.47 hours	122 launches 22.42 hours	49% -8%
BBU	215 launches 40.93 hours	114 launches 48.22 hours	165 launches 31.78 hours	45% -34%

members' Achievements

This will become a regular feature of *Helios*. To kick-start this list, here's what Windrushers members achieved this past year.

Solo

- Edward Barrell (14 October)
- Sam Barrell (13 October)
- Mario Nardone (October)
- Jason Gauchi (September)
- Jim Barrell (September, after a seven year layoff)
- Seth Helstrip (September)
- Peter Bryant (August)
- Martin Marx (June)
- Tim Harrington (re-soloed June)
- Rob Hatschek (March)
- Sebastian Cassell (March)
- Alan Lynfield (re-soloed in February after a two year gap)
- Gem Roberston—first new solo of the year! (February)

Bronze C

- Corbin Davies (October)
- Philippa Roberts (September)
- Kjell Konis (September)
- George Tvalashvili (August)
- Dan Grey (August)
- Mark Trocknell (July)
- Jolien Chow (May)

Other achievements

- Jed Edyvean—750 km (July)
- Mark Lavender—300 km (July)
- Terry Crow—100 km Dip (July)
- Lucas Brandt—300 km (July)
- Barney Crump—300 km (July)
- Terry Crow —50 km (May)
- Clive Dalzell—Gold height (March)

your article here

Helios wants your articles, on anything gliding related. Flown a competition? A special flight? At a new stage in your training? Been on an expedition? Have an anecdote from times past?

Whatever you can think of!

Please send any ideas you have to the editor,
dangrey@gmail.com.

bga Ladder 2007

Windrushers Open Ladder Top 10

	Pilot	1	2	3	4	5	6	Points
1	Bob King	3776	3320	2777	2327	2219	2017	16436
2	Mark Lavender	2912	2365	2339	2257	2017	1519	13409
3	Dave Watt	2665	2218	2119	2025	1813	1521	12361
4	Pete Stratten	2462	2207	1904	1685	1553	1461	11272
5	Mark Szymkowicz	3384	2480	1347	1288	1095	1007	10601
6	Andy Henderson	1987	1417	1375	1268	826	812	7685
7	Jed Edyvean	4163	3400					7563
8	Mike Pettican	2906	2207	1853				6966
9	John Wright	1620	1447	1186	1016	901	649	6819
10	James Wilson	1526	1437	1216	1027	801	739	6746

Windrushers Weekend Ladder Top 10

	Pilot	1	2	3	4	5	6	Points
1	Bob King	3776	2777	2327	2219	2017	1963	15079
2	Dave Watt	2665	2218	1521	1063			7467
3	Mark Lavender	2339	2017	1263	977	615	151	7362
4	Andy Henderson	1987	1375	1268	826	812	709	6977
5	Mike Pettican	2906	2207	1853				6966
6	James Wilson	1526	1437	1216	1027	801	739	6746
7	Pete Stratten	2207	1685	1461	1336			6689
8	Mark Szymkowicz	2480	1347	1095	821	386		6129
9	Andy McKee	1678	1351	1348	1011			5388
10	Sunay Shah	1784	1155	1150	725			4814

Club ranking

	Club	Total km	No. flights	Average km/flight
1	Lasham/Surrey & Hants	88,515	334	265
2	London GC	81,975	315	260
3	Bristol & Gloucester GC	75,261	361	209
4	Cambridge GC	68,478	267	257
5	Booker GC	67,939	313	217
6	Southdown GC	54,000	210	257
7	Scottish Gliding Union	37,593	137	274
8	Yorkshire GC	30,702	131	234
9	Windrushers GC	26,697	116	230
10	The Soaring Centre	26,279	112	235

duty Roster

Saturday 12 January	<i>Duty instructor</i>	Dave Smith
	<i>Tug pilot</i>	Dave Bullock
	<i>Duty pilot</i>	George Tvalashvili

Sunday 13 January	<i>Duty instructor</i>	John (Red) Staley
	<i>Tug pilot</i>	Pete Stratten
	<i>Duty pilot</i>	Gem Robertson

Saturday 19 January	<i>Duty instructor</i>	Jonathon May
	<i>Tug pilot</i>	Mike Pettican
	<i>Duty pilot</i>	Philippa Roberts

Sunday 20 January	<i>Duty instructor</i>	OJ Garrity
	<i>Tug pilot</i>	Debbie Thomas
	<i>Duty pilot</i>	Jolien Chow
	<i>BI</i>	Mark Lavender

Saturday 26 January	<i>Duty instructor</i>	Mike Boik
	<i>Tug pilot</i>	Peter Brown
	<i>Duty pilot</i>	Mark Szymkowicz

Sunday 27 January	<i>Duty instructor</i>	Cris Emson
	<i>Tug pilot</i>	Dave Smith
	<i>Duty pilot</i>	Dan Grey
	<i>BI</i>	Marjorie Hardwick

Saturday 2 February	<i>Duty instructor</i>	Ian Smith
	<i>Tug pilot</i>	Gary Binnie
	<i>Duty pilot</i>	Colin Barnfather

Sunday 3 February	<i>Duty instructor</i>	John Wright
	<i>Tug pilot</i>	Ian Smith
	<i>Duty pilot</i>	Tim Freegarde

WGC Debenture Survey

The Directors are preparing financial plans for each of the field purchase scenarios, and as you might expect most include a significant amount of external financing.

In order to reduce the amount of commercial loan capital, we are looking at a number of alternatives. One is a Debenture scheme, where we would ask our members for an interest free loan secured against the land we have purchased.

We have not finalised the details of the scheme, but would endeavor to repay the Debenture loans within five years and have a clause where individuals could request early repayment.

At this time we are only looking for an indication of amount we could raise in this way this expression of interest is not a commitment and the loan amount can be varied.

Members name

.....

Amount you may be prepared to loan

.....

Your information will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not distributed outside the WGC Board of Directors,

Please return the form to myself by hand

Or Post to

Nick Kelly
3 The Terrace
Main Street
Gawcott
Bucks, MK18 4HL

Or Email Amount you may be prepared to loan to Debenture@nickkelly.net

Thank you for your support

WGC Directors