



NEWSLETTER

February 2012

After a relatively mild December and January, with some reasonable flying, February brought the Siberian Blast which kept most of us at home and gave me a stinker of a cold for nearly 3 weeks (and no flying). Only the hardy few braved frostbite and chill-blains to get some air-time. As I write this the Met Office promise the SW gales will warm us up (and blow us away) for the start of March. Just remember to be patient as it is a shame to bust bones at the start of the season and miss the best weather later.

January AGM Meeting minutes

Chairman's Report

Alan Hughes summed up the past year as being a generally good year for the club, with many members improving on their flying skills. There has also been no need for the air ambulance during the year.

Treasurer's Report

Julie Stapleton reported on the club's accounts for the year. Highlights were:

Freathy Site fees have increased from £150 to £250. All other site fees are unchanged.

There were 90 full members in 2011, of which 40 paid their membership fees via Paypal. She recommends the club continue to use the Paypal facility for membership fees.

The club made a profit in the year of approx. £200 and an account balance of approx. £1900. She recommended that the membership fees remain unchanged.

Air Ambulance Donation

After some discussion the Air Ambulance donation will be made to both the Devon and Cornwall service at a ratio of 2/1. The club contribution will be £300 along with an extra amount from various fundraising efforts during the year.

Election of Officers

Due to personal commitments Paul Cioffi stood down in his roles as club PG safety officer and Schools Liaison officer. Paul recommended Robin Mills as Schools liaison and Alan Hughes recommended Mark Nicol as PG safety officer. Both were duly elected. The club thanked Paul for his contribution to the club.

All other posts remain unchanged.

Awards

The awards for the year were:

Mark Stapleton award - Mark Nicol

XC League – Martin Foley

Most Improved Pilot – Mick Boarer (chosen by chief coach, Mark Nicol and the club committee)

Chairman's Pint – Bob Moore

Club Resolutions

There was a discussion over plans for future club meetings and other events for the year. Mike Gadd is booked to give a talk on sailplane flying for the February meeting. Possible future speakers included David Braine, Andrew Pearce (Flying Frenzy school), Graham Phipps (Cloud 9), Craig Morgan (ex British PG champ), a representative/ medic from the Devon Air Ambulance.

Repack

Andy Farrow will not be available to do the club's annual parachute repack session until after the 2nd week in March.

In the meantime Robin Mills is happy to do repacks for individual members if they so wish. Contact Robin directly to arrange.

Pilot Exam

Mark Nicol will arrange a day of lectures culminating in the exam on a rainy Saturday soon. Details will be posted to the Yahoo Group. He reminds those intending to take the exam that it is the last stage in gaining the Pilot rating and that all other tasks need to be signed off before taking the exam.

Flying Trips

There are several club members now booked for a trip to Oludeniz in May but Alan Hughes was keen to arrange some flying trips in the UK this year. Most likely venues would be Long Mynd or SE Wales. These are probably going to be based around a plan to go for a weekend and a final decision being made on Thursday night, depending on the weather forecast.

Club Socials

Gordon White is open to ideas from members for club social events during the year. Ideas included a summer BBQ or beach party, skittles night, carting and a boat trip on the "Vigilance".

BCC

Matt Allot was keen for the club to have a go at the British Clubs Challenge this year, possibly with 2 teams if enough members are interested.

February Meeting

This will be at the Royal Oak as usual on the 23rd February at 8pm. Mike Gadd will be the guest speaker giving a talk on his experiences training as a sailplane pilot.

Agenda February 2012

Meet 7:30 in the bar

Meeting start 8:00

1. Intro - AlanH
2. Feedback from Condors' XC course - attendees
3. Pilot Exam training update - MarkN
4. "Brass Monkey" Comp Plans - ColinJ, Matt
5. Flight Confessions - all guilty pilots
6. Safety Matters - Mark N
 - strong wind landings at Polhawn
 - complaints re: horses at Polhawn
 - HG crash landing video example (AlanH)
7. "Schools Liaison" role - AlanH / Robin Mills
8. Prep for parachute re-pack session - Robin Mills / Andy Farrow
9. Sites
 - Dizzard - site owner needs a bottle! Who's our site rep for Dizzard?

9:15 Break

9:30 Meeting restarts

10. Guest Speaker - Mike Gadd: Sailplane Superiority!

10:30 Meeting finish

additional videos / pics as time permits...

[UK] Winter Flying News

Saturday 28th January Mat nipped out to Cox Tor

I was up at Cox Tor earlier, wind quite strong 15 ish, COLD and off to the east a little, I got a couple of hundred feet at times, quite lumpy and jumpy at times. Good fun!

Same day Darren was at Corn Ridge

Got there with 2 gliders in the air and 2 on the ground, by the time I reached the bottom of the ridge they had all over flown me and landed, got to the top of the ridge where it was 6 gusting up to 10&12, didn't think it was worth the risk so returned to the car for a half hour yap before going home.

Mark H added : Corn ridge nice. Light, but little thermals hoisting us up to few hundred over takeoff. I was a wimp and got cold hands so only about an hour. Must get some decent gloves.

Same day Sam headed into Cornwall

Stopped at St Agnes first where Terry and Bill where in attendance, wind off to east and gusting up to 23mph! We made the decision to head down to Carbis; on arrival lots of Kernow pilots in attendance. Andy Rogers was up on his hanger, the only HG/PG pilot that day to have read the forecast correctly. Myself and many others had left HG's at home. The wind did drop within the hour so out came the para's, conditions were very good, and the headland could be easily jumped. You could push a fair way down towards St Ives bay; had a good sea thermal up to 575ft. Wind dropped throughout the day, got scratchy at times but good buoyant cycles would start, remained flyable all day left at about 3.

Friday Feb 3rd Bob went to Beesands:

Mick B and I grabbed a bit of flying today in the short flyable window at Beesands around midday today.

On arrival we saw a flock of a hundred gulls thermalling and carrying the thermals inland quite a way behind the village. Wind 8 - 14 mph and NE on t/o but slowly came around to east. I took off and hooked something straight away to well over 300 feet ato. Even with hand warmers I only flew 15 mins though as my fingers went dead. Got over the l/z with loads of height. Mick flew for longer but he's a hardy soul used to working outside in the cold. He had well over 400 feet. But the wind gradually dropped away so in the end he was scratching a bit.

Nice pint after in the Cricket Inn and a lovely bright sunshiney day.

Robin Mills was at Labrador same day:

Cad and I did much the same at Labrador Bay. Wind suddenly got up so we shot down there. Took off and had an hours flying very scratchy at the end but hooked some nice thermals. Best one early on, up well above 400'.

Thursday 16th Feb Pete Dixon went up to Westbury:

2000 asl achieved on HG! It was Magical. Borrowed an old magic 3. Turned a few nostalgic heads!

Sunday 19th Feb Sam headed down to Sennen:

Had a good time on the HG at Sennen today, NNW 18-22 to begin with (11am), backing NW 16 - 18 as the day progressed; left at around 4 with wind dropping off quite quickly. Had three flights in buoyant conditions; plenty of sea thermal about, one dubious landing and two good ones, so the ratio is improving on that front. Zipped up the pod harness for the first time, which doesn't sound very momentous but is another step in the right direction and took the February chill away.

Not many out Phippsy, Kaz, Nigel W and a hill conversion student coming back into HG after a 20 year break.

Had some texts through that Westbury and Lidd were blown out most of the day then came on for PGs, some at Westbury getting up to 3000.

Was very indecisive this morning deciding where to go, not sure I had made the right decision on the long drive down but ended up having an excellent day.

Same day Mark N was at Dizzard:

Wind conditions were similar at Dizzard NNW 18 -22 mph, slowly backing NW.

There were seven hangies in total; Karl Sweeney, Chris Smith, Colin Jones, Alan Hughes, Geoff Brooks, Keith Sutherland and myself with James Bull (para) waiting for the wind to drop.

All good t/o and landings and the rigid wings got up to 1500 ft ato in sea thermal. Conditions weren't quite good enough to tempt anyone to fly xc except Geoff Brooks -who landed at the pub 2 miles downwind.

Some of us flew for nearly 3 hours and were quite tired by the time we landed.

There were also hangies flying at Highcliff -3 miles along the coast.

Monday 20th editor went to Freathy:

Arrived at 10 am along with Tim and Mike C (initially getting his PG out). Tim checked T/O and got 20mph so headed home as he had plenty of work to do. Mark & Jen launched from Polhawn SW t/o as we arrived and had a good flight (Jen's first for 3 month's) and landed at Freathy, so I gave a lift back to the van. They then headed home, as Mark hadn't brought the HG.

Phippsy arrived with a PG student to complete a hill conversion, followed by the Reeds and Condor's Dave (HG).

Mike C had a couple of flights on the HG and Dave also had some fun, but Phippsy and I gave up at 1pm leaving the Reeds to debate if it was still too strong (18 - 23mph SW).



Other News

Website upgrade

Ashley is in the process of transferring the club web site to a new server, anyone who used the direct URL of www.itscornwall.co.uk/hang may not find the club site, www.sdhgpgc.org.uk will still work as usual and will be the main URL.

As the subscription is now due for 2012, he has updated the Paypal feature on the web site. It will now ask for your BHPA number prior to allowing you to pay via Paypal/credit card.

Any problems email ashley@itscornwall.co.uk

Annual Subscriptions

Just a little reminder for those that were not at the AGM (thanks to those that paid), club subs are now due and remain at £15, excellent value for money compared to a lot of other clubs.

Please also note when paying you need to provide your BHPA number as it is our clubs and all other UK clubs duty to ensure all our members are current BHPA members. A bi-annual check is made of our club records with the BHPA records to highlight any issues.

Thanks in advance, Dougie (Membership sec)

Condors XC Course

Really worthwhile trip to Taunton for Pat Dowers excellent XC course with Julie, Andy H, Mark H, Mark A , Chris M and a lot of others.

Here's Tom Payne's XC Planner that Pat mentioned. <http://www.paraglidingforum.com/viewtopic.php?t=44972>

And Tim Pentreaths XC routes here too. <http://flyaszent.wordpress.com/classic-xc-routes/>

Some flights to dream of in coming XC season! Bob

Pilot Exam Lectures (These have yet to take place.)

The date of the lectures will be determined by the weather. Mark N (Senior Coach) will make the decision on a Thursday evening after checking all the forecasts for the following Saturday or Sunday and put it on the Yahoo group.

The lectures will be held at the Royal Oak, South Brent -where we have our club meetings. Start at 10 a.m. Two lectures before lunch; break for lunch and then one lecture in the afternoon. Air law covered by Mark Nicol, Meteorology covered by Alan Hughes and Principles of Flight covered by Karl Sweeney,

Just to give you a taste of what to expect Alan Hughes, Robin Mogridge and Mark will be organising a quiz for the February club meeting. A lot of the questions will be similar to those you might be asked in the pilot exam.

So, if you think you want to attend the lectures then please let Mark know so he has an idea of numbers.

For Sale (also see club website)

I have cleared down last year's list, so please let me have any fresh adverts you want posting.

February Meeting is on Thursday 23rd February 7:30pm at the **Royal Oak, South Brent.**

Directions (roughly) are to go into the town centre from the roundabout before (westbound) or after (eastbound) the London Inn. The Pub is in station road (near the station car park) to the right, when you get to the middle.

Mark Ansell, Newsletter Editor,

SOUTH DEVON HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING CLUB

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