

TVGC Newsletter

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December 2007

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE...

Hello to all members. Firstly I would like to say how pleased I am that we now have the Motor Falke and hanger on site. Let's make the most of it. We must now be one of the best clubs in the country – having a good fleet, a wonderful tug, a great winch, great clubhouse and bar, workshop, kitchen and many more things. Let us all use these facilities and keep the club on track. We need you to fly more to keep the income flowing.

Well done to everyone who took part in the interclub competition and a big thanks to Paul & Patrick for organising this event – we even made money. Many thanks to Ray for donating a trailer and real big 'thanks' to Alec for the conversion into our accident/fire trailer.

We must endeavour to keep the site clean and tidy. I would like to ask for some members to volunteer to complete painting the hanger floor – half of this has already been done – paint and rollers are in the hanger waiting to be used! Volunteers are also required to paint the new 'T' hanger and we still need to build a compound for the dustbins, a must for health & hygiene purposes. Hopefully, next year's project is a new ladies toilet and shower facilities.

I would also like to make a request to all members – please ensure you separate the rubbish – the tins and bottles are separated from the normal rubbish. There are sufficient bins to do this, so please, please remember. It only takes two minutes to do on the day, but an hour to do later!!

This year's Christmas Party was on the 1st December. Thank you to all members who supported us – I hope you all enjoyed yourselves. Particular thanks to Pat, Janet and Rita who

TRENT VALLEY



GLIDING CLUB

set up the tables plus much more and my assistant chefs Bob and Richard.

If any member would like to suggest any social events, please let either myself or Richard know and we will try to organise it for you – we really must try to use the facilities that are available to us.

On a safety note, please avoid driving over any cables – these can really bite, plus it's bad practice & frowned upon by the BGA.

A big 'thank you' to the team of grass cutters, you really have done us proud this year, and now it is my turn to repair the tractor in return.

Now to membership - we really do need to try and encourage new members to join us, and flying evenings are a 'must'. With costs rising, we have to look at all aspects to increase our turnover – well done Pete for balancing the books again.

I would now like to take the opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to our CFI Steve, all the instructors, the tug master Brian and all the tug pilots for all the hard work they have done during 2007. Finally, a big 'thanks' to yourselves for the support you have given to both myself and the Directors.

Happy 'Safe Flying' and keep a good lookout.

Vin Marchant, Chairman.



EDITOR'S RETORT

We have had a successful 6 months and achieved good results with badge claims as detailed in the CFI's report. The weather has again been a factor in the amount of flying which is slightly down on the same period in 2006. The Motor Falke has had a fair amount of use and is a very useful asset to the club – in the new year it will be exchanged for a different type with a higher cockpit loading. (At present large people such as the editor takes our present one over the weight limit if the instructor is a similar size!)

As many of you know the Puchacz is un-serviceable following a total failure of the airbrake operating mechanism. The glider has been taken to McLean Aviation for repair and for a mandatory modification which involves cutting open the wings. The fact it was landed safely is a credit to both pilots' ability and experience. Thank you Ray and Dave.

The winch has now been wired so that the batteries are kept charged when in the hanger. Please remember to plug in when the winch is put away. The grass cutting season has finished until next spring and opportunity will be taken to overhaul the blue tractor and the grass cutter its self before we use them again.

A note for your diaries – the Annual Dinner Dance will be held at the White Heather on Friday 7th March 2008, more details later.

Your editor is going to be away from Kirton during January and February. Spare weak links are available, please see Vin.

Finally I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and excellent gliding in 2008.

Ian Johnson, Editor.



FLYING MATTERS FROM THE CFI...

Well another flying season is over and thank you to all for keeping it safe so long may this continue.

The winter time is the time of short days and inclement weather as opposed to the summer that was inclement weather and long days so beware of misting canopies and don't launch if you cannot see out..

It is aimed to do a "The shortest Day" event on Saturday 15th December with a preferential launch fees to encourage as much flying as possible.

Despite the weather, we have had one of the most successful years for badge flights so congratulations goes such pilots as Steve Nock for his epic flight in the "Rat" to achieve his gold distance and a diamond and to Dave Bieniasz for his 300k.

Our return match with Saltby and Dalton for the "Yellow Bung" was a success both socially and on the flying front although the weather again could have been better. Thanks to all those (participating and non) who made it a success and it would have been good for more members to have attended to see how a competition is run.

The Solo Pilot annual checks will be carried out between 1st November to 28th February 2008. The Aerotow will consist this year of a period of Fast cruise exercise which maybe new to some. The emphasis on the flying will be around Auto-rotation recoveries and spin prevention which is more important that actually ending up in the spin especially when you are low down with insufficient recovery heights. Normal solo training (and re-soloing) will still require satisfactory full spin recoveries. The 3 winch launch scenarios are unchanged.

As you maybe aware the Pawnee has actually done some real field retrieves by myself at the two seater comp. Entering field in gliders and Pawnee require a lot of caution and treated with a lot of respect and preparation is important.

To this end I have introduced a new optional exercise for those wishing to undertake this method of retrieve (at our club or others) of launching on a short (24m) rope after measuring a 450m take off run together with a field landing and retrieve lecture (TBC).

The motor glider is now here and adds very nicely to our operation but comes with it are operational considerations which are being defined and will be available in the Motor Glider Ops book and the TVGC Operations manual which all are required have read and signed.

On the point of lectures there is a list for those wanting to attend on the main notice board. Lectures will be booked according to the requirement so put your name on the list.

On a final note the EASA transition is now here and as I have already indicated I need help in this task. It is important for the

future that we will need better workshop facility and a start can be made by improving the present workshop which requires sealing the roof and windows frames, painting of the walls and the floor. Volunteers are required to take ownership of this and get a group of members to complete this. Someone is still required to take over as Tech Officer as it is unlikely that I will continue this task in the future.

If you have any comment, queries or concerns on any flying matters then please come and talk to me directly.

Safe Landings,

Steve Wilkinson, CFI.



MARKETING NEWS

Scouting Centenary - Our static display at the Scouting Centenary Event in the grounds of Lincoln Castle was a great success. The event gave us access to Scout group leaders from all around the Lincoln area and several of them expressed an interest in coming to us for flying evenings next year.

Several of the youngsters who sat in the glider (my Astir) were amazed to learn that it actually still flew. A worrying number of others wanted to know where we attach the Sidewinders!

We also made contact with the activities organiser for next year's Poacher Event. He was very keen for TVGC to provide the gliding activity for the Scouts and Guides, as we did in 2004. The Event is going to be held between the 26th July and 2nd August 2008.

I am particularly grateful to Paul and Janet Holland, Rob, Callum, Dick Bastin, Paul Daubney, Steve Nock and Peter Bellham for turning out over the weekend to help me with the TVGC display stand.

Sell! Sell! Sell! - You should have received a letter from Vin detailing our new Christmas Gift Voucher sales campaign. I hope you will agree that the free launch incentives are extremely generous – this reflects the importance the club attaches to increasing our visitor flying and voucher sales.

Please, please give the campaign a go. All you need to do is put your name and contact details on the posters and display them somewhere prominent. There are no limits on the number of free launches you can accrue, so you could make a significant saving on your flying fees if you are willing to invest a little time and effort on this.

Call me if you need more posters or any other help.

Alan Spencer, Marketing Officer.