

In the Air

Lasham

Fast Communication for Lasham Members

January 2001

A World Champion of Our Own

As many of you will have heard, we have a new World Champion in our midst. Pete Masson, flying a DG 101 in the first Club Class World Championships in Gawler, Australia, finished in the number one spot after 8 gruelling days of fierce competition, not to mention the fierce heat (it hit 47°C on one day). Pete was undoubtedly helped by the strong team he had around him - both on the ground and in the air. Richi Hood of the Four Counties Club, and Lasham's own Afandi Darlington inevitably played their part in his victory and themselves achieved highly acclaimed second and fourth places respectively. On the ground Big Bad Bob Bickers (him with the unfeasibly large moustache) in his capacity as Team manager, kept sanity while Martyn Wells acted as Team Coach.

This is a great result for the UK and for Lasham. The standard of flying demonstrated in this class of contest is of the highest order and requires a great deal of determination and dedication, not to mention a lot of support, practice, encouragement and training. It is a reflection on Lasham's position in the gliding world that two of the pilots in this World contest learnt their skills here. We already have amongst our members a European Champion and many past National Champions and past and present Squad members proves, if proof were needed, that Lasham truly is the centre of excellence we all know it to be.

Well done Pete and Afandi, you did us proud.

Graham McAndrew

Social Calendar

Friday 23rd February

Quiz Night! - the ever-popular quiz night with trivia questions compiled by Geoff Seaman and hosted by Graham Wilson. Prizes for correct answers, 10p forfeit for wrong answers, all proceeds to the Lasham Trust. A cheap, fun night out with nosh supplied by the canteen at less than takeaway prices! Starts at 7.30 pm in the Clubhouse bar.

Saturday 3rd March

59 Minutes wasted with Platypus - an evening extravaganza, 2 for the price of 1! An illustrated humorous talk by Mike Bird, aka Platypus, long-time S&G contributor, including video footage of the new 30.9m ETA in flight. This, followed by a Thai evening, courtesy of our resident chef and catering staff. A selection of Thai dishes for the value price of £7.50 per head! Don't miss it - book a table! Starts at 5.30pm in the Clubhouse.

Friday 23rd March

Go-Karting evening - Book in advance and join the rabble for a fun night of thrashing around a circuit with your backside half an inch off the deck! Details on the Social Committee noticeboard, or contact Nicki to put your name(s) on the list.

Saturday 14th April

Annual Dance - Fancy dress theme - 'Last Night of the Titanic!' Book your table for the dining-in, and get your ideas going for the perfect costume. Come as a member of the band, one of the 'bright young things' or just one of the rabble. What about the sailors, the captain, the lookout (the iceberg might be a bit difficult!)? - the list of suggestions is endless! Raffle and prizes on the night, with themed decorations. Starts from 7.30pm in the Clubhouse.

Thursday 25th May (to be confirmed)

Visit to the Met Office, Bracknell - See where it all happens! Further details to be confirmed shortly.

For any queries on the events planned, or offers of help, please contact Nicki Marchant on any of the following, or via the office at Lasham:-

Mobile: 07720-638251. Email: nix357@hotmail.com

SPRING INTO SUMMER

FOUR WINCH LAUNCHES FOR THE PRICE OF THREE!

AVAILABLE MONDAY TO FRIDAY
UNTIL THE 30TH OF APRIL 2001

ALL FLIGHTS TO BE TAKEN ON THE SAME DAY

FREE LAUNCH IS NOT TRANSFERABLE

PILOT TO MARK LOG 'FREE' AGAINST FOURTH LAUNCH

ONLY ONE FREE LAUNCH PER PERSON PER DAY

SOARING FEES APPLY TO ALL LAUNCHES IN LGS GLIDERS

FIRST 3 LAUNCHES TO BE PAID FOR AT CURRENT RATES

Interclub league - pilots wanted

Once again the opportunity exists for Lasham pilots to compete with world champions, to fly at strange airfields and to invite farmers from distant lands to the annual cheese and wine party. That's right, Lasham is again competing in the South East Inter Club League and needs pilots of all levels of experience to compete, at exotic locations such as Booker and Parham.

This year there is also the chance for some (not so) friendly rivalry between Lasham and Surrey and Hants. David Masson is entering an S&H team. So finally we'll know whether getting up early for the ballot really does scramble their brains.

The main purpose of the ICL is to encourage novices to try competitive cross-country flying on a less formal basis than National and Regional competitions.

A friendly and supportive environment is provided. It also gives the more experienced the opportunity to shake the dust out of their pitot tubes and to pass on their wisdom to the novices. There are up to ten competition days and on each of those days a Novice, Intermediate and Pundit pilot are needed for the Lasham and S&H teams.

Each pilot can fly on up to four of the ten days. So if you have your silver badge, or are a world champion Lasham and S&H need to hear from you. This year with two teams it would be very embarrassing if a Lasham team didn't win.

Please, don't just think about it, but contact Malcolm Hodgson (01895



*High Tows,
Low Prices*

*4000' tow
for
3000' price*

*Normal soaring charges
apply*

*Offer available until 30th
April 2001*

Hurry and get yours now!

270446) or David Masson (01420 542086) straight away.

Ontur 2001

Following last year's tremendously successful trip a return visit is planned to this magnificent area. Two weeks are planned at the beginning of June. The Duo Discus will be there for two-seater cross-

country training, there will be gliders on site for hire or bring your own aircraft. Even better share it with a partner. It's great fun and great flying but you will have to be quick to add your name to the list on the noticeboard as places will be limited and these are going fast.

Catering and Bar Review

You may be wondering why you have received a questionnaire with this latest issue of 'In The Air'. The survey we are conducting with the help of the questionnaire is an important part of a comprehensive review of our catering and bar services. The primary objectives of the review are to ensure that we can achieve the following, on an ongoing basis:

- Provide a first class, value for money catering and bar service.
- Ensure that the existing customer base is satisfied.
- Develop and extend the current customer base.
- Ensure the financial viability of bar and canteen operations.
- Develop staff skills to ensure compliance with legislation and improve staff retention.

It will be an enormous help if all members return their questionnaires to the canteen completed as fully as possible. Past experience tends to suggest that those who are most satisfied with the services currently offered are often the least likely to respond. Please let us have your views regardless of your current level of satisfaction. We can not respond if we do not know how you feel!

A complimentary cup of tea or coffee is available from the canteen for those of you who deliver your completed questionnaire to the canteen in person.

Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting will take place in the clubhouse on Saturday the 7th April 2001 at 16.00 hours. Two Committee members, Clive Davies and Ian Godfrey, will retire from office. Both of them are eligible for re-election and have agreed to stand for nomination and re-election as Committeemen.

Any other full flying member over the age of 21 may be nominated for election to fill either of the two vacancies. Nomination forms, which are available from the office, must be returned to the Secretary by 16.00 hours on the 24th February 2001.

Field Selection and Navigation Training at 1998 prices!

prepare for the 2001 soaring season

Field selection £35 (normal price £39)

Nav Training £45 (normal price £50.50)

Available until
30th April 2001

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

In the Air

Fast Communication for Lasham Members

From the New CFI – Gordon MacDonald

I did not expect to be here writing to you now but as most of you now know Graham McAndrew has chosen a new career in commercial aviation. I would like to thank Graham for all his hard work and for teaching me lots of new skills. He will be a tough act for me to follow.

Lasham's Own Meteorology!

From early April we will try and provide a basic soaring forecast of the next day's soaring weather by midday the day before. At this stage it will only consist of a few sentences on the next day's thermal height, strength, cloud base, amount of cloud, wind, best soaring areas and other soaring tips for the day. This will be on the Lasham website www.lasham.org.uk and Onelist. If any members with good meteorology knowledge, who are a bit PC literate wish to help with this project then give me a call.

Before you Fly

I do not want to sound like a broken record. BUT every year in the spring we have accidents that are a direct result of pilots not being current at whatever they are attempting. You might well be technically current but if you feel uncurrent then fly with an instructor. From experience the people who ask for check flights do not need them. It is the people who do not ask but should who need them (and have the accidents as a result).

NPPL update

We can now do the entire NPPL at Lasham, including the ground exams. When you think you are ready to sit the ground exam see one of the NPPL instructors to arrange it. If anybody with suitable experience feels they could give evening lectures to help people pass the ground exams then please give me a call.

Hangar Rash

Surprise, surprise. Here we go again. Hangar rash of a particularly nasty kind happened on or about Saturday 22nd February. The lovely Capstan had its rudder fabric badly split with a tear of about 8 inches long. So what? It happens - Well it does unfortunately, but this time the rudder lock was deliberately moved up to cover it. This is really bad, bordering on the criminal. OK it was going to be found WHEN an owner wanted to fly, but if someone can do that, what about much more serious but difficult to detect damage? I say again, hangar rash will occasionally occur. BUT if you do it – report it. **You are more likely to be thanked than told off.**

Towing the glider to the Launch Point

Last year there were six accidents towing to the launch point, resulting in damage, ranging from a chip in the gel coat to one written-off glider. One was the result of the tow equipment failing and all the others were driver error (a nice change from pilot error!). They all hit other members' property, including cars, caravan, other gliders and the bus. Please only tow at walking pace so if anything does go wrong, little or no damage will result.

Dates for your diary

29th March 1800 in the canteen.
Judy Leden Illustrated talk "Leonardo's Flying Machine & Free Flight Exploits"

30th March 1600
Basic, Assistant and full category instructor meeting.

12th April AGM at 1600 in clubhouse.

17th May Marie Curie cancer care ladies' driving challenge (no jokes please) On south side of airfield.

Compass Changes

The Lasham compass programme was set up many years ago to try and provide training and facilities for Lasham members to learn the skills required to become competent cross country and competition pilots. Every weekend day there is a briefing and cross country tasks are set. This has been very successful and continues to evolve into the system we have now.

A few people are missing out because we do not have anything in writing as to how this system works as at the moment it is spread by word of mouth only. If anybody remembers when and who set this up and is willing to write a brief history of the compass system in the form of a briefing sheet then please let me know.

For this year there are a few small changes.

- The briefing will be conducted in either the compass room, brown elephant or canteen. There will be an announcement on the tannoy 10 minutes before the brief to say where it will be. This should stop people having to peer through windows and stand outside, possibly missing important information on busy days.
- Compass coaches. We had a number of requests from P1s wanting to know the best methods of teaching people how to fly cross-country in 2 seaters. There is no current BGA syllabus on the subject. We have developed a syllabus of our own that can be used as a guide. See me and I will give you a copy. This syllabus will be reviewed at the end of the season to see how it worked.
- One of the two compass gliders will be allocated to the group running the airfield at weekends for cross country training. The P2s will be selected by the group leaders. The P1s will still have to be compass coaches for cross country flying but most groups already have some P1s within the group.
- Briefings will be conducted at 0930 seven days a week.

The compass list should be going up on the board shortly for P1s and P2s to put their names on. Any of the compass coaches who want to conduct the briefings especially midweek are very welcome but please contact me first so we can keep the briefings fairly standardised.

Last year there were a lot P1 and P2 compass pilots who did not appear or were late at weekends. This left our most expensive gliders sat on the ground. This cannot be allowed to happen again. If you cannot keep your slot then let us know with enough time to find a replacement. If we do not have an improvement then next year both gliders will be in the group system.

Winching matters

We are reviewing the latest winch technology with a short trial period to assess the pros and cons for operating a retrieve winch at Lasham. The system potentially offers a much improved launch rate but also a number of different health and safety considerations. After the trial we will review the results and make recommendations.

All current winch drivers

All winch drivers will be required to undergo a standardisation check using our syllabus this season. Please contact Malcolm Hook well before you need to drive the winch to make sure you are familiar with it. All new winch drivers must contact Malcolm before they drive the winch.

Plea from the Office

The office kindly asks that when filling out the log sheets to please write neatly and use the surname and initial for both the instructor and student. These small issues cost hours every week in phone calls and getting answers for information that should be in place before launch. The new logging program in the office will also be able to tell instructors how many hours and launches they have flown. I know this will make life easier for some instructors, who for every instructor return spend 2 or more hours going through a year's worth of individual log sheets to determine how much instructing they have done.



Lasham Gliding Society Limited

January 2001

Dear Member,

Catering and Bar Review

In order to improve the services we provide to the Society's members we are undertaking a detailed review of the bar and catering services at Lasham.

Over recent years there have been many changes in the catering industry, brought about by public demand, by peoples changing views on what constitutes a good diet and by what they like to eat or drink.

Lasham has a large membership drawn from a wide spectrum of society. It is important that the catering and bar facilities meet the requirements of this diverse membership and reflect modern trends.

The enclosed survey forms an important part of the present review as it enables the membership of the Society to directly influence the future development of the food and beverage facilities at Lasham. As with any democratic organisation, the majority view will prevail and therefore your ideas and comments are important, no matter what your viewpoint.

The results of this survey will form an important element in deciding the future direction for the development of catering and bar facilities at Lasham. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey form answering all questions that are relevant to you.

Please return your completed forms to the canteen by no later than the 25th February 2001. **For every returned questionnaire a complimentary cup of tea or coffee will be available from the Canteen.**

Yours faithfully,

John Gilbert
General Manager