



Newsletter July 2003.

There's a lot happening at Lasham :

Social Events:

For full details see: the club house notice boards, Onelist or Lasham web site - www.lasham.org.uk

Regional Competitions

Sat 19th - Sunday 27th July:

Tuesday 22nd July

Regional Comp. live music evening - Big Band.



Thursday 24th July

Regional Comp. quiz evening from 20.00hrs - club house

Saturday 26th July

Regional Comps, Party Night with live music & BBQ

Saturday 2nd Aug.

Family & Friends Flying Day & BBQ: Reduced winch prices, competitions, children's activities, children's & family lunchtime BBQ, evening BBQ



National Competitions

Sat 9th - Sunday 17th August:

Tuesday 12th August

National Comps, live music evening

Thursday 14th August

National Comp. quiz evening from 20.00hrs - club house

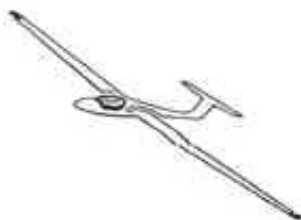
Saturday 16th August

National Comps, Party Night with music & BBQ

Saturday 30th August

Popham, Old Sarum, Chilbolton & Brimpton Fly-in & BBQ. Flying competitions, reduced winch fees,

children's activities, children's & family lunchtime BBQ, evening BBQ



Saturday 20th September

End of Summer Event; early evening flying display, followed by Dinner, Live Music & Dancing! Black tie optional, ticket only, on sale from 2nd August. Numbers will be limited.



Winter Evening Lectures:

We need help in organising this series of events. Any volunteers for speakers, or suggestions for speakers will be gratefully received. Offers of help to Colin Dennis please!! (generalmanager@lasham.org.uk)

Hangar Development meeting Sat. 23rd August:

It is proposed to move forward with the planning of the development of additional hangars on the South Side. In order to better quantify demand an open meeting is to be held in the club house at 18.00hrs, Saturday 23rd August. If you want to register an interest in this project please make every effort to attend. If circumstances prevent attendance it would be helpful if you could e-mail (or write) to generalmanager@lasham.org.uk with a brief summary of your preferences regarding hangar provision.

It would be very useful to know if there are any architects among our membership - who may be willing to help in our various development projects.

Club House Development:

The Committee of Management have agreed to upgrade some of the existing facilities starting with the canteen area and design work is now underway. Details of the proposals will be available in due course, with work starting in the autumn.

"LASHAM" Magazine

The next issue, with a circulation of over 1000 will be published in the Autumn. This time advertising space will be available. Do you know of anyone who might like to take space at a give away £100 per page, £50 half page & £25 quarter page?

We also need the help of a willing volunteer to be unpaid Advertising Manager for the magazine! All offers of help to Colin Dennis, generalmanager@lasham.org.uk

Balloons

For information we have a standard £25.00 landing fee for Balloons at Lasham. All assistance to ensure we collect this very modest fee, for what are usually expensive commercial pleasure flights will be gratefully received.

Aboyne October 2003.

Its that time again! If you want to experience the stunning scenery of Scotland & fly in mountain waves, now is the time to book. £100 deposit before the end of August is needed to secure your place. All enquiries to Gordon MacDonald.

Jaca September 2003.

See enclosed information sheet from Gordon MacDonald

Instructors

There is a real shortage of instructors, particularly during the week, but also at weekends. If you are an instructor, basic or otherwise we really need your help. Trial lessons & flying starts are often subject to unfortunate delays & disruption. If you can spare some time Gordon MacDonald would love to hear from you.

Jaca

MOUNTAIN FLYING IN THE PYRENÉES

Apply now for these limited places and learn to soar with the vultures.

Lots of Lasham members have already flown at this Spanish Pyrenéean mountain site and have returned with very good reports of easy mountain soaring, wide valleys and lovely weather, not to mention the friendly and welcoming club with excellent facilities.

We enjoyed a fantastic expedition in the Spring of 2003 and am therefore quite confident in promising all of this and more when Lasham takes it's Duo Discus and Grob 103 to Spain during September 2003.

Jaca is situated on the southern side of the Pyrenées some 90 km ESE of Pamplona and 50 km NNW of Huesca, near the village of Santa Cilia de Jaca.

The location is ideal for those pilots seeking their first introduction to mountain soaring with ample thermal, wave and ridge soaring. The airfield is at an elevation of 2250' and is located in a wide valley. It has a 900m asphalt runway and 2 parallel grass and gravel runways. There are many large fields in the valley offering easy land-out potential in the unlikely event of this being required.

The back-bone of the Pyrenées lies about 15km to the north and is easily accessible from the site. Once established on the mountain range, soaring is available over a wide area to the east and west, mostly all within gliding range of Jaca. This provides a safe environment to learn the skills and techniques of soaring in the mountains and experience the sheer thrill of it all.

This trip is more of a training camp for those that have not experienced the delights of mountain flying before or, have terrified themselves as a result of trying to teach themselves.

For full details see the notice board for the 'Jaca Information Briefing' or ask me. If you are serious about going you should add your name to the list on the notice board as soon as possible. Places are limited and awarded on a first-come-first basis.

Gordon MacDonald

CFI

LASHAM JUNIORS – A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Introduction

Gliding activity by the under 25 age group (U25) at Lasham has declined to an alarming extent. We have a good cadet scheme and relationship with Imperial College, but outside these special schemes we have only about 20 full flying members and these numbers are declining rather than increasing. Lasham is not alone with this problem., there are lots of alternatives to gliding and that there are no easy solutions. Learning to glide is expensive and hanging around can be boring. Maybe our pricing, systems and instruction methods conspire to filter out the sort of people that we want as long term members

Cadets

The cadet scheme provides discounts for up to three years to age 21. There is a reasonable demand for places and the experience seems to be generally positive. The main problem identified is that we lose cadets once they leave the scheme, mainly because of the sudden shock of flying at completely unsubsidised rates. A further problem is that cadets come from a wide geographic area and are often short of time and transport, they are therefore not an automatic social grouping and can become isolated in the Lasham environment.

Imperial College

Imperial College has a very successful history. There is a good support from the older members and the members form a natural social group, helped by access to their own gliders. They seem to have fun! The result is that LGS has many committed ex IC members

Their problems are mainly financial. Firstly there is pressure on university funding for sports clubs, and this is likely to increase over time. Secondly, students accumulate large debts which start to fall due after graduation and it is a problem to finance gliding whilst becoming established in a career

It is significant that IC is doing far better than any other university group at Lasham

Objectives

We want to increase gliding activity by U25 members. We can do this by:

- 1) Decreasing the cost of flying
- 2) Increasing the fun factor
- 3) Provide a better learning environment
- 4) Marketing to university and other natural groupings

1) Pricing

In order of priority, the following pricing model for U25s could be a medium term objective:

Winch launch	½ price
Trial lessons	£25
Soaring fees	½ price
Annual subscription	£25
Aerotow	½ price
Joining fee	deferred to age 25

But if prices are to come down, the shortfall needs to be financed, even if LGS accepts that U25s are not going to make a significant contribution to overheads and profits. We must also recognise that not all the older members are well off, and the CoM cannot allow general prices to increase to their detriment.

Perhaps some members would voluntarily support a U25 group? They could be publicly acknowledged as follows:

Vice President	£500pa
Friend	£100pa
Supporter	other amount
Corporate sponsor	£1,000pa

The rate at which price reductions could be phased in would depend on levels of support provided. The SportsMatch scheme from Sports England would match sponsorship £1 for £1.

2) Fun

We need to make a visit to Lasham more enjoyable. Most will enjoy the actual flying, but not the hanging around. A social aspect needed to gliding and a sense of real participation in the club. It may help to have dedicated accommodation on site, perhaps a caravan with microwave, pot noodles, music, coffee and tv.

Maybe a glider could be provided to fly for free and to maintain

Holiday courses: RT licences, aerobatics, bungee on South Downs, auto launch

Other activities for dull days: Land yacht

3) Learning environment

The Lasham group system could be extended to provide a Group 7 for the U25s who are not in the cadet scheme. They would roster their own timetable and liaise with their own instructors and fly some of the U25 trial lessons. This might engender a sense of community. It would be beneficial to keep the Cadet scheme going as well, particularly for minors, because Lasham has legal child protection responsibilities

4) Marketing

The U25s should be encouraged to use their contacts to help set up groups at other universities

Organisation

A committee to be set up with a representative from the COM, cadets, IC and a couple of current Juniors. A goal would be self determination by the U25s.

Co-ordination would be needed with cadets, IC, Other youth groups, S+H and LGS

Feedback

This paper is not a statement of CoM policy, but it would be very helpful to get a measure of how much support the membership would provide, before taking things further

Please comment on these ideas and provide suggestions:

To John Gorringe on Feedback form to LGS Office

or to john.gorringe@blueyonder.co.uk

LASHAM JUNIORS – FEEDBACK

To John Gorringe
Lasham Gliding Society
Alton
Hampshire GU34 5SS

Or to johngorringe@bluevonder.co.uk

From:

Age:

Hours gliding:

Please tick one

On the right lines – get it going asap

Generally supportive – but see comments and suggestions below

Generally negative – see comments and suggestions below

Not worthwhile – forget it

I might be interested in the following level of support

Please tick one

Vice President £500pa

Friend £100pa

Supporter other amount, please specify

Corporate sponsor £1,000pa

Comments and suggestions: