

SkyWords – Mar 08

The Newsletter of the DHPC

Editor's Chat

Still no volunteers for the post of Newsletter Editor, so you have me to put up with for another month.

I have just got back for a great week at Hotel California in Spain. There was some niggly high cirrus keeping the thermal strength down, but we flew nearly every day. And anyway if you can't fly you can always drink cold beer at the bar on the beach. It was certainly much better than the weather here, although I have heard reports of Messrs Birkbeck and Mann flying hang-gliders at Wether Fell, so it can't have been as bad as the forecast suggested!

Accident Reporting

(From Mar 08 edition of Skywings)

Following the recent changes in the way fatal HG & PG accidents are investigated by the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) rather than through a BHPA Board of Inquiry, there is an important new requirement that all BHPA members need to be aware of. **If you witness a fatal or potentially fatal flying accident, you must report it immediately to the AAIB on 01252 512299. If you witness a serious but non-fatal accident or incident, you must report it to the BHPA on 01162 611322.** If you witness a less serious accident or incident, please fill in a BHPA Incident Report Form (IRF) and send it to the BHPA office as soon as possible. IRFs can be downloaded from www.bhpa.co.uk/members/forms/index.php

If you are in doubt as to whether an accident or incident has been reported, do it anyway. Don't assume someone else has already done it – make sure, or do it yourself. **Put these numbers in your mobile phone NOW.**

Whernside

I am hoping to be able to resolve the access issue at Whernside in the near future. One of the farmers who lives at the base of the hill (on the 3 peaks walk) has indicated that he may be willing to allow us to park in his field (about 20 cars) for a modest fee. Negotiations continue; please don't park there until we have a firm agreement.

Dinner Dance

(Courtesy of Kate Maddison)

Where can you fraternize with flyers and farmers, dine, drink and dance the night away?.....answer; the Dales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club annual dinner dance held this year at Herriot's Hotel whose proximity to Skipton Train Station explains its former name 'the Midland Hotel', the adventurous notion of train travel replaced by nostalgia for a Yorkshire Dale's vet.

The event is held every year to celebrate the club's annual flying achievements and to thank the farmers for their continued support, in particular the free use of their land, without which our club could not function. The importance of this point cannot be over stressed as in this day and age with farmers looking to increasingly diversify from farming to earn a living, the pressures are for a fee to be paid. There has been much speculation about where this would lead, but one conclusion seems clear, our clubs would no longer function as low cost voluntary associations and the knock on effect across the country would be very likely to stop our free flying activity all together.

So with the good will of farmers to maintain, the night started quietly with restraint and formality but that soon changed when the flying toys were discovered liberally scattered among the table condiments and the screaming balloon volleys began...what is it about a civilized group of people that turns them into a bunch of unruly kids at the sight of a few balloons to play with? The first table to coordinate their actions included committee member Kevin Mccloughlin, this years co-winner with Sean Hodgson of the Fairbrother Trophy for Pilot's Pilot plus the Baildon Sod PG Longest distance with Pete Logan, displaying Kevin's keenness for team working over individual achievement.

A farmer's table were quick to respond with equally coordinated projection, spurred on by an ex committee librarian Liz Addy, this years winner of the Mark Sellen Trophy for Services to the club, but not services to the Herriots dinner staff who had to duck and dive through the balloon volleys.

Once the sumptuous meal had been consumed, Ian Newiss made a heroic effort to call order to the proceedings and thank the Farmers for their generous support of the clubs aerial activity on their land, these included; Albert Sunter of Dodd Fell, David & Rosemary Airey of Cowling & Sutton Pinnacles, David & Christine Lambert of Semer Water (very top & very bottom), Roger Lambert of Semer Water (NNW landing field), Len Cloughton of Stags Fell (Sedbusk bottom landing field), the Dibbs of Windbank and Cliff Alan of Wether Fell.

John Ellison, the current club chair is a national competition pilot, who narrowly missed (by 400m) claiming the national record for a declared flight to goal of 120km from the Long Mynd. John awarded the trophies to members present and not so present; these included the Cockcroft Cup to 'Hamish' Tsai for most improved pilot and Northern PG Trophy best total distance in 1st yr of XC. Kate Rawlinson enthusiastically received the Cock of the Dales for most enthusiastic pilot and Andy Byrom was awarded the Active Edge PG Cup best 1st XC for his 17 km in a BCC comp.

The DHPC Paragliding 100k XC Challenge awarded for making 100K or more total in one year for the first time was won by Pete Logan with 133.4km.

Aimed at encouraging pilots new to XC, to develop their skills and achieve more distance, and to enter their flights into the league. The prize was a pair of Julbo sunglasses.

Jake Herbert (notably attending for the first time) received the Founders PG Trophy for the Longest XC flight from the Dales after a remarkable flight of 128km from Wether Fell to Bridlington via Sutton Bank. Jake has repeatedly won the Dales PG XC Shield with 1st place in the XC League despite strong competition from John Ellison who wrestled it off him two years ago but had to settle for 2nd Place in XC League this year and Chris Fountain took 3RD Place in XC League.

John Ellison also won Northern Paragliding XC Trophy, awarded for the best triangle, out and return, or declared flight to goal with a 59.4 k triangle. This trophy is intended to encourage more technical flights to be made in the Dales, such as the three peaks challenge and give pilots an incentive to seek out good sites to make triangle flights etc.

Northern Paragliding generously supported the club XC league this year with prizes of a Sup'Air AltiRando Airbag harness, Sunsoar Paragliding fleece and a quick pack stuff sack for first, second and third place and Kayland boots for the XC Trophy.

Trevor Birkbeck, best known as the clubs former illustrious chair, renowned for his tasteful dress sense but less known for his more recent conversion to paragliding which could be seen as a shrewd move when combined with a free bus pass... Trevor dominated the Hang-Gliding trophies with Dales HG XC Shield for 1st place in the XC League, and managed to get his name on the Founders Trophy for the Longest XC from the Dales even though it should have been Andy Woods. The family rivalry surfaced in Andy's determination to win the trophy again next year and actually get his name on it, but his delight was clear at receiving the Baidon Sod HG for the Longest Distance.

The raffle followed the presentations and was more like a table top sale with so many prizes that the draw was run like a bingo session with numbers called out in quick succession and multiple winners racing to the back of the room to claim their prize first. Les and Susan Cowling won the prize draw of a £60 voucher for a meal at the renowned Angel Inn at Hetton. The delights and disappointments of the raffle frenzy died down with the house lights and the disco music began. As the mood changed to that of a nightclub, the movers and shakers appeared on the dance floor and proved that there lurks an extrovert in many a quiet wall flower, Les and Susan from the Austen Powers school of dance contrasted well with the energetic Morris steps of Tony and Zena, there may even have been a Scotsman in a kilt doing a highland fling.....

A very good night was had by all, thanks to the hard work of the DHPC committee who organized the event and Herriot's Hotel for hosting it. There will doubtless be another dinner dance next year, so get yourself along to it and support the club in celebrating a years free flying with thanks to the farmers....hip hip hooray!

Pilot Exam

Five members took their pilots' exam on 11 Mar. Pete Logan has asked me to remind them all to post their completed task book to him. No results as yet - keep everything crossed...

Membership

Just in case you hadn't noticed **renewals are NOW overdue**. Of the 180 renewals sent out about 120 have renewed so far. If you haven't had a reminder get in touch with Neil: neil_plant@hotmail.com.

Club Nights

The next club night is on Thu 3 Apr in the Riverside Hotel in Ilkley. As we go to press it is a little unclear if there will be any organised activity, but we can guarantee that there will be copious amounts of beer on sale.

This will be the last organised get together until the autumn. Members are still welcome to turn up for a beer and a chat over the summer months but there will be no (dis) organised activity. Next organised activity in September.

For Sale

For sale Red Airwave Sport 2 - LTF 1-2 rated with 40 hours on it. XL size 110 - 140kg all a up range. Call Pete on 07720 425146. Serious offers considered.

If you have anything you want to buy, sell, announce or question then I am more than happy to include it in the newsletter. Send it to me at mrbaxter@hotmail.co.uk

Martin Baxter

Club Coaches

The jump from school to club can be intimidating. If you are a recently qualified CP, haven't flown a site before, haven't flown for a while and are a bit rusty, want some advice, or just need a reliable companion to fly with then please get in touch with a Club Coach. These good and trusty people have volunteered to help new pilots to our club.

Name	Available	Location	Phone
Hang Gliding Club Coaches			
Trevor Birkbeck	Various	Ripon	01765 658486
Kevin Gay	Weekends	Ripon	07973 293707
Alistair Irving	Various	Huddersfield	01484 844898
Steve Mann	Weekends	Kirby Moorside	01751 433130
Paragliding Club Coaches			
John Ellison	Various	Gargrave	07791 887693
Noel Whittall	Various	Leeds	01132 502043
Steve Mann	Weekends	Kirby Moorside	01751 433130
Liz Addy	Weekends	Settle	01524 251682
Pete Logan	Various	Shipley	07720 425146
Peter & Sara Spillett	Weekends	Skipton	01756 760229
Tony Pickering & Zena Stevens	Various	Otley	01943 466632
Sean Ogi	Various	Howarth	01535 642304
Kevin McLoughlin	Weekends	Lancaster	07767 652233
Martin Baxter	Weekdays	Skipton	01282 841060
Ronald Green	Weekends	Hartlepool	01429 864229