

SkyWords – Jun 08

The Newsletter of the DHPC

Editors Chat

Just in case you were wondering, there was no newsletter last month. I was on holiday for the last 2 weeks in May and there was no committee meeting so no news. And just in case you hadn't heard, no one has volunteered to be newsletter editor yet...

So here we are in 'Flaming' June are we?. I got myself up to the **Lakes Charity Classic**, which was blessed with good weather. It was flyable on all 3 days, the venue along the side of Buttermere was stunning, you could land by your tent (or in the lake, Dave!), and there was an acro/helicopter display on Saturday evening followed by a BBQ and live music. What more could you ask for?

Reciprocal Rights

Well it has been a long haul. I started re-negotiating our reciprocal arrangements back in October 2006 but I am pleased to say that it has been worthwhile. **We now have agreements with all our neighbouring clubs:** Cumbria Soaring Club; Pennine Soaring Club; North Yorkshire Sailwing Club; Northumbria Hang gliding and Paragliding Club; and Sir George Cayley Sailwing Club.

This means that full members of the DHPC can fly the sites of a neighbouring club with the following limitations:

- Any pilot flying (or intending to fly) under this arrangement on more than 6 days per year is expected to take out full membership of the other club.
- Pilots must display a valid DHPC helmet sticker as proof of BHPA/Club membership.
- **Visiting pilots must be fully aware of current site rules and adhere to them at all times.**
- Certain sites, specified on the club website as 'full members only', are not open to visiting pilots due to local sensitivities.
- This agreement is based on mutual trust and is peer regulated.
- Pilots who knowingly break the trust of the agreement will be identified, named and peer pressure applied to ensure that they join the appropriate club. Monitoring this is the responsibility of all members of the signatory clubs.

So, we might not have the cheapest membership but I think that you will agree that the additional access that we get makes it good value for money.

Brant Side

Now that the track has been improved the farmer has agreed that **we can drive to take-off!** Just short of the third gate there is just about enough room to turn around. About 100m short of this it is possible to park a few cars on the uphill side of the track.

- **Do not block the track.**
- **Do not block the turning area.**
- Turn around before parking.
- No more than 6 vehicles.
- Keep the gates closed.
- Give priority to Hang-gliders.

Unfortunately you can't see the parking area from the road so you may be wasting your time if there isn't room. If it is flyable then it is normally possible to fly back to the road anyway. If you are a PG walking is good for you; and your mates will call you a Wussy if you drive.

Pen Hill

Pen Hill is the promising looking north facing ridge near Leyburn in Wensleydale. I walked along it a few weeks ago and identified potential take-off, top and bottom landing areas. The moors are used extensively for grouse breeding and shooting and so I wrote to the controlling agent requesting permission to fly there. I have just received a polite but firm rebuttal so I am sorry to report that **Pen Hill will not become a DHPC flying site in the near future.**

Whernside

We are trying to negotiate a new field for parking near Bruntscar (on the 3-Peaks route at the bottom of the steep bit) but as you can imagine the farmers are quite sensitive about it. In the meantime **please stick to the current rules** – you can drop off at Bruntscar, but strictly no parking. Alternatively you can park near Chapel-le-Dale and walk up.

Bishopdale

We don't use this site much since Wether Fell is just up the road. The sites guide says to phone the gamekeeper for permission to fly. I have had a report of him saying no recently. Please let me know if you get the same response and I'll investigate further.

BCC

The BCC year is well underway. The results in the initial league stages have been highly competitive with a number of glorious Northern clubs currently coming second best in the league to some rather devious southern opposition. Our own Northern based rounds have been eventful, the first round at Ribbleshead will be remembered for three things, mega yomps, the mother of all storms with massive hail stones and floods, and finally a bit of a glide over the Ribbleshead viaduct.

The second Dales round, held for the second year at Model ridge (now in the Yorkshire dales national park?) gave us an excellent Saturday flying, and rain on the Sunday.

The third round held within the Lakes charity classic competition (a bit of rule stretching as payback for some southern rule stretching) again gave us a cracking Saturday with short XCs all around and again a poor Sunday. The Scores on the Doors so far are the Dales A team are 6th, with the top six in the league qualifying for the final. The Dales B team are 7th and if the spot landing comp had of been scored they would of pushed the A team down a slot! Sorry, but I will keep mentioning that.

Our feelings on this year so far are that for each of the three weekends we have only got one round in each weekend. The southern teams have already got six rounds in and are therefore dominating the top positions. To our massive credit we have been turning out two full teams each weekend, a total of at least 12 pilots but sometimes this has been hard work for the organisers, Kevin and me, to get everyone to turn out. We need a final big push to ensure the A team qualifies for the Final, that means getting at least two more scores in the league and those being high scores. We think right now about 1500 points over two rounds should do it but to achieve this we need some of our experienced A team pilots to turn out for the next rounds.

Whatever happens this year we are very proud of the Dales teams. We turn up; always enjoy ourselves and once again the lower airtime pilots in the B team are all learning a lot. It is a great credit to everyone that we manage to achieve this every year where some of our neighbouring clubs with similar membership numbers struggle to get more than two to three pilots on occasions. Watch out for more rounds with the final being on the 16th and 17th August if we qualify again this year. Anyone wanting to join in the fun contact Kev on kevin-cloughlin@tiscali.co.uk or me on sean@ogi.me.uk and we will add your name to the information mailing list.

Baildon Sod

Following on from a number of flying festivals this year we are getting closer to the pinnacle event which for many international competition pilots represents the essence of what summer paragliding is all about. Whilst for many people the ability to simply knock off another 100km XCs flight has become a rather mundane experience, the

ability to actually clear the 10 feet tall bracken on the east face of Baildon and complete a mega glide across the fairway remains one of the more pleasing challenges in the competition calendar.

It is rumoured that many of the top international pilots from both the hand gliding and floppy disciplines are leaving the entire months of July and August free just to ensure that they can be free for the Baildon sod flying spectacular. Top manufacturers are confidently expected to be contacting us very soon with extensive sponsorship offers so watch this space for exciting news from Advance, Airwave, Nova and Niviuk.

After the disappointment last year when the de-bagging exhibition turned out just to be some joker taking his glider out of his rucksack and expecting a round of applause we have decided not to book the same guy again. However, taking our inspiration from the fantastic lake landing competition at the lakes charity classic this year there will be a special expensive prize to anyone who can land in any of the three Baildon reservoirs (come on you have three to aim for and there were only two Buttermere lakes !).

We cannot tell you what the prize will be as it is top secret but can the winner please arrange to meet me outside the chip shop by the pub we go to in the centre of Baildon after the comp.

With competition for the new prestigious Baildon Sod trophy (it really is a spiffing one) being so closely fought over we like to keep the date flexible. Essential conditions are a very light easterly wind occurring in July or August. So basically when you see those conditions developing start polishing your wing, get out your lycra speed arms out, go to the gym for the first time this year to get into the peak of physical conditioning and save up some beer money. The actual date of the comp will be announced at relatively short notice on the new dales web site, via the BCC mailing list, probably speck out, via News 24 on the BBC and a Royal telegram from her Madge to all 160 members. So watch out and turn out for probably the most fun you can have whilst wearing big heavy boots.

Club Nights

Over the summer months fewer folk tend to come to Club Nights: either they are struggling to get back from that epic XC flight or they have other better things to do such as BBQs, etc. For that reason there will be **no formal club nights until September**. Members are still welcome to turn up for a beer and a chat on the first Thursday of the month at the Riverside Hotel in Ilkley at around 8pm but there will be no organised activity. Kate will be there with the library, which now includes Pilot Exam Revision Packs, so why not pop along and keep her company ☺.

Harness Hanger

The club has its own harness hanger that you can borrow. Contact Pete Logan on 07720 425146 for details.

For Sale

APCO Presta M DHV1/2 (95-115Kgs). Colour Royal Blue, approx. 50hrs, serviced by Aerofix Dec 06; C&D lines changed as advisory due to age and only flown 5 hrs since. In good condition with one small repair on upper service which was re-checked by Aerofix last month to make sure still ok. Priced low for quick sale, a real bargain. Postage costs if applicable on request (UK typically £15). Photos available email me (phil.mackereth1@ntlworld.com) with any questions. £495 obo (but please don't take the Michael.)

Advance Impress for sale, only two seasons use, size medium. Comes with speedbag (covers legs) and a windskirt both of which have cockpits. £330, call 07720 425146. Size medium.

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 mrboxter@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	Shipton	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