

# Skywords

Monthly Newsletter of the Dales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club

[Www/dhpc.org.uk](http://www/dhpc.org.uk)

December 2008



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year  
To you All!

## From the Editor, Dennis Wray

I'm going to be doing the DHPC Newsletters for the next 12 months, as Martin Baxter is being kept busy with his Sites Officer jobs.

The Newsletter can inform about two main areas - one is to do with paragliding/hangliding news mainly received via the committee, and the second is to do with general contributions received from our members.

For the first of these areas, I'll try to expand the info that is passed on to members by including as much as possible about committee matters - so each month I'll compile a summary report after each monthly committee meeting for the subsequent Newsletter.

For the second area, i.e. contributions written by members, I am very keen to expand this from the current very low levels (almost zero)! However, this depends entirely on you! Any contribution you might make on the general theme of paragliding/hangliding will automatically be included! So please please send me your contributions, no matter how short! Maybe where you went over summer (or even winter!), any interesting flights (whether amazingly good or amazingly not good, all will be of interest), maybe something about the competitions you flew, or

even any amusing cartoons (Walter?). In other words, anything you like on the general flying theme, long or short! Just a few paragraphs will be great, or longer if you want, and if you have links to photos or videos, you can include the links to them too. So for its success, the Newsletter will depend on you! If you are tempted to write something for some other newsgroup or Skywings, send it to us instead, or as well! As you will see, I've tried to set a good (or bad?) example by writing a little bit about my recent paragliding holiday in St Andre!

If we don't get any contributions, there's not much can be done, except remind you, but if we have too much we'll hold some over to the subsequent newsletter. **Please send your contributions directly to me - my email is [d.wray@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:d.wray@leeds.ac.uk)**

## Club night

Club Nights on the first Thursday of the month are a great opportunity to catch up with friends, listen to fab speakers and borrow the latest flying DVD's and books from the library. Keep your eye on the website for details of what's coming up. For the next club night on 4 Dec, some members will be showing some of their videos, but in any case, members can meet up for a beer and a chat and have a rifle through the library, which will be available! Meet at Riverside Hotel, Ilkley  
<http://www.ilkley-riversidehotel.com/>

Talks will normally be organised from September to April only, with beers May to August. January's meeting will take place on 8 Jan instead of 1 Jan and there will be speakers on the topic of safety at that club night. On 5 Feb, Jocky Sanderson will be speaking about SIV and XC, and on 5 Mar, John Silvester will be the speaker. Usually it is better to meet just before 8pm as beer is cheaper then; notices will be at 8:15 and events will start at 8:30.

### **Dales party**

The annual Dales Club Party has been booked for **Sat 28 Feb 09** at Herriot's Hotel in Skipton again, but the theme will be slightly less formal than in previous years. There will be a great 3 course dinner, a top evening's entertainment, balloons and other flying things, prize giving, a raffle with lots of top flying accessories, and in addition to the normal disco we are trying to find a suitable live band. Details are still being finalised and full details will be available soon. <http://www.herriotsforleisure.co.uk/>

### **Kate writes:**

#### **Library**

Can members please make a big effort to return DVD's, videos and books back at the next meeting, some of you have had items from the library out since May!! Items borrowed should be returned monthly. I am pleased to announce the Library will be run by James Watson from December as I take up my new post as DHPCs Competition Officer.

#### **Trophies**

To all trophy holders, I would like all trophies returning before Christmas, please bring them to the next club meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> or arrange to meet me somewhere to hand them back.

Thanks from Kate

[katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Pilot Exam Revision Day Sunday January 18th 2009 With Northern Paragliding**

The guys at Northern have very kindly agreed to run this revision day for us again after the success of last years, that's if we get enough numbers, although other clubs will be invited to attend. The day will start at 10:00 am and finish around 4:00 pm, meeting at Northern's great new shop in Kirkby Stephen where they have a fab lecture room. Tea and coffee will be provided, and lunch can be bought at the Croglin pub right next door. We don't ask for

any payment, but there will be a box for donations to Mountain Rescue and Air Ambulance, I suggest a £5 minimum donation. John Ellison (Chairman DHPC) and Pete Logan (Secretary DHPC) will also be running a couple of further revision sessions probably Friday evenings (location, dates and times to be advised). Please get your names to me a.s.a.p. [katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk) if you are interested. The exam will take place a few weeks later, date, time and location yet to be arranged, keep your eye on the website.

### **Debbie Priestley writes:**

#### **Barcelona Marathon2009**

#### **Help Debs to raise money for Yorkshire Air Ambulance**

Yorkshire Air Ambulance relies solely on the generosity of individuals and sponsors to help save lives across the region. It needs to raise £7200 per day to keep its two helicopters and highly trained paramedics in the air. Since the service was launched in October 2000 it has flown over 2200 patients to hospitals across the region. The Charity Registration Number is 1084305. I'm running the Marathon on March 1st 2009 and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance is the charity I want to raise money for this year because I have come to realise how important they are in saving lives. In just the last year alone, I have heard of several incidents where they have been called in to aid paragliders and walkers who have had accidents. I think that thankfully, though probably by luck only, I have not needed their help, but I have a very talented paraglider friend who has. But, they don't just help us mad paragliders. They also assist in road traffic accidents, walking and climbing accidents, as well as many other situations that requires immediate transfer to hospital in what are often life or death situations.

Donating through Justgiving is quick, easy and totally secure. It's also the most efficient way to sponsor me; Yorkshire Air Ambulance Charity gets your money faster and, if you're a UK taxpayer, Justgiving makes sure 25% in Gift Aid, plus a 3% supplement, are added to your donation. So, please donate whatever you can. All the money you donate goes directly to them. Here's the link:

<http://www.justgiving.com/debbiepriestley>

Thank you in advance for your support from Debbie Priestley

## Ogi writes:

### Club coaching

The Dales Club is blessed with some of the best flying sights, a friendly club without any of the usual club politics! And behind the scenes a hard working committee. One of our few problems in recent years has been the lack of coaching, bringing on new members and helping existing members to get more out of the sport. Free flying is I have to say one of those sports that makes no sense at all unless you are a flyer. We jump off perfectly stable land masses to try to find unstable air to fly in, whilst I joke about this we have had accidents, as we will do every year, but we would like to try to improve safety through coaching as well if we can. If you agree with any of the statements above please read on and consider contributing to the club next year to improve our flying experiences for everyone.

Below you will find a few ideas from the Coaching team for next year, the idea is very firmly not that a very small number of people will rush around frantically organising things for other people and miss out on the few great days of flying that we get each year – that will not happen. The idea is that as many experienced flying members as possible, whether you are a qualified coach, an experienced pilot or a new CP member with over 20 hours experience you will each look at the list below and say –yes I can help or join in with a couple of those? If you do nothing then neither will anybody else sadly, existing coaches also need to be signed off each year as part of their BHPA membership renewal as still being practicing coaches and any of these events will be ideal opportunities to get signed off.

- a) All new members will be contacted soon; we want to develop an organised “buddy system” so that people are not flying by themselves, so that others know where flying is going on each day and so that some very basic coaching is available to newer members. This will be done in various ways, the Shout box is coming back and the coaching team will help people to make and develop all the initial contacts.
- b) Along with the New Safety officer we will be organising a reserve repack.
- c) Hold the introduction to Dales flying sites coaching days, during the flying season, using the same idea as the Cumbria team, once per month and in between the Cumbria session. Details to follow.

d) Hold a “learning from others” talk, which will combine BHPA accident data showing accident trends with real life stories from members who will be fully supported to share their personal stories.

e) Hold pilot training sessions prior to club meetings leading to a pilot exam nearer the end of the year. Breaking down the sessions to smaller sections, open to all members, both those preparing for the pilot exam and those just wanting to brush up on their Air law?

f) Holding a BHPA Coaching qualification, based at the normal club venue to convert interested experienced members into club coaches. Target of 12 new coaches.

g) Holding occasional Coaching team meetings before regular club meetings to discuss ideas and make arrangements. More important than any of these ideas are your ideas-what you think you can do!

Since we all hate unwanted emails we prefer to run a list of interested people who will receive regular updates. If you want to join in or feel that you can help out with something specific, please send an email to [Sean@ogi.me.uk](mailto:Sean@ogi.me.uk) giving your name and as much info as you want to indicate which areas you might want to join in.

Ps: just in case this sounds like a bit of blowing in the wind, many of the people who will help the coaching team this year are the same people who have been helping in the comps in previous years, two years ago we came second in the Bcc and as you will know this year we won! We are taking this seriously but we need 20 to 30 people at least to make this truly effective so please sign up as an interested member of our new coaching scheme.

Cheers and thanks in advance from Ogi -  
Coaching team organiser (Chief club coach).

## News from the committee

### Committee members for 2008/2009

Chairman John Ellison, Secretary Pete Logan, Treasurer Tony Pickering, Membership Neil Plant, Newsletter Dennis Wray, Safety Officer Pete Balmforth, Social Secretary/HG Comps Trevor Birkbeck, Sites (N) Martin Baxter, Sites (S) Dave Coulthard, Librarian James Watson, Website James Watson, PG Comps Kate Rawlinson, Coach Organiser Sean Hodgson.

### Sites

Great Whernside. One of the owners has asked us not to fly there this season with a review if we can control our members. The site is therefore temporarily closed pending further negotiation.

Knipe Scar. A site with great potential that has been flown in the past and is mentioned in the sites' guide. There is a risk of severe turbulence in stronger winds.

Committee/experienced pilots are encouraged to fly here to gather more information, but it is **considered too dangerous to add to the sites guide at present.**

#### **Website**

The shoutbox will be reinstated on the front page for coaching / weather information etc. There will be a caching section on the forum.

#### **Sites guide**

Work is proceeding on the online sites guide, with maps and text on the website. Hard copies of the sites guide will be printed and issued to all members; after that, members can download and print amendments from the website.

#### **Newsletter**

Dennis will summarise the committee minutes for all members of DHPC. Small ads from members can be included. Members are requested to send a few paragraphs of what interests them and about any interesting paragliding adventures they may have had, or any flying holiday recommendations. The AGM minutes/ officers' reports will also be sent out with the Newsletter when these minutes are available. The newsletter will be sent out a few days before the end of each month, so copy date is a few days before that.

#### **Coaching**

Oggi produced a detailed plan for coaching activities this year (see separate article in this newsletter) in order to develop a DHPC coaching team.

#### **Safety**

There is a need to organise a First Aid refresher and a reserve repack at Club Nights in early spring.

#### **Competitions**

The BPCup date for Dales is 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

#### **Dales club party**

This is now the official name for the event! Arrangements are still being discussed. A provisional booking has been made with Herriots for 28 Feb 2009. Charges for members attending would be such as to cover the cost of the meal!

#### **Membership**

The club currently has 166 members. The possible use of electronic payments for subs is being considered.

#### **Trophies**

The criteria for DHPC awards are to be published with an invitation for nominations.

#### **Library**

Old books and magazines are going to be disposed of!

#### **Treasurer**

Two higher interest accounts are being set up by the Treasurer for the Club, one for general use and the other to receive member payments.

#### **Neil Plant writes:**

##### **Possible new destination**

We have been contacted by a former flyer from Leeds, Neil Pearson, now living Spain who is looking at offering multi-activity holidays in the Baza area of Spain (Mount Jabalcon, north of Granada). It's early days but he is interested in any feedback from what kind of thing people want out of such a holiday. His email is below.

Neil Pearson writes:

I will fill you in a little more. I am originally from Leeds and am an ex flyer (dodgy knee). I moved here five years ago after visiting the area and fell in love with it. It is not a very well known area but is breathtaking, I bought some land and had a house built at the foot of Jabalcon. Jabalcon has hosted championships in the past and is flown very little, I noticed last night through my window at around 5pm there were three gliders in the air. I have in the past flown Annecy and could not believe just how many gliders were in the air at once, also I went to Lanzarote and only managed one flight due to the wind the rest of the week, I was bored out of my mind. My aim is to offer other activities such as horse riding, mountain biking (also down Jabalcon ) fishing and boating on the lake, rambling and trips to places like the famous Alhambra in Granada. Lake Negratin which is also at the foot of the mountain is Andalucia's third largest and again is breathtaking, I am putting together a web site at the moment but this will take some time. Jabalcon is not the only site around here as I am surrounded by the Sierras with the Nevadas being an hour away but many a lot closer. I will offer the usual B&B, airport pick

up, arrange car hire if needed, I would like to offer "tailor made holidays" if you know what I mean? You let me know what it is you want to do and I will arrange it, being a yorkshireman. I understand that cost is important and I aim to keep the cost as low as I can. If you do not mind I will send you some attachments for now including a link to utube which shows some Spanish guys flying Jabalcon (awesome) so for now if you would be so kind as to put the word about for some feedback I would be most grateful?

I am hoping to launch the web site very soon which will be full of information as to what my aim is and the activities available in the area apart from flying that is. Fishing, boating, horse riding, mountain biking to name but a few. For those of you who have seen the u tube clips of Jabalcon you should note that it is for experienced fliers only, there are other jump sites in the area not so awesome for the less experienced fliers.

Neil Pearson [neilpearson1@mac.com](mailto:neilpearson1@mac.com)

Videos:

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=ILvosJ5JaQ0&feature=email>

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=A-BxT1veY&feature=email>

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=pajQlnAAXOY&feature=email>

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=aFT2Q2jgH4M&feature=email>



## Dennis Wray writes:

### XC at St Andre

In October, I signed up for a week's cross-country flying with Escape, having got to know the Escape team when I did the SIV course in Olu Deniz with Jocky. The XC course in St Andre was run by Chris White and Tim Johns with retrieves by Allez-up. At that time of the year, conditions in St Andre were good. It was an international party, with participants from Iran, Kazakhstan, USA, Hong Kong, Holland, UK ex-pats and even UK not-yet-ex-pats!

We flew every day as the weather was almost always good, usually taking off from Chalvet except for one day when we drove to St Vincent when the weather was less good. There were two particularly good thermalling days – without the worries of the violent thermals that can be present in the heat of summer.

On the first of the two good thermalling days, I got up to 2400ft above take off, and set off across the valley to pick up thermals at the other side (Sapee), but didn't make it that far and lost height, ending up landing in the valley at Lambrouisse. So I had to put that down to experience! On the other day that was particularly good for thermalling, I had good height at the antenna ridge (1850ft ATO), and was ready to set off across the valley (to Meunier) with the others but motion sickness got the better of me and I had to turn back, landing at St Andre but being sick a few times on the way. So overall, I didn't have too much luck with the XC part, although the thermalling was good while it lasted!

The landing field at St Andre was quite interesting, with very strong winds sometimes, and one or two of our party got blown back to

the other side of the river (or in the shallow river, not sure) but anyway getting their feet wet. On one occasion at the landing field, the wind was strong at about 20 ft where I was stationary with hands almost fully up, but then being dumped as I went down through a big wind gradient with almost no wind at ground level – fortunately flying ok at the last minute so didn't get hurt.

However, we all had a great deal of fun, the weather was warm enough, the French food was good, and I did learn quite a bit! There was a bit of torture for me though (and a couple of others from the group), as Escape organised us to sit the dreaded Pilot exam there which we duly did, but not without some last minute swotting!

All in all a great holiday!



St Andre take-off



Some of us looking for thermals!