

# Skywords

Monthly Newsletter of the Dales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club

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

August 2009



## From the Editor, Dennis Wray

It's congratulations to the Dales A Team – see below in the Newsletter! Good luck to the team in the final - Kate says she's very proud of "her boys" and so are we all!

A bit short of articles about your exploits this month – don't forget to write a little bit about your summer flying holes for the Newsletter!

Happy flying!

Please send your contributions directly to me - my email is [d.wray@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:d.wray@leeds.ac.uk)

## Martin Baxter writes:

### Chairman's chat, July 2009

As I write this note, the rain is hammering down outside. Still, can't grumble – we have had some excellent flying weather so far this year, and besides it's good for the garden (apparently!).

Those of us that missed the Dales Northern Bash apparently missed a great do, with some excellent flying. The big news is that the Dales A Team has qualified for the BCC final at the Long Mynd on 1/2 Aug. Well done to Kate, Dave, John and all those who participated.

The last coaching day was a bit of a stormer by all accounts as well. Against the odds Ogi managed to organise some decent flying

weather. Watch out for the next one on 25 or 26 Jul.

If the rain has stopped by the time you receive this then get yourself out flying. If it hasn't then at least you have some decent reading material to keep you occupied when you should be working!

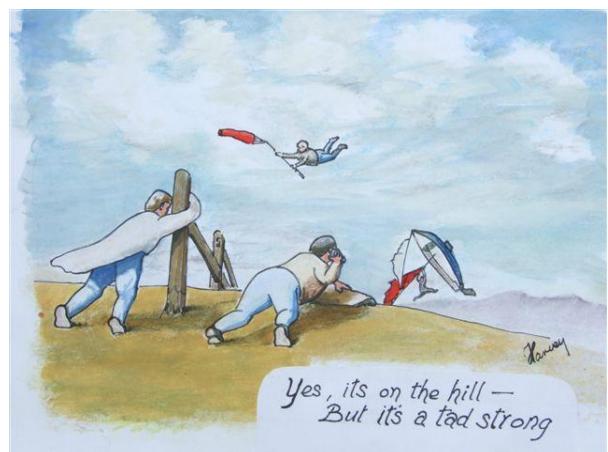
## Club Nights

Club nights are held at the Ilkley Moor Vaults Pub, Ilkley. This is located just off the A65 at Stockeld Road (LS29 9HD). Club nights are now on the first Wednesday of the month (instead of Thursdays), meeting at 8pm, notices at 8:15, and events starting at 8:30.

### Club night – 5 Aug

Please take a look at the Dales Club website for current updates, but in the absence of any further information please note this club night will be cancelled.

## Walter's spot!



## Kate writes:

### Dales Northern Bash and ACC Round 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Well the weather looked really, really iffy for the Dales round of the Airwave Club Challenge but Dave and I carried on regardless and we were rewarded with a near perfect weekend.



**Saturday** – Kev, Mark and Dave (Evans) set off early to hike up Whernside to be our on-the-hill-weather gurus and test pilots. The rest of us met at Ribblehead, jumped into the Landy and got ferried as close as possible to the bottom of Whernside before we had to walk up (thanks John). Once on the top and breathing normally again, a task was set: take off to turn point one (the tarns off the big end), turn point two (back over launch), turn point three (back to the tarns), then open distance. Quite a few of us got off the hill just before the air ambulance arrived to pick up a walker. Because the helicopter was in the area for some time, we were restricted to flying the big end of Whernside only, so in an attempt to get something in before the wind picked up we changed the task via radio to turn point one only then open distance. Unfortunately during this time the wind did pick up - ok if you were in the air but if you had landed conditions on the launch became too strong at 20+ mph. Of those still in the air, four went XC, for the

Dales Kev (who with Dave from Pennine and Ed from Cumbria flew to Barbon) and Dennis (Dales) who flew to the other side of Kingsdale.



With the increasing wind strength, everyone still flying made the sensible decision to land down near the viaduct or walk down (or in my case limp down, more on that later!). Back at the Green Dragon, Yvonne had a BBQ ready for us and a live band on in the pub, what a great night (apart from the midges!!!).



**Sunday** – Once again Kev, Mark and Dave set off early to hike up Whernside!!! The rest of us met again at Ribblehead for a quick weather check before trudging up. There were some seriously huge clouds around but our man in the air (Kev) thought it was well worth the walk up, and how right he was. What a fab day it turned out to be, a little strong on the top again but a lower launch got everyone in the air. The task was XC open distance with a 5k minimum to score. We got some fab Dales XC's; Kev landed at Low Wood just past Windermere!!! Hamish and Rob Boyle got to Cautley Spout (Rob's first UK XC). Rob Burtenshaw flew to Leck (suspect he's still grinning) and Dennis flew again to the other side of Kingsdale. The other teams got some great distances; Dave Evans flew almost to Tebay for Pennine and Ed to Barbon for Cumbria. The Derbyshire boys did really well, with Andy Chapman flying 27km, Roy Tingay

32km, Mick Guppy 16km and team captain Chris Jackson 15km. Quite a few only just missed the minimum distance, but really enjoyed the flying and that's what it's all about, having fun and flying safely.



Dave put a charity box in the pub on behalf of 'Help for Heroes' this raised £30.65 and just adds to the success of the weekend. If you would still like to donate online please log on to [www.helpforheroes.org.uk](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)



A fantastic, incident-free weekend, a big, big thanks to the Dales pilots who turned up regardless of the weather, to everyone who offered advice and support, to Yvonne at the pub and a big thanks to John who was an absolute star ferrying people about and doing retrieves.

As for me, I watched all the action from a deck chair on Sunday with my swollen ankle up on a box; trying to take off in 20+ winds wasn't such a good idea after all ☺

Looking forward to the next one!!!  
Kate x n Dave

#### **ACC Club Challenge - Pennine Round 11th July 2009**

The day started at 9:30 am in the car park at Chipping for a quick briefing before moving out to Parlick for a task briefing on the hill. Conditions didn't look brilliant but the forecast was for it to improve. There were 1000 points at stake for the winning team; it was our last chance to make a bid for the final.

Four clubs put in teams: us, Pennine, Derbyshire and Cumbria. The task was open distance XC with the launch window closing at

4pm and landing by 5pm. Throughout the day we had all sorts of weather conditions on the hill, light wind, strong wind, wave, low cloud base, strong thermals, until at around 3:30pm the sky started to clear. This was the opportunity we had been waiting for, conditions really improved and pilots started going over the back. All the Dales team pilots were in the air with three managing to go over. Our scoring pilots were Kev Mcoughlin (19.5km), Neil Plant (11.7km) and Rob Boyle (10.4km). Well done guys, you earned us a place in the final YIPEE!

The final will be held at the Long Mynd, Shropshire on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August.

#### **News from the BHPA**

The BHPA AGM will this year be held at The National Watersports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Further details will be published in due course but in the meantime please make a note of the date. For more information contact: Jennie Burdett, 0116 261 1322, [jennifer-burdett@bhpa.co.uk](mailto:jennifer-burdett@bhpa.co.uk)

A BHPA EPPS training course will take place at the Derby Pride Park Travelodge on Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009. The EPPS Course is the main training event to progress towards the BHPA qualification to pack and maintain emergency parachute systems. The Course is followed by a period of practice by those who attend, followed by a later, external examination for the qualification. Cost is £250 for the two day course. This course fills up very quickly so please register your interest as soon as possible. For more information contact: [bill-morris@bhpa.co.uk](mailto:bill-morris@bhpa.co.uk) or Stephanie Blankley, 0116 261 1322, [stephanie-blankley@bhpa.co.uk](mailto:stephanie-blankley@bhpa.co.uk)

The latest BHPA Club Bulletin is now available. Click on this link to download the PDF.  
[http://www.bhpa.co.uk/members/clubs/index.php?issue=cb178\\_Jun\\_2009.pdf](http://www.bhpa.co.uk/members/clubs/index.php?issue=cb178_Jun_2009.pdf)

#### **Sites officer Martin writes:**

##### **Landing at the end of an XC**

We have had a couple of complaints from farmers recently after pilots landed in their fields. Most people are aware of the dangers of scaring livestock (particularly pregnant ewes) but you may not be aware that farmers

grow long grass for winter feed. Once a small area has been flattened, the wind can get a foothold and cause further damage. Grass laid flat can't be cut.

When landing, try to avoid the following in this order:

1. Livestock with young.
2. Small fields with livestock.
3. Fields in meadow.
4. Large fields with livestock where you can get in hundreds of metres away from them.

The situation is most acute one thermal downwind of our most popular sites, such as Wether Fell.

## News from the committee

### Preamble

A couple who live in Chamonix recently took a week's holiday in the Yorkshire Dales (!). They flew nearly every day and commented upon how welcoming and friendly members of the DHPC are. Particular mention went to NP who was very efficient in providing a Sites' Guide. Well done all – a good reputation to have.

### Sites

**Ilkley.** Martin has contacted LBA regarding air regulation agreements for this site. SATCO LBA is searching through files looking for the elusive 'local' agreement. If an agreement is not found, they are happy to start negotiations. In the meantime we are cleared to continue flying though not above 500' AGL

### Website

Committee members were asked to make an effort to use the 'Shout Box' to announce their intention to go flying, and the Forum area to record flights, in an attempt to encourage widespread use of these facilities by all members of the club. Some members do not realise that by hovering over the time that a message is posted in the 'Shout Box' the date is revealed. JW will post an explanatory note next to the 'Shout Box'.

### Sites guide

MB has produced a PDF of every site. JW is to make this available to all members via the website ASAP (it was felt that if the 'windrose' proved too time consuming, it could be done later).

### Skywords

The deadline for receiving articles for publication is 21<sup>st</sup> of the month. The aim is to publish by 28<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### Coaching

The last coaching day was a great success with good flying conditions at Wether Fell. 12

novices flew under the supervision of 8 coaches. The next coaching day is on 25/26 Jul. Coaching days are to continue until Sep/Oct.

### Safety

There was much discussion about the actions to be taken by pilots in the event of an air ambulance/SAR helicopter landing on the hill or hovering nearby. It was agreed that PB should seek advice from the BHPA with a view to publishing guidance in our sites' guide. Suggestions included:

- Advising the helicopter crews of our operating frequency (143.95). Legality to be confirmed by TB.
- Seeking the views of the helicopter crews and advising them of our vulnerabilities (particularly being pinned in strong winds).
- Compulsory to have radios for comps and coaching. Safety Officer not to fly. Seek advice from Calvo.
- Big Ears, air horn and 'H' on the ground for non-radio equipped pilots. Subsequent to this discussion Ogi proposed that the club purchase a number of radios for use during coaching sessions. The principle was agreed by the committee and Ogi is invited to submit a detailed, costed proposal at the next committee meeting.

### Competitions

As mentioned already, the DHPC A team is through to the final of the BCC which will take place at the Long Mynd on 1/2 Aug. The Dales Northern Bash held at the Green Dragon, Hardraw was a great success. KR and DC were thanked for all their hard work.

### Membership

The club now has 156 members, of whom 136 are individuals and the remainder hold joint membership. This is comprised of 80% PG pilots, 20% HG pilots, 14% both.

The issue of non-members flying members-only sites (Stags Fell) was raised. MB is going to seek clarification from the owner, and PL is going to write to neighbouring clubs with a 'friendly' reminder of this rule. Contact will also be made with several pilots who fly regularly in the Dales but have not taken out membership.

### Finance

TP and TB to consult and propose an appropriate annual budget for Club Nights, to be put to the membership at the AGM.

### Committee appointments

Ed Cleasby has agreed to take on the role of Sites Officer (N).