

SkyWords – Jan 08

The Newsletter of the DHPC

Newsletter Editor

The more observant amongst you may have noticed that since Ian Sadler stood down as Newsletter Editor at the AGM in November, that nice colourful version of SkyWords hasn't been hitting your inbox on a monthly basis – in fact it hasn't been produced at all. The reason is quite simple – not one of our 200 members has so far volunteered to replace Ian as Newsletter Editor.

You will be relieved to know that the other members of your committee are still beavering away on your behalf. As sites officer I sit in on most of the meetings and so I get a reasonable handle on what is going on. I have agreed to produce this Newsheet (should it be called 'The Flyer'?), on a temporary basis until we get a full time Editor, to pass important messages on to you.

The format will be nowhere near as luxurious as the one produced by Ian last year. There will be no colour, no pictures, no hard copy and no articles (unless you write them). If you have anything that you would like me to publish please email it to me (in plain text, please) mrbaxter@hotmail.co.uk If you think that you can do a better job with the Newsletter (in fact, even if you are just willing to have a go) then I would be delighted to hear from you. Comments would also be appreciated.

Accident

2007 wasn't safest of years and we rounded it off on 30 Dec with a paragliding accident at Great Whernside. The pilot involved is reported to have 360'd into the hill but then finding himself still airborne flew down to land near the cars. He was recovered to Airedale by air ambulance and released later that day – which was strange because an MRI scan at a different hospital later revealed that he had a fractured vertebrae. He is expected to make a full recovery.

Great Whernside - Closed

We haven't had permission to use Great Whernside for some years. My attempts to contact the landowners and re-negotiate met with little success until the above paragliding accident. I now know who all the landowners are! One of them has asked us not to fly the site, at least for the time being and we have agreed to respect this. **Our long-term access to this important site will depend on how we respect the ban: please do not fly Great Whernside until further notice.** Note that there is no right to park by the cattle grid and the farmer may resort to clamping.

Humesett - Closed

As you may know I have been trying to renegotiate Humesett recently. The grid reference does not tie in with the T/O shown on the map and neither is suitable. Having walked the ground a couple of times I proposed a more suitable T/O but the headkeeper was not happy with this, and so we have reluctantly agreed to **remove Humesett from our sites guide.** Not that great a loss. It isn't as good as Stags Fell, doesn't have a bottom landing, and is a massive walk up. I don't know of anyone who has flown it in recent years.

Website

Pete Logan, James Watson & Co. are currently banging their heads together to develop a format for a revamped website. Watch this space for progress. In the meantime the current website www.dhpc.org.uk is still up and running. The shoutbox tells you if anyone else is going out, and where. Whilst you are logged on please check the sites page before going flying to see if there are any new restrictions, and feel free to p*** your mates off by logging a flight if you do get into the air, when you get back. Our Googlegroup is also still up and running.

New Sites Guide

The new website will incorporate an electronic version of our amended sites' guide. Of course we will still have a hard copy version and we are currently costing how much this will cost. One suggestion is to send out the hard copy with an A5 ring binder so pilots can print out amended pages from the website.

Dinner Dance

Just in case you didn't know – this year's Dinner Dance is taking place on Sat 23 Feb at The Herriot in Skipdale (opposite the station). The details, including how to get tickets, are attached to this email. Please come along and support your club and say hello to the farmers who allow us to use their land.

Reserve Re-pack

Tony Pickering is organising this for a weekday evening in March. Aerofix charge about £4 per head (to charity) and numbers will be strictly limited to 20 places. The cost of the venue isn't yet clear but we hope to keep the cost per person below £20. Details to follow.

Pilot Exam

Northern Paragliding are holding a training day on 23 Feb in their new premises in Kirkby Stephen. There is no charge but bring some cash so that you can make a donation to the Mountain Rescue/Air Ambulance. If you want a place or need any more information, training notes etc, email katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk Pete Logan is going to arrange for pilots to sit the exam a few weeks later, probably one evening at The Arts Centre in Gargrave. Details to follow. Don't forget that you will need your Pilot Task Book signed by a coach.

Trophy Winners

Following careful consideration of the nominations, the following awards will be made at the Dinner Dance on 23 Feb. Congratulations to all winners.

Trophy	Awarded For	2007 Winner
General		
Cockcroft Cup	Most improved pilot	Hamish Tsai
Cock of the Dales	Most enthusiastic pilot	Kate Rawlinson
Fairbrother Trophy	Pilot's Pilot	Kevin Mcloughlin/Sean Hodgson
Mark Sellen Trophy	Services to club	Liz Addy
Hang-Gliding		
Dales HG XC Shield	1st place XC League	Trevor Birkbeck
Founders Trophy	Longest XC from the Dales	Trevor Birkbeck
Baildon Sod HG	Longest Distance	Andy Woods
Stained Glass Trophy (HG)	War of the Roses	Not awarded
Paragliding		
Dales PG XC Shield	1st place XC League	Jake Herbert
Founders PG Trophy	Longest XC from the Dales	Jake Herbert
Baildon Sod PG	Longest distance	Pete Logan
Northern PG Trophy	Best total dist in 1st yr of XC	Hamish Tsai
Active Edge PG Cup	Best 1st XC	Andy Byrom
Stained Glass Trophy (PG)	War of the Roses	Not awarded

Club Nights

The next club night is on 7 Feb at The Riverside Hotel in Ilkley. Aim to get there before 8pm because the beer is cheaper, and the evening's entertainment will kick off around 8.30pm. This month promises to be entertaining with

Ogi organising a video night entitled “**something I found whilst innocently surfing the internet**”. I’ll let him explain:

‘I am looking for a submission from everyone – yes that said everyone! Of a short video clip, (send me the file or preferably the URL link (I can save you tube etc to file). We are having two sections: you can enter a clip in both sections:

1. Original Video Clip filmed by the sender – so come on all you with head mounted video, etc, send me your best clip or URL, make it short – 3 to 5 minutes is ideal. Feel the glory of being the dales “palme d`or” winner (I had to look up that spelling especially).

2. “Something I found whilst innocently surfing”. This section is for all those comic, scary, disaster paragliding or hang gliding videos. Crashes, scary flights, really bad tuition vids, anything flying related. The worst wins. P.S. if anyone has any really embarrassing flying clips involving Dales club members, please, please, please send them. Each section will be voted on by a show of hands from all those people attending, which brings me to my second point, it would be great to see everyone at the club night, and it has been a long time since we all got together for a pint. I suspect that some of you only know each other via you email addresses.

Send your good stuff to me at sean@ogi.me.uk , in time for me to put a DVD presentation together , if people are interested after we can copy it so everyone can have a copy of the best bits (with authors permission!). Please pass this info on to other members you know. Cheers Ogi.

Martin Baxter