

SKYWORDS

August 2019

Chairman's Chat

We've not had a newsletter for 7 months so a massive thank you to Carl for volunteering to resurrect Skywords. Carl is currently the club's librarian but work commitments have made it difficult for him to attend club nights lately, and since the Yew Tree didn't have the facilities to store the library, it wasn't available for much of last winter. We don't normally allow an individual to fill 2 posts on the committee at the same time, but I'm prepared to let Carl continue as librarian until the AGM in December. Club nights start again in September, back at the Horse & Farrier, (where hopefully we can also store the library once more). Rosie has booked some top speakers...

The other good news is that Dave Bradwell has agreed to stand as Treasurer. That's a huge weight off my mind as I had visions of having to either employ an accountant, or dissolve the club. You can buy Dave a beer next time you see him.

As things currently stand, at the AGM we'll be looking for replacement librarian and trophies officer. Both jobs are very easy to do, require no previous experience or skill, and would ideally suit a novice pilot. If you become librarian then you have access to all the books and DVDs in the [library](#). As trophies officer you collect the trophies in from last year's winners, get them engraved, and make sure that I present them to the correct recipient at the Farmers' Dinner in February. It would be great if you had the extra capacity to help Rosie organise the Farmers' Dinner (it's all booked) but not essential. The committee meets once every 2 months for about 2 hours on a weekday evening in Otley. You get to learn about how the club works, what is going on, and to mix with more experienced pilots. You even get to influence club decisions.

If you feel that you are able to give a little bit back to the club, or just want to know a bit more about what's involved (without making any commitment) then please drop me a line at : chairman@dhpc.org.uk

Fly safely

Martin Baxter, Chairman

Baildon SOD

Held : Monday 8th July

It's end of term and the school report for weather forecasters is definitely "must try harder". The wind was just about usable last night at the Sod but the rain - who saw that coming? Rain did stop play eventually and force us into the pavilion for refreshments but we managed some decent sled rides before that.

Zena and Tony Pickering were there earliest and numbers soon swelled to maybe thirty or so people by 7pm. A few didn't get their wings out - maybe intimidated by the full height bracken. Launches were tricky with the wind about 45 degrees off to the south but this does allow for longer distances if you clear the bracken...

Last year's champ, Kerim and Jim Goldsborough opened proceedings at the bottom with respectable efforts to the fairway.



There was respectable bracken bashing going on from Tony, Tim, Adam, Stephen, Andy Berzins, Rob B and many others (let us know how you got on below). I clipped into my secret weapon, an Ozone Mantra R10.2 "vintage" comp wing which I was sure I was going to ride to victory. I launched and brought up about half of it, which I decided, was probably about as good as it was going to get.

I was pushed off course on my run by

the rest of the wing sorting itself out so I had to tip toe through the bracken but by the track, I was in the air and skimmed over the tops of the greenery.

I landed well clear of the fairway just at the end of the rough before the next mown area. A good start..... but completely destroyed by Alex Colbeck on his Zero gently floating overhead to go another 100m at least to land in the middle of the mown area alongside the reservoirs.



The winning flight from Alex. 550m ish and a glide ratio of 11:1.

Apparently he hit a bubble of lift on the way though.

That was the winning flight and the furthest I've seen a paraglider go at Baildon. I offered the R10.2 out to any takers - it's the pilot after all not the wing ;) and then took up Alex on his offer of having a ride on the Zeno. Very nice it was too but it didn't get me passed where he had landed. On returning the drizzle had set in so I decided to finish off with another R10 ride. John set the trimmers for me which I'm sure made plenty of difference. I went further

but rewarded myself by draping it over a tree on landing. That was my next 30 minutes sorted out then, grrrr.

It was definitely time to retire to the pub. Top place goes to Alex for a huge 600m or so flight. I squeaked in second and the Guschlbauer and Outters of the Sod, coming in joint third, were Jake Herbert and Andy Berzins. Special effort respect goes to Jan Tempest and Tony Pickering who must be feeling particularly zen this morning after taking out so much pent up anger on the poor bracken at take off.

Peter Logan (Images - et al), from the DHPC forum

Competitions

Paragliding Accuracy Nationals

Will be held at Green Dragons Air Sports, Warren Barn Farm, Woldingham, Surrey CR3 7H.

The competition itself is 31st August - 1st Sept, but training starts 27th August.

Full details are available on the website

<https://www.british-paragliding-accuracy-championships-2019.co.uk>

The Glorious 12th

Please see the individual site DHPC website for the latest flying restrictions.

Like it or loathe it, the Glorious 12th is upon us - the official start of Britain's 121-day-long grouse shooting season.

The sport, which always begins on August 12th each year, has been an integral part of the countryside calendar for decades, although having once been an aristocratic hobby, it's increasingly at the centre of rows over animal cruelty and class.



Regarded as the "king" of game birds, red grouse are incredibly sought after and represent the supreme shooting challenge. They can fly at speeds of up to 70 miles per hour, often fly low and have a habit of changing direction at the last minute. It's no wonder they require a high level of skill to shoot.

As well as berries and seeds, a typical grouse eats up to 50g of heather a day. They eat the young, tender heather with green shoots but nest and shelter in the old heather.

Heather moorland is now rarer than rainforest, according to the Moorland Association. The UK has 75 per cent of what is left worldwide.

Grouse shooting can be traced back 160 years to 1853. It started to take off when the railways suddenly made it easier to get to the moors, and shotguns became breech-loading. The "bags" - total number of birds shot per day - were huge, often topping 2,000 in a single day.

Although grouse shooting is most commonly associated with the Scottish Highlands, red grouse were, and still are, shot on moors in Wales, Northern Ireland and as far south as England's Peak District.

Grouse are safe for one day of the week. It's illegal to shoot grouse - as well as many other game birds - on Sundays. In 2012 when the Glorious 12th fell on a Sunday, it had to be moved to August 13th.

The law about Sunday shooting is laid out in the Game Act of 1831. (It's not against the law in Scotland, but the custom is still adopted.)

Grouse shooting generates about £150 million for the economy every year. The industry also supports approximately 2,500 full time equivalent jobs - from gamekeepers and beaters to people in tourism and hospitality.

People (increasingly foreign tycoons and City-types) pay thousands of pounds to join a shoot with owners charging roughly £150 a brace.

Conservationists also argue that burning heather leaves peat exposed to the air, threatening wildlife that makes their home in the peatland. They also say that exposing peat to air causes the carbon in it to release carbon dioxide which contributes to climate change.

Red grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*) are not artificially reared for shooting, like pheasants and partridges. Teams of gamekeepers manage the moors to maximise the number of birds available - so some years the numbers fluctuate according to the conditions.

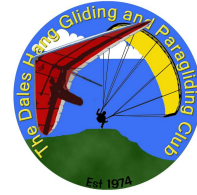
Millions of pounds are spent every year carefully setting fire to heather when it reaches wellie-height to encourage its regeneration.

Different areas are burnt in rotation so there is always a patchwork of short and tall heather. (Burning always happens in the winter and the early part of spring when there are no nesting birds on the ground.)

Simon Tomlinson, Sites Officer North



Club Website & Social Media



Changes on the DHPC website

You may have noticed some subtle (and not so subtle) changes to the website and its contents. If you are wondering why all this information has suddenly appeared, the reason is below.

For a number of years the club would send new members a club handbook detailing useful information about flying, rules of the club, details of our sites etc. Most of the current membership will have received a copy when they joined. The problem with hard copy of course is that things change over time – meaning that that handbook needed updating. Unless you joined after 2015, your handbook is probably out of date. Some of the detail in the handbook was also available on the website. This made it difficult to ensure that updates were consistent in both places. Possibly most importantly however was the printing cost – the handbook was very expensive to print. A couple of months ago the Committee decided to stop producing handbooks for new members. Although some of the information was duplicated, a lot of it wasn't, and it was decided to transfer the contents to relevant sections of the website. Alex did a lightning quick job of incorporating the relevant bits in the relevant places. So for the first time we have a single source of information – much easier to manage and keep up to date. There were a few bits in the handbook that were wrong – we think we've corrected most of them, but if you spot any errors just let Tam (contacts@dhpc.org.uk) or Alex (website@dhpc.org.uk) know and they will be fixed.

The main issue that is now being worked on is the printing / downloading of site guides – these will be useful both for newer members and visiting pilots. We are aiming to make these more user friendly (they already print much better than previously from the website). If you have any suggestions for development of the website, you can use the contacts above, or approach any committee member.

Tam, Secretary

Forum to become members-only

Back in May the club's committee decided to make the DHPC forum accessible only to members. You may have noticed that we have taken the first step towards this by disabling Guest access - which means that you can no longer browse the forum without using your own unique Username and Password to log in. If you haven't already done so, I would

encourage you to create your own account so that you can continue to access and contribute to the forum content and discussions.

We will soon be disabling non-members' accounts. It would help greatly at this stage if you could confirm your forum Username so that I can keep track of legitimate accounts and try to avoid inadvertently disabling yours. The easiest way to let me know your Username is to just email to membership@dhpc.org.uk

Tim Rogers, Membership Secretary (Username: Tim_R)

Social Media - WhatsApp

We have a large and active flying community here in the Dales, so it's no surprise that various flying-focused social media groups become established amongst friends and like-minded pilots on platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram. This is of course in addition to the club's own Forum and Shoutbox on the DHPC website.

A WhatsApp group called "DHPC Flying Plans" was set up five years ago by a small group of new CP members. Numbers have swelled over the last few seasons as word has got around and as new members have joined the club. It's popular particularly with lower airtime pilots and those new to the area to share thoughts about where to go flying and post site reports on flying days.

Whether you are already in other groups or you are yet to dip your toe in the social media water, this is an open invitation to any other members to join the "DHPC Flying Plans" group. Those who don't fly very often may find it a useful way to share thoughts about the weather forecast and where it's to be flyable, and to see where others are going. There are already some club coaches and more experienced pilots in the group too, whose input is appreciated, and others are always welcome. It's also a good way to keep up with other club news like coaching days and club nights.

The DHPC Flying Plans group is now administered by the Membership Secretary so if you'd like to join please get in touch with **Tim Rogers** on **07765 795378**. You just need the WhatsApp app on your mobile phone.

PS. Please follow the usual etiquette for larger groups: stay on subject, a little chatter's natural especially when there's a non-flyable spell of weather, but please keep the banter to a minimum.

Editor's note – Remember there is also the **facebook** page, and the **forums** on the website

Club Meetings

Club nights are the **First Thursday of each month** (with the exception of January's night, which is the second Thursday). Club nights this year are being held at the **Horse and Farrier** in Otley.

September - HARRY BLOXHAM

A UK competition pilot who takes amazing photos! Hopefully we will get some hints and tips on how to capture epic pictures.

October - TIM PENTREATH

An adventurous pilot who flies Vol Biv in the UK and abroad. He is the face of XC retrieve and UK distributor of XC Tracer.

November - XLAKES

This evening will be delivered by double act 'The flying Vets' Rob Welford and James Allcock. They will give us the inside track on the XLAKES competition, one of the only hike and fly races in the UK.

December

DHPC Annual General Meeting.

January

Film Competition - Get your cameras at the ready and your editing skills honed for the annual DHPC film competition. This year we will be running a photo competition too for the best image too.

Rosie, Social Sec.

General Notices

Request for Articles / Reports for SKYWORDS

A newsletter is only ever as good as what it contains, I believe it should be informative and interesting to read, so apologies that this edition is a little thin in that matter. As the new editor I'm therefore asking that anyone who would like to contribute, however short / long, badly spelt or otherwise, to submit an article on a subject of their choice, pictures etc... General notices can also just be submitted as a short block of text. I also do plan to improve the format over the months, we'll see how that goes...

I've also had a specific request for an article from a new member, so if anyone would like to contribute then please let me know:

“Where to go for weather sources for dales flying and how to access & interpret them”

All contributions / suggestions very welcome, please email to news@dhpc.org.uk

Deadline for the next edition – 25th August

Carl Maughan, Newsletter Editor

Picture Corner

(Please submit others for the next edition)



Flight from Wherside - 3rd July - *Gary Senior*



Cloudbase above Dodd - 6th July - *Carl Maughan*