

# SKYWORDS

January 2021

## Chairman's Chat

How are you coping with the current Lockdown? I think that most of us are finding it more difficult than the previous ones, perhaps because of the weather, perhaps because of suspicions that others aren't sticking to the guidance quite as strictly as we are, or perhaps it's just that the novelty has worn off and patience is wearing thin. For the first time I can see the advantage of work over retirement. Normally those of us that are retired have the pick of the good flying days, whereas now we don't have much of an excuse to get out of the house, or to keep us occupied. Even the lure of garage or garden shed isn't very appealing in sub-zero temperatures!

But the club continues to tick over in the hope of better things to come. In December we used the forum to satisfy the AGM requirement, and I'm pleased to say that the [new committee](#) is ready and able to tackle whatever challenges the rest of 2021 brings. We had our first virtual committee meeting earlier in the week.

The main item on the agenda was the proposed weather station, and I'm delighted to report that it was approved. The plan is to purchase and erect a Holfuy system, very similar to the [Shack int' Dales](#) that Chris Maudsley recently crowdfunded, and erected in the hills above Settle.



Initially there was some enthusiasm from DIY hobbyists to restore or replace the existing Wendy Windblows, but nothing came of it. We were very tempted by the Davis system installed by the Derbyshire club at Bradwell: a reduced risk of gale damage because the anemometer doesn't have any moving parts. COVID-19 restrictions delayed a detailed assessment of their design. We eventually concluded that it was too expensive and too complicated to set up.

The club weather station will be on Yorburgh (the hill above Burtesett, near Wether Fell). We did consider other locations but were pretty limited by mobile phone signal, the risk of vandalism if too close to popular public routes, landowner consent and planning permission. A

mast has existed at Yorburgh for many years. Originally a TV mast, the club then erected its first weather station called Hamish. We sold that to Rod Buck who replaced it with a Wendy Windblows station which is still there (see photo below).

Previous experience suggests that accuracy may be limited in wave conditions and in winds South of West, so a bit of calibration may be required. Access requires a sturdy 4x4 vehicle, and then a half mile yomp across difficult terrain. The advantage is that no self-respecting vandal will be tempted to interfere!

Our station will be more expensive than the Shack in the Dales for a number of reasons. Since the site is more north facing, we have decided to opt for the larger battery pack and solar panel. We've also included a humidity sensor which provides an estimation of cloudbase. The anemometer (moving parts) is the most vulnerable part of the system so we have included some spares.

We don't have the luxury of WIFI so have to rely on the mobile network, and finally we need to erect our own mast. Following BREXIT there is a little uncertainty over import taxes but we expect the whole thing to cost less than £2,000, plus £5 - £10 per month for data. Active Edge has very kindly agreed to subsidise the project to the tune of £300. There is sufficient working capital to fund the project without dipping into the Flying Fund (savings) or raising subscriptions. We intend to make the data free to all, with a link on the club website.

We did briefly discuss the option of a webcam, but Holfuy don't include a compatible option. It also seems more sensible to base a webcam at the bottom of the hill looking up, where you have the luxury of mains power, WIFI and easy access. We agreed that a webcam should be a separate initiative.

Simon Tomlinson and Trev Birkbeck will be leading on the weather station project. There are a number of limiting factors – delivery, COVID-19 restrictions, and the weather; but we hope to have the new station up and running in April. Whilst we're up there erecting the new station, we also plan to remove the old Wendy Windblows and the detritus that has accumulated over the years. If anyone is willing to help with carrying kit across moorland then please drop Simon a line at [sites\\_north@dhpc.org.uk](mailto:sites_north@dhpc.org.uk)

Stay safe,

**Martin Baxter**  
Chairman

**The Site**



**Editors Note:**

Look for the new **Weather** tab (expand the "More") on the website:



## Coaching 2021

As the incoming chief coach, firstly, I need to hold up my hand and say bear with me. My coaching currency has lapsed but I have re-read the manual and am booked on the upcoming (and probably remote) course.

From what I've seen **I'm inheriting things in pretty great shape**. Pete Balmforth and Ed before him, with the coaching team, have provided the opportunity for two thirds of our members to be at pilot stage or better. If the growth in Dales XC is anything to go by we have confident and safe pilots too.

There's always a bit more to do though. A bunch of things will stay the same and I'll try out adding a few new things too and see how they help. The aim of coaching, as always, will be to make sure we all go home at the end of a flying day, then wake up wanting to go out again and become better.

Staying the same will be what we do for new flying members. I still remember turning up to sites on my own and wondering whether to fly or not. Coaching isn't only about passing on knowledge and advice. It can very much be company and reassurance for new fliers, who can struggle with confidence and getting out on the right days to the right sites.

We'll continue to contact new members, offering help. I'm on the end of the phone too if you need to talk about flying technique, sites, gear, attitude, XC, a chat, or whatever. For our newest members, do you know about the really helpful sheet giving some goals for your first ten or so hours of flying? [https://www.bhpa.co.uk/pdf/PDS\\_foundation\\_layer\\_phases.pdf](https://www.bhpa.co.uk/pdf/PDS_foundation_layer_phases.pdf)

The club has a third of it's pilots who are CP level. About 40 'ish of those are within the first five years of flying. We'll continue to offer pilot task sign offs and exam study sessions. Let me know if you want to get your Pilot qualification and I'll take care of the reminders. Aim for tasks through this summer and we'll get some study for the exam kicked off in autumn.

Coaching days will also carry on and be a time when you can learn about sites, technique and have tasks witnessed. Let's hope the weather gods are kinder to us this year. This is somewhere I'd like to bring in some changes. I want to have coaching days that are a little more off season i.e. early spring, autumn maybe winter (if the chance presents itself). There are many reasons; your humble coach might want to make the most of rare XC days, staying current through the year is better for your safety, putting in practice top landings on a mega thermal day might not quite be your cup of tea...

Also, for those days when you'd like to meet up with a coach, consider asking to meet up early in the day. Aim to get to site and meet at 10am with your coach. They will have plenty of time to set up for the active part of the day and you will have the time to see and talk about how conditions develop. **Often it's pleasantly flyable from early in the morning** and you won't miss out on flying if the day does become blown out later. This is one way both coach and coachee can get the most out of the day and each other's time.

Other new items I'll introduce to see if they work out are really things I need to improve on myself. Given I'm probably not much different than other pilots, they're things we could all improve on.



**Ground handling** - personally I would describe my own as serviceable. I messed up a launch in strong conditions at the North South Cup this summer so I'd like to be more reliable with that. I occasionally waste time sorting out my wing when it balls into a bag of washing on TO. I know that any time spent ground handling is at least equivalent to time spent in the air learning the feel of the wing. I'll be letting people know when I'm up on my local site, Baildon Moor, for a GH session. Maybe other coaches would be up for that in their areas too.

Either way, I would strongly encourage you to get the Ground app, and watch the following:

<https://andrebandarra.com/ghc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IWJW8w7OcQ>

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.schmidt\\_voigt.ground](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.schmidt_voigt.ground)

(from Andre Bandarra and work through the exercises. I'm about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the way through)

**Landing accuracy** - is another thing I'd like to improve myself. I actually have video evidence of me making a complete pigs ear of an accuracy task last year. No prizes if you do find it :-)) I'd like to be able to nail a landing whenever I chose and that means **practice**. The reasons are plain enough, it's an essential XC skill, safety when landing near obstacles and just being able to take some pride in your flying. I've improved a little up at Baildon with a few sessions. The shoulder and the bottom landing field at Semer is probably as good an area to get a few turns in with a friend ferrying you up in the car. What else would you be doing if it's too light to fly? Again, I'll try and work out how that could be more of a group activity.

I have a few articles to come through the year too. Look out for buddying up to fly XC, Adv. Pilot and treating our hobby as a discipline and some thoughts on safety too...

I wish you a great flying year ahead and if in doubt just ask....

Some useful links

<https://www.dhpc.org.uk/assets/files/CoachesList..pdf>

<https://www.dhpc.org.uk/coaching>



*(Addingham Moorside – pre-lockdown)*

**Pete Logan**  
**Chief Coach**

## DHPC CLUB TROPHIES 2020

It's that time of the year again....

Active Edge PG Cup (Best 1st XC)	<b>Charles McDonald</b>	<b>24.5 km</b>
Baildon Sod (PG)	<b><i>Not contested</i></b>	
Coach of the year	<b>Ed Cleasby</b>	
Cock of the Dales	<b>Charles McDonald</b>	
Cockcroft Cup (Most improved pilot)	<b>Graham McAnany</b>	
Fairbrother Trophy (Pilot's pilot)	<b>Ed Cleasby</b>	
Founders Trophy HG (Longest XC from the Dales)	-	
Founders Trophy PG	<b>John Ellison Jake Herbert</b>	<b>168.2 km</b>
Mark Sellen Trophy (Services to the club)	<b>Tim Rogers</b>	
Northern Paragliding Trophy (Best total distance in 1st year of XC)	<b>Charles McDonald</b>	<b>24.5 km</b>
Northern Paragliding XC Cup (Best triangle, out and return or flight to goal in the Dales)	<b>Richard Meek Out &amp; Return</b>	<b>30.98 km 40.3 pts</b>
Skywords Award	<b>Pete Logan</b>	
XC Shield HG	-	
XC Shield PG	<b>1st Jake Herbert 2nd John Ellison 3rd Ed Cleasby</b>	<b>250.3 pts 246.9 pts 199.8 pts</b>

## **CANCELLED: DHPC Reserve Repack Sat Feb 13, 2021**

Unfortunately, due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, it will not be possible to hold the DHPC repack event that was planned for early this year.

We hope to organise the repack at a later date when the restrictions will be relaxed but at the moment it is difficult to say when that might be. It is entirely possible that the flying season will have started in earnest before then.

This is not ideal. The repack has always been scheduled for February or early March to give everyone a chance to repack their reserve before the flying season starts.

**It is recommended to repack your reserve at least once a year** and some manufacturers recommend every 6 months (check the manual for your reserve for the recommended frequency).

Many pilots are familiar with repacking their own reserve and will be comfortable doing it themselves. However, if for any reason you cannot repack your reserve then you should consider sending it away to be professionally repacked by one of the BHPA licensed repackers.

I have been in touch with the two BPHA licensed parachute packers who agreed to help out at our repack event and they both provide a repack service directly:

Guy Richardson

Email: [guy@importair.co.uk](mailto:guy@importair.co.uk)

Website: <https://gingernomad.co.uk/>

Andrew Mc Donald

Email: [andy-mcdonald@bhpaco.uk](mailto:andy-mcdonald@bhpaco.uk)

A list of all BHPA licensed parachute packers can be found on the BHPA website at:

[https://bhpaco.uk/documents/safety/parachute\\_packers/index.php?cur\\_page=0](https://bhpaco.uk/documents/safety/parachute_packers/index.php?cur_page=0)

### **Of interest - Paragliding Reserve Parachute Research**

This video from Dr Matt Wilkes (he's done one of our club nights) on Andre's channel is definitely worth some time watching:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJJMTXMcn5w>

(There's findings for both us pilots and for manufacturers too. It's uncertain when we can get a repack in right now but I will be getting the hang points up in the garage and checking with a few more dummy throws whilst in lock down. )

**David May**  
**DHPC Safety Officer**

## Lockdown Entertainment / Learning

Pete Logan - the flying channels I subscribe to...

<https://www.youtube.com/user/alex58>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzYf1c ... I19SSp6lJw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzYf1c...I19SSp6lJw)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/chrigelmaurer>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CloudbaseCollective>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/davidmay64>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/xcmag>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD\\_KBA ... 0XGe66Kpvg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD_KBA...0XGe66Kpvg)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqcTRj ... D-K9\\_Nw05A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqcTRj...D-K9_Nw05A)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FlybubbleParagliding>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIWZ8i ... VNbQh2NFDA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIWZ8i...VNbQh2NFDA)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSIGLu ... eFGjPNtNyg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSIGLu...eFGjPNtNyg)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jbintheairintheair>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/skate2hell>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbpuDw ... 7oEGl7X6Sw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbpuDw...7oEGl7X6Sw)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCL7-F ... 9lMXGEtwXQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCL7-F...9lMXGEtwXQ)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEC1xH ... BCtfcyEgEA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEC1xH...BCtfcyEgEA)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsdw3K ... ZhWz0Y-FJQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsdw3K...ZhWz0Y-FJQ)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/NikitaTheo>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/timpent>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ziadbassil>

Slim Jim - <https://youtu.be/WCCZuxmwL9Q>

(Always good to try and pick up tips from others who might not have quite nailed it.)

Pete Logan - Just been sent this one... <https://youtu.be/lyH2yRB9h9k>

(Any willing bikers want to have a crack at this?)

Tim B - How to control your paraglider and launch when the wind is not perfectly square on the hill - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wyn-sEb-iBg>

Aeros - my youtube channel - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD\\_KBA ... pvg/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD_KBA...pvg/videos) (Most have been seen as they are in my flightlogs.)

### Podcasts

**Lee Tryhorn** has started up his podcast again and has just released a new episode with Pal Takats who is well-known for being an early pioneer in acro, then more recently flying in high-level XC comps and chasing records in Brazil.



<https://www.paraglidingpodcast.com/episodes/episode-3.html>

### **First aid for Paraglider pilots**

Found this video interesting as I am brushing up my first aid during lock down.

<https://youtu.be/5UroXqzOpg>

## **Weather Watch**



Interesting clouds taken from above High Hill on the way back after flying Ingleborough (pre lockdown!)

*Shed*

Contributes of articles / useful links / other material, gratefully received to:

[newsletter@dhpc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@dhpc.org.uk)

**Carl Maughan**  
**DHPC Newsletter Editor**

## Membership renewals

In last month's issue we introduced you to our new membership management system using Membermojo. If you haven't signed in to your Member Page yet, why not read last month's article and have a go?

You'll already be aware that the club operates a fixed membership year, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> February each year. So, whether you're a club veteran or you've just joined us in the last couple of months, you'll need to renew in the New Year if you want to remain a member.

This year we'll be using our new system to manage membership renewals starting in January. This means you'll see a slight change in the way you renew your membership. Don't worry – you'll still have an opportunity to take advantage of our prompt renewal discount, and we'll still be sending out reminder emails ahead of the renewal date. These emails will start a little earlier, at the beginning of January, and will be sent from Dales Hang Gliding & Paragliding Club <noreply.dhpc@membermojo.co.uk>. To avoid these emails ending up in your Spam folder you can add this address to your contacts.

### How to renew your membership

We always appreciate your prompt renewal as it reduces our administration effort and helps with the smooth running of the club. You can renew your membership at any time from 1<sup>st</sup> January by signing into your Member Page and clicking the orange Renew button.



Your details will be pre-populated on the membership renewal form. Review your details and update them if necessary. Choose your preferred membership level – the prompt payment discount will be automatically applied if you renew by the end of February.

You'll also need to confirm that you are a current BHPA member and that you have read our Data Processing Statement, before clicking the Next button to take you to the confirmation screen.

If the details on the confirmation screen are correct click the Checkout button, or you can click the Back button to make any changes.

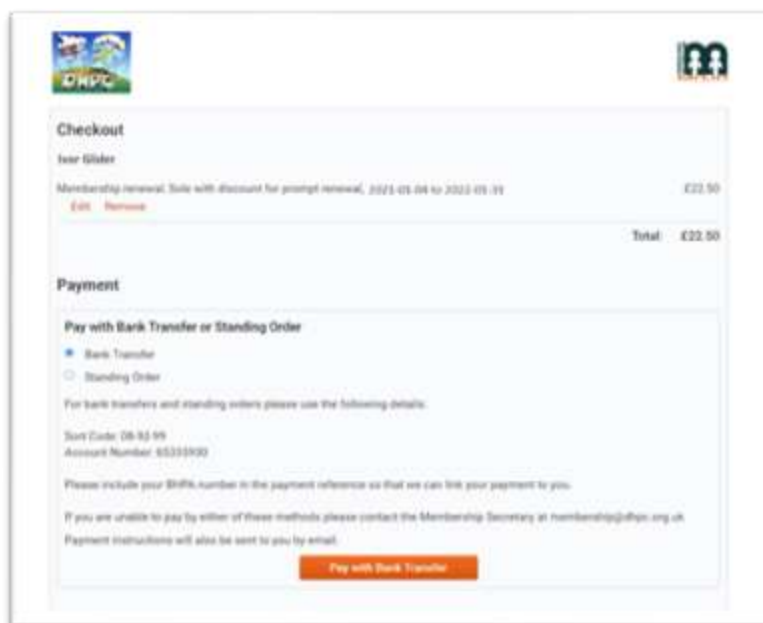


Details of how to make your payment are shown on the Checkout screen. Choose your preferred payment method before clicking the Pay button.

Don't forget you still have to pay! To keep costs down we currently don't support online payments, so you still need to pay separately by transfer from your bank account. We'll email you with confirmation

of your renewal instruction, and this email will also contain details of how to pay. You can also view details of your outstanding payment from your Member Page. When setting up your payment, please remember to include a payment reference so that we can link your payment to your Member account. Membermojo provides an automatically generated unique payment reference, or you can just use your BHPA number. Once we've received your payment we'll acknowledge it by email, and your membership will be fully activated for another year.

If you already have a standing order set up – thanks! We'll still email you with confirmation of your renewal instruction but our bank account details have not changed and we are maintaining subscriptions at the existing levels, so you don't need to take any further action. Once your payment is received we'll fully activate your membership and send you an acknowledgement email.



Remember you can view your membership details and payment history at any time by signing into your Member Page.

Our new membership management system is designed to be straightforward to use. If you have any queries, or have any suggestions for improvements, please let us know at [membership@dhpc.org.uk](mailto:membership@dhpc.org.uk).

**Rahul Basu**  
Membership Secretary