Soaring Times

NEWSLETTER OF THE NENE VALLEY GLIDING CLUB

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1. Editorial

Well, Autumn is here again and with it the loss of the best soaring days and with shorter days as well. We have had a good Summer with some memorable flying and a lot of fun.

Our Young Pilots did a fantastic job in winning the 4-Clubs Challenge and congratulations are due to them all. See the report below by Beth. The weather during Task Wek was not ideal for cross country flying, but some good flights were achieved.

We have had three first solos and have started some new scholarship trainees so our young pilot programme is progressing well and the NVGC can still be proud of being arguably the premier club for young glider pilots in the UK.

With our 'new' Grob Twin Astir now in service we are now doing more training on the 'glass' aircraft and the club continues to move forward with our better aircraft.
Once again I have had very little contribution from our membership for the Newsletter.

2. **Chairman's Chat**

As I write this I am very sad that we have lost one of our hard working members Peter Sperry. His engineering skills and his friendly happy nature will be missed. He only joined us two and a bit years ago, but we will always fondly remember Peter *(an obituary will appear in our next Newsletter – Ed.)*

I would like to congratulate those that have gone solo: Zoe Fowler, Sam Lee and Jordan Keilty. I hope this is the first step on your career in our exciting sport. Those younger ones can now enter our 'Bronze C Scheme' which pays you a £250 grant for your next 50 launches. Please talk to John White or me for details.

Congratulations are also due to to Tim Ward who did his first 50k cross country to Marham (and back), thus completing his Silver C and to Chris Barrott who also completed his Silver C.

I am in the process of applying to Sport England for funding our next scholarship students.

Peter and I attended a briefing by 'UNTLD/Ramsey Million' at which I gave a summary of our Bronze C grant and the money we received for our K 13 [CEX]. I also talked about how well our scholarship scheme is working. We can now apply for a third grant from them of up to £20,000. The application form is being sent to me.

As you know, our 10-year lease expires this week. John White has sent a cheque to our landlord for the next 6 months [at the old rate] which has been banked. This now has started negotiations for a new lease. We will keep you informed of the progress.

If any members have any concerns, please e-mail the Committee Member with that responsibility and me – PLEASE DO NOT SEND TO ALL MEMBERS. If it needs to be discussed by your Committee, then it will go on the agenda.

I would like to thank Peter Valentine and his sub-committee comprising Beth, Steve, Nigel and Paul for organising the Open Weekend. It was a great success due to the fact that more members helped out. Also 2 parents and 2 grandparents helped out in the clubhouse and thanks go to them as well.

That's all for now.

3. **CFI's Section** by Steve Jarvis

As we approach Autumn it makes me wonder where Summer has gone.

We are still achieving new solos, full silvers and silver heights. The launch point still seems to be a busy place with lots of members flying.

Open Days attendance by the public was down on previous years. However, the organisation by club members was excellent so "well done".
Now that Tim Ward has completed his Full Silver he will start instructor training for the half-cat rating.
Task Week was fun with many hours and kilometres being flown. The week also saw us host the Young Pilots Challenge for the first time. Well done to 'Team NVGVC' for bringing home the silverware. Watching the competitors from the other clubs I was surprised to see all of them overshooting and landing down the strip whilst our pilots made very good use of

reference points and made god spot landings. This is probably down to the others flying at big clubs with large airfields and plenty of room to land. However, it was good to see the difference between the clubs and to see that our pilots are so good at spot landings.

We now have three training gliders currently available: two Grobs and one K7/13. Training will be carried out in the Grobs as first choice with the K7/13 being used for spinning.

Always feel free to share a flight with an instructor. You may want to brush up on thermalling, spot-landing, side-slipping or spinning. The instructors are there to help all members, not only trainees, so please use the wealth of experience these guys have.

4. **Aircraft Notes** by Alan Wyse

Here's the latest on the status of the club's aircraft:

DOX has had its Annual Inspection and ARC renewed in August, thanks to John Bennett for leading this activity in my absence on holiday.

All of the club's gliders are now serviceable with no Annuals pending for a couple of months, so we hope to make some progress with preparing the new workshop for use.

The K8 had to be de-rigged for a while to allow the T21b to be hangared for its use over the Open Weekend and as a reserve 2-seater while DOX was off-line, and it should be available for members to fly again soon.

We will be having an intensive look inside the K6's wings very soon now that the workshop is available. Initial checks indicate that they might not be as bad as we had originally feared when we took it out of service.

Minor snags are continuing to crop up and are being attended to as soon as practicable – please take care with the Junior's Rudder Pedal adjuster as its cable has started to fray, and the Astir's wheel-brake has been readjusted again, so it should be quite effective now.

Not much else to report this time.

5. **Ground Equipment Stuff** by Peter Valentine

Everything worked well during Task Week & open weekend.

The twin-drum winch has had a new run of cable fitted to the right-hand drum and the left hand is shortly to have the same. It is interesting that since we have been pulling in the cables slack at the end of the day the cable is lasting much longer.

The design for changing the paying on guide rollers to the same type as is fitted to the single drum winch is almost complete and it is hoped to carry out this modification during the annual shut-down in January.

6. **Open Weekend**

It was a great shame that the weather was not kinder to us, but we had a reasonably successful weekend despite this. Flying took place on both days with, as always, the T21b

proving popular for second flights. The two Grobs did look good and it is certain that the NVGC presented itself in a good light to our visitors.

The catering worked very well with burgers, cakes and tea/coffee and soft drinks making a good profit for the club. Thanks are due to all who baked the cakes as well.

What was especially gratifying was the help given by the parents and, in one case, the grandparents of our young pilots.

7. **Four Clubs Young Pilots Challenge** by Beth Aston

Now, unless you've been completely ignoring your emails and living under a rock this past summer you'll certainly all be aware of a certain competition we hosted this August. Kindly sponsored by Roly Taylor's company, Advanced Aircraft Training Ltd, we hosted our first **4-Clubs Young Pilots Challenge**. With teams from Bicester, Dunstable and Cambridge joining us over two days during our task week, it had the potential of being either a complete failure or a resounding success, thankfully it turned out to be the latter.

By the end of day two, it came down to a dog fight between us and Bicester and of course, we won! As if there was ever any doubt. By 'we' I mean Zoe W, Sean, Chris and Sam (with a little guidance from the CFI). So collective congratulations are in order for them. I think they did us proud.

Personal achievements aside, to compete against three other clubs and come out on top is a huge testimony as to how successful our continued support for our young pilots can be. It's something we can take away from this year's soaring season and be very proud of. Thanks are due to everyone involved in helping making the whole event a success, from the catering team to the winching team and everyone in between. Also a thank you to John White who was brave enough or stupid enough, not sure which, to take on the overall organising of the competition. Could have done a better job on organising the weather but otherwise well done John!

8. **Achievements**

We have had three first solos. Congratulations are due to Zoe Fowler, Sam Lee and Jordan Keilty who all received their solo pilot's wings.

Chris Barrott completed his Silver C all on one day and on one flight. Very well done Chris, that is a real achievement.

Tim Ward also completed his Silver C by flying to Marham & back.

Jordan & Steve ***Sam Gets His wings***

9. Gliding Scholarship News

We have two new starters to take the place of Zoe F. & Jordan. They are James Thomas and Tom Hodgson, both of whom will be on the Sunday team. Let's make them very welcome.

The remainder of the 2016 – '17 intake will start as soon as possible.

10. Halesland Expedition by the Editor

In mid-July six members made an expedition to the Mendip Gliding Club who fly from Halesland airfield near the Cheddar Gorge. The six were Michael Muir, Mike Ruggieri, Don Johnstone, Nigel Bing and me.

For me it was a particularly special trip and as I stepped out of my car on arrival I realised that the last time I stood on that spot was 57 years ago when I was an 18-year-old Air Cadet attending an ATC advanced gliding course – a bit of a 'wow' moment!

We took three gliders with us, the T21b, K6 G-DDEV & the club's Junior. We managed to get the first two in their hangar every night to save having to rig every day.
We were made very welcome and the Mendip members all loved flying in the T21b, the deal being that they paid for the launch in our aeroplane and we flew it as P1. The T21b was the glider which we air cadets flew there, together with the Prefect.

We have invited their members to come and fly with us next year, probably during our task week and we look forward to returning their hospitality.

The T21B Waiting to Launch at Halesland

11. Publicity & PR

Beth has been really getting into her new role. We were featured on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and one of the BBC reporters, Hannah Gelbart, came and flew with us on two occasions.

Beth arranged a great article about us in the Warboys & Ramsey Reporter with the help of staff reporter Adam Roberts who also came and flew with us.

Huntingdon Community Radio (on 104 FM) featured us in a one-hour slot.

It is hoped that S & G will include the article on our success in the Young Pilots Challenge.

You have made a great start Beth.

12. And Finally…..

I went to see the Red Arrows yesterday.

There were gasps of "Ooh" and "Aah" as the crowd looked on in amazement. Near miss after near miss had some people covering their eyes and shaking their heads in disbelief.
It was a good half hour's entertainment but eventually my wife managed to park the car and we made our way to the air show.

Q. Why are there some many tree lined avenues in France

A. So the Germans can march in the shade

I witnessed some absolutely disgusting behaviour on the beach earlier today.

I was on the seafront and saw a man and a woman having an almighty argument in front of loads of kids, suddenly the woman smacked the guy in the head and it all kicked off. There was a massive brawl and someone called the police. This poor copper turned up on his own

and took his baton to the man, the guy managed to snatch it off him and began assaulting the copper AND his wife - unbelievable! What sort of example is that for impressionable kids?

Then out of nowhere a crocodile crept up and stole all the sausages.

A 747 was having engine trouble, and the pilot instructed the cabin crew to have the passengers take their seats and get prepared for an emergency landing.

A couple minutes later, the pilot asked the flight attendants if everyone was buckled in and ready.

"All set back here, Captain", came the reply, "except the lawyers are still going around passing out business cards."