



# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2007

Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter. Well a promising April yielded many 'flyable' days, although none were apparently epic, and some were downright frustrating. However it got everyone thinking about flying and yielded plenty of enthusiasm at the club meeting.

### April Meeting

There was a good turnout with 21 people attending on the evening.

### Social Plans

Gordon White (Social Secretary) elaborated on some of the ideas put forward at the last meeting:

Interclub Competition event, Quiz Night and the Summer BBQ – no further developments;  
Boat Cruise (Torbay or Tamar) – tbc;

Visit to the Met Office - there appear to be 2 sites to visit – Hadley and the Met Office. Tours are not readily available, but Devon County Council organise an event around September. GW is trying to get more details, but needs names of those interested.

Lakes Classic Weekend – a club group to attend on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. 40 pilots had been registered to fly. Non-competing pilots are allowed to fly once the competitors are away.

Karting (Race World, Exeter) – a possible event to be organised with the Condors. Everyone drives in the semi-finals and the event lasts around 3 hours. Need a minimum of 30 people at a cost of around £28/person for exclusive use of the circuit.

Paintball – costs £20 min for 200 rounds, but most people spend more. Need around 20 people to take part.

So please contact Gordon to give feedback on 01803 328181 or his new special e-mail address [sdhpgp.club@googlemail.com](mailto:sdhpgp.club@googlemail.com) (hopefully I got that right).

### Club Holidays

At least 7 members plus families were heading off to **Oludeniz, Turkey** at the beginning of this month and should be back by now (I look forward to the report at the next club night).

The Condors are also 'flocking' down to Annecy later in May. Apparently they migrate around this time of year, with the Hangies heading down first and the Floppies following. Gordon suggested that we are welcome to join them.

A further Club Holiday is being proposed for around November time in Tenerife, possibly with Condors (by now you should have worked out that Gordon is a member of both clubs).

### Membership Fees

A few more members have paid up, but for those who expressed a wish to pay their subs by Standing Order or On-Line banking, here are the bank details again:

South Devon Hang Gliding & Paragliding Club  
HSBC, 4 Strand, Torquay  
Account number 31321536  
Sort code 40-44-22

Unfortunately it has been deemed necessary to post the 'shame' list of unpaid 'ex-members'. What is disturbing is that quite a few have been seen out either flying or parawaiting (there's even a committee member's name on the list!).

Paul	Adams
Dave	Aplin
Phil	Bailey
Jackie	Bennets
Adrian	Bishop
Simon	Bovey
Malcolm	Bowles
Chris	Bridge
Geoff	Brook
Peter	Callis
Roger	Davis
Keith	Dearness
Nick	Ditcher
Craig	Donlon
Gary	Duff
Robert	Dyer
Brian	Endacott
Neil	Ewins
Mark A	Fulford
Bob J	Gay
Richard	Guest
Rob	Hankin
Bryan	Hayes
John	Hearne
Roy	Hunter
Alan	Hughes
Ray	Hutchings
Mark	James
Graham	Koller
Nigel	Lane
Peter	Laniado
Andy	Leivers
Steve R	Lewis
Mike	Maisey
Alan	Mole
Steve	Newstead
Neil	Northmore
Richard	Offor
John	Ormshaw

Nigel	Philpott
Blue	Ramsey
Peter	Reeve
Peter	Robinson
Ken P	Shaw
Debbie	Sitton
Dave	Smith
Karen	Thorpe
Bob (RC)	Tremblett
Peter	Turnpenny
james	warne

The Club reported an operating loss last year, and the active members have plenty of good ideas to benefit all fliers. However these plans will be constrained if the 'membership' treats the subscriptions as optional. Apart from supporting other flying related organizations, the club desperately needs to buy some audio-visual equipment to support talks on club nights.

The shame list is actually longer than the paid-up list, so an ever-dwindling hard-core face having to pay higher subs next year to subsidise the 'free-loaders'.

We are all prepared to spend a lot of time and money getting to flying sites and maintaining equipment. By comparison the annual subs are minimal. So please pay up as soon as possible, and better still set up a standing order for next year at the same time.

(If you believe you are paid up, but incorrectly listed, please let Bill / Julie know)

## **Other News**

### Yahoo Club Site

Comments were made on the increasing success of the Yahoo site in communicating imminent flying activities. Bob advised that 72 people are posted as members of the site (clearly not all paid up SHGPC members).

### Club Website

Ashley Ryall offered to set up and design a fresh website. This can now be found on [www.sdhgpgc.org.uk](http://www.sdhgpgc.org.uk). Mark Canvin is helping to transfer information from the old site. Further details will be announced in the future.

### Flying Sites

Beer Head - Sidmouth run is now open again. The Temp Restricted Airspace Branscombe - Napoli has been lifted through the efforts of the BHPA and Condors. Well done all concerned.

Strete – a new site licence has been secured. However it should be noted that **a committee member must be present** when flying.

### X-C Weather

This popular weather website is appealing for financial support. A motion was raised for the club to donate £25. This was passed by a majority.

Mike Connatty noted that the site relies on Plymouth Airport (and Exeter) for it's local reports, but this was typically not representative of the conditions at the coast. A suggestion was to approach Rame Head Coastguard station to see if their readings could be linked in.

## Logos and T-Shirts

Both Mike Connatty and Paul Cioffi independently mentioned the possibility of having logos put on T-shirts, flying suits and even wings. I will try to get more details on this for those interested.

## Safety Report

Unfortunately several accidents and incidents were reported during March and April:

Tim Pilling – as reported last month Tim is now recovering from multiple fractures to his leg. He attended the Club meeting and reported how he had been picked up by a gust at take-off, and then dropped and dragged 20m (without hitting a rock). He should be “fit to drive” by July.

Bob Moore reported on his dislocated shoulder, which had occurred after he recalled a smooth landing. However the next thing he knew he was on the ground with a pain in his shoulder. Bob had been flying alone, so had no witnesses, but thinks the sudden dislocation caused him to temporarily blackout.

The lessons taken were to ensure that your mobile phone is easily accessible, should you become partially disabled, and to also know the grid-reference of the site you are at to aid the Air Ambulance. This allows a direct recovery at less lost time. Mrs. Holt volunteered to laminate up some cards for members giving the main site grid refs.

A further couple of incidents occurred at Freathy with pilots landing in chalet gardens after misjudging the lift. The events were reported on the Yahoo site, and brought some severe criticism from experienced pilots.

2 points raised were:

1. when flying the Freathy site, it should be always possible to head out to the beach and avoid such landings if the pilot remains aware of conditions (the tide was out). Such landing amidst the chalet/huts risks not only personal injury, but also that of people in the gardens and property damage;
2. Bob Moore’s more uncontroversial accident drew the Western Morning News to post an article referring to “60 year old crashes into cliff”. Undesirable exaggerated media attention or complaints from chalet owners could result in us losing the use of the site.

## April Flying News

As previously mentioned April favoured us with plenty of fair weather enticing out onto the moors and coastal sites. There appeared to be regular East winds making Beesands quite popular on several weekends, and I even managed a few top to bottoms.





Of course there was the notorious Foggy Freathy (see Safety Report):



And a day of light, not quite southerlies, for Struddick:



May started with a few flyable days before it set in wet and windy, but hopefully there will be tales to tell at the next club meeting.

### **Articles**

I know a lot of news is being posted on the Yahoo site, but if anyone wishes to share their experiences of a good day's flying, do write it up and send it with a few photos. With the current nice weather I'm sure many members are out and about. Let us know about any unusual or new sites you've used.

### **Classifieds**

For Sale: NOVA ARTAX (medium) DVH 1-2, less than 100hours, still in very good nick and clean looking in patriotic colours.

Ideal first or second glider, well practiced in cross country flying with nearly 300 ks under its risers.

£795 ono. Contact Robin Mogridge tel: 0136472430.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next **meeting** will be held on the 31st May at the London Inn, South Brent, 7.30, as usual.

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