



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

Welcome to the 2nd newsletter of 2008. The weather has now permitted some flying activity despite being the middle of winter. In fact as the evenings draw out you can be lulled into thinking Spring is almost here.

January Meeting

27 people attended including new faces

Chris Bellamy – Paraglider

Michael Barren – PG CP +5

Keith Sutherland – HG taking pre-CP with Graham Phipps

AGM Minutes

The Annual General Meeting is when committee members are appointed. Most of the current committee members were re-instated with a few changes:

Chairman	Mark Stapleton (Mark Canvin will deputise when required)
Secretary	Mark Ansell
Treasurer	Julie Stapleton
Membership Secretary	Bill Arkle
Club Contact & Coach	Bob Moore
HG Safety Officer	Mark Nicol
PG Safety Officer	Adrian Bishop
Sites Officer (Dartmoor & East)	Robin Mogridge
Sites Officer (West)	Karl Sweeney
Club Webmaster	Ashley Ryall
HG Comps Officer	Karl Sweeney (was Colin Jones)
PG Comps Officer	Mark Canvin (new appointment)
XC League compiler	Ashley Ryall (was Mark Canvin)
Social Secretary	Gordon White
Club Librarian	Mark Nicol
Newsletter Editor	Mark Ansell

Mark S gave thanks to the members of the 2007 committee for their help and commitment last year.

Accounts

The 2007 accounts were approved. 2008 subs are to remain at £15.

Donations are to be made to the Air Ambulance and Rame Head Coastguards.

Cross Country League

Further to the rules discussed on the web, it was agreed to include flights from sites belonging to SD, Kernow, Condors and North Devon where reciprocal agreements apply for SD members.

South Devon XC League Rules (as amended at the AGM)

The South Devon XC League is a fun competition, with all claims largely taken on trust. Please play fair and observe the following simple rules:

1. There is no minimum distance.
2. The take off point must be named, and a full OS grid references supplied.
3. If a turn point, way point or a landing point is submitted, a full OS grid references must always be supplied.
4. OS grid references must be entered as 2 code letters with 6 figures (e.g. SX 123 456).
5. Only the top six flights of each pilot will score distance.
6. All flights must start from a South Devon Club site
7. All claims must be received within one month of the flight.
8. All flights must comply with airlaw, site rules and any prevailing airspace restrictions.
9. Open distance (Simple) will score the straight line distance from the take-off point to the landing point.
10. [deleted.](#)
11. Defined flights will not need photographs unless disputed.
12. [deleted.](#)
13. All triangles will score 2.5 times the total distance flown, provided the shortest leg is at least 28% of the total distance flown. Completed triangles that do not comply with the 28% rule will be re-classified as out and returns to the first turn point.

February meeting and curry night

This is the meeting (28th Feb) when we have arranged a curry meal and trophies may be awarded where applicable. This will be hosted by the London Inn, as usual, with a proposed £5 / head charge. Numbers will be limited to 26 – 30. This is probably full, but contact Julie on 01803 842952 if you still want to try for a place.

Winter 'Frostbite' Competition

Karl reported an excellent event with the Kernow Club with 20+ HG pilots and 6 PG from SD, Kernow, Condors and the Malvern clubs.

Unfortunately Kernow HG Alec Birch crashed, but he had never flown Freathy and didn't realise that pilots were coming up above cliff height to turn, before dropping back into max ridge lift. It appears he dropped out of lift before hitting the cliff. He escaped relatively lightly thanks to brave efforts by a local policeman. Karl had contacted Plymouth ATC who had diverted other traffic, however the UK legislation on radios meant that no one was contactable in the air to warn them of the air ambulances impending arrival.

Alan H expressed concern at the traffic control at T/O after a PG landed near him when on final approach. The rule is that the lower pilot has right of way.

Kernow Club Coach course

This course was complimented as good value, with a Pilot exam after the event.

Mark N has offered to mediate pilot exams at his house if any members are interested.

Other News

SD Repack 2008

Gordon has booked the repack venue in accordance with the request from the AGM.

South Devon HG& PG Club Repack 4pm- 8pm Sunday 9th March 2008

**Foulston gym Devonport High School for boys, Paradise Road, Stoke,
Plymouth PL1 5QP**

This describes the most direct route to the school from the A38 via the A386
Tavistock/Outland Road:

1. To get to Outland Road: From the North East (Exeter)

- follow the A38 past Plympton, over the Marsh Mills interchange flyover
- turn off at the Tavistock/City Centre exit, following the signs for Plymouth City Centre

From the South West (Cornwall)

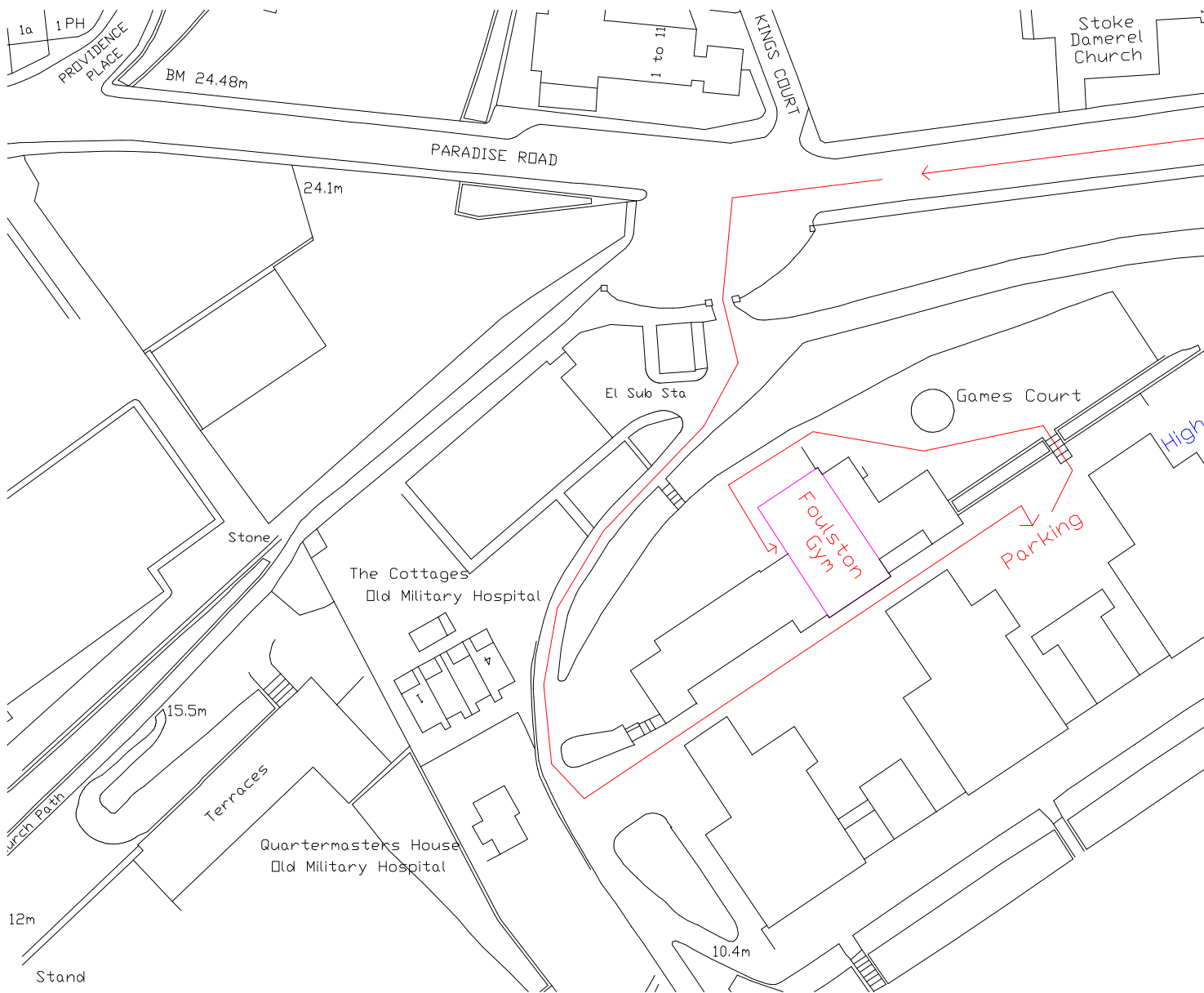
- Cross the Tamar Bridge and leave the A38 at the Tavistock/City Centre exit, following the signs for Plymouth City Centre

From the North (Tavistock)

- Follow the A386 over the A38 interchange flyover, following the signs for Plymouth City Centre

2.To get to the school from Outland Road:

- at the complex traffic light junction (after the Park and Ride car park & Plymouth Argyle Football club) fork right into **Milehouse Road**, following signs to Torpoint Ferry
- at the next traffic lights, at the top of the hill, turn left on to **Molesworth Road**
- at the Millbridge Inn traffic lights, turn right on to **Wilton Road which becomes Paradise Road**
- Devonport High School for Boys is on the left, behind the high stone wall, 250m from the traffic lights



Met Office Visit

Thanks go to Gordon for arranging this excellent event. There was a good turnout from SD and Condor pilots and the talks were well targeted for flyers.

Sunsoar Trip to Dune de Pyla

For any EP trainees reading the newsletter, Sunsoar are looking for prospective trainees to join their course (June from what I can gather).

Pete Morris writes: We are in the process of trying to fill our Beginners trip to the Dune de Pyla in France. Our Elementary Pilots Course takes place in June every year and is always a resounding success with each new starter gaining their award and enjoying a wonderful holiday.

However, these new starters to our sport are not easy to come by, we do not have the necessary marketing budget required to attract the 1 in 100,000 people of the general population to our sport, and therefore rely on free publicity and word of mouth.

With this in mind, we are looking to your club's membership for help - in return for an incentive towards paragliding equipment. Contact: Pete Morris www.sunsoar-paragliding.com 0845 123 2555

Vehicular Access to T/O at Beesands

It's not possible to drive to the field behind T/O at the moment because the fields to the north of the access track have been put in crop. This doesn't affect P/Gs much as they can walk up from the village, but hangies will have to keep to the south of the hedge bordering the track and either take off from the end field on that side or carry round to the usual T/O. At the moment there is an electric fence across the track but it's put up in such a way that it can be laid flat, driven across and re-erected. Sorry about this but it's all been a bit of a cock-up. The farmer who lets the fields from the National Trust, on the north side of the hedge, should leave a 40 foot margin around the edge, when he ploughs them, for wild-life conservation (this would also have given us access). For this he gets a grant. But he sub-let the fields to another farmer from Stokenham who either didn't know or didn't care and ploughed the whole of the fields. Needless to say the first farmer is not too happy. Anyway that's the story. The other thing for P/Gs to be careful of is, if you're being blown back, try to land on pasture rather than crop (and out of rotor of course). It might be best to fly down to Hallsands and land on the beach if the wind is off to the north!

Robin Mogridge
Site Officer (Dartmoor and East)

update on 17th Feb:

I spoke to the farmer today about when we would be able to use the original access and he said that when the ground had dried up a bit he was going to reinstate a 2 metre margin around the edge of the cropped fields which we could then use for access. This would involve leveling the strip with a rotavator and spreading some grass seed. So it shouldn't be too long before we can use it again. He also said we can use the 2 metre margin as it is at the moment but he thought it would be too rough for most vehicles. There's a challenge for all you off-roaders!

Cheers
Robin.

Next Meeting - Our next get-together will be the curry night on the Thursday 28th Feb at the London Inn, South Brent, 8:00pm, as usual. I've had to cancel on this (an extra seat for someone), but look forward to seeing you all at the following meeting on 27th March.

Mark Ansell, Newsletter Editor, SOUTH DEVON HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING CLUB
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