



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

Well here we are midway through spring, believe it or not, but with relatively few flying days. I checked last years Newsletter, and we were having much more flying, although both Tim and Bob had just been given their rides in the Air Ambulance. So far we seem to have avoided that this year.

March Meeting

18 members turned in for the meeting including Michael Barren, new PG member.

Books and DVDs

Mark N commented that several members have probably only attended 1 meeting in the year, but still taken books which have not been returned. A review of the logbook also showed that regular members were holding books they either hadn't returned, or failed to book back in. Please actively return any outstanding books / DVDs before MN gets round to calling you and save him time & hassle.

Innes Powell accident

Following Innes' nasty crash in Oz, he has now recovered sufficiently to return to his new home in Budapest. Malcolm has been in regular contact and says Innes is remaining upbeat and reasonably mobile. The Club wishes him well and a speedy recovery, and the group signed a Newsletter, to be sent with a card when we establish the right address.

Annual Repack

Andy and Gordon were thanked for their excellent organization of this year's event.

'Private' sites

Comment was passed on [not to be named] private sites, warning that publicising them could result in too many pilots turning up and the site being 'lost'. Please ensure that owners are contacted before use, and that they are shown respect. If in doubt contact the site officer for the area.

Reference one coastal site near Plymstock, it was pointed out that we have several inland sites taking the same wind direction, so it doesn't need to be abused/over-used.

The onus is on the Pilot to investigate access / site rules etc.

King Tor

Geoff Brook checked with the owner and got permission to take his tractor and brush cutter up to demolish the gorse, improving T/O for HGs and PGs alike. The meeting gave Geoff a round of thanks.

Innes' Rescue video

Bob showed a DVD of the documentary about Innes' involvement in a rescue of a girl who crashed into cliffs on the IOW. This went back some year's and reminded us of his flying skills and commitment to the sport.

Brazil Film

Geoff treated us to a film show of his trip to Brazil in November. He hired a glider locally to fly in a very hot & dry area with few roads. It was practice to rise at 6am and be at Take Off by 6:30. 1st flights would be around 7:30am!

Geoff managed a 120 km best flight, but found the flying very thermic and windy. Care had to be taken to land near a road, and he once landed 14 km from civilization near a house that luckily turned out to have a satellite telephone! Retrieves were usually measured in hours, with some not returning until the next day. A fascinating talk.

Other News

Flying News

There have been reports of good flying days from the usual hardened veterans at various sites including Batcombe, Beesands and Strete. Of course some have run away to play, as Mark Helm has sent in reports from Devil's Dyke and Annecy (where he appears to be stopping for a while). We hope that photos / videos will be forthcoming.

Of course the strong winds have favoured the HGs, and Bill sent in a comprehensive report on flying from North Hill.



Thanks Bill for the inspiring photos.

Next Meeting - Our next meeting will be on Thursday 24th April at the London Inn, South Brent, 8:00pm, as usual.

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