



## **CFI's Newsletter**

April 2010

As the new season is almost upon us, it's time to update you and focus your attention once again.

### **Local News**

#### **Bronze**

Congratulations to the eight pilots who recently passed the Bronze Theory weekend, Ollie Beams, Steve Chapman, Mike Davis, Bradley Fretwell, Mike King, Adam Palmer, Mike Pounsford & Tim Vickers.

If you have started or are about to start your Bronze legs, please ensure you are acquainted with the new Bronze form and the requirements for the oral tests. This is a prudent time to remind you to read up on local airspace & altimetry. The flying tests are NOT signature hunting exercises but should be covered as one test, over a few flights, within a short space of time (days rather than weeks). These test flights should NOT be started until all other sections of the form have been completed.

#### **R/T Courses**

It's encouraging to see so many pilots completing the R/T courses run by Max from Headcorn. Further courses can be arranged locally, if you are interested please contact David Pye.

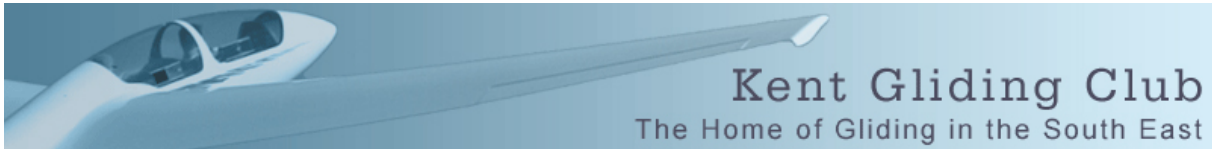
#### **Approaches & Landings**

All pilots are reminded to plan and make precision landings well into the field rather than just 'arriving anywhere on the field'. This shows discipline and provides you with an essential capability for field landings where accuracy is required.

There has been a tendency for pilots to make low, hazardous approaches with zero options should anything else go wrong. Pilots observed carrying out low-energy, shallow approaches will be spoken to by a duty instructor.

Pilots who find themselves low during their circuit are reminded to turn-in early. This is intelligent decision making. However, you should always aim to complete a properly planned circuit, leaving the High Key area at 800' to commence the Downwind leg.

Just prior to touching down, the glider should be fully held-off. Once on the ground, the stick should be held fully back and the airbrakes fully open, these should be maintained until the aircraft stops. Gliders are still being observed rolling after touch down with their elevators flapping up & down. If the Juniors aren't held-off fully, the result is often damage to the front underside of the fuselage and repair costs from your membership fees!



## Ridge Flying

Don't forget to watch out for days with brisk South Westerly winds so that you can make full use of our superb ridge. If you're cross country cleared but haven't completed a ridge run to Rochester & back, find an experienced instructor to familiarise & brief you. Don't miss out on the fantastic fun that everyone can enjoy, dual or solo. Rochester Tower always appreciates a quick phone or radio call (as a club) to advise them when we are flying in their immediate area.

## Annual Checks

If you are on Annual Checks, it is your responsibility to ensure your skills are up to speed, you are current and your check flight(s) are completed on time. Best practise would be to record the check flight(s) in your logbook. Should you be involved in an incident after this, your insurance company are likely to request the last two pages from your logbook and check flight details.

## Weekday Course help

The weekday Course Instructors are always immensely grateful for any ground crew help they receive, please contact Chris Lambert who co-ordinates this activity. Assisting weekday flying is very beneficial as this is a major source of funding to the club and without your help, this activity would not happen! You may also get the chance to fly.

## CFI's Conference Update

- **Safe Winch Launching** – this BGA initiative has been a great success, however, winch launch accidents have begun to occur once again. The instructors have been briefed not to accept over-rotation or wing-down incidents during winch launches. All pilots are directed to the new version 4 of the Safe Winch Launching leaflet which will be available shortly.
- One of the most serious accidents in 2009 was as a result of over-rotation during a winch launch. Some pilots have been observed over-rotating, if you're one of those pilots who tends to over-rotate, do not be surprised if you are invited to take some dual tuition! Your life may depend on correct winch launch technique!!!
- Pilots are encouraged to refresh their spinning awareness & recovery skills by discussing with instructors, before practising dual and solo in a supervised manor. There will be a BGA leaflet dealing with this subject, available shortly.



### **Things to Look Forward to:**

There were some superb cross country flights from Challock last season including North into Suffolk and South West to Petersfield in Hampshire. Task week last year was a great success giving many pilots, new & not so new, some great tasks in reasonable weather. There are lots of opportunities for YOU to fly cross country, look out on the notice board for Interclub League, Expeditions, Cross Country training courses and Task week. Put your name on the lists as soon as you see the information. Places in the club 2-seaters and the Juniors during Task week usually go quite quickly! These are all low-pressure events, fully organised to allow you to take part in some fun cross country flying with the minimum of stress.

### **Airfield Radios**

I have organised the purchase of two new handheld airfield radios. These are expensive items which should be handled with care. Please don't swing them around by the aerial which will fracture and shorten the life of the radio considerably.

If you know the whereabouts of the club VHF Handheld (Vertex Pilot 3) and it's charger, please let the office know asap. It's been missing for several months now.

### **And Finally**

I have re-written the Flying Order book. It will be available shortly, all pilots should acquaint themselves with the updated contents.

Pre-Silver pilots - time permitting and on good soaring days, you may get the chance to attempt mini cross country tasks (available from the club website, look under menu item "Cross Country..."). If you're particularly interested in having a go at flying cross country, please discuss with an instructor. It's great fun and this is what we train for after all!!!

Having updated you, please don't forget you play an important role in assisting at Kent Gliding Club, I wish you a safe & enjoyable soaring season.

Peter Carpenter

Chief Flying Instructor