



Newsletter – October 2011

AGM

The club AGM will take place in the club house in the usual format on Saturday 3rd December. Please attend if you can, it gives the opportunity to have your say on club matters and elect the members of the management committee and the officers. Please watch the board for nominations for committee etc.

Updated website

As many will be well aware the club website has been reconstructed and updated and is now very impressive and should serve the club well for many years. It proved to be an immense task and thanks are especially due to Jill Harmer who drove this forward latterly with great patience and determination and to Rowan Smith, Henry Ford and all the others who helped or contributed content. The website will be progressively loaded with documents and should improve communications and access to club information. The old website constructed by Simon Leeson worked well but time and technology had overtaken it. Thanks are very much due to Simon for his original input and running it since its inception, both of which must have been considerable and time consuming tasks, particularly when the technology we now have, and take for granted, was far more primitive. Thank you Simon.

Olympic airspace

This is still evolving and the impact on the clubs most affected may not be as severe as was first intimated, and approaches from DSGC to clubs most affected have not been received enthusiastically. I believe that we may well still be seen as a venue for gliding when restrictions are applied and may therefore see an influx of visitors. I will be asking the committee to look at arrangements for controlling visiting gliders so that club flying is not unduly disrupted.

Finances, subscriptions and flying fees.

I will only update briefly on this, mindful that we are fast approaching the AGM when the Treasurer's full and detailed report will be circulated. Suffice to say that the overall financial position is sound and we are now building reserves in accordance with the plans and declared intentions last year. This has been further helped by exceptional items delivering a boost to club funds and large increases in income from evening lessons, trial lesson flying and courses. The members who have worked on and organised these have generated a significant proportion of the club's income, without which other charges would have to rise considerably in order to achieve the same financial position and it is important to acknowledge this and thank them for their time and work. Many are involved so it is difficult not to offend by mentioning names, but please all be aware and grateful for the contribution they make.

That said we still face a challenge in the future which has been assessed in a detailed strategic review of club assets and anticipated costs so we must not relent on the need to accumulate reserves to fund the costs we will surely face, ideally at a greater rate than we are currently achieving.

However, mindful of the difficult financial times we are enduring, when running costs for the club are rising at least as fast as those we all face at home, the committee resolved to increase flying fees to reflect inflation and as set out at the end of this newsletter. This was not done without careful and considered debate following detailed financial planning, and is essential. A proposal for a similar level of increase of subscriptions will be put to the AGM to become effective next year.

Publicity officer

Simon Leeson has decided to stand down from this role which he has carried for many years. Jill Harmer will be taking over with publicity and PR activities and Peter Field will be press officer. Thank you to both for taking on those roles and especially to Simon for many years sterling service.

The field

The committee are aware that in some areas of the field undulations appear to be increasing and some members have raised the possibility of a more extensive exercise than John Street is capable of with the wheelbarrow, albeit he has done an excellent job of tending it. Whilst it would once have been a very simple task we now live in a world controlled by the earthbound version of EASA and dire consequences await the perpetrators of any misdemeanour. There are a number of issues which have to be investigated, considered and addressed before we can contemplate anything much beyond John's wheelbarrow - archaeology, planning permission (remember that we are in an AONB), waste

transfer licenses and tipping consents are all potentially involved, as well of course as cost considerations. I have commenced this process but there will not be a quick fix so a further annual press gang may be required to assist John in the spring. I will keep you posted. There are seven archaeological monuments in the field and more nearby, and I foresee the treasurer seeking to charge the owners rent on them.

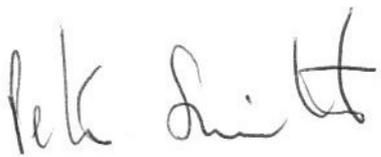
Enterprise 2013

I have been in correspondence with Justin Wills over the possibility of Competition Enterprise returning to North Hill in 2013. He is very keen for this to happen as it will be the 40th anniversary of the original event. The committee have welcomed this in principle as it would be another event in our calendar and will increase utilisation and availability of club flying. There is much detail to resolve as the club should not have to carry any financial risk for what is in some ways an external event, but equally I understand other clubs have generated significant profit from the event.

In the correspondence Justin mentioned that on 1st August 1976 he took off from North Hill in a standard class glider and eventually landed at Trier, which he believes remains to this day as the straight distance record. I won't spoil it for you – put it into Google and see where it is. A lot further than my recent 3 minute flight to Kerswell!

A personal note

You may have noticed (probably with some relief) that I have not been at the Club as much of late. I had a small operation in August which meant no P1 flying until last week. Various investigations preceded that and played havoc with my gliding plans. All is now well and I hope to be a more regular attendee again soon once my (hopefully very imminent) house and office move is completed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Smith'.

19th October 2011

FLYING CHARGES FROM 01/11/11	Adult £	Junior / EUGC £
Winch	7.10	5.10
Winch discount (previous flight <6 mins)	4.20	4.20
Winch off peak (before 10 am & after 6 pm)	4.20	4.20
High launch failure (launch failure, can't land ahead)	4.20	4.20
Simulated launch failure (practice launch failure)	4.20	4.20
Low launch failure (land ahead)	0.00	0.00
Self launch (eg Falkes, powered aircraft)	4.20	4.20
A1500	25.50	25.50
A2000	30.00	30.00
Additional A/T heights over 2000 ft per 100 ft	0.90	0.90
A/T non standard per minute	2.50	2.50
Club gliders soaring per minute	0.40	0.40
TRIAL LESSONS		
Trial Lesson Voucher (adults - aerotow or two winch launches; juniors - two winch launches and, in either case, 3 months temporary membership)	85.00	50.00
Group Trial Lesson (one winch launch and 3 months temporary membership)	35.00 (1) & £10 (2)	25.00 (1) & £10 (2)