



Scottish Airsports Club

Latest News

Issue 30, November 2005



Contents

Forthcoming Events
Page 1

Pilot Exam Hopefuls
Page 2

Holidays in Slovenia
Page 4

Another Fully Fledged Pilot
Page 1

SHPF news
Page 2

Airfield News
Page 4

Forthcoming Events

Lanzarote hang gliding trip February 2006

Andy is organising the usual one week trip in February 2006. Flights are 07:10 from Glasgow on Thursday 2nd February, and 12:40 from Lanzarote on Thursday 9th February. Cost is £233 including glider carriage. Anyone who wants to go please contact Andy on 07866 606025.

Lanzarote 1st Speed Run

After last month's issue, the only further information I've got is again from the Oz Report:
"We will have December 4th through the 9th the Canary Open of Hang Gliding Lanzarote 2005. More information in www.zonzamas.com and by e-mail to zonzamas@zonzamas.com."
Unfortunately I can't see any reference to it on the website just yet.

Parachute Repack Session 14th January 2006

Andy Ward from the Ochils paragliding club sent me the following information:

"Ochils paragliding club will be holding a repack on the 14th of Jan 2006 at Broomhall Castle in Menstrie from 10 am. Your members are welcome to attend. Please advise your members that the event is held to assist pilots in the repacking of their own reserve parachute and is not a repacking service. Expert and experienced help will be available and pilots are encouraged to aid in the repacking of other pilots reserves. This way people gain more experience and we can get more done."

Please let me know if you're planning to attend so I can give Andy an idea of numbers.

Another Fully Fledged Pilot

Congratulations to Willie Russell who recently passed his GFT with the help of expert tuition from Richard Cook. Hopefully another tug pilot to add to the roster soon!

Pilot Exam Hopefuls

Scott McMeekin, Sergey Kataev and myself will be sitting the BHPA Pilot exam on Sunday 27th November. Bob Dunthorn has kindly agreed to invigilate to make sure we don't cheat too much. For anyone else thinking about sitting the exam, thanks to Sergey for pointing out the following website which has a useful mock exam with 100 multiple choice test questions:

http://www.wessexhpgg.org.uk/Info/pilot_test.htm

Assuming Sergey passes (I'm sure he will - he's far too brainy to fail!) we hope to introduce Sergey to the wonderful world of aerotowing. Apparently he's got some sort of strange Russian mouth-operated tow release on order already! The rest of us will need to learn sign language for "Take up slack", "Hold", "All out" and "Hang on a second, my fly's caught".

SHPF News

For anyone that's interested, I got sent the minutes of the recent Scottish Hanggliding and Paragliding Federation committee meeting:

MINUTES OF SHPF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT RATHO ADVENTURE CENTRE ON 2ND NOVEMBER, 2005

Present:	Alistair Bowman	Apologies:	Gary Williamson
	Dorita Orr		Brian Steele
	George McGhee		Matthew Church
	Cliff Smith		Zabdi Keen
	Tommy Bryson		
	Dave Lyal		

The Minutes of Meeting held on 25th January 2005 were discussed and approved.

Accounts

The present balance in the bank is roughly £3500. The Ratho Repack was paid and these funds were replaced by subscriptions, SportsScotland Grant of £1000 and the revenue from Ratho. This year's accounts are being prepared and the application for a grant from SportsScotland submitted around December. Alistair asked that all Club Reps submit paperwork for any Repacks, Coaching or First Aid events that have taken place this year. He also encouraged clubs to run these events and to be aware that there is assistance available to finance up to 40% of the cost.

Action: Alistair Bowman
Club Reps

Subscriptions and Membership

Although exact membership numbers were not available at the meeting, it appears that due to the drop in local schools churning out new pilots, membership numbers are dropping. Alistair asked that Club Reps and members encourage all pilots to join clubs.

Action: Alistair Bowman
Club Reps

Flying Scot

The last copy of the Flying Scot went out via the Windtalker Website in March of this year. George informed the meeting that he intends to have the next edition available during/end of November and another probably February 2006. Club Reps are again asked to encourage members to send stories, pictures, sales & wants etc to George for inclusion.

Action: George McGhee
Club Reps

SHPF Website

The Web Page is now live at www.SHPF.co.uk but at present has not been developed. The Committee agreed to approach Brian Steele with a view to him getting it running.

Action: Cliff Smith to approach Brian Steele

Ratho Parachute Repacking Event

Latest News

Scottish Airports Club

Issue 30, November 2005

A discussion took place on this event and the general consensus is that it is a very popular and well attended event. It was agreed that the Committee would look at the feasibility of running this again in February 2006. Cliff advised that the centre is now owned by the Council and that he may be able to help with his contacts. It was left that Alistair and Cliff, perhaps with Mike Jardine, would approach the centre with a view to this event taking place and possibly with a more social element to the weekend.

Action: Alistair Bowman
Cliff Smith
(Mike Jardine)

First Aid Courses

No course took place this year. It was felt that the central belt was probably the best location to hold an event this coming year as it gives access to pilots from all over Scotland. Colin Young is available to run these courses.

Action: George McGhee

Club Coaching

The Committee is not aware of any club coaching events having taken place this year and would like to encourage clubs to organise these in the coming year.

Action: Club Reps

XC Leagues

David Thomson has kindly volunteered to sort out the problems for HG Pilots defining flights to the SHPF League.

Action: David Thomson

New Airspace Near Edinburgh

Alistair informed the meeting about the new airspace near Edinburgh. He mentioned the possibility of a talk by Air Traffic being arranged.

Action: Alistair Bowman

Sites Guide

Cliff presented his ideas and plans for a Scottish Site Guide. He has already researched and prepared a dummy website and was inundated with feedback. In the main, the idea has been well received but a few concerns have been expressed. These have been mostly regarding HG sites with 4X4 access.

Feedback from Clubs

LLSC	Positive with some concerns
Ochils	Positive
Flying Fever	Positive
Highland	Positive with some issues
Aberdeen	Still debating, AGM Meeting 25th November
SMPC	Broadly in favour with some caution

Cliff proposed that the Site Guide should be incorporated into the SHPF Website. All entries would be agreed in consultation with Clubs. Cliff also proposed that individual Clubs should manage and administer their site entries on the web so that as and when situations arise/change, i.e. lambing, shooting, etc., the information on these sites can be kept up to date. The Committee agreed in principle to endorse the Site Guide on the SHPF Website. Cliff will now prepare a draft site for feedback through Club Reps and Smartgroups.

Action: Cliff Smith

Windtalker

Stephen Pegler has installed a windtalker at Glencoe on a "Pay as you use" basis and has not needed to be funded by a Club or SHPF. Tommy was keen to have a Windtalker installed at Jubilee Cairn in the Etrick Valley. SMPC as a Club are looking at possibly financing this there or at another site so there is no pressure on SHPF funds at present.

Scottish Nationals

A discussion took place regarding the format of the Series. It was decided that the present system generally works well and should remain as is.

Action: George McGhee

Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged for second half of January 2006.

Action: Dorita Orr

Holidays in Slovenia

XTC paragliding (<http://www.xtc-paragliding.com/>) also do hang gliding holidays apparently. I saw the following in a newsletter they sent me:

"CLUB TRIPS

Several people have indicated they will talk to their club this winter. If your club would be interested in organising a trip to Slovenia we offer a discount of 10% off our regular trip price. The trip can be either hang-gliding, paragliding or both. Ask for further details. To ensure you get a week exclusive to your club it is imperative you get in touch ASAP before we take general bookings across next year."

Airfield News

Sue sent the following photos in:



The Scottish Air Ambulance Eurocopter 135 which visited the airfield five times on the 10th November whilst training paramedics to navigate.



Colin Haste on a very cold and frosty morning last Saturday (19th). He and Leon Kirk were here at a very impressive 8am getting ready for a 9am take-off. The runway of course is in great condition on these frosty days.

Also from Sue:

I am sorry to tell you that the leading edge of Richard Cook's Blade microlight has been damaged by someone not taking enough care when they were moving aircraft around the hangar. There really is no excuse for this, and it is particularly unacceptable that they have not reported the damage to Richard. So, **EVERYONE PLEASE TAKE EXTRA CARE WHEN MOVING AIRCRAFT.** There is no place for a 'macho' attitude at Thornhill Airfield. Ask for help and make sure there are plenty of people to watch the wings when you are moving any aircraft. Hangar rash is unacceptable and George and I will take a very stern line with anyone we see, or find out about, who is not taking care when moving aircraft in our hangar.

Scottish Airsports Club, Easter Poldar Farm, Thornhill, Stirling, FK8 3QT
www.scottishairsports.co.uk