

May97

Air

Heads



MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING 1997

Minutes of April meeting

Anyone know a good secretary? Only joking John

Looks like I can't just get away with Chairman's waffle after all!

Quick run through minutes of previous months meeting, for detail see Airheads.

Details of new committee as per AGM, Mark Hoer happy to continue as HG safety officer provided we don't have any accidents!

Rule changes as yet incomplete accepted by the members present, I will continue to try to sort out and simplify. Plan is to have a membership card (John F arranging) and a simplified folded card format list of rules.

Hand over of treasurers information to Andy Tew sorted out. Brian Smith to be second signatory.

£ 700 in account with membership fees now due.

Safety Vince and Brett had embarrassing rather than dangerous accidents breaking uprights only!

A potentially more serious incident occurred at Smeatharpe when a paraglider pilot on his first tow could have injured himself and damaged adjacent gliders. It points out the need for some separation to avoid conflict

Sites

Crook Peak still under negotiation

East Hill, agreement!! £100 + VAT pa

Charmouth, letter to the council, to formalise agreement to prevent misunderstanding, I have been invited to attend meeting . Flying Frenzy seem to have caused some confusion!!

Comps Harriet to reorganise comp rules and trophy awards

We have a new up and coming pilot Terry Allen is our youngest EPC at 16

Rupert Sweet-Escott gave a very brief outline of his new glider design, this should be worth looking out for as it is apparently better than any other glider!!!

The meeting wound up with a slide show from John Fielder on his trip to Madeira which looked like it could be interesting, fun appeared to have been had by all

Phil

Club Sites Guide

Ham Hill

The correct contact for Yeovilton is the radar supervisor on 01935 455243

Brent Knoll

The access for the East is through or over the gate beside the EAST BRENT ROUNDABOUT SIGN on the A38. Do not go through the farm. You can land among the sheep, but Mr Champion has suggested that if you land with his frisky cattle, watch out!

Charmouth

Now closed for the summer.

Porlock

Bottom landing is now a swamp. As it is likely that the sea defences will not be repaired this can only get worse.

At the June club meeting Rod Buck will give a talk on radios.

For Your Diary

Wrinklies v Smoothies

This one day comp is planned for the 10th or 11th of May. For site details etc. phone Harriet on the Thursday/Friday before the weekend.

South West Towing Comp

(2 day comp) This is scheduled for the weekend May 31st/June 1st at Smeatharpe. Other Clubs invited to compete: Avon, North Devon, South Devon and Kernow.

Both competitions are open to Hang Gliders and Paragliders.

In case of unsuitable weather the following weekend will be held in reserve for each competition

17/18 May Long Mynd

South Devon, D&S, Kernow have all been invited to a friendly competition.

Harriet

Nov. 29/30 club coach course for all forms of flying. Contact Harriet.

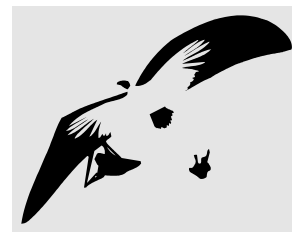
June 14th Air experience flights at Dunkeswell & Smeatharpe. Try dual Microlighting & Hang-gliding. Barbecue at Dunkeswell (bring your own food & drink)

Contact Angie.

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



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What to talk about? This is the question. John wants articles from as many people as possible, and keeps on at me so I will cheat and combine it with the chat!

Here goes, non member does coast to coast! Typical of Martin Howe to steal the glory so early in the year, congratulations! I gather he has now joined in a hurry. I knew I should have written about our flight from West Bay to Seaton earlier. What the hell I'll tell you all about it anyway.

The most important lesson I learnt from this flight was not to listen to Jeff! Sticking to his interpretation of the rules I ended up always going the wrong way. While I was religiously heading off to Lyme Regis at the first turn point he shot off the other way to West Bay. I think its what's known as baffling the opposition! Anyway, I spent the first part of the flight flying with Mark over the Lyme mud flats at about 1100ft then turned back east and headed for West Bay, no problem. But then had to race as I could hear Simon Bell and Jeff nearing the town, which meant they were heading back west as I reached the harbour turn point. I made up quite a bit of ground on them when they started discussing jumping across Lyme itself and heading on down the coast to Seaton. Apparently Mark was planning this when I was with him earlier. But, as he didn't have a radio he couldn't tell me, so he had to do this bit on his own. The decision was made so the three of us set off towards Seaton. I crossed Lyme at 960ft QFE . (OK so I passed my GFT, more about that later!) Crossing Lyme wasn't difficult, probably more psychological, helped by the wind being well south. Landing on the Cobb looked like it would have been fun if things had gone wrong! Once across the town the flying was straight forward, but not as scenic as travelling east. Simon Bell sneakily didn't say exactly where he made his turn. Who said he wasn't competitive? The return from Seaton was straightforward , finishing with a gentle glide across Lyme and landing at Charmouth , a very enjoyable flight. If anyone thinks the above flight is stressful you should try taking your GFT with Jim. As everybody knows I have been taking my micro-light licence for the past year. On Sunday I took the final exam and passed! So look out! As soon as the paperwork comes through the post, I will be towing, revenge is sweet! Who wants to be first? I'm not sure whether I'm looking forward to it myself ; has the ballistic 'chute arrived yet? If anyone else decides to do it. Don't do it like I did, get on and do it quickly. You get stale and I found it difficult to keep revising so long after taking the written exams. Its probably old age I know! Anyway its well worth it, coming from someone who swore never to fly a micro-light, this must mean something. Back to the real flying, why weren't all you keen flyers at Pandy this weekend (19th-20th) it was cracking, as Simon Bell would say, then again what would he know, he blew it in a big way! Revenge for the Seaton run perhaps, can you believe anyone who on the Saturday decides to go home and earn some brownie points, misses a nice afternoon then despite numerous phone calls telling him how good it was going to be the following day didn't bother again. I was even talking to him from take off, for which I got stick from the South Devon crowd. (Condors posing with mobile phones etc.)Even they were there!

A very pleasant weekend was had by all, well almost, please don't anyone ask our editor about it, a marvellous fellow!! I'm afraid John suffered badly. If anyone has a Hang Glider for sale at a reasonable price he might just be interested !! He travelled up with me on the Saturday and watched me fly, then went under his own steam on Sunday and did the same again!! Very generously driving the van down for me both times! Its a wonder he still speaks to me: a definite convert.

The flight itself was approx. 2hrs very cold with fine sleet above 2000ft ato, cloudbase 3-3,500'. Did the run up to Hay Bluff and way past the end, It doesn't pay to show off, when I turned back the wind was SE, I almost blew it, but hooked into a storming thermal just on the corner which took me straight to 3,500' with a sailplane who was half a mile out in front. As usual lack of preparation, i.e. sorting out retrieves, phone, need to get home early , etc. meant I had an excuse for not going for it, Craig actually recorded a 12up! next time! Ah well I'd better sort out my co-ordinates for Seaton and this flight, for Harriet. I still don't know how far Martin Kellaway went from Ubley?

Well that's enough from me, there's probably lots I've forgotten, please feel free to moan if you haven't got a mention. By the way Gerry our newest HG recruit says your take off at Pandy was terrible!! And you thought I'd forgotten.

Phil

ROUGHING IT



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Desperation to Fly

Desperation to Fly (Changing Winds)
200ft in the air
Wishing that I wasn't there
Bag of washing by my feet
Buttocks gripping the harness seat
Going up Going down
How I wish I was on the ground
Throw that bloody rescue quick
I'm upside down and feeling sick
If I had listened to local advice
Then perhaps I would have not have flown here twice
So now I'm going to study more books
And next time listen, understand &
Look!

B.A.Smith

Angie likes it rough!

Pilots Take note, the challenge for this years cross country titles has already commenced at Smeatharpe. From the winch; John (Highgrove) Milner has made 2 XC flights both in the direction of Honiton of approx. 20km for the two. Now I don't know the actual distances, don't quote me! I have managed one of 10km to a riding stables at Honiton. Harriet has also one under her belt, from the aerotow, I'm not sure of the distance. The Paragliders would appear to be ahead of the Hanggliders in the summer XC stakes at least from Smeatharpe. Ha! Ha! Ha!

Whilst on the subject of Smeatharpe there has emerged a definite challenge between the MOYES BOYS (an insignificant element of the club), & TEAM AIRWAVE, (an awesome act to follow); if you don't fly any of these gliders because perhaps MOYES don't make Paragliders then you can be co-opted onto one of the teams. As there are no MOYES Paragliders John has already been co-opted into TEAM AIRWAVE. For the weekend of the 12th & 13th April TEAM AIRWAVE 2! MOYES BOYS 1!

On Easter Saturday, I had four extremely enjoyable and challenging flights at Codden. Now some of you Hanglider pilots may say that it wasn't the roughest of days that you have experienced there, and so I am looking forward to the next time, and hopefully I will also go XC. I did try this time but didn't manage to get away. Lets see more Paragliders over at Barnstaple, if you give me a call the night before I may be able to arrange a day off at short notice if it looks XC-able.

Angie Weir

PS Any suggestions for this years holiday? I understand some are talking about France & Spain (Piedrahita)- any dates?? Who is serious for Owens Valley 1998???

(Is Angie serious? I'll have some of whatever she's taking! - Ed.)

FIRESIDE CORNER



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CONDORS RECORD BREAKERS



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Over the years the Condors have accumulated a number of records from their home sites, some may appear to be very insignificant, but to the pilot who gained the record it was quite the opposite. I will go through most of our sites with the low-down on the records, and the information is as accurate as I can remember !!!

Sites in alphabetical order.

Bossington.

Every one knows Bossy, one of the best first soaring sites in the country, but it also has some XC potential. Two good flights spring to mind I'm not sure who holds the best XC but I think the honours go to Roger Allen with a gradually veering wind took advantage of this and moved on to North Hill ridge. Soon he was at Minehead at 4000 ft and in wave set up from Wales flew on to the aerals at Williton. Challenging this at a recent comp organised by the Condors saw Mr Big from SD club fly straight over the back in winter thermals to land by the cliffs at Watchet. (his first ever XC!!).

Branscombe.

East And West Records from this site!!

Simon Murphy, Steve Tilling and Rob Gillard had the Balls to cross the gap from Beer Head to Seaton and then flew East on to Charmouth. This flight was made around 1987 and has not been done since.....Distance approx. 10 miles but the crossing over the sea from Beer head is something else!!

Westward honour goes to Chris Whitehead who flew to Exmouth when the wind was SE and the usual crowd were flying Sandy Bay. The distance was approx. 15 miles but the scary bit is between the cliffs at Peak Hill and Budleigh. Low cliffs and no bottom landing!! Since then Tam has done it and so has Willy Knowles. But you won't catch me doing it!

Charmouth.

A great coastal site and a very recent record broken here. It all started when the forecast wrongly said the winds would be light SSW. We all met at Smeatharpe but it was too windy, a quick vote and we all set off for Charmouth. The wind was 20+ and off to the South, but this direction is better for Charmouth. The low T.O. was used and soon 15 Condors were in the air. All of except one set off for West Bay and struggled to get around Golden Cap. However unknown to the gaggle Mark Hoer had decided to go West. With 1400 ft he cleared the town of Lyme Regis and went on to Seaton and back. A few of the keenies had returned to Charmouth and set off to Lyme Cliffs. Mark was now supping coffee in the cafe when he informed us that he had flown to Seaton and back. "You've done what?? Was the reply!. I've flown to Seaton and Back. That was definitely a red rag to the Bull, because Simon Bell was already half way across Lyme. Jeff was gingerly following and Phil would never be outdone. Well, the three of us broke the O/R club record with approx. 27 miles and that was last weekend.

Codden Hill.

Probably the Condors Best Hill XC site. Potential on the right day of 100 mile XC to Lands End.

Condors Record Holder. Brett Wright. With a 62 miler to the South Coast in 1995. Other good distances are: Martin Howe same day 61 miles. Vince Mc Closky flew home to Exmouth 44 miles. Jeff Hoer flew to Dawlish 41 miles. Jeff also had 17 flights from Codden before either top landing it or bottom landing it. All 17 flights were XC!! What a site!! Can be rough though.

Exmouth.

Used to be a smashing little site with potential to fly to Sandy Bay or just fly for fun. Now lost due to visiting pilots but the record from this site goes to Jeff Hoer who was sucked up into a passing thermal and was splat out at Coleton Raleigh some 10 miles away. Date for this flight was 1986.

East Hill.

Regarded by Simon as the Best site in the UK but he is biased as having the record distance from any Condors site with an excellent flight of 80 miles. This was done in 1989 probably the most competitive year in the Condors History. Other memorable flights were made by Jeff Hoer who got sucked into a sea breeze front cloud at 3000 ft and spat out at 8500 ft, the record height gain in the south west, he then went on to complete one of four 50+ mile flights that he has made from this Site.

More Site records next month!!!

Jeff

BITS & PIECES



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I live in Minehead. I've always got my eye on the weather as I'm a surf addict as well as flying. If it looks good, but you're not sure, you can phone me to check. Obviously I'm not going to be too chuffed to receive 54 phone calls at 8.30 on Saturday morning. Please use discretion and phone on behalf of a group. If I go flying (or surfing) and the weather is good, I'll try to leave a message on the answering machine. If my wife answers please explain you are a pilot for obvious reasons. I'll see how the situation works for a while and if it's OK I'll do it indefinitely. Please don't pass my number to non Condors. If anyone wants to fly mid-week, I'm usually home from work by 4.20 or so. A little late for Xcs perhaps but OK for ridge soaring (or in my case top to bottoms) , now the evenings are drawing out.

Jamie Lee-Smith 01643 706438

Others have also indicated their enthusiasm to fly midweek

Eddie Colefox	01297 489351	(M) 0468 646434
John Fielder	01275 343927	(M) 0850 340870
Phil Fouracre	01823 490724	(M) 0850 216464
Harriet Pottinger	01823 601202	
Brian Smith	01278 431138	
Pete Stapley	01398 324 303	(M) 0585 941784

It's Wednesday May 7th, postfrontal conditions outside, our laser printer is down and I've got to get Airheads out for tonight. I've already had one call suggesting we go flying! It has been a hard winter listening to Phil droning on about flying at Charmouth. Pandy was awful, watching everyone disappearing up the ridge for two days. (James was unable to take one.) The information from Lejair and The Welsh HG centre has arrived; there will be two new hang glider pilots in the club at the end of the summer. I will soon be seeing Simon for advice and next winter Phil can act as my nose man at Charmouth. He'd better be ready to dive for cover on the magic word R....aaaagh!!!

John

CONTACT NUMBERS

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Treasurer	Andy Tew	72 Taunton Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 6AF	01278 458275
Sites	Gerry McCann	Woodstock, High Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1QS	01460 61468
HG Safety & Training	Mark Hoer	Rose Cottage, Hemyock, Devon	01823 681188
PG Safety & Training	Brian Smith	45 Union Street, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4BY	01278 431138
HG XC Claims	Harriet Pottinger	Ivydene, Smeatharpe, Honiton, Devon, EX14 9RF	01823 601202
PG XC Claims	Maggie Wilson	Orchard House ,Torre, Washford, Watchet, Somerset, TA23 OLA	01984 641220
Mid-week flying			0800 515544
Airheads	John Fielder	43 Highdale Road, Clevedon, N. Somerset, BS21 7LR	01275 343927
		Email: 100774.1650@compuserve.com	Fax 01275 341241



Articles sent on computer disk are helpful and time saving, Word for Window, Ami Pro, or text format if possible. If not jot it down and sent it in please. The deadline for copy is the last Friday in the month, although articles arriving close to deadline may be delayed a month due to flying !!