

Oct97

Air

Heads



MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING 1997

The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved.

Matters arising:

Mike hasn't given up flying after all.

We have written to Devon County Council informing them we are going to napalm **East Hill** to clear the site, no response yet, presumably that's OK.

Eddie has sworn he won't do anything controversial*, and I know a pig that has just passed his club pilot.

Charmouth is now open again, the proposed sign has been cleared by the Parish Council.

Treasurers Report

We are now about £1900 in the black, with four new members, making a total of 68.

Safety

Gerry managed to drop a wing on take off at **Charmouth**, but was unhurt. He blamed it on a young and innocent P.G. pilot (as we all are) but in fact he had underestimated the wind strength.

Paul also dropped a wing on his M.G., when he successfully launched it off a precipice in a garage forecourt. He has been reported to the BHPA for trying to fly an uncertified wing. Next time perhaps he'll leave the brake on.

Sites

We are in touch with the Wessex Club regarding a reciprocal membership agreement. The meeting was in favour, and this will be implemented. John Fielder has agreed to approach Avon for a similar agreement. We will also try and obtain copies of the sites guides and newsletters of all our neighbouring clubs to keep up to date with their site problems.

Air Ambulance Benefit Day

Angie outlined the arrangements that she had made to fly members of the public on the Towing Syndicate Dual Glider in exchange for a donation to the Devon Air Ambulance.

Christmas Party

Phil asked whether the club wanted to combine with the microlighters as we did last year. It was generally agreed that it made for a very good party, but it was pointed out that the dates clashed with Telford. As this also affects the microlighters we may yet be able to make a joint arrangement.

Wonderclamp Trophy

The Wonderclamp trophy has once again changed hands and was presented to Gerry.

Club Coaches Course

Harriet outlined details of the course programmed for 29/30 November at the Sidmouth Arms near Upottery. **Anyone wishing to take part should give her their names as soon as possible.**

Gardeners Challenge

Paul and Tricia acquitted themselves magnificently at the selection evening, but declined the offer of national acclaim as they would have had to sober up.

There being no further business the meeting was closed so that Gerry could spend the rest of the evening trying to tune the video.

John Milner

STUNT FLYING

A few people have said they want to have a go at this with Dawn Patrol at Dunkswell, but I can't remember who they are! Let me know when I've got a pen to write down your name, and I'll try to arrange it sometime. If there's anyone else interested who hasn't yet contacted me about it, please do so. Don't blame me when you throw up though!

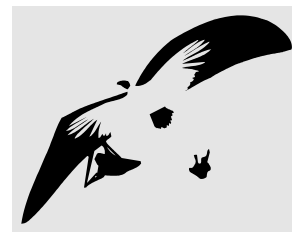
Harriet

*(Highly unlikely! Eddie has merely said he would not cause us problems with our site rules. -Ed)

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



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Why is it I always think of something interesting to say early in the month? but by the time I get around to it I've completely forgotten what the hell it was!! before the editor sticks his oar in, yes, it probably is premature senility.

I have been talking to a couple of potential speakers for club meetings, but if the turnout is going to be anything like last month, I would be too embarrassed to ask them!!

Following on from last month, the Xtralite is now rebuilt, and been test flown at Charmouth, on the second day of the new season. What a beautiful day it was, nobody else there, what a pity!! I gather that Gerry and Harriet had a reasonable flight the day before.

Does trouble really 'come in threes', I hope not, having got over Triscombe, without any further trauma, I was having a very enjoyable morning flying the tug, when, taxiing back, I heard an ominous crack, throttled back and turned off the engine. I couldn't believe it, one of the luff line cords had broken, the eyelet had swung into the prop and bingo, there goes one very expensive Airplast prop, I must be jinxed!! One consolation I suppose is that I still have two more to go to equal Marks record!!!

We had a reasonable day at East Hill the other day, some of us not having flown there for a couple of years. It took a bit of clearing, as it was knee or waist deep depending on whether you are vertically challenged !!

Nick elected not to fly, having seen Jeff take off that was quite understandable. I thought the idea was to clear the undergrowth and bushes before taking off, not actually during it!! In all seriousness we managed to clear a substantial area. Everyone agreed that my strimmer/brush cutter was a help, and it was suggested that the club invest in one for clearing sites generally. What does everyone think, we have plenty of funds and this could be useful. I will bring prices to the meeting, then a decision can be made.

On to trophies and competitions in general, I have been reliably informed that I am sliding down the ratings at a steady rate, what did you expect, ah well, it was good while it lasted. The true heroes are back in place!! What a load of *****!! Guess who will be winning all the trophies again?

I was hoping that Phil and Maggie would have sorted out the Paragliding trophies by now. When they have, we can decide who has what, the general consensus being that each discipline has its own trophies. As the 'Rocket Ron' trophy was hang gliding oriented, this can be used for a different category, the suggestion being the pilot who has done most for the benefit of the club or sport, or been outstanding in any way!! Nominations to myself or the competitions organiser, final decision to be made by the trophy provider.

One final note, the Microlight Club Christmas Dinner date is correct, it is the same date as the AGM, Saturday 6th, apparently the only December date available. To be held at the Honiton Motel.

Safe flying, Phil

New moveable soaring site for small pilots, any wind direction, watch out for turbulence at both ends of the ridge! Vigilant active flying essential.

POTTINGER'S PIECE



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AIRWAVE CHALLENGE FINAL

This was held in SE Wales the last weekend of August. The HG comp was won by Joint Services and the PG comp by SW Wales. Although we got through the first round we didn't even go to our semi-final, which is a pity, as had even just one pilot gone to the semi, we would have had a place in the final. (In fairness, the semi was postponed 4 times, and almost everyone was away the weekend it was finally held.) The first prize was a dual hang glider free for a year, with the opportunity to buy it at the end of the year at a discounted price. If Airwave offer the same prize in 1998 (and I'll try to find out in advance), it would be worth entering again. Anyway, it's a good, fun, club competition. Paragliders - why not give it a go, too, and enter a team next year?

NEW SITE

Last Saturday (Sept 20) Guy Backhouse and I went to the southeasterly site he found last year near Honiton. The owners were very friendly and welcoming, so handled judiciously this could probably become a regular club site in time. To say that I flew the site would be a bit of an exaggeration, however. Survived it, more like. The wind was about 30 to 40 degrees off to the east, and I took off first, as I chose to have Guy on the nose rather than go second and self launch. Take it from me - this site is NOT good in an easterly! The words ROTOR and TRASHED come to mind. My vario informed me when I checked its memory later that I had the following maximums: 13ft ato, 4ft/min up, 11.8ft/min down (and those were on the averager, not the needle), 36mph.

I was in the air for about 1½ to 2 minutes for the roughest flight I've had to date. Control? No such luck! Having wrestled the glider away from the hill through a series of

adrenaline-pumping roller-coaster lurches and involuntary wingovers, I headed for the bottom landing field, wondering if I would make it that far or if I would have to land amongst the cows, downhill, in front of the farm. Fortunately I did make it and was very glad to reach dead air in the approach to an up-slope landing. And, no, John, I didn't bend or break anything! (Not for the want of trying - Ed.)

For some reason best known to himself, Guy still flew, even though he'd just seen all this (he probably thought it was just my girlie incompetence, and what's a little bit of rough air to a real man?!). To my envy he survived the low altitude thrashing, and climbed to about 200ft above the trees to the west of the ridge. However, the usable beat was all of about 50yds long, so he hung into wind for about 10 minutes and then went and top landed. (The field he landed in belongs to another farmer and we do not have official permission to land there.)

I suggest that if a proper southeasterly comes along and anyone else wants to try this site, for the time being they should contact Guy or myself first. Given the right wind direction this could be a useful site, even though it is not large. I would certainly like to try it again, but I will avoid it if the wind is not on, though! (If anyone has found any new sites, Harriet and Guy will check them out on Saturdays regardless of the wind direction - Ed)

ROCKET RON/RON'S RABBIT TROPHY

I'm not sure exactly what this trophy is called, but most of you will know the one I mean. It's a Hang Gliding trophy awarded for particular personal achievement or contribution to the sport, or something along those lines.

In latter years the trophy has either not been awarded at all, or was appropriated for the most spectacular crash. This year we are resurrecting it for its original intention and would like to invite suggestions as to whom you think should receive it. We are asking Ron Harris, who donated the trophy in the first place, to be the final judge. You can send or phone nominations (and reasons why) to Phil Fouracre or myself. (Both strong entrants for any spectacular crash award -Ed)

LANZAROTE

Anybody coming?

As we had such a good time in the winter sun we thought we'd go again in January 1998. If anyone else wants to go, let me know by Monday October 20th, and I will arrange it all for you - flights from Bristol, glider transport, shared car hire and apartment. The cars we had last time were Vauxhall Corsas, and the apartments are very nice with a private swimming pool. An extra bonus is that you can get your gliders indoors for safekeeping overnight.

I am currently planning on the second and/or third week of January. The flights are probably on Thursdays, which would mean leaving on Jan 7th or 14th. I have not been able to finalise costs yet, but I expect it to be around about £320 for one week, £450 for two, to include return flight, glider transport, shared car hire and 3 sharing a 2 bedroom apartment. (Paragliders welcome, too, and I expect it will cost you a bit less, as there shouldn't be the extra baggage charge for your glider.)

Harriet

CROSSWORD



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It has been rumoured that I am terrified of winching. Wrong! **I WAS** until yesterday when I trembled down to Smeatharpe with Mark Aplin, we were joined by Andy and commenced a conversion course. Thanks to Jeff' patience, Angie's help and some gentle winching from Simon and Craig we had three flights each. Mark had a tow to 1300ft and Andy and I both topped 1000ft. There were no problems and I might even enjoy it soon. It is certainly better than sitting on a hill all day because the wind is too light.

The season is drawing to a close. The clocks will soon go back and we will be wondering where the summer went. It has been a bit disappointing for me. I started the year with great plans which have rarely been achieved., maybe I'm not trying hard enough. Branscombe, Bossington and Pandy provided the best flying, Nant-y-moel the most exciting. Blaenavon and Rhossili the most frustrating, listening to the rest of you while James and I were blown out. Perhaps the winter will bring big sea thermals, long ridge runs, plenty of winching and loads of soaring my Calypso (if I ever pass my CPC). Come wind, come snow, let the north wind blow....please!!!

JF

XC LEAGUE H.G.



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ALL U.K. SITES XC LEAGUE (HG) 1996/7

Po	Name	Distance (miles)	Distance (miles)	Distance (miles)	Distance (miles)	Distance (miles)	Total	Glider
1	Brett Wright	41.07W	19.57	18.80R	18.38W	5.83	103.65	Xt1137
2	Jeff Hoer	35.75	25.48R	13.22R	12.89		87.34	Xt1164
3	Phil Fouracre	25.98R	21.02R	16.36R	14.66R	5.83	83.85	Xt1147
4	Harriet Pottinger	22.85	13.78R	12.06R	9.18R	6.25	64.12	Xt145
5	Simon Bell	27.22R	14.38R				41.60	Xt1147
6	Nick Adams	15.26R	10.24R				25.50	Sx2
7	Martin Kellaway	19.57	5.83				25.40	Magic 6
8	Mark Hoer	12.89	5.83				18.72	Klassic
9	Gerry McCann	8.72W					8.72	K2
						Total	458.90	

CONDORS ONLY XC LEAGUE (HG) 1996/7

Po	Name	Distance (miles)	Distance (miles)	Distance (miles)	Distance (miles)	Distance (miles)	Total	Glider
1	Brett Wright	41.07W	18.38W				59.45	Xt1137
2	Simon Bell	27.22R	14.38R				41.60	Xt1147
3	Phil Fouracre	25.98R	14.66R				40.64	Xt1164
4	Jeff Hoer	25.48R	12.89				38.37	Xt1147
5	Mark Hoer	12.89					12.89	Klassic
6	Nick Adams	10.24R					10.24	Sx2
7	Gerry McCann	8.72W					8.72	K2
8	Harriet Pottinger	4.78W					4.78	Sx2
						Total	167.75	

D = Double Distance, R = Out & Return, T = Triangle W = Winch

ALL U.K. SITES XC LEAGUE (PG) 1996/7

Name	Distance (kms)	Distance (kms)	Distance (kms)	Distance (kms)	Distance (kms)	Total	Canopy
Eddie Colfox	68.6 Bell Hill	59 Ubley	18.8 King Tor	11 Bell Hill		157.4	Odyssey
Angie Weir	16.44 Pandy	10.50W S/tharpe				26.94	Rave
Maggie Wilson	18.6OR Pandy	7.5 Bell Hill				26.1	Genesis
John Milner	11.50W S/tharpe	10.50W S/tharpe				22	Barracuda
Mark Aplin	20 OR Pandy					20	Axon
Phil Wilson	15 OR Pandy					15	Genesis
					Total	267.44	

W = Winch

OR=Out & Return

All other distances

open XC.

Maggie Wilson needs any information regarding xc's done by any PG pilots, if you want any of the trophies.



BITS & PIECES



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Treasurers Report

There are now 72 Full Members, Bank balance @ 25/09/97 - a very healthy £1940-11, New Members: 2PG 0HG. (Large Airheads bill to come! - Ed)

STOLEN from SW Paragliding A brand new APCO PRIMA Medium Paraglider, purple/white with three pink triangles (Reg. no. 93031316AP) Can you all keep your eyes open for this glider. If you have any information, please contact Innes Powell (01822) 810532

September Meeting

This was only attended by 14 members and one new member. Some of our members live at a considerable distance and are unable to come, others have family commitments, but 14!!! The usual hard core were all there and, of course, any decisions are taken by them not you. If you have any input you want to offer, **COME TO THE MEETING**. If you can't, send something in to Airheads or give me a ring. I will publish any members view's , controversial or not.

East Hill

A work party was arranged on Saturday 13th Sep. A group of pilots cleared a broad area. This site will need a lot more clearing for extended Paragliding use. A decision was made to invest in a strimmer to clear East Hill, North Hill, etc. Some volunteers are needed and it would be helpful if pilots flying the site would clear a little while they are waiting for conditions to improve.

Sites

We are at present attempting to update the sites guide. Any information from members regarding any of our existing sites, new sites or sites we used to fly would be welcome.

Please contact Andy or myself.

Crook Peak

The National Trust agreement is now complete, signed and delivered. Unfortunately we still have no bottom landing field. The large field is in crop and the stables are very unfriendly. However, if the top gate to the stables is locked , they are away..... Please be careful as we are also looking at Wavering Down with a view to an agreement with the NT.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Chairman	Phil Fouracre	Rock Hill Farm, Wrantage, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 6DL	01823 490724
Secretary & Club Contact	John Milner	Cross Tree House, Lopen, Sth Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5JX	01460 240476
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



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