

Nov97

# Air

# Heads



## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING 1997

### Minutes of the October meeting

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

### Matters arising:

**Reciprocal agreement with the Wessex.**  
The agreement was read and approved and will now be sent to the Wessex for them to sign. A copy is enclosed in this Newsletter.

### Crook Peak

The agreement with the National Trust has now been completed. The Horse owner remains a problem, but locks the gate when she goes out.

### East Hill

A considerable amount of clearing has been completed at East Hill. No word yet from the Rangers.

### Strimmer

Phil proposed that if we are to continue to do well in the National Gardening Challenge we really ought to purchase a strimmer. It was also suggested that we get a pair of those heavy duty long handled branch cutters as well. Both proposals were agreed. However, there was a fear expressed that members with large gardens would benefit more than those with small ones. But if we are to continue to do well in the Gardening Challenge we must be fully equipped.

Someone also made a fatuous comment about being able to use them to clear our sites, but this was generally felt would produce too much wear and tear and would be a misuse of club funds.

### Treasurers report

This was read and published on the back page of the October Newsletter so I won't repeat it here.

### Safety

#### Charmouth

Paraglider pilots are warned of the difficulty of penetrating when coming in to land on the designated landing field. The wind is channelled into the re-entrant and may well be stronger than on the cliff. This can result in a premature visit to the cream tea rooms.

Gerry is to organise a windsock for use at Charmouth to be kept in the Beach attendants office.

### Air Ambulance Benefit Day

This was declared a great success and a vote of thanks was given to Angie Weir who organised it, the dual pilots (Jeff Hoer, Simon Gillingham, Simon Bell, Nick Adams) and all the members of the tow and winch syndicates who gave up their flying time to help.

### Dual Hanglider/paraglider

Due to the success of the above event, it was suggested that the Club investigate the possibility of getting Lottery funding for a dual hang glider and paraglider.

There are still a few vacancies on the **Club Coaches Course** 22/23 November. It is subsidised by the Club to the tune of 50% and is being run at the Sidmouth Arms, Upottery. Names by the day before yesterday to Harriet.

### Christmas Do

Despite the clash with the AGM at Telford, the Do is to go ahead with the Microlighters on the 6th December. Names to Phillip Fouracre. Entertainment on the night includes Gerry McCann wearing Harriet's new slit to the waist dress as she can't go.

### Eddie's Trip

Eddie is organising a flying trip to Malawi, anyone interested should contact him and let him know where it is.

### Simon and Harriet's Trip

They are off to Lanzarote 8-15 January, anyone interested shouldn't be, its bound to be blown out.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00p.m.ish.

John Milner

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# CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



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I think I'll change the title to " Dear John" 'cos he keeps having to chase me up with my 'contribution' !

The past month hasn't been that good for me from a flying point of view, work is building up rapidly, it always seems to be a case of having time and no money or money and no time! I've missed a couple of reasonable days towing and at Sandy Bay. Although all I saw when I turned up at Sandy Bay the other Sunday was a paraglider trying to kill herself, was she a member? (S.Devon - Ed), and heard that Harriet had struggled to scrape in on top.

As far as towing goes the news the other day was even worse, I gather Vince was practising ground based aerobatics in the tug, thank goodness he was OK and the tug not too badly damaged, thank God it didn't have it's replacement prop on.

I haven't heard of any accidents or other problems, although John had his balloon stolen!!(see below) I can sympathise, remembering the theft of my full race in Wales a few years back.

On to more cheerful stuff, The Christmas dinner, after much discussion it was decided to stick with the microlight club as before. ( See opposite page)

This arrangement is to save aggro on the night collecting and sorting out the money as happened before. If everybody deals direct with Marilyn it should simplify matters!!

A couple of other points regarding the above, we have had no nominations for Rons trophy, ie for services/contribution to flying, not as before best accident!!! Come on, nominate someone, because, if it reverts to most spectacular accident I could end up presenting it to myself!!!

The paragliders could be short of trophies, although I gather John has managed to get hold of Phil and Maggie and they promise to get them sorted for the do! I gather they have been flying less recently, due to family commitments.

Angie is trying to arrange the presentation to Devon Air Ambulance, She was hoping to do it at the November meeting but I think it might now be at the Christmas Dinner, if its possible.

That's about all I can think of at the moment, I'm bound to have forgotten something important, no doubt someone will tell me in due course.

If anyone is interested I have a copy of the PAP paramotor promo video, which I will bring to the meeting. I am hoping to have a free weekend in November to go up to Skydragons to have a go, Jeff is keen, if anyone else is interested let me know!

Phil

## WATCH OUT THERE'S A THIEF ABOUT!

Phil had his radio stolen at Smeatharpe on Sunday 2nd November. It was on the front seat of his unlocked van. There were a number of people unconnected with our group hanging around. It seems that it is unsafe to leave vehicles open or equipment lying around while our attention is elsewhere.

On October 10th John Milner had his balloon stolen from his yard. A witness saw the vehicle that removed the trailer, envelope, fan, burner, basket and ancillary equipment. The basket was found the next day, having been dumped by the thieves. The police then raided a nearby gypsy encampment. The envelope and the trailer cover were subsequently recovered in poor condition.

John was then unofficially advised by the police to go to the camp and negotiate for his burners. After many denials , the burner mysteriously appeared and money changed hands. The fan, ropes and other light equipment is still missing. If asked John will tell you this awful tale through gritted teeth. The whole thing will have to go back to Cameron and John does not yet know whether it will ever be flyable.

As we reported last month Innes Powell had a purple and white Apco Prima stolen from his van at Cox Tor.

If anyone notices people who we don't know hanging round vehicle or equipment, alert others so that at least some security measures can be taken.

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# ASSOCIATE CLUBS



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## RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESSEX HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING CLUB AND THE CONDORS HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING CLUB.

This document lays out the benefits and conditions agreed by the above clubs in October 1997.

- 1) Reciprocal membership will be set up between the WHGPC and the CHGPC.
- 2) Such benefits will provide common flying and social benefits to full members of both clubs. The one exception is for sites not published in the club guides or subject to restrictions. These will only be open to members of the "owning" club.
- 3) Such membership will carry no voting rights and is not extended to temporary or associate members of either club.
- 4) Each club will supply one copy of its current site guide for subsequent copying and distribution in whatever form is thought appropriate to provide adequate site information to members of the other club.
- 5) Where necessary, each club will make arrangements for the supply of helmet stickers or current identification method for subsequent distribution to members of the other club.
- 6) Each club will supply one copy of each issue of its magazine to the other club to keep them in touch with current events.
- 7) Important changes in the status of any site will be communicated to the other club and the receiving club will be bound to distribute that information in a timely fashion.

The above is our agreement with the Wessex Club. If any member has any queries or requires any information please contact Andy or John Fielder.

### **Wessex**

At Ringstead an aeromodel hit a paraglider wing. Although the PG was unharmed, the modeller became extremely aggressive and an argument developed in which he threatened to tear the paraglider apart with a razor blade! It is always better to establish verbal contact prior to flying in order to avoid physical contact.

### **Kernow**

On September 13th, Pete Coad (well known HG pilot) flew his paraglider 92km from Highcliff on the North Cornwall coast to Start Point on the south coast. What were you doing? We were gardening at East Hill!

### **South Devon**

John Owen-Jones reports that, on October 5th, he took off from Branscombe. with Nigel Winchester and Gordon Mucklow (SD) at 4pm. The wind was SSE at 8mph. They flew from TO to Ladram Bay and then back to Beer Head before landing at 6pm. Nigel didn't get back across Branscombe Mouth. Derek Posta flew to Sidmouth taking off at 6.15pm. (Mark Aplin and I left Smeatharpe at 4pm and went to Charmouth where we scratched for an hour on a steadily backing wind. ed)

John also visited Sandy Bay on 22 Sep and writes " I thought I knew the rotor there and was trying to TL by drifting back from the lift band to the front of the cliff about 20ft behind the edge at TO. I stalled at 10-12 ft, even though only at half brake, and no change of brake position for some time. I landed on my feet but the collapsed canopy pulled me over backwards giving me no bruises but aches and pains lasted nearly 3 weeks. I suppose I was overconfident having many similar TL's there this year, albeit in lighter conditions. (Mark, Andy, Daryl and I went to Sandy Bay last week. Conditions were too strong, gusting to 27mph but it was very revealing walking round the TO/TL area with a ribbon watching the wind rotoring almost everywhere. Take care at TO in strong conditions. ed)

# XMAS DINNER



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**Saturday 6th December, 7.00pm** to sit down at 7.30pm.

Venue is **The Honiton Motel, Turks Head Corner, Exeter Rd, Honiton. 01404 43440**

Cost is **£15.00** per head, money to be sent by 24th November, with menu order (see below) to:  
**Marilyn Proctor**, Barrack Lodge, Dunkeswell, Devon, EX14 0QQ. Her telephone number is 01404 891747

Cheques to be made out to Devon and Somerset Microlights.

**Directions:** The Honiton Motel, is on the corner of Turks Head Lane & Exeter Road. You can't miss it.

## MENU

- 1 Cream of Mushroom Soup with roll and butter
- 2 Minestrone Soup with roll and butter
- 3 Florida Cocktail
- 4 Melon and Pineapple

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5 Roast Devon Turkey with Bacon Sausage Seasoning and Cranberry Sauce.

6 Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding and Horseradish Sauce.

(Both with Roast Potatoes and Vegetables of the Season)

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- 7 Black Forest Gateau
- 8 Sherry Trifle
- 9 Strawberry Gateau
- 10 Fresh Fruit Salad

(All served with fresh Cream)

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Freshly Brewed Coffee with Mints

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11 Vegetarian Alternative available with all main courses



# BITS & PIECES



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## HAM HILL CLOSED

The South Somerset District Council lease on Ham Hill has now run out, so we no longer have permission to fly the hill, until the new agreement is negotiated. This is by no means a foregone conclusion. However if they do get it back they are going to undertake a large clearing operation, which will make the site a lot more attractive from our point of view.

Harriet and Simon will be missing the Xmas Dinner this year as Harriet makes her bid for power in the BHPA. If we are going to have trouble makers on the Council, let's have one of our own. Vote Harriet.

## Treasurers Report

There are now 77 Full Members. Bank balance @25-10-97 £2030.11  
There were no new members this month but some old faces paid up and rejoined.

No word has been received from Avon on reciprocal membership . No surprises there!

Airtopia are holding their reserve parachute throw and repack evening on Friday 14th November from 5.00pm to about 10.00pm. Having been last year, it is certainly a sobering experience and having seen some of the reserves carried by hang glider pilots in the club, they need the practice. Give Robin Brown a ring if your interested (01453 753002 or 0973 8444489) I will have a spare seat from Clevedon , if anyone requires a lift.

Bernard Kane M.B.E. died last week. He has been a tireless worker on behalf of pilots in both BAPC & BHPA for many years.

Winter is fast drawing in. A lot of you will be going into hibernation. The time can be spent writing a few articles for Airheads. I would like to start a diary section covering the flying that we all doing. I need information from **YOU**. The winter could most usefully be spent brushing up our skills(?); ground handling, take offs and landings, learning to winch! Don't just retire until it gets warm. Get your equipment checked over, put on some warm clothes and get out to North Hill, Charmouth or Smeatharpe. Enjoy the moment and make sure you are ready for the spring rockets.

## 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 Email: 100774.1650@compuserve.com	01275 343927 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 as soon as possible. **THE DEADLINE** for copy is the **LAST FRIDAY** in the month. **LATE ARTICLES** may be moved to the following month.



# FINAL RESULTS HG LEAGUE



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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	

## WINTER XC LEAGUE 1996/7

Po	Name	Distance (miles)	Total	Glider
1	Phil Fouracre	14.66R	14.66	xt1164
2	Simon Bell	14.38R	14.38	xt1147
			29.04	

## D&S AEROTOWING LEAGUE (HG) 1996/7

Po	Name	Distance (miles)	Total	Glider
1	Phil Fouracre	14.89	14.89	sx6
2	Mike Gadd	6.86	6.86	??
3	Simon Bell	5.3	5.3	xt1147
4	Harriet Pottinger	2.76	2.76	xt145
			29.81	

## 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	216.69	

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

**The 1997 / 8 Leagues are now open!**

**Harriett**



# FINAL RESULTS PG LEAGUE



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## PG XC-LEAGUE

The 1997 PG-XC league is over. Eddie Colfox our own resident league pilot is our clear winner with a decisive 219.3km. His total would almost certainly have been larger if his season had not been interrupted by his accident. The award for the best "Rookie" XC goes to the determined Mark Aplin with an excellent 20km at Pandy. The best flight off the winch was by John Milner. There were no open Xcs from Condors sites that have been reported to me. Codden remains as a future PG challenge, next year maybe. Well done to all those who made it onto the PG-XC league table, quite an achievement in a year when the weather was far from peachy. To anyone going on a winter flying holiday, have a nice time, to those staying at home, dust off your thermal underwear or risk brass monkey syndrome. Remember 1998 is another year and the hills and thermals will still be there when the spring comes. Love to everyone.

Maggie

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

Name	Distance (kms)	Distance (kms)	Distance (kms)	Distance (kms)	Distance (kms)	Distance (kms)	Total	Canopy
Eddie Colfox	68.6 Bell Hill	59 Ubley	39.6 Quarr	18.8 Bell Hill	18.2 Blorenges	15.1 King Tor	219.3	Odyssey
Angie Weir	16.44 Pandy	10.50W S/tharpe					26.94	Rave
Maggie Wilson	16.5OR Pandy	7.5 Pandy					24	Genesis
John Milner	11.50W S/tharpe	10.50W S/tharpe					22	Barracuda
Mark Aplin	20 OR Pandy						20	Axon
Phil Wilson	15.8 OR Pandy						15.8	Genesis
						Total	328.04	

W = Winch    OR=Out & Return    All other distances open XC.

### Winching

At last one year after starting to winch at Kemble I went to Smeatharpe with Andy and Mark Aplin to complete my endorsement as I reported in the last Airheads. Two weeks ago we all passed on a couple of gentle overdeveloped days. Mark and I have also started on the winchperson qualification. This will help out Nick, Martin Kellaway and Vince who have done all the winching. Angie has already completed her qualification and I believe Harriet is now converting to winch paragliders.

As I have told anyone who cares to listen, learning to winch is a terrifying prospect. You had only to be at Smeatharpe to witness the the trembling and shaking when two senior hang glider pilots took out their canopies to start on the winch. But the terror is in the anticipation, reality is less frightening and becomes rapidly another way of launching. If Phil, Jeff and I, who shook on our first launches, have begun to enjoy it, so will most pilots. Anyone who wants to get their tow endorsement only has to phone Jeff to check the conditions, buy a tow yoke, complete ten good flights and hand over a cheque. Easy! Think of those light and variable days you could spend at cloudbase or at least in the air.

JF