

Nov98

# Air

# Heads



## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING 1998

Apologies were received from the chairman who is having French Lessons. A motion of censure was proposed and carried. The Chair was taken by the Secretary.

The minutes of the September meeting were read followed by a good old rant by John Fielder about deadlines, inaccuracy etc. However the general ambience and mood of the meeting was very accurately conveyed.

### 25th Anniversary Bash

It was generally agreed that the party went well despite the weather. About 140 people came. Thanks are due to everyone who helped organise it.

### Treasurers Report

Around £2400 in the bank. Still some bills left to pay on the Anniversary bash but it looks as though the party made a profit of around £500 for the Devon Air Ambulance. The money raised by the raffle isn't certain yet.

### Safety Report

Jamie Lee-Smith admitted to a lazy takeoff and crappy landing at North Hill which resulted in a broken upright. He forgot to S off his height and didn't leave himself enough room to land. he said he hadn't really prepared himself properly or made a flight plan. He also commented that on a recent check he found that his pit pin collar was cracked on his nose catch and he wondered if H.G. pilots regularly checked theirs. It was also mentioned that the pit pin on the base bar connection on the Dual needs checking every flight.

H.G. pilots flying P.G.s are reminded that:

1. Putting weight on the A risers is not a legitimate way of changing the angle of attack and could result in a full frontal tuck.
2. It is unnecessary to undergo electric convulsive therapy or cover yourself in cow shit to convert to a P.G. rating.

### Sites

**Charmouth.** This has been cleared yet again. Thanks to Andy, John, Mark, and any others who helped. The wildlife officer has now spotted adders here too. (Its a new species)

**East Hill.** We are disputing the demand for back fees for the last four years, although we have agreed to last years fee. No answer as yet from Devon County Council. Gerry McCann is going to sort out the next phase of slash and burn programme with the Ranger (might be a good opportunity to slash and burn Devon County Council as well)

**Brent Knoll** Robin Brown is wanting to clear part of the hill, he will arrange with the farmer and borrow the strimmer.

**Ham Hill.** Clearance will start early in November, probably during the first two weekends -to be confirmed at the next meeting.

### Winch Syndicate

At a recent meeting of the Winch syndicate it was agreed to put up the daily rate for non syndicate members to £15.00.

### First Aid Course

Phil Fouracre has arranged another First Aid Course with the Red Cross in Taunton. This can either take place over several evenings or do the whole thing in a day. Names to Phil.

**Trophies** were requested to be returned by the next meeting please.

### Christmas Do

It was discussed whether we still wanted to have one after the 25th Anniversary Do and whether it should be a joint one with the microlighters. It was also suggested that we hold it at one of our members homes to cut down the cost. The majority of members present did not want a joint one with the microlighters but a final decision must be made at the next meeting. Suggestions so far are:

1. Phil's Place

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1. Phil's Place
  2. Harriets Place
  3. Joint with the microlighters (and perhaps a party too)
  4. Fishponds Hotel
  5. Luppitt Hall
- so opinions please to Phil.

### Appointment of new (Orifices) Officers (?)

Simon Murphy suggested that moral standards had been slipping recently and that the Club was in need of a role model. He proposed that we adopt a titular head of the Club in the form of an inflatable president (along American lines) to present trophies and be present at all ceremonial occasions and functions etc. He suggested that a female president would be more amenable and was probably more readily available. She could also be called upon to chair meetings whilst Phil was away having French lessons. The President would be hosted by members of the Club on a first come first served basis, but no one would be allowed to host both the strimmer and the President because of the dire consequences. The motion was carried unanimously, and Simon has agreed to obtain prices from his old catalogues. Names and title are now sought -suggestions please to the John Fielder.

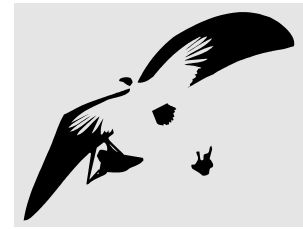
There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.36 hrs  
**John Milner**

## Inside

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Not a lot of contributions this month. You are either flying too much or have such full lives doing other things. I was tempted to just print the minutes and CC. Maybe next month .....

# CHAIRMAN'S CHAT



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Hi! All, I'm probably being premature with this, but thought as the forecast is so b' awful, I'd better make a start. This normally means that something of interest is bound to happen just after I send it to John!

Apologies for missing the last meeting, I gather it went much better without me anyway! Why does everyone find it so funny that I've decided to try to learn French?. It's only taken me ten years to get around to it. Every year when we go to Annecy I swear to do it but never do, teaching old dogs new tricks springs to mind. French emails from John and Harriet already, don't you just hate show-offs.

Just about enough interest in the First Aid course, usual hard core, what about the rest of you? I hadn't realised we had such a huge number of members qualified in first aid, it's comforting to know that in the event of an accident one would be in such safe hands!!!

Not much in the way of flying so far this month, until this Sunday (18th Oct) Why does it always seem to be all or nothing? Spoke to God as usual, he was keen to go to the coast, but no wind anywhere, so as usual off to Smeatharpe, I even volunteered to get the tug, just to prove how out of touch I was! Where was it? You guessed, right at the back, it took me the best part of an hour and a half to push out twenty odd machines and put them back. If anyone ever comments on Mark taking his time to fly over with it in the future, watch out!

Eventually got it sorted, even managed to get Jim to sign off my log book, so I'm all legal, makes a change. We all had a pleasant day towing, I didn't even take the glider, just planning to tug. I took Mark to the coast, just to confirm it wasn't flyable there, you have to check, don't you? Abuse of tug usage, nobody told me you had to stay within a certain radius of the airfield!

It was actually nice to be able to confirm that we had made the correct decision for a change. Smoke at Seaton dead east. John had a call later from Paul H to say that it was southerly and starting to move. Not content with having aero-towed and winched all day we decided to adjourn to Branscombe to fly the canopies. Desperate to get there, I managed to prise Jeff out of the

John had a call later from Paul H to say that it was southerly and starting to move. Not content with having aero-towed and winched all day we decided to adjourn to Branscombe to fly the canopies. Desperate to get there, I managed to prise Jeff out of the tug and flew it back to Dunkeswell, retrieved the van and charged off to Branscombe, sad or what?

Arrived to find the weather was perfect with a number of canopies already airborne. Had some very pleasant late afternoon flying, first soaring in this country on the new Flame, I counted fifteen canopies, no hang gliders! It would have been fine for them, ah well, they're definitely loosing it, whoops, sorry, only joking. Packed up as it was starting to get dark, knackered or what! I'm getting too old for all this flying, tugging for hours, then more hours on the canopy, what a life. That was for the benefit for Steve N who rang up about the first aid, only to find out how badly he had blown the day, dashing all over Dartmoor and the south coast, always in the wrong place.

Finishing this off Sunday before meeting, sorry John, was hoping there might be some more flying to talk about, having said I bet a few had a good day today on the north coast, please say no. I was stuck at home working, grrrr! I haven't heard of anything else interesting happening this month, it must be the lovely weather.

Re the first aid, they are not over keen on weekend training, plenty of weekdays available, normally Mondays and Fridays, but only Sat 19th Dec available, John seems to think this could be too close to Christmas.(20th & 30th Nov free if anyone is interested) If these don't suit it will have to be in the new year. Talking about Christmas, nothing has been arranged. The consensus seems to be that having just had the 25th Anniversary bash, combined with the previous apathetic response, it might be as well to give it a miss. I don't know what the guys at Dunkeswell are doing, I'll certainly go to any 'do' they organise, or if anyone is interested we could do something on a smaller scale, what do you want?

Phil

## BHPA AGM (from Harriet)

Proxy forms for electing this year's Exec members will come with November Skywings. PLEASE USE THEM! If you can't be bothered licking a stamp, give them to me and I'll send them in all together.

There are 4 places on Exec to fill and 6 candidates: Dick Long (Company Secretary) and Merv Turner (Events Officer) standing for re-election, plus 4 new candidates: Paul Dancey (SE Wales) who has already been getting some grooming to take over as Skywings Chairman; Davy Smyth - Ulster Club chairman, keen HG pilot of 3 years, does a bit of PG (sorry, I don't know any more about him); Benet Allen - who started and maintains the rather controversial National Sites Guide (he's obviously prepared to get on and do things, and he'll get my vote), keen (relatively novice) HG pilot, works in TV, lives in London (we don't have an Exec member from the SE at the moment); Steve Varden - runs Flyability very well. Most of you will know of him from Skywings, various events, record dual flight to goal with Judy a year or so ago etc etc. His disabilities make verbal communication difficult, but he is very bright and astute.

## From Simon Murphy

Just to add to Harriet's piece about Exec candidates, I have just received this from Bertie Kennedy, who lives in Northern Ireland.

"It would be good if you could spread the word that Davy Smyth is a super enthusiast, especially for the revival of hang gliding (although he is a very occasional paraglider pilot too) and drum up some votes for him at the AGM. He has very good organisational skills and is very much a 'do-er'. Having never even seen a competition before he, almost single handedly, planned and organised the very successful Ulster Open last July and has already started on next year's. He has already persuaded the club to buy a Stubby and got Colin Lark and Chris Dawes over for a week to get people started hang gliding - the first hang gliding beginners we have had in years. He also persuaded the BHPA to provide insurance cover for hang gliding beginner training here outside the registered schools setup - through the club coaching system. This is, after all, the way most of us old hands learned to fly anyway and it has always worked reasonably well in my experience - even though we didn't have fancy titles or rigid training procedures. Perhaps because we can't fire people through in 4 or 5 or 10 days (and then forget them), they progress more slowly and so have time to absorb things, get to know and get help from everybody, and are arguably safer pilots. Maybe this is the way for others to go and revive hang gliding? Certainly our

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## LETTERS

**From Simon (continued)**

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I'll vote for him, because I think the whole sport (not just HG) is in grave danger, and needs a new and radical approach from the BHPA. That means a dramatic change of heart, which means new and concerned people.

**From Brett Janaway (4/10/98)**

Bloreng and surrounding was brilliant (considering the time of year). Numerous climbs by many were made. No great distances were achieved with most preferring to climb out to cloudbase in front of the hill, then gliding back to the hill half an hour later. I heard of a 15 km.

I managed to fly 3 passengers on the tandem, taking two of them down to the pub at the end of the flights. (We thought the day was over and flew down, but enjoyed it so much we rushed up with a fresh passenger to do it again). I counted well over 50 paragliders in the area, and several HG's too.

See you soon! (North Hill maybe, I'm gonna have that record & jump the gap !!!)

**From Editor**

North hill was flown for four days running from 2nd to 5th. Jeff, Brett W, Phil, Jamie, Harriet, Graham Rock(!!) and I all having good flights in strong thermic conditions. A number of us reached base during our flights. PG's landing backwards. More of this is needed.

Saturday was weak and there were some top to bottoms done by Andy T, Phil, Brett W & Bryon D, thro' a hail of gunshots from .

from the clay pigeon Club on the landing field. Andy flew in over their heads calling their attention to his presence by shouting as he passed into their line of fire!!

**From Mark Aplin (4/10/98)**

Kath & I were on High Edge - a NE'erly site near Buxton. It was strong, thermic & rough as hell on my first flight - big assymetric! Let things calm down & had another couple of goes then a rain break.

After the rain flew again - 3 pilots who hadn't flown watching - had another massive RH assymetric followed quickly by a left hand - watching pilots picked up their gliders and left!

Kath had several flights - no problems with the turbulence as always. High Edge is always rough/thermic due to big quarry 1km or so in front - a bit like Codden?

Re possible "step up" glider options for a local "new to Nationals" pilot I had a interesting quote from someone who's judgement is probably as good as any - "The Spear is slow and the Vertex is a bit of a non-starter, plus it sometimes bites both legs. Firebird consistently produce iffy gliders, so I would give them a miss. I would go for the Sigma as you will have loads of fun without the grey hairs."

Sounds like you should have got to Ilfracombe! Can't let that Paramotor pilot get there first!

**From Mark Aplin (17/10/98)**

10 mins or so at Bell - very windy & didn't make a lot of turns. Sky clearing & getting a little thermic. Landing for the map - then picked up - "far too strong" HGs having a good time when we left.

4.00pm departed on cycle ride - could see lots of HGs in the air at Westy. 4.45pm arrived by bike at Westy take off apparently it has been dropping off - but still seems pretty strong.

Tim P takesoff with no trouble on his Omega 4 - set off on high speed cycle home. Back at the hill by 5.10. Get KC into the air. I am then last PG on takeoff and the wind is getting strong again - get pushed back on my first effort to build wall - second try OK so I pull it up for my strongest wind launch to date - all OK. Plenty of lift about & a bit bumpy as thermic lift came thro'. Top landed in the back field (a first).

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**From Harriett (17/10/98)**

Jeff, Mark (both flying supine in PG harness on Rumour), Brett (pushed it too far and went down), Jordans and A.N. Other on Xtralite at Woolacombe. Also John Panter (but too strong for PGs). John F - why didn't you take your Calypso along?

Gerry, Martyn H, Phil F and myself at Bossington - up to 1600ft ato - ridge lift, sea thermals and wave, 25mph on take off. Phil flew to the far side of the water where the Porlock bottom landing used to be and got back 500ft below take off! Nick - you should have taken your SX3 out somewhere - you might even have enjoyed it!

**FIRST AID COURSE**

Movement from Red Cross at last. When I first suggested a day rather than multiple evenings, I was thinking of a week day as an option to speed it up. They aint so amenable to weekend working, I know the feeling! Their first available Saturday is 19th Dec!!!! BUT they are available Fri 20th Nov or Mon 30th. **Phil**

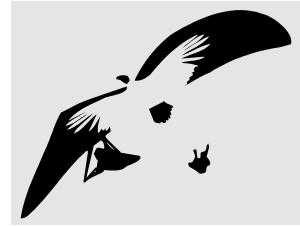
**LANZAROTE 1999**

Simon and I are going to Lanzarote from January 7th - 14th 1999. At the time of writing (October 21st) there are only 8 seats left on the flight. If anyone else would like to come with us, let me know asap (preferably 2 or more for apartment sharing as Simon and I will have one to ourselves). First come, first served, and of course I cannot guarantee flight availability.

**Harriet (tel: 01823 601202)**

The makers of the TV programmes "Changing Rooms" and "Ground Force" have asked the BHPA if any of its members would be interested in having a room in their house transformed for a new TV series, "**Fantasy Rooms**". Anyone interested should contact Jennie at head office on 0116 261 1322 for more information.

# FLYING DIARY OCTOBER



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15th Bossington      AT- MB- DJ-BJ flew in glorious weather

18th Nant-y-moel      MA demo's Sigma 3 with wind off to S



# Bits & Pieces



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**Trophies** should be returned by the December club night and nominations are needed for the Rocket Ron trophy for services rendered. We are probably having the Christmas do in the New Year sometime instead of in December.

A pathetic edition of Airheads but without the copy I can't produce more. My ramblings are becoming very boring.

A dreadful month. I had two extremely good flights at North Hill and Branscombe. Not much for a lot of effort, however at least it wasn't my car that failed to deliver **HP** to Bossie on Sunday. If you don't know **Simon**, you will recognise him from his cauliflower ear! Brett W, Jeff, Martin H, and Mark H (supine) flew in strong and gusty conditions.

**Robin Brown** has just returned with his gang from Turkey. Three new CP's and 11 days flying out of 14. **Eddie** is at present out in Spain, probably having epic conditions.

**Nigel Winchester** is flying again and was at Branscombe on Sunday 18th, where the thermals gave us perfect conditions.

**Alan** (Mark L's brother -in-law) had two good flights but only flew his canopy onto the top landing field on the second one. Alan stayed behind the big hedge and spent many jolly minutes disentangling himself, assisted by Derek Bridson.

I have received a whisper that HP is campaigning for the Chairmanship of the BHPA. There are some obvious jokes I will resist. Use your voting slips and select the new exec members. I agree with Simon that a keen HG person is important for us all, especially someone keen to do something about the training situation. I disagree with HP that Benet Allan is the man. The National Sites Guide is a shambles, showing a lot of illdirected effort in a flawed concept. Paul Dancey is the guy behind The Blorenge Appeal. Paul and Davy Smyth will get my votes. All this politics shows how good the flying's been, but the sport needs a shake up and if we don't support those who are prepared to try, they will stop.

**There is a strong possibility that we may lose the Blackbird. Keep in touch about the December meeting.**

## 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	Jamie Lee-Smith	20 Pintail Road, Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset TA24 6UJ	01643 706438
PG Safety & Training	Tim Crundwell	88 Old Church Rd, Uphill, Weston-s-Mare, N.Somerset BS23 4XL	01934 644186
HG XC Claims	Harriet Pottinger	Ivydene, Smeatharpe, Honiton, Devon, EX14 9RF	01823 601202
PG XC Claims	Mark Aplin	18 Shepherds Mead, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, WILTS, BA13 4DX, Mobile 0966 542172	01373 864918
Mid-week flying			0800 515544
Airheads	John Fielder	43 Highdale Road, Clevedon, N. Somerset, BS21 7LR	01275 343927
	Mobile 07970 629551	Email: 100774.1650@compuserve.com	Fax 01275 341241



Articles sent on computer disk are helpful and time saving, Word for Windows, Ami Pro, or text format if possible. If not jot it down and sent it in, on an e-mail if possible. **THE DEADLINE** for copy is the **LAST FRIDAY** in the month. **LATE ARTICLES** may be moved to the following month.

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