

FEBRUARY 1975

EDITORIAL

Before Martin Hunt shook the dust of the SHGC out of his wings, he passed over the nucleus of a scheme to let all members have ready access to information about sites.

You will find the centre section of this issue is designed to be taken out of the magazine and kept for use in the future. If you follow the instructions printed on the back of the centre section, you will find halfway through that you have covered up the instructions so do make a note of them first!

Future issues of Windsock will contain removable sections which, taken together, will build up into a booklet on sites.

SITE WARDENS

Devil's Dyke - Tom Knight - Partridge Green 710084
Ditchling - Johnny Carr - Burgess Hill 42324
Firle -
Mill Hill - Geoff Shine - Rogate 46688
Steyping - John Malin - Steyping 812376

NOSEPLATES

We have now circulated all outstanding noseplates. If you have not received yours, please let Jill Handley know.

SCRUTINEERING

Originally, we planned to issue noseplates only when the glider had been scrutineered but the Club has grown so fast that this is no longer practicable.

If you have not been scrutineered. please approach Miles Handley, Stephen Goad or Geoff Shine next time you are flying and ask them to check out your machine.

FORTHCOMING VISIT

Ken Messenger is planning to visit our Club in the near future to fly with us during the day and, if we can organise a suitable hall, he will be very happy to show us the film of his recent flights from a hot air balloon. You may have heard of these flights, one from 8000 ft and the other from a world record height of 12,700 ft - the film was taken from another balloon.

It is suggested that the film is shown immediately flying stops (i.e. when it gets dark) and that we then adjourn to a local pub for a pint and a chat. Suggested dates are Saturday, 1 March or 8 March Has anyone any ideas where we could show the film? Will anyone offer to book such accommodation?

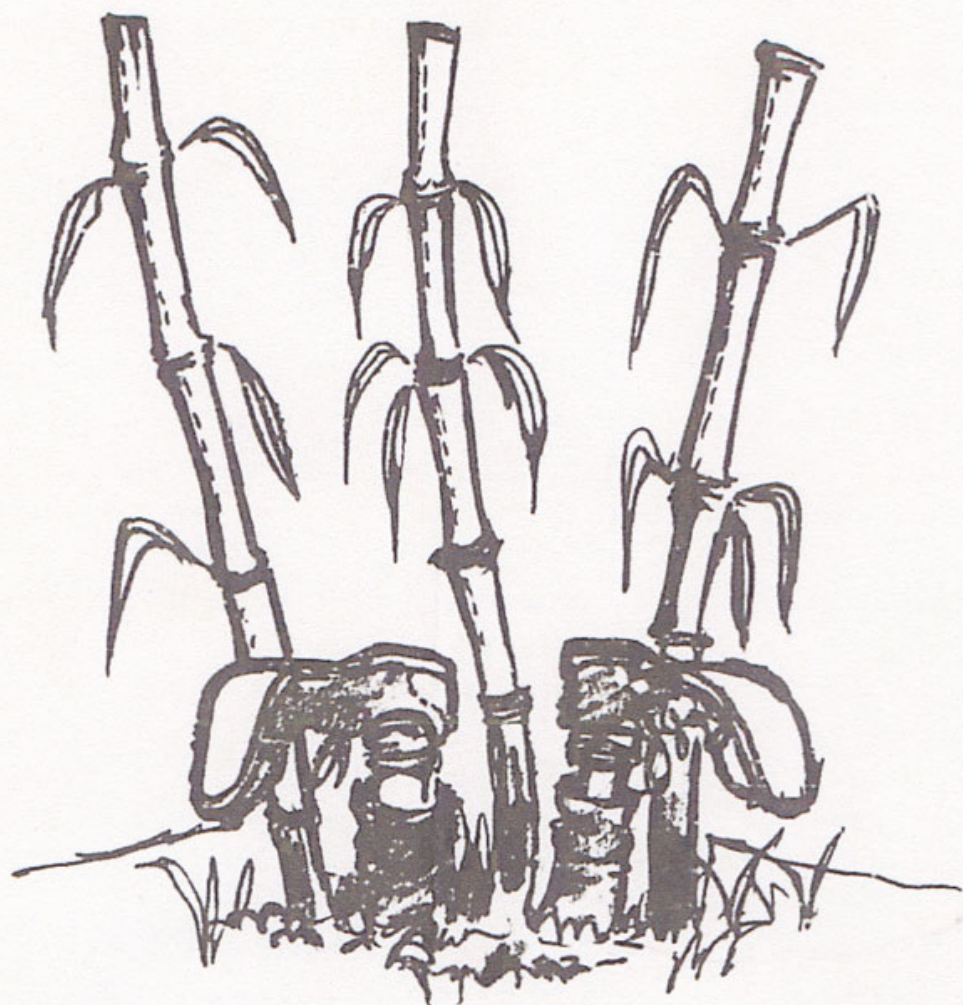
BIRTHS

In view of all the questions we have been asked since last March, we are pleased to announce the arrival on 28 December (9 months' gestation!) of our Siamese Skyhook. It is 1.07 times bigger than the original white Skyhook used in the Getaway programme, that is, 247 sq ft.

Seriously, if you build a glider yourself do get Miles or someone he recommends to scrutineer your machine thoroughly before you first fly it He can then help you organise suitable insurance cover.

You are also urged to obtain a copy of the Safety Standard for the Rogallo Sail Wing available price 24p from British Hang Glider Manufacturers' Federation, 12 Manor Court Drive, Horfield Common, Bristol BS7 OXF. Although of interest of all flyers, it is particularly useful to home-builders.

JILL HANDLEY



Here lies the body of Roger Boles
Who built his wing from bamboo poles.
He didn't know that bamboo "split"
Now the bamboo sprouts
Where Roger hit.

TONY VINCENT

YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT ON PROGRESS OF BHGA

Important: All membership applications and enquiries relating to membership should now be sent to British Hang Gliding Association, Monksilver, Taunton, Somerset. Please do not, repeat not, send me your subscriptions.

The BHGA meeting on Sunday 19 January covered an enormous range of subjects. The following is an extract of the most important points.

1 Reggie Spooner is now the official Insurance Broker for the BHGA. He has done an enormous amount of work for the sport and obtains the best rates possible.

2 The Scots have broken away from the BHGA because they can obtain favourable grants from the Scottish Sports Council if they are independent. However, the area rep for the BHGA existing Scottish members and the delegate to the BHGA for the Scottish Sailwing Association is the same person. The idea being to retain close links with our Scottish brothers.

3 Clubs are going to be registered as member clubs or affiliated clubs. The exact details are still a bit cloudy on this one - at any rate the SHGC is clearly a full member club

4 Manufacturers are not to be asked to pay a special subscription.

5 A preliminary set of standards for Schools has now been approved by the BHGA For insurance purposes. Schools will find it advantageous to work within the BHGA framework (It's a pity more schools didn't tell me what they wanted.)

6 BHGA has agreed on the principle of sponsorship and will be looking for one to get a British event off the ground at the Spring Bank Holiday

7 BHGA symbol, namestyle and club colours have been approved (designed by me) and you will shortly be seeing membership cards, stickers badges, etc

8 World Championship. BHGA Council has decided to arrange sponsorship if possible for a British team to go to Kossen. Nothing has been tied up yet, indeed we may not be able to find a sponsor. However, a provisional list of nominations from our Club has been drawn up, as follows -

Tony Beresford	Robin Haynes
Derek Bond	John Ievers
Johnny Carr	Eric Short
Peter Day	Ray Sigrist
Martin Farnham	Ferenc Tarjanyi Jnr
Brian Gaskin	Brian Wood
Ian Grayland	Eric Woods
Miles Handley	David Worth

There will be a fly-off down at Rhossilli on Saturday, 1 February. Briefing will start at 10 a m, probably in the car park behind the pub. The fly-off events will be, weather permitting, a slalom with spot landing and a soaring race. If any of the nominations cannot go to Kossen as part of the British Team on 12 - 22 March (both dates inclusive) please do not compete in the fly-off - you will only confuse the issue.

I am aware that the selection procedure for nominations is not perfect, but I hope no one will be too offended with being left out.

MARK WOODHAMS (SE REP AND BAR)

ADVERTISING
RATES
ON
APPLICATION

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The last issue of WINDSOCK contained a brief note to the effect that I'd been co-opted onto the BHGA committee specifically to look after public relations.

This is a very vague function at present, since, until the BHGA gets it all together and starts actually doing things, there will be little need for positive P R. Nevertheless, there is always a need for someone who can be reached easily by the media for comments about hang gliding and who can help the smaller clubs with their approaches to landowners and Councils. Hence me, basically because my office is handy for Fleet Street

Basically, of course, "public relations" means just that. You are every bit as much of a public relations officer for hang gliding as I am, every time you step onto a hill. While the BHGA is in embryo, and until the sport gets to be accepted and understood (which will be a long, slow process) we are at the mercy of the sensation-seekers and the misinformed. This is why I would ask everyone to be very careful in their dealings with the general public at all times.

Most hang gliders are used to the millions of inane questions which the public fires at you when they see a flier on a hill. Most of us are able to deal diplomatically with nervous horse riders small boys and dogs who think "Pilot's leg" is tastier than Pedigree Chum Some of us can even deal with mad old ladies with Ordnance Survey maps who follow the marked footpath through the take-off zone looking neither to right nor left.... and then complain because a glider flies over the top of them with 100 yards clearance, or because you nasty evil boys excited my Fido by making him run down the hill after you.....

Some of us can't and it is to these I'm talking. For God's sake be careful. Keep a rein on your temper no matter who you're talking to. That little girl on the big, wild-eyed horse who just bolted when you rigged up may be the daughter of the local J.P. The mad old lady could just be a favourite letter-writer to the local press.

PUBLIC RELATIONS (continued)

Cheap cracks, wiseguy answers, obstructionism, rudeness and general uncivilised behaviour could lose us most of our good sites.

And one accident involving a member of the public could really drop us in it. People will stand any amount of pain as long as it's not them suffering. This is why the BHGA - your BHGA - is working itself to death trying to agree Safety Standards and generally win acceptance for the sport. It all has to be done very quickly, before the inevitable happens and some lunatic stuffs it into a barbed-wire fence or a power line just as a TV outside broadcast camera goes by....

And this brings me to my next point - which is - WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON! If you talk to anyone on a hill who's doing a feature for the "Daily Mirror", or the local rag or taking film for "Nationwide" (or even "Coronation Street"), please let me know. As time goes by we will be building up contacts with the media so that we know who to contact but, at present, we're just getting started.

All I want is a phone call - if you can get the guy's name and phone number, just ring me at 01 405 3266 (work) or 01 500 8650 (home) and I will take it from there. Similarly, if you spot any interesting articles in your local paper about the sport - just cut it out and post it to the BHGA - we can send it back if you wish.

Be very careful about television. We are particularly interested in TV, since the possibility of people making clowns of themselves is high. TV programmes on hang gliding fall into two categories - the serious documentary approach - this is what they do, here's how you get started, its risky but fun sort of approach and the sensational look-at-these-loonies-jumping-off-cliffs-and-frightening-the-horses-without-any-regard-for-the-public's-safety type of thing. Also, news programmes in particular tend to get edited. This means that you can spend 20 minutes talking about safety, 3 minutes about danger and guess which bit gets transmitted?

PUBLIC RELATIONS (continued)

This is why we'd like to know about your contacts with the media. Also, for all of you out there who are journalists, who know journalists, are married to television producers or are very good friends with famous people (particularly beautiful women or Royalty) who might like to try hang gliding with the photographers conveniently at hand - just let me know, eh?

In addition, BHGA and the Southern HGC desperately need advice from Doctors and Lawyers, particularly specialists in aviation law and we've got no money to pay for it. So, if you've got any ideas ... wink, wink, nudge, nudge, know what I mean? We would at least like to know what we can muster in the way of this sort of help if the time comes.

Keep on aviatin'

TONY FUELL



MILL HILL

There will be a full site report next month for the pull-out supplement but the following cannot wait that long.

First, the facts. This site is still very much in the balance as far as our negotiations with the Council are concerned although the full Council did go in our favour and refer the matter back to their Committee. The local opposition appears to have increased and any opportunity for these people to gain ground from any mistakes on the part of our members will not, I assure you, go un-noticed by them at any time.

There is a new problem which is becoming evident and that is one of soil erosion on the face of the hill. In this, you can help by trying not to follow everybody else up the same track. Use a different route every time if possible and you will find it easier not walking on the muddy patches.

Mr Plumb has recently placed in the paddock at the base of the hill 2 young foals who do not seem disturbed by the gliders and he has given the o.k. to fly over them. Do ensure that they do not become spooked and there is absolutely no excuse to take them for ponies for whom the no-flying rule still applies.

Mr Plumb has been very helpful with respect to the ponies and has, at times allowed us to move them for him, giving some members a completely new look at the unusual skills to be obtained in the sport of hang gliding. (Except for Miles Handley of course who, not sure of their safety aspect, kept at a discreet distance until they were tethered.) (Miles says it is all lies! Ed.)

To be continued in the next issue - GEOFF SHINE
SITE WARDEN
MILL HILL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wembley. Middlesex

12 January 1975

Dear Jill

With reference to the subject of overhanging loads, I would be grateful if you could point out to other members, via Windssock, that "a bit of gaily-coloured bunting" is not necessarily considered to make the kite visible at night. I was stopped by the Police on the M1 a couple of months ago and informed that the projection must be clearly visible at night which, generally, means a red tail light or at least a reflector on any projection over 3 ft.

Yours sincerely, Stephen Barber

Sunnyside Northampton

Dear Jill

I am writing on behalf of myself and our local Club members thanking you for sending us Windssock.

I am pleased to see things are going well for you.

In the future, I hope to write to you in more length but I am still trying to get our local Club "off the ground" - which we seem to be doing at the moment. Also, in the near future, I hope to be able to send you our local magazine and will forward this as soon as it is in print.

Please let us know if we can help the SHGC in any way. Once again thanking you

Yours sincerely John Sharp
Chairman
EOT Members, Northampton

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Please look at the date on your noseplate and, if your subscription is expiring, send the renewal without waiting for a reminder. If you are not renewing, we will appreciate a note of this and please return the noseplate as these cost money.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you move, please let Jill Handley know so the records may be kept up to date.

MILL HILL RULES

Sorry, in my hurry to get the last Windsock off to the printers, I left out the most important rule -

RULE 12 Before any flying takes place at Mill Hill on any day, telephone Air Traffic Control, Shoreham Airport, Shoreham 2303, to ask for permission to fly.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS SINCE 27.12.74

D Cassell	John Nixon
Reg Ford	Chris Simpson
David Goepel	Richard Sweet*
Ian Grayland	Guy Twiss
John Malin (x 2)	Stephen Urand


Associates

David Beavis; D D Robertson; Richard Walker

*representing Captain Birdseye's Flying Circus

CORRESPONDENCE, SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS, ARTICLES, CARTOONS
ETC. TO

Jill Handley Mallows, Forest Drive, Kingswood
Tadworth, Surrey



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HSC — Radio-controlled Hang Glider School *
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HSC — is a Member of the British Hang Glider Manufacturers Federation
HSC — is a Member of the Hang Glider Manufacturers Association of America

HAWKSWORTH

the Skysport Centre

18 Coombe Terrace, Brighton, Sussex, BN2 4AD, UK.
Telephone: 0273 693848

*The Brian Wood International School Of Hang Gliding---Senior Instructor---
-----Brian Wood---U.K. & International Champion & holder of the 8½hr., record.