



KHPA BULLETIN



Kernow Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association

August 2003

IMPORTANT NOTICE !

URGENT NOTICE.

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING.

Please note the club meeting is postponed for one week and will be held on Monday 15th September. Quite a few members will be away flying a competition on the usual day for the club meeting. The late notice is regretted but I hope we will have a good turnout for this meeting.

See you there. Alan the Secretary.

This month saw more Hang Gliding Competition flying, with an enthusiastic team of Kernow pilots and supporters heading off up to Crickhowell in South East Wales over the August Bank Holiday to take part in the finals of the British Clubs Challenge. As ever, the true Kernow spirit shone through and the team did really well again, returning to Cornwall with more shiny medals ! Read on to find out just how Kernow got on ! ☺☺

Dates for your Diary...

Friday 5th September to Tuesday 9th September – British Hang Gliding Series Competition

The final leg of the British Hang Gliding Series is to take place in Mid Wales. Contact Steve Hawken or Graham Phipps for further details.

The British Clubs Challenge – Hang Gliding Finals

With a good forecast for the weekend, lots of Kernow pilots decided to travel up early and try and get a day's flying in on the Friday before the comp started on the Saturday. The Early birds consisted of Pete & Angie Coad, Paul Howse and Gay Jones, Patrick Buxton, Tim Jones and Vicki Ferguson.

Day 1

Graham Phipps and myself arrived at 9.30 on Saturday morning just in time to put up our tents and load our gliders onto Patrick's car to keep the number of vehicles going up Merthyr down to a minimum. When we arrived, there was a reasonable breeze coming up the front and the day looked promising. The briefing for the day took place and a task of open distance with 1000 points for the winner and with a percentage of the 1000 for everyone else pro rata.

Once some gliders had taken off and were easily soaring and gaining height, Pete took off followed shortly by Graham and myself. Patrick and Tim were soon up trying to make the most of it. Pete, Graham and myself, eventually found the thermal that we wanted to get to cloudbase and drifted with this over the valley. Although Patrick had been thermaling well, he missed the gaggle and went back to the front to try and get the next one but unfortunately did not find anything and had to top land as well as Tim.

Graham was the first to break the gaggle, and glided off into the distance in search of a thermal. When I saw him circling, I also headed off, thinking that Graham had found one, but it was not be, and we both landed in the same Industrial Estate at Oakdale for 12k with Pete just short of us.

With only 3 scores the pilots back on the ridge decided that Tim needed to take off again and fly down the valley to try and get a few more k, which he dutifully did, which helped our team score for the day.

Derbyshire were in the lead, but we were only approx 800 points off.

Day 2

Up the Bloreng, much to the dismay of the Paragliders, who were already there, but then moved onto Pandy.

Again the task was open distance and for the most part gliders were able to soar, but the lift was coming through in cycles. Some early attempts were made at gliding south down the valley to try and get more than the 5k minimum scoring distance. Patrick was of the first Kernow pilots into the air and was climbing well with Justin Needham. They both got to Cloudbase, and headed along the valley, eventually landing near Brecon. Tim also headed this way, but did not get quite so far. I was a few minutes behind Patrick getting to Cloudbase and did not see where they had gone so I drifted down wind over the valleys with and was losing height but managed to get onto ridge behind Nantyglo hoping for a thermal out of the valley. I kept going along the slope and eventually saw a group of birds thermaling and headed for them. By the time I had got there it was still working and I managed to gain a few hundred feet. With the landing options at the end of the valley not looking promising, I headed back up towards the heads of the valley road in the hope of finding something

else. Half way along I found a cracking thermal and started drifting over the back with it as I was sure it would give me the height to make it to the next valley. However I fell out of the bottom and found that when I tried to pull forward to land on the top of the hill, I got drilled down and crashed on the lee side of the hill. A couple of uprights destroyed as well as a cut nose and bitten tongue.

Pete had also headed in this direction, and when I phoned him with my co-ordinates, it was not long before Pete and Angie had come to help me down the hill.

Meanwhile, Paul and Vicki had been flying and both went into the bottom Landing field at Castle Meadows. Vicki unfortunately had a hard landing and although not damaging the glider, suffered a fractured arm.

Graham had had to top land at the Blorenge as his trimmer became stuck as soon as he pulled it on, and after sorting this out and taking off again the thermals did not work as well. Graham had a good 3 hours of soaring the Blorenge in the hope of something kicking off but had to opt for Castle Meadows as well.

S E Wales had a good day and went into the lead.

Day 3

Up to Pandy. Again open distance. With the team down to 5, Patrick and myself decided to fly up towards Hay Bluff, and both Managed to get to cloudbase. I went first and flew out into the valley, making the most of any little bits of lift in the hope of getting to the rising ground the other side of the river. I made it but there were no thermals to be had and all I could do was drift up the valley and land by Llangoed Hall for 26k. Patrick came later and landed a couple k short of me at Llyswen near the bend in the river.

Graham, Pete and Tim had decided to take a different route and go straight over the back from Pandy. Tim landed near Crickhowell, but Graham and Pete made it to the hill behind and climbed out to continue their flight into the Valleys. Landing together and each making 25k approx.

The South East Wales Club won. With Kernow taking 2nd Place and Derbyshire 3rd.

Thanks to all Kernow members who attended and helped with the retrieves and lets hope Vicki mends quickly so that she can get flying again early next year.

Steve Hawken.

✉ Please send any news stories via email to :
catherine@hawken.f9.co.uk
or alternatively by post to :
"Cranleigh" St, Georges Hill, Perranporth, Cornwall, TR6 0DZ.

Look forward to hearing from you ! 😊

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING OF THE
KERNOW HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING ASSOCIATION
AT THE CLINTON SOCIAL CLUB ON 11th AUGUST 2003**

Pete in the chair welcomed members and two new members Michael and Phil.

Apologies for Absence were received from Geof Easthope, Pressure of work!

Minutes of the last meeting were read approved and signed.

Matters Arising.

Training. HG Graham reported a cracking day at Perran'. Three students are nearly CPC ready, two of them locals.

PG Mark told us that Phil has made it Club Pilot and he has another CP and an EP near.

Insurance. Graham outlined the affects of the new BHPA insurance effective from 1st Sept.

Competitions. Patrick said that Kernow are "probably through to the BCC finals. If so we have a goods list of pilots to make a team for the competition over the August Bank Holiday weekend in SE Wales. Steve told us that the following weekend will be the last comp' in the British Hang Gliding Series and will be flown in Mid Wales.

Incidents. Ever one to put others first, Phippsie told us sad news of Len Hull who is in hospital seriously hurt after a crash. Then we had his version of his own incident when he "flat packed" his Talon taking off from the south face of Charbre. A lot of glider damage but the pilot unscathed. Pete took up the story saying that in spite of this setback occurring on a high scoring day Phippsie borrowed a glider and went on to finished well place in the comp' and the series.

The paragliders reported a spectacular partial canopy collapse luckily with no crash.

The fees to be paid for XC league entries were discussed and comments are awaited.

Members asked if our web site can provide links to the League and other competition web pages.

Alan will take this up with John the web master.

Social Events. Graham announced a club Barbecue at Perran on the beach below launch next Saturday starting about 6.30. A number of members will bring barbecues. Members to bring their own food and drink.

A Paint Ball event is planned for September.

Other Business.

Carbis Bay Site. Roger reported on his findings after members had been turned away from the site by security people. The fields are being used in connection with the balloon record attempt. Members agreed we should keep away from the area until the attempt had been made or cancelled.

Perran Site. Pete said he had learned that paragliders had flown over the military training area when the red flag was flying. This is contrary to site rules and must stop.

Smart Group for KHPA. In response to members requests for a way of posting photographs for members to view without having to send them to the web master, Alan suggested a KHPA Smart Group and asked if any member had experience of how the smart groups worked. It was decided that the idea be referred to the web master.

Club Officers. As announced in the Bulletin, we need a new Treasurer to be elected at the next AGM. Alan the secretary said that he too wished to make way for a younger fresher person and suggested that someone should understudy him for the rest of this year ready to take over in 2004. Alan promised his continued help to a new secretary. A new Editor for the Bulletin will also be needed. Pete in the Chair said how important it is that the Association should have proper officers and said that the SE Wales Club is experiencing grave difficulty because members will not fill these offices.