

VGC News

No. 120 Spring 2007



30 Years on - the 4th International Rally

Rally 'Dununder'

Higher launches? - A tale of two hooks

Air Test - the Rhönselger Ka-6

International News



<http://www.vintagegliderclub.org>

Objectives of the Vintage Glider Club

To promote the international preservation, restoration and flying of historical and vintage gliders; to collect, preserve and publish information about the above; to locate and preserve documents and artifacts connected with gliding; to co-operate and negotiate with government bodies and other interested organisations to ensure that members' best interests are protected; and generally to do all such acts as may be conducive to the objectives of the Vintage Glider Club being met.

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Front cover: Klaus Schickling's T21.
Photo: Elia Passerini, member 2588 from Siena in Italy. Taken at the VGC International Rally in Angoulême, 2006.

Back Cover: 'Memories of the Air Training Corps'. Al Stacey's collection of Slingsby Trainers finished in ATC colours. Photo: Al Stacey

Notice to all members

The Rally Secretary is Graham Saw.
Please forward details of any vintage glider rallies you may be planning to:
e-mail:
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Wanted

Vertical Format Coloured Prints of vintage gliders if possible, in flight, for the **future covers of VGC News**. PLEASE send them to the *VGC News Editor*
Margaret Shrimpton:- "Fairfields",
Fosse Road, Oakhill, Somerset BA 3 5HU.
Photos will be returned.

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VGC News

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VGC Rules are available in English, French & German. See www.vintagegliderclub.org
Hard copies available from Secretary.

Membership news

From the Membership Secretary

The life of the Membership Secretary is clearly not an easy one! A new system often brings its own teething problems and the new VGC interactive database has been no exception.... Nevertheless the outlook is promising. The evidence is that more members are now accessing the Members only 'VGC interactive' section of the VGC main Website. Not only can individual members check (and update) their membership details, but in addition a wealth of information and photographs can be accessed and are continually being

CLUB NEWS

Chairmans address

Welcome to a new season marked by some very warm weather for the time of year, which we are told are the effects of 'Global warming'. However, the start of this year is more likely to be remembered for the unusually heavy rainfall making any attempt at flying difficult due to widespread flooding and waterlogged surfaces that even grounded the airlines temporarily.

Apologies to anyone who has had difficulty with renewing their membership and "thank you" to Nick Newton and the team involved in setting up the new system.

We look forward to the coming year knowing that the summer will see us once again in Eastern Europe in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Last time we visited these countries we were overwhelmed by the hospitality and for those who look forward to new experiences the historic city of Nitra is well worth the visit. However we also know that once again, Tesco will have got there before us!

Nitra has been host to several international gliding competitions so the camping facilities will be excellent with modern amenities and opportunities for tennis or simply 'cooling off' in the swimming pool.

On the business front, and due to an earlier decision taken by the committee as a response to the outcome of last years AGM, the committee met to re-affirm the objectives of the Club, confirm that the committee is acting in pursuance of those objectives, agree that the rules of the VGC are commensurate with those objectives and to assure the officers of the Club that they are protected from unfair litigation.

The legal advice received to date has recommended that the VGC should become a "Company Limited by Guarantee" (CLG) in order to protect both the Club and its Officers if a claim were to be brought against it.

Whilst confirming that the existing rules would be compatible with this fundamental change it was also felt that the Club may benefit from a full review of the rules and recommendations on whether the rules could be improved to help the Club achieve its objectives.

In consultation with the BGA (British Gliding Association) it was agreed that we could have the services of the BGA Development Officer, Alison Randle, to work with and review the impact on the current VGC rules if we were to become a CLG. A huge "thanks" to Alison for her time and patience in helping the committee to tackle these issues.

The VGC Rules are available in English and German, the French translation is now in hand and all will be available on the VGC website hopefully by the time you read this. Should there be any proposed changes as a result of becoming a CLG these will be distributed to members via a mailshot.

With regard to EASA, we are pleased to report that Sir John Allison, President of European Air Sports the body through which Europe-wide recreational and sporting aviation organisations have access to the European Commission, has accepted an invitation to attend our committee meeting next month. Sir John is a member of the VGC and glider pilot and we will be raising our concerns regarding EASA with him.

And so, the time for National Rallies and local meetings is upon us giving us the opportunity to meet again. For us in the UK, I am looking forward to the UK national rally at Southdown and I hope all members individually enjoy their meetings wherever they are before we meet again during our next great adventure in Eastern Europe.

David Shrimpton Chairman

updated. Remember, to access the 'VGC Interactive' section you just need to know your VGC membership number (to be found on your membership card) - enter this as your 'username', and if you do not know your password, this can be requested by e-Mail and will be sent automatically to your registered e-Mail address.

The secure PayPal system, which is

now our preferred individual payment method, has proved popular, with many members renewing their membership for 2007 by this means. The advantages are that the membership fee (in £ sterling) goes automatically straight into the VGC Bank account, without the need for entering a large number of individual credit card details by hand (mine!) and the associated paperwork at the

bank is avoided. This is not only much quicker, but is also more secure, and avoids the possibility of error. Although initially some members appear to have experienced difficulties, we believe that many of the problems have now been resolved with the expert assistance of the VGC webmaster, Robin Wilgoss, for which I am indebted.

For those of you who have kindly shown your patience and understanding over this difficult introductory period, I would like to express my gratitude. The backlog of membership renewals is being addressed as fast as possible, and no one who has attempted to renew should have missed out on this copy of the VGC News!

Nick Newton
(memsec@vintagegliderclub.org)

From the Treasurer

I am very pleased to say that "membership renewal" via "Paypal" has proved very efficient and popular.

I hope those who used this system also found it simple and effective; perhaps during 2007 others will investigate Paypal and give it a try next year. Thank you to those of you who spotted the small increase in subscriptions and fees and paid the correct amount. Most members who pay by Standing Order have not changed to the new subscription amount and therefore The Club is short by the £2 per person.....it would be appreciated if a balance cheque is forthcoming please.

To those of you who intend to renew

but have let it slip so far I hope you will take action and get your subscription off to Nick Newton (Membership Secretary) very soon.....after Nick's manic activity over the first 2 months of this year I fear he may be feeling a bit redundant now so let's try to make him wanted again !!

As always at this time of year, the financial position of The Club appears quite strong but with increasing expenses and the temporary loss of "Sales income" we might find ourselves somewhat stretched as the year progresses.

"The books" are closed now for the year 2006 and the balance sheets are virtually finalised ready for our accountant's audit.

Have a wonderful (safe) season and get to as many Rallies as you can, especially the Internationals !!

John Dredge

Annual Dinner Notice

The Vintage Glider Club Annual Dinner and Prize Giving will this year be held at 'The Aviator' Hotel, Sywell Airfield, Northamptonshire, on the 13th October 2007.

Tickets are £22:50 per person and can be obtained from:

Bruce Stephenson,
Napier House
201, Bridge End Road
Grantham
NG31 7HA

Email: stephensons@talktalk.net

The menu is reprinted here. Please indicate your choice of menu and any dietary preferences (eg Vegetarian option) when reserving your tickets.

Accommodation

We have negotiated a special weekend rate for rooms at the Aviator Hotel. They are: £59:00 for a Double Room, £80:00 for a Twin room and £85:00 for a single room. Breakfast is an English Buffet at £5:00 per person. Please contact the Hotel direct for accommodation reservations on Wellingborough Rd, Sywell, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN6 0BT. Tel: 01604 642111.

Starters

Choice of Soup.



Course Chicken Terrine:

Sliced Chicken terrine with Peppers, finished with a Sweet Chilli
Red Onion Compote



Oven Baked Goats cheese:

Goats Cheese baked with Sun-blushed tomatoes, wrapped in filo pastry.
Finished with Pesto Sauce



Sardine Bake:

Sardines sat on Ratatouille with puff pastry case. Finished on a bed of crispy rocket leaves.

Mains

Fillet Medallions:

Fillet Medallions stuffed with a Mushroom Duxelle, Finished with a wild Mushroom sauce



Lamb Shank:

Lamb shank cooked slowly, sat on Horseradish mash. Finished with Rosemary Jus



Pan-fried Tuna:

Tuna steak served with Cajun Prawn cream sauce.



Vegetarian option available. All dishes are served with seasonal Vegetables & roasted Potatoes.

Membership Fees for 2007

For 2007, membership subs for UK and Europe will be increased to £22 (or Eu 33) and £23 non Europe. Credit card transactions carry an extra £2 (Eu 3) rather than the £1 previously. Members who pay by standing order must make the change at their bank.

John Dredge, VGC Treasurer

ERRATA

ERROR (1) in VGC NEWS, No. 119, Winter 2006. Page 43 concerning the New Zealand WEIHE BGA 1230. After damage to its rear fuselage below the tailplane (before sternpost), during an out landing in a corn field, its German built fuselage was not repaired. It was fitted with the fuselage from a Swedish built JS WEIHE (not a German built Weihe's fuselage), which was probably built during the same year (1943) in Sweden, as BGA 1230 was in Germany. BGA 1230's wings and tailplane are still German, not Swedish.

ERROR 2 in VGC NEWS No.119. Page 37 SWEDEN. This concerns the placing of ballast in the tail of the Kranich 2B-1 SE-STN to correct nose heaviness. "A small steel tube loaded with lead was inserted in to the base of the rudder's leading edge ". This was a misunderstanding and **MUST NEVER BE DONE**. The weight may have been inserted into the fuselage's cavity below the tailplane but, as this is where the elevator coupling is, the Swedes should be asked exactly how this was done.

COMMENT from CW. On Page 42 of VGC119. Apologies for getting Black Diamond's colour wrong. There was another Grunau Baby 2 at Kidlington belonging to the CFI and this one was very smart. This was in 1953 and CW's memory of what was for him an exciting days gliding, has faded. On the right of "Black Diamond" taking off from Camphill is the famous KASSEL HERKULES two seater which came to England in 1931(?) and took part in the Lyons Tea Meetings and gained the first British two seater distance record in 1934, when flown from Dunstable by Eric Collins with the German passenger Exner. One wonders what happened to this famous glider. Was it swallowed up by the military during the war?

In VGC119, we credited the photographs of the International Rendezvous and Rally to Christian Ravel. I now note that in his covering letter allowing us to reprint those photographs, he mentioned that the credit should go to 'Musée Régional de l'Air - Angers'. My apologies, Christian, and many thanks for the excellent photos - Ed.

The photographs for the 2006 Slingsby Ralley at Sutton Bank were incorrectly credited. Many thanks goes to Caroline Coates who took them and sent them in to VGC News.

Diary Dates for 2007/2008

Saturday 26th May to Friday 1st June . UK National Rally, Southdown Gliding Club. Ridge & Thermal site near Pulborough, West Sussex.

Contacts: Southdown Gliding Club Office: 01903 742137, Rally co-ordinator, Andrew Jarvis ACJARVIS1@aol.com web page:www.sgc1.org

7th June - 10th June. 24th International Spatz Meeting 2007 at Weissenburg

contact: Thomas Hacker for info: www.spatz2007.sfv-wug.de

Friday 22nd June to Saturday 30th June but stay longer if you are enjoying yourself !

details from the Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club, Camphill Farm, Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 8RQ. telephone 01298 871 270 or email dlgc@gliding.u-net.com or http://www.dlgc.org.uk, Rob Faulkner.

STOP PRESS !!

30th June to 1st July Whispering Wardrobes Rally

at Booker is 30th June to 1st July. As security has been stepped up at Booker, there will be a strip-search on entering the airfield. Contact Graham Saw: graham@servotechnique.co.uk or 01628 776173.

25th Aug to 2nd Sept Slingsby Vintage Rally, Sutton Bank.

The main contact is the secretary at Sutton Bank enquiry@ygc.co.uk tel 01845 597237 or Phil Lazenby at philiplazenby@onetel.net

22th to 23th September 2007 4th VGC season's closing at Biberach Airfield, South Germany (EDMB)
Contact: Gere Tischler, Kanalstraße 13, D-88214 Ravensburg. Phone: +49 751 14281 (Home). Mail: gere.margit@gmx.de.

13th October 2007 VGC Annual Dinner and Prize Giving, The Aviator Hotel, Sywell Airfield, Northamptonshire.

Contact Bruce Stephenson email: stephensons@talktalk.net. See Club news for full details.

The following dates are taken from the OSC Wasserkuppe magazine.

19th - 22nd of April 2007
We are presenting the **Oldtimer Segelflug Club** at the AERO-Fair in riedrichshafen/Bodensee. We are at the Rhön-community stand.

4th - 6th May 2007

Traditional „Anfliegen“ (Fly break), this year with the special of our festive Event „25 years OSC-Wasserkuppe“ including our annual main meeting and with Pilot's Party on Saturday. Guests are welcome, please register at info@osc-wasserkuppe.de

23rd - 30th of May 2007

Flight Camp in Wels, Austria. Guests are welcome, please register at info@osc-wasserkuppe.de

30th of June - 7th of July

Our main-event this year! We do carry out **„Rhön Segelflug Wettbewerb“** according to our 25th anniversary and we invite SG-38 Pilots and their crews or other similar open gliders. We will have bungee launches and towing. Guests are welcome, information at www.osc-wasserkuppe.de

7th of July.

The anniversary party with all pilots, members, old and new fiends and guests who are interested to celebrate a hangar party at the traditional Wasserkuppe. Guests are welcome!

8th - 14th of July 2007

Our 1st week of SG-38 Flight event with rubber launches. Flight instructor: Peter Mühlhölzer. All information under „downloads“ at www.osc-wasserkuppe.de

25th - 26th of August 2007

We share the Event **„Taunus airfield“** of the LSC Bad Homburg with our SG-38 in Wernheim.

5th - 7th of October 2007

„Abfliegen“, Season's end, Guests are welcome, registration under info@osc-wasserkuppe.de.



Vintage Sailplane Association

Soaring from the past into the future! The Vintage Sailplane Association is dedicated to the preservation and flying of vintage and classic sailplanes. Members include modelers, historians, collectors, soaring veterans and enthusiasts from around the world.

Vintage sailplane meets are held several times each year. VSA publishes the quarterly newsletter Bungee Cord. Sample issues are US \$ 3.- Membership is US \$ 20 per year. For more information write to **Vintage Sailplane Association**

**1709 Baron Court
Daytona Beach FL 32128
USA**

www.vintagesailplane.org

