



EGU Newsletter 3/2012

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Editor: Robert Danewid robert.danewid@gmail.com

A note from the Editor

We plan to publish the next Newsletter in early December. If you have any information/news you would like to publish in the Newsletter, please mail the Editor.

A report from the President

At the start of the last EGU Newsletter, I reported briefly on a new initiative – sponsored by the EASA Management Board and instigated by Europe Air Sports and IAOPA – intended to review the overall approach to rule making for general aviation. The task force that was formed to progress the work has now reported back to the EASA Management Board.

The full details of its recommendations will, I believe, be available shortly. In essence, however, they are all aimed at ensuring that the regulatory environment applying to general aviation is characterised by:

- The development of rules that are necessary and presently lacking within the specific context of general aviation, and which do not unduly constrain existing, appropriately safe general aviation practices
- Rules that maintain an appropriate balance between actual cost/complexity of compliance and desired effect – the principle of proportionality
- The use, as far as is possible, of existing general aviation organisations and expertise in overseeing general aviation activities, thereby avoiding the creation of duplicate, potentially less effective, and more costly structures

By all accounts, the recommendations were well received by the EASA Management Board. There is, as a consequence, an increasing optimism that a new set of principles will emerge that will guide future rule-making activities. Just how fast things will change remains to be seen – inevitably, it will not as quick as we would like - but at least things appear to be going in the right direction. We will continue to monitor the situation and report back as appropriate.

Whilst much of the EGU's focus has been on regulatory developments, it is clear that there are other issues that are of common concern to gliding nations across Europe. It was for this reason that the EGU, with the agreement of its member associations, decided to create an initiative aimed at better understanding what issues European gliding has with participation levels, and what might be done pan-nationally to address them. Robert Danewid covers this topic later in the Newsletter.

We would now like to understand what the other main/critical issues are that individual nations are trying to deal with, and where you feel there might be value in discussing things pan-nationally. Initiatives of this sort have already emerged in one or two areas – for example, the Nordic region liaises closely on airworthiness, training and licensing matters. The EGU Board will be giving this broad subject some thought at its next meeting and we will be looking for you to provide us with feedback on our ideas shortly.

Finally, if you are like me then you may well have spent a considerable amount of time over the summer keeping a regular check on the World Gliding Championships in Uvalde, Texas. On reflection, there were three things that I remembered most from my many hours spent monitoring the progress of the event and, on a couple of occasions, individual tasks on the internet.

- The fantastic flying conditions that existed for much of the competition, giving rise to consistently big tasks and unimaginably fast speeds. It just goes to show that stamina needs to sit alongside skill and strategy if one is to be successful in competitive gliding.
- Europe has tremendous breadth and depth in talent. With 8 out of 9 podium places, and 14 of the remaining 21 top 10 positions, we acquitted ourselves extremely well. Congratulations to all of the pilots that took part, it was a truly inspiring spectacle.
- It was very interesting to see how the mix of communications channels was used – websites, blogs, Facebook pages were all used extensively and often in conjunction with each other.

As far as the last point above is concerned - perhaps the EGU should be re-thinking about how it communicates with its members and other stakeholders.

Let us have your thoughts on the matter – indeed, I'd very much welcome your thoughts on any matters that are important to you.

Have fun, stay safe.

Patrick

Proceedings from the Amsterdam Work Shop

The proceedings are now published on the EGU website. It is a publication consisting of 8 papers, a total of 60 pages. Read it!



News from the EGU Working Group Club Development

On behalf of the Working Group Club Development, Alison Randle reports:

The Project to increase participation in gliding is beginning to take shape. This is a vast subject; no-one really understands the full extent of the problems, let alone the root causes. So as somewhere to start, the working group is gathering existing studies and beginning to plan potential areas of research. However,

our current primary goal is to develop the project plan and we will be meeting to do this in late October. After that we'll be inviting all countries to get involved.

We do know that the central section of the project is likely to involve a network of representatives from each country; each representative will ideally be in some way working with clubs, club development, encouraging people to fly etc. We are having a workshop day in February, on the Friday before the EGU Congress weekend. We would be grateful if National Associations could begin to think about who might be the best person to attend the workshop and represent your country in the project.

We are expecting to gather papers, studies, examples of good practice and existing work during the course of the project, so we're already setting up a databank. We will be asking people for ideas and examples as the project moves from the planning into the active stage. However, if you have anything you think we need to know immediately, that you think will help inform the planning of the project, please do contact Alison Randle by email (alison@gliding.co.uk)

We will be in contact with all National Associations after our meeting in October

The members of the EGU Working Group Club Development are

Alison Randle (UK)

Alexander Georgas (Greece)

Arne Wangsholm (Norway)

Robert Danewid will act as "liaison officer" between the WG and the EGU Board for the time being.

Annual Airspace Meeting

Günter Bertram, our TO Airspace invites you to take part in the annual meeting of the WG Airspace, which will be held on Sunday November 4th, starting at 1000 Again in Frankfurt, but this time not at the "Sportschule" but the new Lindner Hotel just behind it.

EASA Part M Task Force

The NPA on the proposals of the Part M Task Force should have been published very shortly. The deadline is not yet known but might be quite short. The NPA will consist of 7 proposals that aim to resolve some of the problems with Part M. Those with interests in Airworthiness and Maintenance are advised to look out for this. Howard Torode will comment on this NPA for EGU. He will be pleased to receive any correspondence on this as soon as possible.

Other NPA/CRD in work are those on ACAM (our comments largely accepted), Flight Testing (confirmed not relevant to ELA) and Maintenance Flight Testing. This latter NPA is still open for comment (2012-08, deadline 30-10-12) and contains some requirements which would be very inconvenient to gliding. EGU comments are in preparation.

ATO – Approved Training Organisations

The EASA regulations relating to Approved Training Organisations ("ATOs") are entering the final stages of preparation. In a relatively short period of time, national gliding bodies will need to finally determine just what the new regulations will mean for how they are to organise and deliver training in the future. In the latest issue of the Newsletter, Pete Stratten, CEO of BGA, told us about the work of the BGA in this matter.

The Nordic Countries at the recent Nordic Gliding Meeting in Finland decided to set up a network for sharing information and views on the implementation of ATO as well as FCL. The group will meet for the first time in Copenhagen on October 25th.

These regulations for training and licences will, of course, affect every single EASA Member State – every single member of the EGU.

As each of us deals with our National Aviation Authorities it could be good to use the experience of fellow Gliding Associations. EGU Board member Andy Miller will be looking to gather experience from as many associations as possible, with a view to distributing good, and bad, experiences. (News of the bad ones can be even more helpful than the good experiences!) andy@asmiller.freeserve.co.uk

UK power pilots have just faced their first week of transition to Part-FCL. Their Authority's intention had been that no privileges would be lost, but it is taking time for motor glider pilots and training organisations to work through every detail of the new regulations.

Notes from the latest Newsletter, but still valid:

EASA-FCL and LAPL medicals

EGU request all its members to give inputs on the implementation process in the various countries. EGU will try to monitor this in order to avoid the mess we encountered with the implementation of Part M.

Accident Statistics

We still miss reports from several countries regarding fatal accident data for 2010 and 2011. We would also like to collect if possible, number of accidents, number of members and gliders, launches and hours/year, XC km/year. It would be nice if you can send your statistic to Henrik Svensson, TO Flight Safety. henrik.svensson@segelflyget.se

New EGU Data Base

Our Secretary General Markus Gnägi has developed a data base with information on EGU members, delegates, National specialists etc. We kindly ask all EGU delegates to check the information in the data base and update it if necessary. Instructions on how to access the data base and how to edit information can be found on the EGU web site in the internal section. If you have forgotten the password to the internal section, please mail the editor of the EGU Newsletter (mail address is in the header).



It is wave season!