

Club Bulletin 229

September 2025

Aimed mainly at club contacts/secretaries. Covers administrative topics and news from the Executive Council. General interest items are repeated in Skywings magazine for all members.

**BHPA**

1: Courses

Club Coach Courses

11 & 12th October 2025
Ulster HG & PG
Contact: Tom Carson
Email: treasurer@uhpc.co.uk

15 & 16th November 2025
Thames Valley
Contact: Nigel Bray
Email: tvhgc.coachcourse@aeroplaying.uk
Mob: 07795 047 872

6 & 7th December 2025
Wessex HG & PG Club
Contact: Neil Russell
Email: coach.wessexhgpg.org.uk

17 & 18th January 2026
Derbyshire Soaring Club
Contact: Guy Richardson
Email: guy@gingerair.co.uk
Mob: 07966 229 963

14 & 15th February 2026
Please contact Stephanie Blankley for further information
Stephanie-blankley@bhpa.co.uk

28 & 29th March 2026
Sky Surfing Club
Contact: Dave Harvey
Email: david.e.harvey@googlemail.com
Mob: 07799 197 345

EPS Course

19 & 20th November 2025
Lilleshall National Sports Centre

For more information contact:
Stephanie Blankley
Tel: 0116 289 4316
Email: stephanie-blankley@bhpa.co.uk

2: URGENT CLUB ACTION REQUIRED

The CAA has launched a very time limited review of some of the Letters of Agreement (LoAs) between BHPA clubs and air traffic control units. Parts of the review make sense, but others represent a serious risk to some sites. The CAA has listed some Clubs as being affected. There are suspicions that this list is incomplete so if your Club has one or more LoAs and isn't in contact with Tom Hardie over this then please give them a prod a.s.a.p.
For efficiency FSC recommends that all the work on this is focused through Tom, tom@primarysolution.co.uk

For more information contact:
Mark Shaw
Tel: 0116 289 4316
Email: mark-shaw@bhpa.co.uk

3: New Technical Manual

Technical Manual amendment 24 is now available on the BHPA website in the documents section.

4: Incident Reports

When a pilot uses the BHPA's incident reporting system, they are first asked to provide their name and email address in order to access the reporting form. Guidance on completing the form and information on the reporting process is then emailed to them. This guidance is reproduced below for information.

Members are advised to keep a copy of their submitted report, which can be saved as a PDF once the incident report form has been completed.

Dear [pilot],

Thank you for taking the time to submit an incident report.

Incident Reporting for Flight Safety and Accident Prevention.

Incident Reports (IRs) help the BHPA monitor and improve safety in the sport. Reports are used to analyse trends, understand incident causes, and share lessons learned anonymously with instructors, operators, coaches, and pilots.

What to Report and When.

All accidents and incidents must be reported to the BHPA using the Incident Report Form, within 48 hours, or, if that is not possible, as soon as is practical.

If an accident is fatal or potentially fatal, you must also contact the police and the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) immediately.

BHPA members flying microlight aircraft should note that reporting an incident through this system does not replace the legal duty to notify AAIB of any reportable incident. They should do both.

Air Accident Investigation Branch 24-hour reporting number:

UK: 01252 512299

Outside UK: +44 1252 512299

Completing the Incident Report Form.

Please provide as much detail as possible, as even small details can be important. Use the "Continue" and "Back" buttons at the bottom of the form to navigate. Do not use your browser's back button, as this may cause data loss.

After pressing the "submit" button, the next page contains a box that says "incident/accident successfully saved". Here you will find a link for you to download a pdf of your submission. You are advised to keep a copy. IRs are confidential, you should not disclose your copy to third parties, other than your club safety officer, without consulting a BHPA Technical Officer first.

If you need help completing the form, contact a BHPA Technical Officer:

Tel: 0116 289 4316 (24 hours in emergency)

Who should use the form, and how should it be used?

You do not need to be a BHPA member to make an incident

report. We welcome submissions from the authorities (Police, Local Councils etc.) and members of the public.

IRs must be submitted for any injury, damage or any circumstance which was unusual or could have led to injury or damage, or which might lead to adverse publicity.

Incident reports are not just for incidents involving injury. You should report near misses and equipment issues, malfunctions or concerns.

The IR system also functions as our method of reporting accidents and events to our insurers. Completing an IR fulfils your obligation to provide insurers with early notification of such an event.

After You Submit.

Your report will be reviewed, in the first instance, by a BHPA Technical Officer to decide if further action is needed. Depending on the nature of the incident, an anonymised summary may then be published on the BHPA website to help others learn from the incident.

The IR database is provided by the European Hang Gliding and Paragliding Union (EHPU) of which the BHPA is a founder member. All member states of the EHPU share their statistical data through the database in order to enhance flight safety. Some types of events occur at such a low frequency that it is impossible to determine whether they are statistically significant, through sharing data, the sample size is increased, and better-quality conclusions can be drawn.

Why Reporting Matters.

Accurate and honest incident reporting is essential for preventing accidents, identifying safety trends, and improving safety measures. Every pilot is responsible for reporting accidents they witness or are involved in, as well as incidents that could have led to an accident.

Post incident support.

Witnessing an accident can cause shock, guilt, grief, confusion, fear, and feelings of helplessness. If these feelings affect your ability to cope, talk to someone - whether a friend, fellow pilot, or a professional via your GP, who can refer you to specialist support available in person, by phone, or online.

The BHPA has produced a guide for its members on Dealing with Incidents and Accidents, which can be found here: https://www.bhpa.co.uk/documents/index.php?doc=3DDealing_with_incidents.pdf

Kind regards

BHPA Flight Safety Team

For more information contact:

Mark Shaw

Tel: 0116 289 4316

Email: mark-shaw@bhpa.co.uk

5: ROYAL AERO CLUB TRUST BURSARY

The 2026 Bursary Scheme opens for applications on 1st November 2025 and closes on 31st December 2025. An introductory pack of information is available for those interested.

Please head to the RAeCT website, Facebook and Instagram pages for more information.

<https://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086979621246>

<https://www.instagram.com/royalaeroclubtrust/>

For more information contact:

Michelle Lanman

Tel: 0116 289 4316

Email: michelle-lanman@bhpa.co.uk