

Avon HGPC AGM 13th October 2016 - Minutes

Chairman's address

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- 9 Election of Officers

9.00pm Guest Speaker - Nev Almond on Macedonia

The AGM was quorate.

Apologies were received from Nick Sommerville, Tom Janikowski, Wayne Buckland

Election of Officers

The following club members were elected to the Committee for 2016/17. Note the post of Overall Sites Officer remained unfilled, as Nick Sommerville had stood down from the post after many years of service.

Chairman	Peggy Williams
Treasurer	Graham Richards
Secretary	Rob Kingston
Social Secretary	Harry Bloxham
Sites (Overall)	Vacant
Sites (North)	Wayne Buckland
Safety	Richard Hellen
PG Comps Officer	Mike Humphries
HG Comps Officer	Greg Emms
PG Low Airtime Officer	Sean Simmons
HG Chief Coach	Chris Jones
PG Chief Coach	Tom Janikowski
Webmaster	Rich Harding
Librarian	Rod Taylor

Chairman's Report

Peggy Williams

It's only a year ago that I stepped into the Chairman's shoes and what a great year it's been. 2016 has given us some superb flying weather, the season kicked off early with big distances flown as early as March. Even now in October the weather is still allowing some decent flying.

The club has seen large growth in new membership this year, with 28 members joining, many of them newly qualified CP's including a couple of hang glider pilots. Our BCC team were Runners-up for the competition and gathered a few PB's along the way. We also hosted two successful rounds of the BCC at Selsley Common for the first time this year, one of them shared with the North South Cup team on a Super Sunday.

The Bash was another resounding success this year, combining it with the BCC worked very well, with all who attended having a fun time.

As we reach the end of the season, we are lying a very respectable third in the XC Club League out of 20+ teams. Let's all look forward to another successful year in 2017.

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Graham Richards, presented by Roger Barwell



Avon Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club

Accounts for Financial Year Ending
30 September 2016

Prepared and Presented to the AGM on 13th October 2016 by:

Graham Richards
Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Avon HGPG Club Accounts

2016 Headlines...

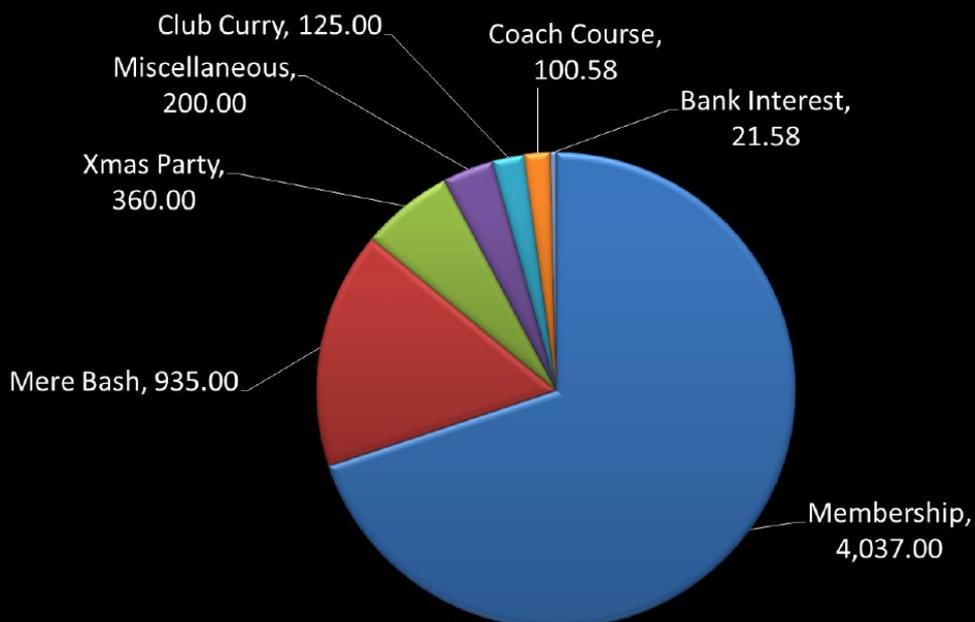
- Discount for prompt renewal was a success again with 80% membership renewing before the end of April.
- The Club's total funds increased by £643.62 to £13,348.56
- The Bash was subsidised by £432.77
- The Club dinner was subsidised by £169.80
- Membership up 28 to 220, an increase of nearly 15% (as at end Sep 16).

Avon HGPG Club Accounts Income by Heading

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Membership	4,037.00	3,475.00
Avon Bash	935.00	1,070.15
Xmas Party	360.00	759.00
Miscellaneous	200.00	0.00
Club Curry	125.00	0.00
Coach Course	100.58	0.00
Bank Interest	21.58	20.19
	£5,779.16	£5,324.34

Breakdown of Income FY15/16

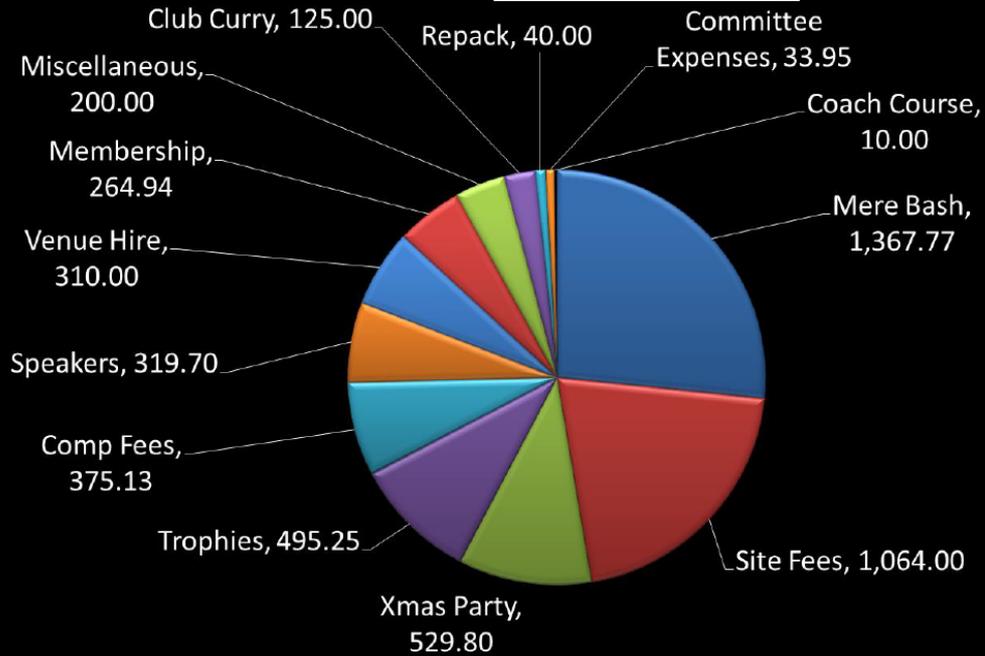
(Total = £5,779.16)



Avon HGPG Club Accounts Expenditure by Heading

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Avon Bash	1,367.77	2,117.10
Site Fees	1,064.00	1,239.06
Xmas Party	529.80	1,552.40
Trophies	495.25	227.30
Comp Fees	375.13	105.00
Speakers	319.70	182.65
Venue Hire	310.00	245.00
Membership	264.94	278.43
Miscellaneous	200.00	0.00
Club Curry	125.00	0.00
Repack	40.00	0.00
Committee Expenses	33.95	39.20
Coach Course	10.00	180.00
	£5,135.54	£6,166.14

Breakdown of Expenditure FY15/16
(Total = £5,135.54)



Avon HGPG Club Accounts

Accounts' Movements and Balances FY 15/16

Summary

	Cash	Current	Savings	Total	
Opening balance	£0.00	£6,372.96	£6,331.98	£12,704.94	
Incoming	£510.00	£5,247.58	£21.58	£5,779.16	
Outgoing	-£510.00	-£4,625.54	£0.00	-£5,135.54	Growth
Closing Balance	£0.00	£6,995.00	£6,353.56	£13,348.56	£643.62

Avon HGPG Club Accounts Running Yearly Club Balance (as at 30/09/16)



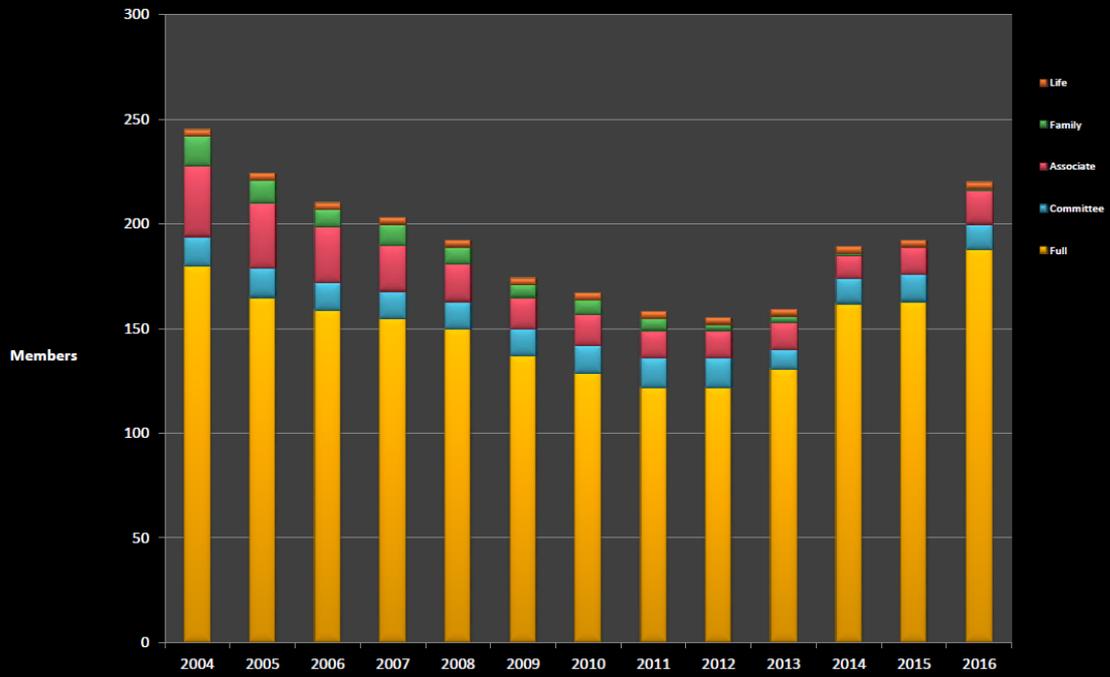
The Bash 2016

Income and Expenditure

	<u>2016</u>		<u>2016</u>
<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Tickets	640.00	Band	600.00
BCC Contribution	150.00	Bash Site Fee	550.00
T Shirts	145.00	T-Shirts (SE)	189.75
Total	935.00	Sundries	18.02
		Total	1,357.77
		Profit/Loss	-432.77

Annual Membership Numbers

(as at end of Financial Year!)



Safety Report

Richard Hellen

Introduction

This brief review of safety related issues is produced for the Club AGM on 13th October 2016.

Topics addressed are:

1. Summary of Accidents and Incidents Reported
2. Parachute Repack
3. Thoughts on Safety Incidents discussion club evening

Summary of Accidents Reported

Three accidents were reported to me during this year – two of which resulted in hospitalisation and one with a few scratches. There have undoubtedly been unreported near misses, but generally these are dealt with by discussions amongst fellow flyers rather than formal reporting.

Whilst the reluctance to fill out forms from an event that did not actually result in injury is understandable, we may be missing opportunities to share the learning that near miss reporting brings.

Parachute Repack

This was again a very successful event in the following ways:

- We raised over £450 for the Great Western Air Ambulance
- Over 25 parachutes were repacked
- We discovered one miss fitted parachute which – if deployed – would have resulted in a serious injury or fatality! Result!

Grateful thanks to our excellent supervising packing team (Greg Emms and Mike Townsend) ably assisted by Ken Wilkinson who provided the harness dangling service for the chute chuck and secure yet again the use of the excellent Orchard Academy school sports hall – for free!

Safety Incidents (aka “broken bones”) Club Evening

Along with the repack, this frank sharing of those scary moments and the lessons learned by our fellow flyers is one of the annual events that is essential to instilling our safety culture. Whilst the specific incidents are always salutary, the over-arching learning is that it is important to talk through those near misses as well as actual “incidents” if we are to tune and calibrate our personal risk meters

Coaching Report HG

Chris Jones reports – We hosted a BHPA Club Coaching course at the end of last season which was attended by 10 Avon members and an equal number from other clubs.

A couple of HG coaching sessions were held on Westbury with two new pilots, Jenni and Richard, successfully soaring and top landing. Jenni having her first flight since leaving the school. Al Davies completed his aerotowing training and passed the exam.

One day first aid course planned for early next year run by a trainer for the fire brigade and tailored to the kinds of situations we are likely to encounter whilst out flying.

Coaching Report PG

Tom Janikowski reports - He has had two people pass their Pilot exam this year and another three are due to take theirs before Christmas.

Sean Simmons reports -

The Avon LAT has seen a steady flow of new pilots joining the club and beginning to spread their wings both on Avon sites and further afield.

After an initial trawl and removal of non-Avon members (some resistance) we have seen the LAT Telegram group expand, with most finding use for such things as kit advice, site selection, instruments and weather explanation. The group also continues to attract some of our long standing members providing support, coaching and advice where appropriate. It must be stressed that the LAT Telegram group is a place for our new members to ask any question, no matter how trivial or wayward. There are plenty of people with 100's of hours experience able to answer any question. I have also tried to give site selection and advice where appropriate with many now able to make site selection themselves with ease.

Some of the newer members making use of the group:

James Barke
Stuart Blackburn
Richard Palmer
Jess Wynter Bee
Dave Manning
Hanna Hoare
Dom Moorehouse
James Petts
Neil Parkinson
Scott Palmer
Alice Horwood
Steve Newman
Richard French
Russ Chant
Michael Waterworth
Paul Gooding

Simon Marr
Darren Saunders
Danny Rogers
Phil Smith
Tom Straker
Hugo Wilson
Josh Goulden
Tom West
Laurence Lawson
Paul Lindsey
Stephen Flint
Owen Hyner

I am sure there are others.

Competition Report

Presented by Mike Humphries

These are the paragliding competitions and events various members of Avon HGPG have been involved in this year, more or less in order of the number of competitors.

1. XC league (Closes 31/10/16)
2. British Clubs Challenge (BCC)
3. British Championship
4. North / South Cup
5. Colombia Roldanillo 2nd Open
6. Lakes Charity Classic
7. PWC pre-worlds
8. PWC Academy

1. XC league (Closes 31/10/16)

This is the position at the time I wrote the report – there are 32 Avon Pilots in the national and club leagues

Conditions in 2016 were not as good as last year, total distances were lower, as were maximum distances, but Avon have done well...

<i>Men</i>	Avon Position	National Position	Wing	Total points	Average points
Tim Pentreath	1	7	Advance Omega X-Alps	976.1 km	162.6 km
Tom Janikowski	-	9	Skywalk Cayenne 5	934.4 km	155.7 km
Ken Wilkinson	2	19	Advance Iota	670.6 km	111.7 km
Graham Richards	3	32	Gradient Aspen 4	537.7 km	89.6 km
<i>Women</i>					
Peggy Williams	1	55	Ozone Delta 2	432.0 km	72.0 km
Viv Fouracre	2	124	Swing Nexus	222.4 km	37.1 km

2. British Clubs Challenge (BCC)

2016 has been an excellent year for Avon in the BCC competition, we came second out of the 12 teams who entered this year.

BCC team positions								
Position	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	Grupa303	1000	1000	1000	847	654	0	4501
2	Avon	1000	1000	999	643	130	83	3855
3	SEW	1000	804	599	488	374	240	3505
4	Southern Slackers	963	776	395	208	0	0	2342
5	UK Armed Forces South	822	795	600	0	0	0	2217
6	Dunny Dogfighters	720	563	0	0	0	0	1283
7	SWWSC	657	165	0	0	0	0	822
8	Thames Valley	501	219	0	0	0	0	720
9	Sky Surfers	565	0	0	0	0	0	565
10	Wessex	506	0	0	0	0	0	506
11	UK Armed Forces North	234	0	0	0	0	0	234
12	DAFT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Avon Team pilots achieved six personal bests during the six rounds we competed in, and as you can see from the table below the biggest contributions came from pilots who were quite new to XC flying, which is the whole ethos of the BCC – to give pilots a taste of XC in a supportive and coaching environment.

Well done all, I'm sure you'll go on to greater things!



| Avon Team Pilots |          |        |        |
|------------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Pilot            | Distance | points | rounds |
| Tom Cole         | 175.9    | 2839   | 6      |
| Roger Barwell    | 111.1    | 2137   | 6      |
| Ollie Clothier   | 78.3     | 1140   | 3      |
| Talika Bull      | 66       | 870    | 4      |
| Martin Harris    | 65.3     | 884    | 2      |
| Mike Humphries   | 31.4     | 512    | 2      |
| John Calvert     | 18.7     | 460    | 2      |

|                |      |     |   |
|----------------|------|-----|---|
| Chris Lovell   | 13.1 | 144 | 1 |
| Rod Taylor     | 10.6 | 119 | 1 |
| Ian Mackenzie  | 7.7  | 474 | 1 |
| Peggy Williams | 5.9  | 364 | 1 |
| Bill Gibbons   | 0    | 0   | 2 |
| Harry Bloxham  | 0    | 0   | 1 |
| Nick Bugler    | 0    | 0   | 1 |
| Tim Bishop     | 0    | 0   | 3 |

All those with a flight of more than 5km get a "Team Avon" T-shirt.

### 3. British Championship

There were two rounds, the first was at Gemona in Northern Italy, the second at Manteigas in Portugal, and the overall winner was Alex Coltman!!

Well done Alex!!



As usual there was a good contingent from Avon, all finishing in the top third. Tim managed to come 46<sup>th</sup> even though he only competed in the Gemona round.

| British Champs |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Position       | Pilot        |
| 1              | Alex Coltman |
| 4              | Ceri Brown   |
| 11             | Remi Pickett |
| 13             | Joe Dart     |
| 25             | Mike Coupe   |

|    |                                    |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 30 | Ken Wilkinson                      |
| 34 | Tom J. 34 <sup>th</sup> for Poland |
| 39 | Pete Douglas                       |
| 46 | Tim Pentreath (Gemona only)        |

If you're interested in flying the Champs well here's a snip from the rules, you don't have to fly one of those scary death ships to compete you know, and there will always be a contingent from the Avon Club for company and advice...

## 5. GLIDER CLASSES

Any LTF/DHV, SHV, EN or CCC certified glider is permitted to enter the competition.

### 5.1 Glider Classes

**Overall Class** is for any glider up to CCC.

**Sports Class** is for any glider up to EN C or LTF/DHV2

**Reynolds Class** is for any glider with a maximum certified weight of less than or equal to 95kgs (all gliders must be flown within certified weight range).

## 4. North / South Cup

This one's a bit of an enigma, it grew out of a challenge between Jim Mallinson and Jocky Sanderson as far as I can tell, and they seem to make up the rules on the hoof.

This year the two teams were the top 25 pilots in the national league from each area (but nobody knows where the area boundaries lie).

I think the North won marginally on the first day, it all seemed a bit confused to me and I was asleep in my tent by the time it was decided.

These are the Avon Pilots in the Southern team (in no particular order), almost a third of the Southern team was from Avon, which says a lot for the quality of Avon pilots.

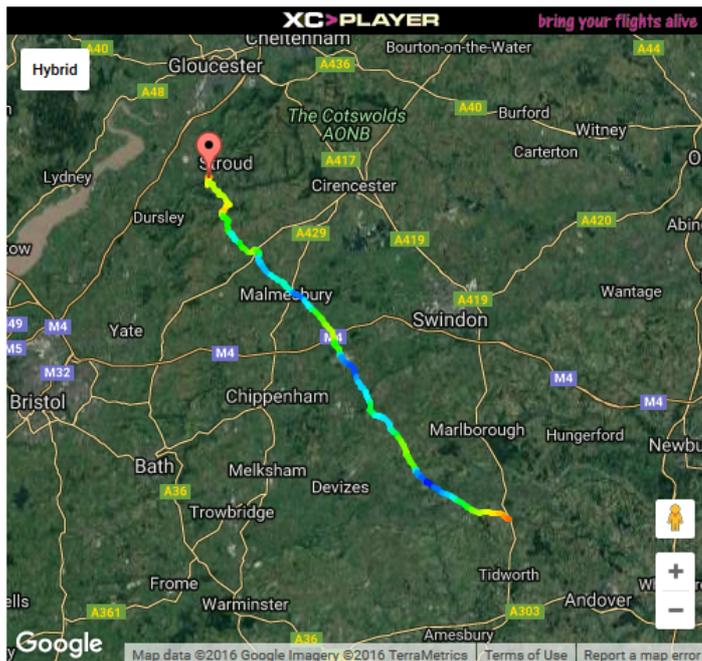
Wayne Seeley  
 Tim Pentreath  
 Ben Friedland  
 Harry Bloxham  
 Ken Wilkinson  
 Joe Dart  
 Mike H

The first task was a flight to goal from Tinto to Skipton, which the North won.



Wayne's flight from Tinto

The second task was split between Tinto and Selsley (so that people could make it home before the holiday was over), so the final result was a win for the South and the N/S cup is back in Wiltshire.



Ken's flight from Selsley

## 5. Colombia 2<sup>nd</sup> Open

This year the meet director for the two Colombian comps was Steve Ham, that well known ex-Avon pilot who moved to Spain and now runs a PG guiding outfit at Piedrahita.

Six Avon pilots went to Colombia and three competed.

| Colombia 2 <sup>nd</sup> Open (Sports class) |                |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Position                                     | Pilot          |
| 37                                           | Mike Humphries |
| 44                                           | Peggy Williams |
| 46                                           | Ollie Clothier |

Rod Taylor, Ken Wilkinson, Roger Brown and Martin Nichols were there for the flying but didn't compete.

## 6. Lakes Charity Classic

| Lakes Charity Classic |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Position              | Pilot           |
| 3                     | Graham Richards |
| 21                    | Viv Fouracre    |

## 7. PWC Pre-Worlds

These are class 1 events used to try out a proposed venue before the PWC is held there.

| PWC Pre-Worlds (Nepal) |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Position               | Pilot         |
| 21                     | Harry Bloxham |
|                        |               |
|                        |               |

| PWC Pre-Worlds (Turkey) |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Position                | Pilot           |
| 16                      | Harry Bloxham   |
| 76                      | Charles Norwood |

## 8. PWC Academy

A training programme run by the BHPA for future PWC competitors, there are currently five Avon Pilots in the programme.

Remi Pickett

Wayne Seeley

Alex Coltman

Harry Bloxham

Joe Dart

# Sites Officer Report 2015-2016

## Northern Sites Report - Wayne Buckland

Not much to report from the northern sites. No reports for Haresfield or Cam Long Down. Selsley, nothing to report apart from some trouble with the local hooligan cattle at the early part of the year. When they were fresh on the common they used the parked cars as scratching / licking posts. Also had a couple of concerns from model flyers with regard to pilots flying in the model flying area.

Frocester has had a new barbed wire fence put up along the top of take-off this year. It has already claimed a couple of victims, but on the good side we have a new gate to replace the old rickety stile.

## Overall Report - Nick Somerville

### Westbury

Thankfully a quiet year regards any issues arising with the tenant farmer and his wife who runs the stables. I believe that pilots have generally been taking on board advice to stay higher when at the SW end of the main ridge which was the main contention last year.

There are still a number of pilots who have been landing on the main ridge and have been walking back along the top, or have been relaunching. As ever it is up to club members to point out the error of their ways.

The MOD continue to be obliging over requests for the Upton Triangle and Cowdown Corridor.

### Mere Downs

A quiet year at the Rifle Range, with a noticeable lack of good flying days on any of the ridges. No issues with farmers and no contact from the model club this year. There was a suggestion of holding a BCC round at Spencer's, should weather permit, but I felt that this would require a revisit to the National Trust and our licence agreement as currently we are only allowed to fly if a Pilot rated club member. I also feel from experience that on a strong thermic day Spencer's can really stretch piloting skills, making it unsuitable for BCC lower experience xc pilots.

The access track from the south is getting in a very poor state with some huge potholes. I would recommend the new appointee try to see if anything can be done to improve it as sooner rather than later, we are going to have some seriously damaged cars.

### Northern Sites

Great to see the new stile/access to Frocester. A big thanks goes to Wayne for helping to organise that.

Selsley has enjoyed both the North South Cup and BCC rounds on the same day, and has been one of the high mileage sites of the year for many xc pilots entering the XC League.

Finally, my thanks to the three club chairs I have served under and all of the hardworking committee members who have supported my role.

I will be happy to assist in any way I can for a smooth changeover for the new appointee to the post of Overall Sites Officer.

## Webmaster Report

Rich Harding

The main development on the website this year has been the completion of the integration of the online sites guide, with Sites News now able to be managed by users with the appropriate privileges. At the beginning of the year we also had considerable trouble with unwanted entries on the Flying Diary, Crystal Ball, News and so on; these have always been targeted by link spammers but the volumes of unwanted activity reached new levels, necessitating the introduction of anti-spam measures. At the same time, I took the opportunity to link Flying Diary entries to the Members who had entered them - and made this automatic for anyone who has logged in before posting - so it's a little disappointing that it hasn't been used for several months, although we all know about the lure of Telegram and other social media.

As well as this, I've undertaken the usual activities of helping other committee members where necessary, particularly supporting the Treasurer during the annual membership renewal process. We have also experienced some hack attacks over the summer, which have taken the site down a couple of times. To counteract this, I've made some changes behind the scenes to the administration of the database, since when the problem has not re-occurred.

Following discussions with the chairman, we intend shortly undertaking a process of sanitising the membership data. If your flying hours figures, next of kin details and so on are incomplete or gobbledegook, expect some polite but firm e-mails shortly, requesting that you update your information :)

## Social Report

Harry Bloxham

We have had a good 12 months of social activities, it started with Harry telling us about his experience of entering the comp world followed by a successful Christmas curry with over 20 of us turning up. In the new year, we had talks from some of the country's top XC pilots, Barney Woodhead, Nancy and Carlo to get us prepped for the coming season. At the Awards Dinner in February we were entertained by Andy Brown telling us about his exploits to the South Pole. Other talks included a 'fess up' evening where we all shared our experiences of accidents and close calls to see what could be learnt from others mistakes, and a mini XC clinic where the club's Sky Gods had their brains picked by budding and experienced XC pilots alike. This year, the Bash was combined for the first time with the BCC End of Season Party and was enjoyed by all who attended. Next month we have Martin Cray and his birds coming to entertain us. If there is anyone you would like to come and give us a talk please let me know.

## Librarian Rod Taylor

Also a reminder that Rod looks after the library which may certainly interest some of the newer members.