

**Avon HGPGC 2019 AGM
Compass Inn, Tormarton. October 10th 2019**

AGENDA

- **Chairman's report (Includes Committee Member Reports) - Peggy Williams**
- **Treasurer's report - Graham Richards**
- **Election of the Club Committee for 2019/20**
- **Vote on motion to amend the Club Constitution for use of a Debit Card by the Treasurer**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another season is almost over. There have been many good flying days this year, interspersed with some windy ones too, and then it started raining!

Sadly, this year two of our long-standing members passed away, Dave McCarthy and Mike Humphries, whose presence on the hill will be missed by many of us. We also lost another of our Westbury regulars, Simon Chippindale, in a flying fatality. There have been a few accidents on our sites this year with paramedics in attendance. Please report all incidents as we can all learn from them. We wish those still injured a speedy recovery. Wes hosted a well-attended club meeting in August on Attitude and Decision Making, from which I'm sure we all learnt something.

The repack was again well attended and we raised a total of £567.00 for the Air Ambulance. The next repack has been scheduled for early Feb. Congratulations go to Tim Bishop who qualified as an EPS Repacker this year.

The Club is healthy with lots of new LAT pilots adding to our membership, and there's still a decent bunch of us stayers too with a good depth of experience to draw from. Sean, our LAT Coach has been kept busy with regular coaching days on Westbury during the year as well as encouraging pilots to travel further afield and try some coastal flying and many fun days have been had. People who passed their Pilot exams this year are James Allen, Nick Beck, Mungo Morris, Richie Taylor and Dale Webb.

We are still having ongoing problems at Westbury, with pilots not keeping high over the stables, flying back into the Danger Area, not giving hang gliders enough space and generally landing in the wrong place. Please don't be a selfish pilot - read the site guide and get a briefing. There is a small group of rogue pilots on our northern sites, some better pilots than others, so beware when flying there. We, of course, would like to thank the farmers and landowners for their continued support of our sport by allowing us access to the beautiful sites we are lucky to have.

The XC and comp season has been good for our pilots too. Harry Bloxham is the new British Champion. Mention also goes to Tom Cole and Wes Murch who have both done well in comps this year. Alex Coltman also flew a record distance for a turnpoint flight in the UK. A few XC PBs have been raised this year too. Apologies if I've missed anyone out. The BCC was attended by a small core of pilots this year. There was some good flying with one or two LATs achieving their first XCs. They also ventured further afield to a round in the Peak District. We competed in six rounds and came tenth overall. It's good to see pilots travelling and trying new sites. (Remember to mention HG)

There is more pressure on airspace again this year with Brize putting out a revised airspace grab and others afoot. We have good ongoing relationships with Salisbury Plain TA, NATS Bristol and Highgrove, with whom we hold LoA's. I'm also pleased to see CANPs being regularly raised for Westbury too.

Other news - two new benches at Westbury, the club paid for a bench to be refurbished and Dave McCarthy's family paid for a memorial bench which joins

the one from Dave Percival's family erected last year. Mike Humphries' family have kindly given us a trophy to be awarded in Mike's memory. It will be called the *Mike Humphries Spirit of Flying Trophy* and will be awarded for something quirky that occurs during the year, of which Mike was particularly good at achieving.

The new website is ongoing - a work in progress. We hope to have it live in the next few weeks? There was no Bash again this year. If someone would like to pick up the organising it would be great to see it back.

The club is organising a BHPA Club Coach Course in December and I encourage more of you to think about becoming an Avon Club Coach or if already a coach, refreshing your coaching skills. I also would like to see more of our already qualified coaches out there actively coaching too.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I would especially like to thank those that are stepping down this year - Mike Byfield, Rod Taylor (as Comp Officer only), Harry Bloxham and Chris Jones. Chris has been on the committee for 14+ years and we thank him for all his hard work over the years.

Peggy Williams

Avon HGPG Low Airtime Report 2019

New LAT's.



We have had many new members join/become active members of the Avon LAT group this year including the following (apologies if I have missed anyone):

- Giles Livingstone (trained with Fly Spain)
- Lou Walker (trained with Axis paragliding)
- Jeremy Mears
- Rob Holland (trained with Fly 4 Seasons)

- Alex Harper
- Stuart Mann
- Sarah Lucas
- Ryan Budding
- Luke Roskilly
- Matt Young
- Jess Wynter-Bee
- Max Brooks

Many of our new and existing LAT cohort have been progressing through the BHPA pilot development scheme completing various tasks set and observed by our club coaches. I have been delighted with the progress our LAT members have been making. I recount one occasion where Matt Young (on a breezy day) was not deterred by numerous false launches. Having been given advice by Emilie, he persevered and learned a new technique for higher wind launches. Sarah Lucas who is another one of our newer members has had a number of excellent sessions at Westbury, managing to upskill to cover thermal flying earlier this year.

LAT continued development.

In addition, many of our longer standing LAT cohort have also been upskilling through overseas, trips, SIV and joining in with the British Clubs Challenge. These members have included (apologies if I have missed anyone):

- Trevor Capon (Having completed an SIV course recently is beginning to explore his XC development).
- Nick Beck (Progressing well in the pilot development scheme. He has recently passed the pilot examination and achieved his first cross country at 17km).
- Chris Freeman - (Developing his thermalling skills both in the UK and overseas. During a recent trip to France, Chris was unfortunate to experience quite a violent collapse which he willingly shared his thoughts and pictures with the club on his return).
- Steve Barton - (Developing his thermalling skills).
- George Allen - (Attended his first BCC. He also completed an SIV course which has supported his understanding of wing control).

A number of our LAT community have ventured further afield experiencing coastal flying in West Wales and the South Coast (thanks to our reciprocal agreements). Others have travelled to SE Wales, Mid Wales and the Malverns. It is my belief that flying outside of our own club provides greater expansion of those skills developed in the school. I would encourage our more senior members to include the LAT cohort on future trips to sites further afield. A good example of this was seen when Wez Murch and Tim Carr took Nick Beck on a trip to the Malverns providing guidance and support on his XC development.



The tandem has also been very useful this year with a couple of the newer pilots being shown thermal skills and ridge soaring from a different perspective. The tandem paraglider is a great tool and in my opinion is underutilised in this area. At Westbury recently, a brand-new pilot who had not flown the site before and was not comfortable with taking off in the stronger winds was given the opportunity to fly tandem. The tandem provided a great vehicle to demonstrate top landing, ridge soaring and thermaling. It also provided an opportunity for the individual to practice approach positioning and thermal positioning all under the guidance and support of the tandem pilot.



Thanks to our supporters.

Development of our LAT community is only possible through support from our existing members and club coaches and these have included (apologies if I have missed anyone as I am sure there are many more):

- Richard Gill
- Peggy Williams
- Tim Pentreath
- Darren Odell
- Richard Gibbs
- Dave Warren
- Emilie Graille
- Tim Bishop
- Mike Byfield
- Tim Carr
- Wez Murch

- Not forgetting Mike Humphries who put so much effort into supporting others. I was often greeted by Mike saying that he had introduced new LAT's to the site through a site brief and advice. He will sadly be missed by all.

I would also like to add the importance of ensuring your coaching skills are kept up-to-date by talking to other coaches, reading the BHPA coaching material and refreshing your coaching course at one of the annual BHPA Club Coach courses. In addition, many of our longer standing members should consider becoming a coach to help pass on the valuable knowledge and experience they have gained. The Avon HGPG is running a BHPA Club Coach course later this year (7 - 8 Dec

19) to which I encourage you all to consider upskilling with a view to supporting others through the pilot development scheme. Many of you will have knowledge and skills that will be of use to our LAT cohort. I along with the committee would be extremely grateful if you would consider attending and supporting the future pilot development scheme by attending the Club Coach course and becoming an Avon HGPG Club Coach.

Sean Simmonds

Treasurer's Report - Graham Richards

Only a summary is given here.

2019 Headlines

- Membership has decreased by 1 to 234 (as at end Sep 19).
- Full membership costs remain at £25 with Discount for prompt renewal.
- The Club's total funds increased by £1,494.59 to £15,763.76
- No Mere Bash or Xmas Party in 2018/19 to account for
- ***Due to commitments of the Treasurer, no Audit has yet taken place***

Avon HGPG Club Accounts Profit and Loss on a Page

INCOME	2019	2018
Membership	4,535.00	4,465.83
Miscellaneous	75.00	
Coach Course	5.00	9.40
Bank Interest	0.64	0.64
	<u>4,615.64</u>	<u>4,475.87</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Site Fees	1,197.00	2,077.70
Venue Hire	536.25	370.00
Membership	380.15	322.44
Charity Donations	315.00	
Coach Course	225.00	100.00
Repack	168.00	
Trophies	159.60	235.45
Comp Fees	90.00	110.00
Speakers	35.60	33.30
Committee Expenses	14.45	80.25
Xmas Party		581.00
	<u>3,121.05</u>	<u>3,910.14</u>
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	<u>1,494.59</u>	<u>565.73</u>

Election of Committee 2019/20

Mike Byfield, Rod Taylor (as Comp Officer only), Harry Bloxham and Chris Jones were standing down. All were thanked for their contributions to the Club.

The following Committee members were elected for 2019/20. The post of 'HG Chief Coach' was not filled. James Allen will take over from Rich Harding as webmaster at a mutually convenient time.

Chairman	Peggy Williams
Treasurer	Graham Richards
Secretary	Rob Kingston
Social Secretary	Rich Harding
Sites (Overall)	Wes Murch
Safety	Tim Bishop
PG Comps Officer	Chris Lovell
HG Comps Officer	Gregg Emms
PG Low Airtime Officer	Sean Simmons
HG Chief Coach	NOT FILLED
PG Chief Coach	Tim Carr
Webmaster	James Allen *
Librarian	Rod Taylor

Proposed Change to the Club Constitution

A proposal was made to amend the wording of the Constitution to add about use of a Club debit card. This was agreed overwhelmingly by the required number of voting members.

The proposal was to insert in section **9. Accounts**, the following:

“The Club can own and use a debit card for the purpose of paying for services. It can only be used by the Treasurer.”