

Avon Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club AGM – Minutes

This was held on 12th October 2017 at The Compass Inn, Tormarton, starting at 8pm.

This was followed by the awarding of any medals and a talk by Joe Innes, a world class speed flying pilot.

There were 28 full Avon members present.

The agenda for the AGM:

- 1 Chairman's report
- 2 Treasurer's report
- 3 Committee Member Reports
 - Safety
 - PG Comps
 - HG Coach
 - PG Coach
 - Sites
 - Social Secretary
 - Librarian
- 4 Election of the club Committee for 2017/18

The following Committee member were standing down:

- Safety Richard Hellen
- PG Comps Officer Mike Humphries

There were two nominations for the post of Sites Officer (Overall); Mike Humphries and Wes Murch. Wes Murch was elected by 11 votes to 10.

The following Club members were elected to the Committee for 2017/18

Chairman	Peggy Williams
Treasurer	Graham Richards
Secretary	Rob Kingston
Social Secretary	Harry Bloxham
Sites (Overall)	Wes Murch
Safety	Tim Bishop
PG Comps Officer	Rod Taylor
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

Good evening everyone and thank you for coming along and supporting the AGM.

This year has seen many of us enjoying our flying, be it XC, ridge soaring, coastal flying or SIV and acro. The Spring gave us a lot of flying. April in particular, when there was only three days that no flights were put on the league. The general trend of the year seemed to be either stronger wind or nil winds. This gave us bigger triangles and longer distances, with many PG records being broken. Avon highlights include four PG pilots Harry Bloxham, Alex Coltman, Charles Norwood and Nick Smith all this year doing flights of over 200k, with Alex Coltman breaking the PG UK distance with a flight of 280k, and the HG record declared triangle 133k or 135k, which was 'broken' by Neil Atkinson (unfortunately he forgot to fly through the start cylinder, a trivial but necessary bit of admin).

Sadly this year was also blighted by the death of Dave Percivall, a popular club member and coach, who was often to be seen on Westbury. This was an important reminder of just how dangerous our sport can be.

Can I ask us all to have a minute's silence in remembrance of Dave.

I would now like to thank all the committee members for their contribution throughout the year and take this opportunity to highlight a few of them. In no particular order –

Rob Kingston, for his help putting everything together for the AGM and committee meetings throughout the year. He also wrote a very good letter on the club's behalf to TAG Farnborough regarding their attempted airspace grab.

Graham Richards for annually processing all our membership renewals and sending out a lot of stickers! It's as well that stamps are self-adhesive as membership numbers are up again this year.

Chris Jones and Greg Emms for their support on the HG side of the club as Safety Officer and Comps Officer. Chris also organised a successful first aid course earlier in February, and is also busy with his HG aero towing and coaching throughout the year.

Richard Hellen for keeping an eye on safety issues and organises the annual repack.

Rich Harding for giving us continued IT support for our website, which is getting a refresh this year.

Rod Taylor, our librarian, has a whole host of DVD's and books for those winter days when there's no flying

Tom Janikowski, our Senior Coach, often on Westbury if you are looking for XC coaching. He also put two people through Pilot exams in the last year and if you are ready to do your Pilot rating, get in touch with him.

Mike Humphries, Comps Officer who has fired up the low air time pilots in the BCC to maybe do their first XC's and then happily retrieves them too.

Harry Bloxham for supplying us with lots of entertaining speakers over the year and organising the nights out too!

Sean Simmons, who can often be found on Westbury or Mere, where he is continually coaching and encouraging our low airtime members to get their feet off the ground.

All local Sites Officers for their contribution.

Not forgetting all of you active coaches out there, always willing to share your knowledge.

I would now like to thank the two officers stepping down from their posts today - Richard Hellen (Safety Officer) since 2005 and Mike Humphries (Comps Officer) for the last five years.

Treasurer's Report – Graham Richards



Avon Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club

Accounts for Financial Year Ending
30 September 2017

Prepared and Presented to the AGM on 12th October 2017 by:

Graham Richards
Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Avon HGPG Club Accounts

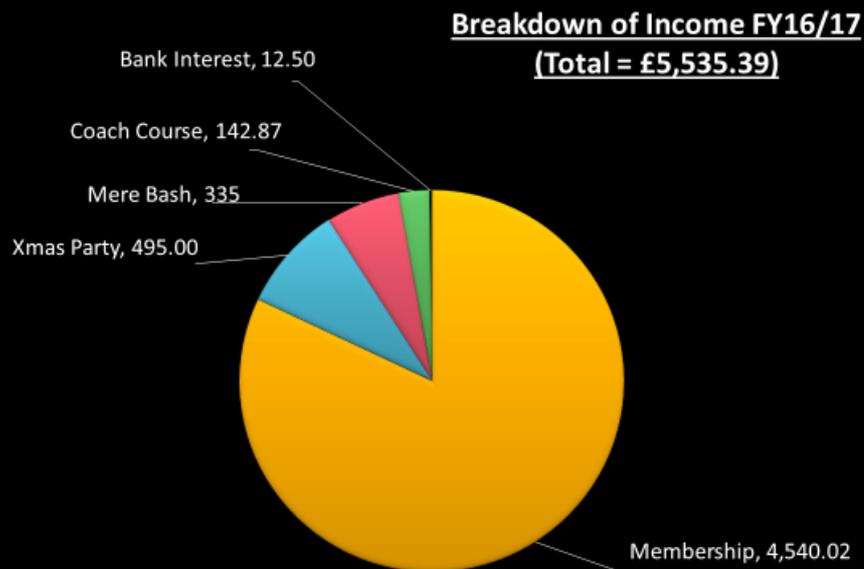
2017 Headlines...

- Discount for prompt renewal was a success with again, 80% membership renewing before the end of April.
- The Club's total funds increased by £354.88 to £13,703.44
- The Bash was subsidised by £1,065
- The Club dinner was subsidised by £274.00
- *Ken Wilkinson audited the accounts on 11 Oct 17 and found them an "Excellent set of accounts".*
- Membership has increased by 19 to 239 (as at end Sep 17).

Avon HGPG Club Accounts

Income by Heading

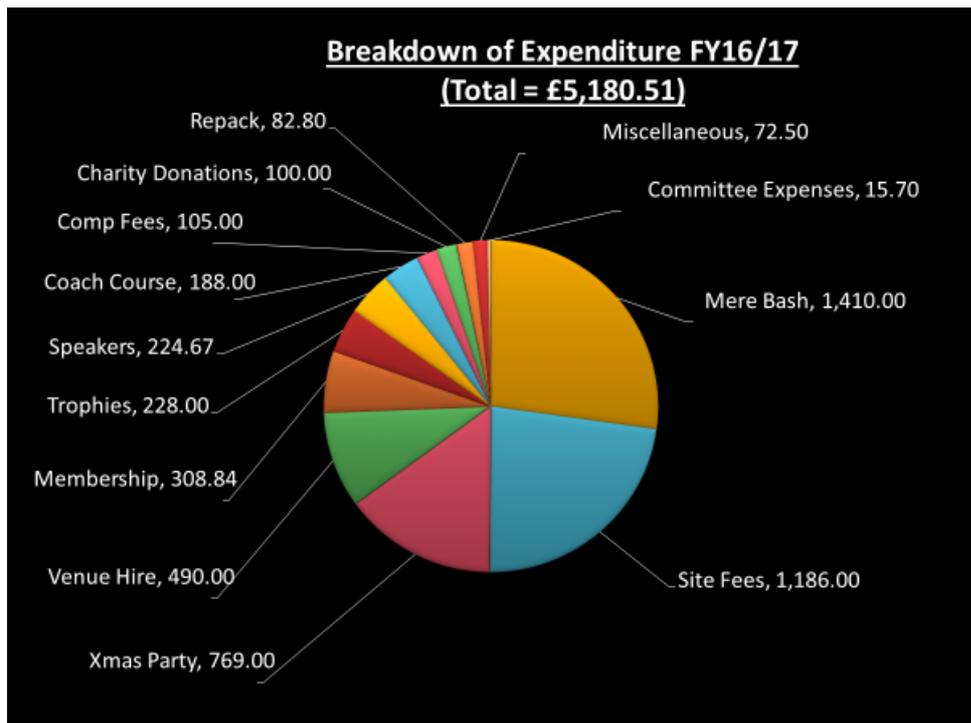
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Membership	4,540.02	4,037.00
Xmas Party	495.00	360.00
Mere Bash	335.00	935.00
Coach Course	142.87	100.58
Bank Interest	12.50	21.58
Miscellaneous		200.00
Club Curry		125.00
	£5,535.39	£5,779.16



Avon HGPG Club Accounts

Expenditure by Heading

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Mere Bash	1,410.00	1,367.77
Site Fees	1,186.00	1,064.00
Xmas Party	769.00	529.80
Venue Hire	490.00	310.00
Membership	308.84	264.94
Trophies	228.00	495.25
Speakers	224.67	319.70
Coach Course	188.00	10.00
Comp Fees	105.00	375.13
Charity Donations	100.00	0.00
Repack	82.80	40.00
Miscellaneous	72.50	200.00
Committee Expenses	15.70	33.95
Club Curry	0.00	125.00
	£5,180.51	£5,135.54



Avon HGPG Club Accounts

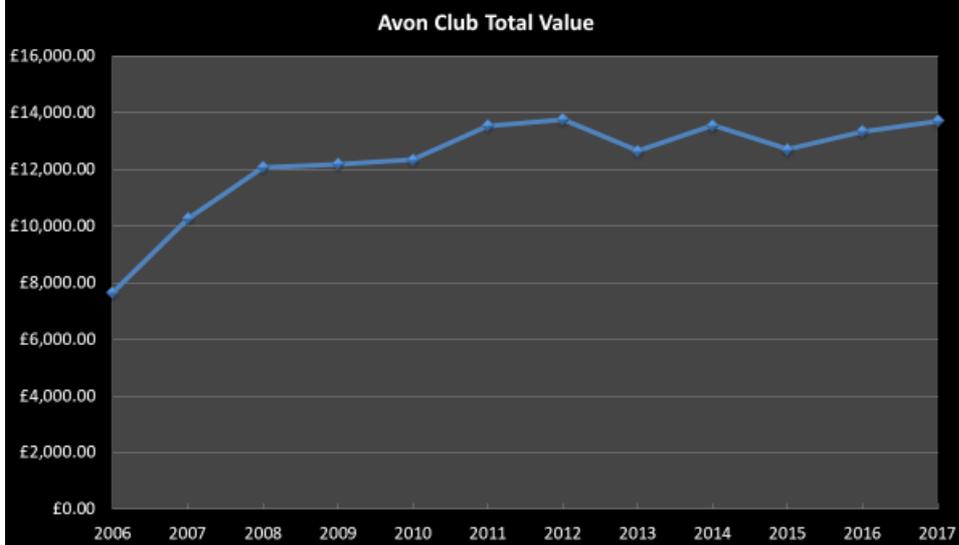
Accounts' Movements and Balances FY 16/17

Summary

	Cash	Current	Savings	Total	
Opening balance	£0.00	£6,995.00	£6,353.56	£13,348.56	
Incoming	£0.00	£5,522.89	£12.50	£5,535.39	
Outgoing	£0.00	-£5,180.51	£0.00	-£5,180.51	Growth
Closing Balance	£0.00	£7,337.38	£6,366.06	£13,703.44	£354.88

Avon HGPG Club Accounts

Running Yearly Club Balance (as at 30/09/17)



The Bash 2017

Income and Expenditure

Bash Summary

Income	
Tickets	£335.00
T Shirts	10.00
BCC Contribution	£0.00
Total	£345.00

Expenditure	
Bands	£750.00
Site Fee	£660.00
Total	£1,410.00

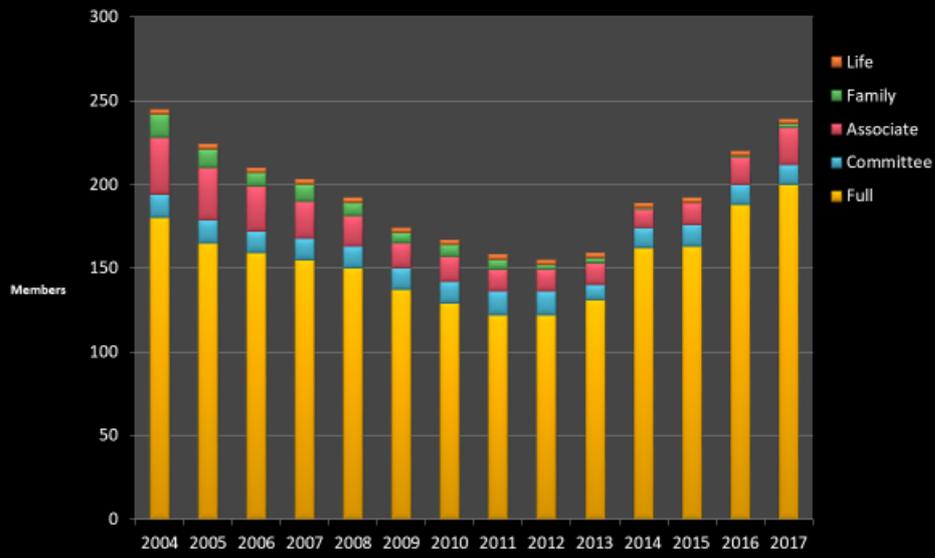
Profit/Loss	-£1,065.00
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Auditor's Notes

Auditor – Ken Wilkinson, 11 Oct 17.

1. All entries tied to payments/receipts;
2. All very well documented and filed;
3. Excellent set of accounts.

Annual Membership Numbers (as at end of Financial Year)



Safety Officer Report – Richard Hellen

Incidents and Accidents

There have been four incidents reported of which three resulted in injury from which full recovery happened.

Very sadly one of our highly respected and much loved members, Dave Percivall, died as a result of a paragliding accident despite the prompt aid and fast response of the Air Ambulance. At the time of writing, the Panel of Enquiry has not reported.

Near Miss Reports

The need to formally report near misses always needs encouragement. We have tried to institute a semi-informal near miss reporting at the start of each club meeting under the general title of “Safety Matters” (because of course it does). This routine collective knowledge sharing needs to be encouraged further, so that members who have some important safety related insight can help grow our safety culture. This happens tacitly on the hill through observation and conversation on the hill – which is great – but we could do with more sharing and comment by the assembled club at each meeting.

Reserve Repack

On 15th March 2017 we held our annual repack at the fantastic sports hall of the Orchard Academy in Filton care of the good offices of Ken Wilkinson – who occasionally teaches there. Huge thanks due to:

- Orchard Academy staff
- Our amazing in-house team of repackers (Mike Townsend Greg Emms plus others in training)
- Tim Bishop for bringing his “Timulator” harness dangling kit for the realist parachute chuck

We raised over £200 for the Air Ambulance and discovered some interesting issues that Mike and Gregg documented to be shared with the BHPA packer cadre. We may have saved a few lives as a result.

First Aid Course

On 12th February 2017, through the efforts of our Chief Coach, Chris Jones, we held a splendid first aid course tailored by our friends in Fire and Rescue to meet our slightly specialist range of likely accident scenarios. Attending such a course cannot be over-valued enough. A refresher course is something to be considered very seriously for a large proportion of our club. Such skills might well help to save the life of your flying buddy, as well as any member of the public in need that we encounter in remote locations.

Safety Officer Standing Down

After at least 10 years as your Safety Officer, I have decided to stand down to give the opportunity to another keen on safety who has very clearly identified themselves as will, very able and extremely

eager to take over the post. It is important to allow fresh ideas to improve our safety culture, and I have every confidence that we will be in good hands.

My thanks to fellow committee members for their support over the years – it has been a pleasure.

Richard Hellen

PG Comps – 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 31/10/17)**
- 2. British Clubs Challenge (BCC)**
- 3. British Championship**
- 4. North / South Cup**
- 5. British Paragliding cup**
- 6. Lakes Charity Classic**
- 7. Colombia Roldanillo 1st Open**
- 8. Colombia Roldanillo 2nd Open**
- 9. Ozone Chabre Open**
- 10. Gin Wide Open**
- 11. New Zealand Open**
- 12. PWC pre-worlds**

13.PWC Academy

1. XC league (Closes 31/10/17)

This is the position at the time I wrote the report – there are 50 Avon Pilots in the national and club leagues

This year Harry Bloxham posted two 200k + flights on the league, the only other 200k flights we've had in the Avon league were from Tim P and Mike C in 2015.

Men	Avon Position	National Position	Wing	Total points	Average points
Harry Bloxham	1	9	Enzo 3	1060.3	177
Mike Coupe	2	14	Ozone Zeno	877.3	146
Ken Wilkinson	3	16	Advance Iota	833.6	139
Graham Richards	4	18	BGD Cure	815.4	136
Women					
Peggy Williams	13	95	Ozone Delta 2	340.7	57
Viv Fouracre	16	115	Swing Nexus	285.3	48

2. British Clubs Challenge (BCC)

2017 has been a good year for Avon in the BCC competition, Avon A came 6th out of the 15 teams who entered.

And Avon B, who only flew one task, came a creditable 12th

BCC team positions								
Position	Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	Grupa 303	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	70 2	69 7	5399
2	South East Wales	990	984	843	753	58 0	56 4	4714
3	SWWSC	969	756	704	663	50 6	50 5	4103
4	Wessex HPGG	100 0	818	721	588	51 1	44 8	4086
5	UKAF South	860	800	651	534	48 2	37 9	3706
6	Avon A	713	660	651	571	49 0	29 4	3379
7	XC Junkies	733	600	550	532	27 4	0	2689
8	SkySurfers	100 0	628	411	359	0	0	2398
9	DAFT	100 0	622	220	0	0	0	1842
10	Southern Slackers	959	291	267	186	44	36	1783
11	UKAF North	823	448	0	0	0	0	1271
12	Avon B	449	0	0	0	0	0	449
13	Southern Skylarks	415	0	0	0	0	0	415
14	Green Dragons UP UK	347	0	0	0	0	0	347
15	SkySurfers B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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



The Avon club look on the BCC as a coaching event, our first consideration is to give pilots who don't normally compete, a chance to give it a try.

The BCC is intended not just for new pilots, but also for long established pilots who've thought that competition was not their thing.

This year nine Avon Team pilots achieved personal bests in the six rounds we entered, three of those were first time XCs, 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 !!

Pilots with PB or first XC in a BCC round						
Pilot	Pilot Rating	Glider rating	Site	Date	First XC	PB
Benjamin Dry	CP	A	Merthyr	23/04/17	Yes	Yes
Chris Lovell	P	C	Hundred House	17/04/17		Yes
Harry Hansombe	P	B	Merthyr	09/07/17		Yes
Richard Gill	CP	B	Hundred House	22/04/17	Yes	Yes
David Keefe	CP	A	Talybont	08/07/17	Yes	Yes
Tom West	CP	A	Merthyr	09/07/17		Yes
David Ogle	P	B	Hundred House	17/04/17	Yes	Yes
Bill Gibbons	P	B	Merthyr	23/04/17		Yes
Tim Bishop	P	C	Hundred House	22/04/17		Yes

3. British Championships

There were two rounds, the first at Long Mynd in the Welsh Borders (the first UK round since 2009) , the second at St Andre les Alpes in the south of France. As usual there was a good contingent from Avon

British Championships overall results, Avon pilots		
Position	Pilot	Team
15	Remi Pickett	
16	Ceri Brown	
17	Alex Coltman	
20	Harry Bloxham	Avon
30	Tim Pentreath	Avon
32	Tom Janikowski	
35	Mike Coupe	
59	Ian Conway	
61	Wes Murch	
75	Tom Cole	Avon
77	Nick Smith	
92	Ken Wilkinson	
93	Mike Humphries	
98	Pete Douglas	
104	Charles Norwood	
129	Jim Mallinson (first task only)	

The winning team was called Avon (three of the four members were Avon members) Tim Pentreath, Harry Bloxham and Tom Cole (Tom was our most successful pilot in the BCC in 2016).

Well done all!!







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 comp wings to compete you know (*see the table above*), 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 teams were selected by the captains, mostly from the top 25 pilots in the national league from each area (but nobody knows where the area boundaries lie).

These are the Avon Pilots in the Southern team (in no particular order).

Mike Coupe

Jim Mallinson

Tim Pentreath

Alex Coltman

Peggy Williams

Ken Wilkinson

The first task was a flight to goal from Llangollen,

Jim Mallinson All flights - Distance Only NEW GEAR
Flyb

Avon League 2017

Results Pilot flight 3/6

Flight to Goal on a Paraglider Flight Map **XC Player** Charts Statistics Options

Club	Avon
Glider	Ozone Zeno
Date	7th May 2017
Start	12:08
Finish	17:41
Duration	5hrs 32mins
Takeoff	Llangollen
Landing	Abergavenny

Coords

Distance and Score

Distance	126.53k
Deductions	0.80k (cylinders)
Total	125.73k
Score	125.7

Open Distance

Total	127.4k
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Tracklog

Admin

Jim Mallinson's flight from Llangollen, This year the South won





5. British Paragliding Cup

The friendly paragliding competition for pilots in the non-skygod category. Our aims are - flying, fun and learning.

Organised by Viv Fouracre

This year - Held at the Bowland Gliding Club near Parlick and Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club near Bradwell

British Paragliding Cup	
Position	Pilot
1	Viv Fouracre
7	Lester Gordon



6. Lakes Charity Classic

The Lakes Charity Classic is an informal paragliding competition hosted by the Cumbria Soaring Club and held in some of England's most spectacular scenery. Hosted by the Cumbria soaring club, a step up from the BCC.

Lakes Charity Classic	
Position	Pilot
19	Nick Somerville
21	Viv Fouracre



7. Colombia Roldanillo 1st Open

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

Four Avon pilots entered the first comp.

Held in the town of Roldanillo in the Cauca Valley.

Colombia 1st Open (Sports class)	
Position	Pilot
26	Richard Miller
42	Mike Humphries
43	Peggy Williams
60	Ollie Clothier
62	Rod Taylor

8. Colombia Roldanillo 2nd Open

Ollie Clothier entered the second comp and came 28th of 51 in the sports class

9. Ozone Chabre Open

This is a mid-level competition organised by the Laragne-based club, ChabreVol Libre with support from Ozone.

Based at Camping Monteglin in the town of Laragne Monteglin

It is restricted to Sport Class gliders, no EN-D class gliders are allowed.

Avon entered a team at Paul Collender's suggestion, and we came 10th out of 31 teams.

A very enjoyable event!

Individual positions in the table below...

Ozone Chabre Open		
Position	Pilot	Team
23	Paul Collender	Avon
39	Mike Humphries	Avon
40	James Petts	UKAF1
69	Talika Bull	Avon
113	Andrew Craig	Slackers 1
59	Johan Nordenfelt (We recruited Johan, a Swedish pilot, after UKAF kidnapped James)	Avon



10. Gin Wide Open

A mid-level competition sponsored by Gin

This year in Krusevo, Macedonia

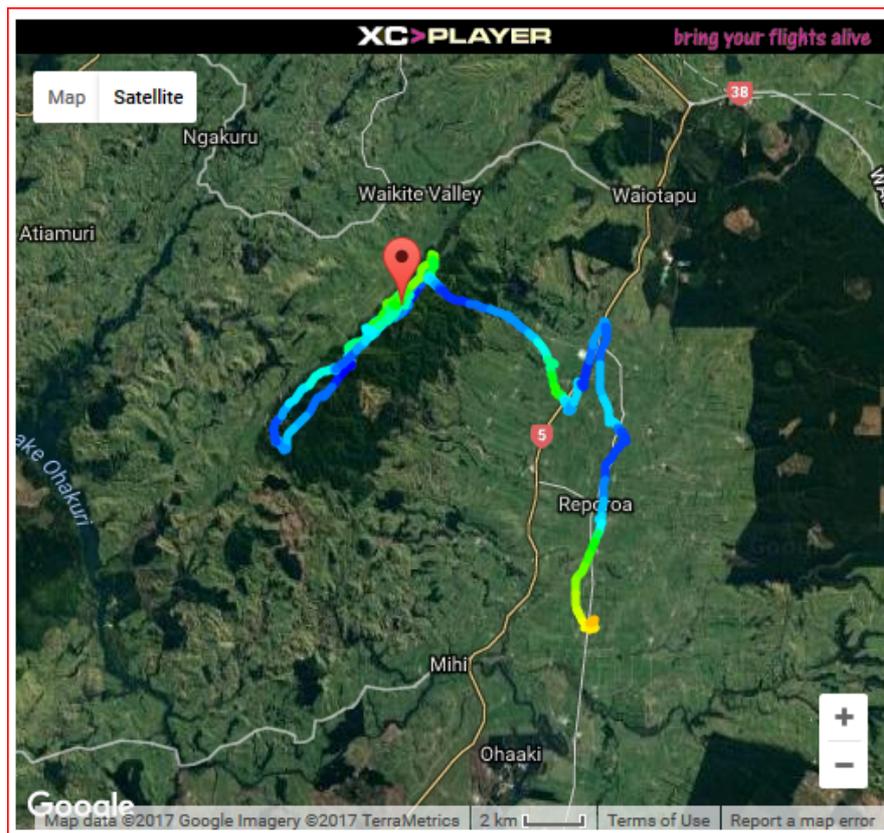
Gin Wide Open		
Position	Pilot	Team
10	Harry Young-jamieson	
22	Thomas Cole	
23	James Petts	
93	David Molden	

11. New Zealand Open

Based in Rotorua, North Island

Just me ☐, I came 38th out of 70 and had fun...

A task from Peroa



12.PWC

Paragliding World Cup

PWC Disentis, Switzerland	
Position	Pilot
76	Harry Bloxham

13. British Paragliding Racing Academy

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

Alex Coltman

Remi Pickett

Ollie Clothier

Tom Cole

Harry Bloxham

Wes Murch



HG Coaching Reports – Chris Jones

A few coaching days early in the year at Westbury for our new pilots, but Dave Tregaskis from the SEW Club has been providing the majority of the hill flying coaching at Rhossili during 2017.

Two pilots have started towards their Aerotow endorsement with the Avon Aerotow Group. More are always welcome should the weather be suitable at a weekend.

A first aid course was held in February and a follow-up flip-booklet was created as an aide-memoire to assist anybody with basic first aid knowledge to manage a real-life emergency situation. Copies are still available from the club priced at £4.70

PG Coaching Reports – Sean Simmons

LAT Report for 2016/2017

We have had a relatively successful year in terms of LAT activities and new LAT membership.

I have been contacted by a number of new LAT members (as well as a couple of long standing members) who have required some kind of guidance/support.

I have run a number of welcome sessions (mainly at Westbury and Mere) with the focus on getting our newest members introduced into the club flying environment.

At the start of the season I was unsure as to how many new pilots we would see that had not completed top landing practical. With many of our ab-initio pilots coming from BHPA schools operating overseas, I did wonder whether we would see a dramatic increase. Interestingly, I have only seen/briefed/coached 1 through their top landings.

I ran a recent event which saw some of our newest members (even gave the chairman a site brief) have a good day again at Westbury. Sorry if I miss anyone but Dom Moorhouse, Rich Hafferty and Sarah Lucas all demonstrating some great skills.

I noted some of our newer members venturing to the coast for some great flying. Well done all.

Finally, I would just like to say a big thank you to all of the coaches/pilots who have helped out throughout the year including those who have provided advice, support and guidance when required. It's so easy to forget what it's like to arrive on a strange site with people you don't know. Just saying 'hello, do you need any advice' goes a long way.

There are a number of coaching events (SE Wales) coming up, so I urge those that do get stuck in and help to think about attending a formal club coach course

Sites Report

Nothing to report on our northern sites, apart from the odd bush landing at Frocester.

Please remember that Westbury becomes much busier during the winter when Coombe Gibbet is closed, so can I remind all members that fly there to not only follow the site guide, but also to make sure that any visiting pilots are following it too.

Spencer's Bowl and Morgan's Ridge (Whitesheet Hill). Just to clarify these sites and their criteria.

- To fly these sites you must be Pilot or Advanced Pilot rated and a full current Avon member with a National Trust Whitesheet sticker. These are automatically sent out on membership renewal to appropriately qualified individuals
- As per our agreement with the NT, we can only fly on weekdays between the hours of 11am and 5.30pm with the intention of launching for XC only. No flying on weekends or Bank holidays when the modellers have the site.
- When flying Spencer's Bowl, it is imperative that you check the true wind direction. If the wind is north of SW, the spur to the right of take-off creates severe turbulence.

Draycott is now open again. Remember it is Avon members only. Please contact Geoff Rogers prior to going if you are wishing to fly this site as access is by arrangement only.

The Telegram Airspace group, which is used to open the Westbury Upton triangle and Cowdown, Ubley, Bath Gap and others has worked very well again this year. The information is shared to all who go XC and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Airspace contacts who make this happen. If you intend to start flying XC, please request to join this group.

I also noted that it was not necessary to open the Bath Gap on the last two occasions flights were made south from Leckhampton. If the boundary layer wind has some west in it, it is easy to fly south without having to pass through the Bath Gap. It's a good idea to check the BL wind on RASP before requesting it, as it can mean less disruption for flights in and out of Bristol Airport. Having said that, if you feel there is a need for it to be open, please request as usual.

Social Secretary's Report – Harry Bloxham

We've had another year full of interesting talks including Martin Cray and his (and Wez's) birds, Emma Brennand from the BBC, a producer from Planet Earth 2, Sacha's Flight of the Swans and Fiona's Dawn to Dusk. We also had some more tradition paragliding talks on XC/comps, acro and hike & fly from Guy Anderson, Jack Pimblett and Ali Andrews as well as trip reports from Nev Almond and Lester Ziolkowski. The Christmas curry was very well attended again and the Bash had a great band but unfortunately clashed with the British PG champs so the turnout could have been higher but hopefully we'll have a new format next year which will be a lot more attractive!

Librarian's Report – Rod Taylor

Our library is a sadly underused resource for the club, we have dvds and books covering acro, xc flying and the weather it's being mainly used by people new to the club so if there is anything we could buy that would be of interest to the rest of the club please let me know and I will do my best to get it for you.