



INTRODUCTION

TO

BOWLAND FOREST GLIDING CLUB

Welcome to Bowland Forest Gliding Club

Thank you for wanting to know about gliding at Bowland Forest.

Visitors are always welcome. You can come to watch the flying, bring your own glider or you can fly in one of our gliders and experience a Trial Lesson.

Trial Lesson and Gift Vouchers

We offer visitors the opportunity of a trial flight combined with a one month temporary membership. The lesson may be purchased in advance as a gift voucher or on the day you turn up hoping to fly.

Trial lessons are an ideal way to be introduced to gliding and can be taken by anyone in reasonable health over the age of 13 (please note for safety reasons there is a minimum height restriction of 4ft 6 inches (1.35 metres)).

You will be flown in a two seat training aircraft with a British Gliding Association approved instructor. You will be launched to approximately 1000ft by a very powerful purpose built winch. Your instructor will demonstrate the effects of controls and invite you to “have a go”.

You can take the opportunity to fly the glider, or if you prefer, simply to enjoy the view of Lancashire and the area of outstanding natural beauty in which the club is situated.

Gliding is very weather dependent. It is impossible to predict the length of the flight.

The trial flight will normally last around 20 to 25 minutes. However, if we are unable to stay airborne for as long as we would wish due to the weather conditions, we will offer two shorter flights as an alternative.

From the date of the trial lesson, you will have a 28 day club membership during which you may fly at normal club rates.

What keeps you in the air without an engine?

The glider gets its lift from the air flowing over the wings exactly like a powered aircraft. The only difference is that it uses its height as its energy source to maintain sufficient flying speed in the same manner as a bicycle freewheels down hill. A glider only stays up for long periods when the air that it is flying in is rising faster than the rate at which it is gliding downwards.

Is gliding safe?

Like all challenging activities it has the potential to be hazardous and requires certain disciplines. However, providing you stay within your skill level and follow the instruction given, gliding is an extremely satisfying and safe sport.

Are there any age limits to flying in a glider?

The minimum age at which you can fly solo in a glider is 16. Although it must be noted that parental consent must be provided for persons under the age of 18.

In general, if you are between 7stone 21b (45 kg) and 16 stone (100 kg) fully dressed and between 4ft 6inches and 6ft 5inches tall you should not experience difficulties. There is no upper age limit.

What are the medical requirements for gliding?

As a general rule if you are medically fit enough to drive a car you are fit enough to fly a glider. You will be required to sign a declaration of medical fitness before you fly in a club aircraft. You need to be able to read a car number plate at 21 metres and be free from fits, blackouts, dizzy spells, Epilepsy, recurring fainting or giddiness, uncontrolled high blood pressure, angina, coronary artery disease, insulin dependant diabetes.

If you are in any doubt as to your fitness please seek your doctor's advice.

What is the usual progression in gliding at Bowland Forest?

Pre Solo

Regular instruction

Solo (BFGC white card pilot)

Bronze C (BFGC red card pilot)

Cross country endorsement

Silver C (BFGC Yellow Card Pilot)

Gold C (BFGC Blue card pilot)

Diamond C (BFGC Blue card pilot)

Long distance diplomas for 750 km and 1000 km flights



What should I Wear?

Our Club is situated 600 feet above sea level and like all airfields it is usually fairly windy. It is also a grass airfield without surfaced runways and footpaths consequently you are well advised to come dressed in a similar manner to that required for fell or hill walking.

Can I book a time to fly?

No, the club operates a first come first served arrangement where members and visitors book themselves onto the days flying list and fly when their turn comes round.

It is possible that you could be waiting several hours for your flight. However it is normal practice for the duty crew to give visitors an idea of the likely waiting time in order that they can go to the club house or to Chipping for refreshments. Alternatively you may wish to stay at the launch point and join in the ground operation.

The club operates every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays (weather permitting). It is recommended that you telephone the club before setting out to ensure the weather is suitable. We have a developing but well equipped club house with toilet and tea and coffee facilities. Visitors from other gliding clubs may camp or caravan on site or at one of several B&Bs in the Ribble Valley. The club does have limited pre-bookable bunk room facilities but you need to bring your own sleeping bag, food etc.

About the Club

The club was formed in 1950 at Squires Gate Airport (now Blackpool Airport) by Jack Aked and a small band of enthusiasts. It moved to Samesbury in 1965 courtesy of English Electric where it stayed until 1973, when the club moved to its present site at Lower Cockhill Farm, Chipping.

The club is an entirely self help organisation with no paid staff. All development work, maintenance, repairs and day to day operations are carried out by skilled members. This approach has enabled us to maintain some of the lowest flying and membership costs anywhere in the country.

We operate 6 club aircraft comprising:

1 – K21 two seat training glider

2 - K13 two seat training gliders

1 - K8 early solo single seat aircraft

1 – Grob Astir 'Jeans' early solo single seat aircraft

1 - Grob Astir CS77 intermediate performance aircraft.

All training is carried out by qualified instructors approved by the British Gliding Association under the watchful eye of the Chief Flying Instructor.

The club operates a continuous structured training programme that supports pilots from their very first training flights up to experienced and qualified cross country soaring pilots. Membership varies around 150 members, of which about 120 are full flying members.

Club Fees

See the web site (www.bfgc.co.uk) or phone the club (01995 61267) for current fees.

Club Days

The club is open throughout the year on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

In addition the club is open for three to four weeks a year in the summer. The exact dates vary but are usually associated with the Bank Holidays.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to Go Solo?

Natural ability, age, experience, frequency of instruction are the commonest factors influencing progress to solo. A very rough guide to the number of launches (flights) to solo can be calculated from your age + one third your age + 20 = the number of launches to solo. (e.g. age 45 + 15 + 20 = 80 launches to solo).

Is it difficult to fly a glider?

No, if you can drive a car it is almost certain that you will be able to fly a glider.

How do you control a glider?

In exactly the same way as a powered aircraft, through a control column to control raising and lowering the nose (pitch) and raising and lowering the wings (rolling) and through the rudder pedals to move the nose from side to side (yawing).

What is ideal weather for my flight?

Any day when it is sunny, with good visibility and a light to moderate wind from any direction except North. However it is quite feasible to fly in winds up to 20 miles per hour, and on less promising days. If you are in doubt then please phone the club on the day in question and enquire if the club is operating.

Finally

Please feel free to ask questions.

The club is a very friendly place and members are pleased to answer questions about one of the world's greatest sports—gliding.

Where to Find Us

We are approximately 10 miles North East of Preston and some 2½ miles out of Chipping village on the Garstang road. You can find us marked on the 1/50000 scale Ordnance Survey Sheet no. 102 Grid Reference SD594435 (See next page for directions from M6 Junction 32 – the web site also has directions from the North).

Web site: www.bfgc.co.uk

Our telephone number is 01995-61267

Our address is:

Bowland Forest Gliding Club
Lower Cockhill Farm
Fiddlers Lane
Chipping
PR3 2WN

**When you arrive please ensure you read the
airfield safety notice on the club house wall**

Mileage From J32	From last point	
0	0	
0.7	0.7	<p><u>From M6 Junction 32</u></p> <p>Follow signs for Garstang</p> <p>At traffic lights in Broughton (by Burlington Restaurant and The Bay Tree Pub) turn right. (signed to Longridge)</p> <p>Pass under M6 bridge</p>
1.6	0.9	<p>Take first left opposite a shop into LANGLEY LANE (signed Beacon Fell Country Park).</p> <p>Follow Langley Lane to end – T-junction with white railings.</p>
4.7	3.1	<p>Turn Right. (Inglewhite Road)</p>
5.0	0.3	<p>0.3 m along, more white railings; turn Left into SYKE HOUSE LANE.</p> <p>Follow Syke House Lane until you reach Barnsfold Reservoir on left. (You will see grassy embankments, but not the water).</p>
6.8	1.8	<p>Turn Left into BARN'S LANE (signed to Chipping and Beacon Fell Country Park). You should now see Parlick Hill directly ahead – it is a distinctive cone-shape).</p> <p>Follow Barn's Lane to a crossroad junction. You should see the club from here down in the valley to the left. (Look for white trailers and windsock).</p>
8.2	1.4	<p>Straight across the crossroads.</p>
8.7	0.5	<p>At end turn left (signed Garstang 8½ miles).</p> <p>Entrance to club is approximately 400yds on left.</p>