

Introduction It has been a very busy first half of 2024 with successful instructor training delivered by coaches on courses at larger centres and via bespoke training at clubs, a sincere well done and welcome to all our recently completed instructors. A huge thank you to the Flight Instructor Coaches and CFI's at clubs, the level of preparation by candidates on courses continues to be high and it is evident the hard work that is being put in to ensure those commencing training to become instructors have the right skill level and knowledge base.

Are You Set for The Day?

Whilst the UK weather continues to be mixed and sometimes frustrating, it is important we maximise the opportunity we have when operating. Whilst travelling about, I have seen quite a variation in how clubs commence the day, some have a formal briefing in a briefing room with slides, detailed forecasts, suggested tasks, aircraft available, safety topics etc, some conduct a more simple but very effective 'huddle' where the duty instructor gives out the salient points of the day, finds out what those at the club would like to achieve and works with often limited numbers of volunteers who take on support roles. Whatever the format appropriate to your club, a set time for this type of engagement really adds value to safety, maximising the day and very importantly, ensuring members go home happy. I have seen both work well depending on the situation and size of the group and urge clubs to have this type of pre-flying engagement if it is not part of your regime already.



How Current Are You?

Most instructors are very current pilots on the Pilot Currency Barometer and will have much recent instruction, but there will be a small number of occasions when your next student needs an exercise that leaves you thinking, 'When did I last deliver this?', perhaps it's just a refresh of your knowledge from the instructor manual that's needed or possibly a flight with a coach or the CFI to practice and standardise won't hurt. An experienced instructor recently took me to one side with this request, if you are volunteering at weekends with a limited amount of instructing, this recognition and open self-analysis is important to successful instruction and giving your students the best opportunity to progress more easily.

Student Preparation

Whilst being fully prepared as an instructor is vital, it is a source of frustration for any instructor investing time when the student is ill prepared and leaves making progress in the air on a valuable training day much less efficient than it could be. Setting students up to succeed is vital, all students should have a copy of the Student Pilot Manual and have clear information about what they need to read and understand next, clear and concise comments in their logbooks as to progress and what next are essential. It is good to see so many instructors conducting well thought out pre-flight briefs and using the instructor aide memoir cards to support. (They will receive an update for SFCL).

Ex. 11e – Aerotow – from the ground

Briefing points:

Aim: To fly the aerotow from ground to release

TEM: Launch failure, upsetting the tug, wing drop

Explain:

- Ground procedures and signalling
- Trim position
- Hand on the release and when to pull it
- Separate control use on the ground – balance on mainwheel
- Coordinate controls in the air

Demos:

- Patter ground run including initial position of tug as rope goes tight
- Separate and coordinated control uses
- Position of flying glider when tug on ground – run.

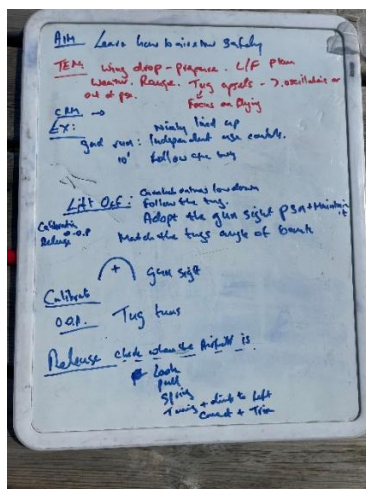
Coaching:

- Instructor will take over early if low

Common Mistakes:

Inability to balance on mainwheel

We will not deal with launch failures at this stage. [Contents](#)



Landing – Pre-Circuit Checks

A common student question is when does the landing phase commence? This is when you have made the decision to land and have planned the descent (including set the radio and if appropriate a blind call to advise local traffic of intent) before managing the flight to end up at High Key on the in-use circuit with WULF pre-circuit checks completed prior to arrival at High Key.

SFCL

Flight Crew Licensing remains on course for September next year and the straightforward process to transition Bronze and XC Endorsement to SPL is worth reiterating to club members as we approach the final 12 months of this process, please encourage the qualified pilots at your club to apply now to help avoid a last-minute surge on a limited amount of resource at the BGA office. There will be a crediting of training undertaken so far for students who are in the process of obtaining their Bronze and XC Endorsement on the BGA syllabus as SFCL comes into force, this is not expected to result in disadvantaging these students, but it may prove easier/quicker for those who can achieve licensing under transition to be guided towards the line.

<https://members.glidering.co.uk/pilot-licence-conversion/>

For recently qualified instructors yet to apply for an SPL or add FI(S), completion of the Post Course Review will allow you to add the FI(S) rating without restriction to your licence; clearly, if this is realistically attainable soon it may prove advantageous to complete this first. If you are a

rated instructor yet to conduct a Post Course Review, please speak with your CFI or an RE to arrange. The positive news is that 87% of BGA rated Instructors already hold FI(S) on their SPL.

Basic Instructor Rating

Some significant work with the CAA to acknowledge the continued requirement for the BI rating seems to be gaining momentum and whilst it seems unlikely to extend beyond the current remit there are now draft proposals for an FI(S) rating with Basic privileges; hopefully, more on this can be announced soon.

BGA Led Instructor Training Course Schedule 2024

The course schedule for the remainder of 2024 is below, a big thank you to the clubs hosting BGA facilitated instructor training.

Date	Course	Location
12-13/08/24	Teaching & Learning	Online (Evenings)
14-20/07/24	Part 2 Course	Scottish Gliding Centre
09-14/09/24	Part 2 Course	Husbands Bosworth
15-20/09/24	Part 2 Course	Saltby
30/09-05/10/24	Part 2 Course	Husbands Bosworth
07-12/10/24	Part 1& 2 Course Mixed for candidates and different stages	Dunstable
14-15/10/24	Teaching & Learning	Online (Evenings)

Conclusion

Thank you for your continued support as instructors, without your commitment this sport would not be the accessible and affordable route to flying it is for all, the BGA instructing team wish you a safe and enjoyable remainder to 2024, please contact us with anything you feel will be of interest and we look forward to meeting many of you during the coming months.

Stu Naylor, BGA Training Standards Manager

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