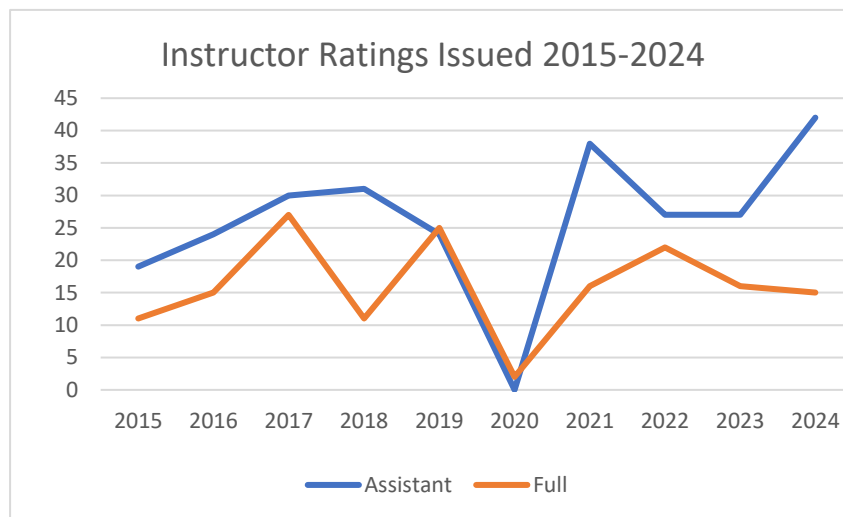


Introduction

Congratulations to the instructor class of 24! A big thank you to all the clubs, particularly Chief Flying Instructors for encouraging and nurturing your pilots to step into the instructor role and also Flight Instructor Coaches for all your support, this is the highest number of instructors who have successfully completed training to be a rated instructor since the introduction of the modular system in 2014 with 42 new Assistant Instructor ratings issued. Whilst we head towards the 30th September transition deadline it is also pleasing to also see many are still taking the opportunity to undertake the test to become a Full Category Instructor.



Safe Start 2025

The BGA has prepared a self-briefing package for glider pilots to prepare for the soaring season ahead, it focuses on building resilience in areas that have led to serious or even fatal accidents and contains some hard-won knowledge. Please review and strongly encourage the club members you supervise and your students to go through this.

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety-briefings/safe-start-presentation/>

Collision Avoidance

The BGA's guidance on collision avoidance was revised last year and disseminated to clubs via CFI's, should you have missed this important update, the link to the **full guidance** is as below:

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/safety/managing-flying-risk-collision-avoidance/>

Effective lookout is the primary means of avoiding collisions, but situational awareness can be improved by hearing about the location of others. Therefore:

Clubs are strongly encouraged to develop well thought-through local circuit procedures designed to avoid collision risk. Where agreed as part of club procedures, clubs should require pilots operating on their site to make appropriate circuit position calls.

Pilots are strongly encouraged to make appropriate circuit position calls. At most airfields, pilots are expected to report when on the downwind leg and on final approach to land. In some situations, other calls such as 'base leg' may be advisable. When joining the circuit, be clear about your intentions.

Instructors are strongly encouraged to familiarise student pilots so they are confident with use of radio at an appropriate point during pre-solo training. Instruction in use of radio is a requirement as part of training under part SFCL.

Standardisation

We are initiating a new set of briefing and airborne instruction videos; these are in their early stages but use a simulator to give clear guidance to trainee instructors and are a useful standardisation tool for Flight Instructor Coaches and Instructors alike. We will work to improve sound quality, but Rose who is leading this would welcome feedback:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLysKF3IzzaqtqDb1eu5GNz8ly67FLm7Ds>

Instructor Coach Standardisation

Throughout the year the BGA runs several residential instructor courses at various locations, these are led by a team of highly experienced coaches who are always looking for support and to share their experience, if you are a current FIC and would like to participate in one of the BGA led courses please review the dates at the end of the newsletter and contact the office.

SFCL Applications and Flight instructor Refresher seminars

The CAA are strongly recommending pilots **apply for an SPL licence by March** to ensure all applications are processed in time for the end of licence transitioning period on 30th September. Please follow the procedure as per the BGA website not the CAA website. As mentioned in the last newsletter there is optimism that the BI rating will be recognised under the new system so if you have a BI rating you may wish to delay applying for your SPL until the final decision is made sometime late spring.

Under the rolling recency requirements, all FI(S) holders will be required to have completed an FI(S) seminar within the past three years. The BGA is organising 1-2 seminars each month online, with an option of regional seminars "in person" for those who are allergic to Zoom meetings! There are approximately 800 instructors in the country so to meet the need going forward we will need to provide 300 places per year. If everyone waits until the summer to book a place there will not be sufficient places available, so unless you have completed a BGA rated instructor course, within the last 2 years, it is worth booking an FI(S) refresher seminar even if you are awaiting your SPL arrival or are 'just about to apply'.

SFCL

Flight Crew Licensing remains on course for 30th September and the straightforward process to transition Bronze and XC Endorsement to SPL is worth reiterating to club members as we approach the last months. 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.gliding.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

As previously mentioned, the retention of the Basic Instructor rating is awaiting legislative approval but expected to pass into law this spring/early summer, for those Basic Instructors deferring application for an SPL until this is clarified in order to save the administrative cost of adding the rating later, please stay close to information from the BGA as to the status, but be assured the barrier to this is parliamentary time for approval and the BGA and CAA teams will work to achieve later stage SPL applications in advance of the 30th September deadline. The final group that we will be providing special case support to is the candidates on the September Assistant Instructor Rating Course at London GC to ensure their FI(S) applications are submitted in a timely manner.

Changes to Instructor Requirements

Under part SFCL, the requirement for a pilot to hold a Silver badge to become an instructor no longer exists. Therefore, the BGA executive has agreed that this requirement can be removed with immediate effect. As always, CFI's have the responsibility to ensure pilots of an appropriate standard are put forward for training. Clubs are encouraged to look for suitable pilots who previously may not have been able to progress because of this obstacle but would otherwise make good instructors and encourage them to commence instructor training.

Disabled Instructing Information

The BGA is working hard to improve all aspects of inclusivity with the sport, including access for those with different abilities. Gliding is unusual in being a sport, that once in the glider, disabled pilots can compete on a level basis with everyone else. The BGA now has a lead for inclusivity in gliding, Yvonne Elliot who is keen to engage with clubs to drive this forward and she can be contacted at: yvonne@gliding.co.uk

Additionally, the BGA website has a wealth of useful information to be found at:

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/women-and-inclusivity-in-gliding/disability-gliding/>

This includes a link to the BGA guidance on instructing for disabled pilots. This is a useful document but needs some updating so if you have suggestions, please do get in touch with Rose or Yvonne. The page also has a link to the podcast of a very successful online forum.

Many clubs are deterred from making changes that would facilitate disabled flying due to concerns that they can't afford full-disabled conversions – please don't let this deter you. Small changes combined with enthusiasm and a bit of persuasion of the more reluctant club members can overcome a lot of issues.

BGA Led Instructor Training Course Schedule 2025

The course schedule for the remainder of 2025 is below, a big thank you to the clubs hosting BGA facilitated instructor training.

Date	Course	Location
18-19/03/25	Teaching & Learning	Online (Evenings)
6-11/04/25	Part 2 Course	Bognor Regis GC
28/04-03/05/25	Part 2 Course	Husbands Bosworth
12-17/05/25	Part 1 Course	Husbands Bosworth
02-07/06/25	Part 2 Course	Staffordshire GC
09-14/06/25	Part 2 Course	Lasham GS
07-12/07/25	Part 2 Course	Scottish GC
15-20/09/25	Part 2 Course	London GC

Conclusion

Thank you for your continued support as instructors, without your commitment this sport would not continue to be the accessible and affordable route to flying it is for all, the BGA instructing team wish you a safe and enjoyable 2025, please contact us with anything you feel will be of interest and we look forward to meeting many of you at the forthcoming conference and during the coming months.

Stu Naylor, BGA Training Standards Manager

Grinner Smith, DTO Head of Training

Rose Johnson, Chair BGA Instructors and Examiners Committee

February 2025

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