

# BGA accident/incident summaries

| AIRCRAFT<br>Ref                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Type     | Damage      | Date, time      | PILOT<br>Injury | P1 hours |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| 84                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Puchacz  | minor       | 14/08/21, 12:05 | none/none       | 799      |
| Canopy came open in flight. The P1 was demonstrating adverse yaw when the canopy suddenly flew open. It remained attached and the pilots were able to close it again before landing safely. After the flight a slight bend was found in the frame cross tube to which the restraint cable was attached. There was also a small crack in the frame. The P1 believes that he may not have fully closed the canopy. His recent two seat experience was in K-13s and he had not flown a Puchacz for two years. This glider had only recently been put back in service and it had been noted that the canopy locking mechanism was unusually stiff. The P1 had not DI'd this glider so hadn't noticed the comments in the DI book. He thinks that he may have pulled the locking lever until solid resistance was felt, but this may not have engaged the over centre lock.                                                                                                                                                             |          |             |                 |                 |          |
| 86                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Discus   | minor       | 14/08/21, 12:20 | none            | 226      |
| Flying in an inter-club competition, the pilot pushed on in deteriorating conditions towards a promising cloud, reassured by what appeared to be a suitable landing field near the cloud. Arriving at about 600ft agl, but unable to climb, the pilot flew an abbreviated circuit into the field, starting on base leg. It was only then that he realised that the field contained a herd of horses, but he was now too low to reach any other safe landing field. The horses were not disturbed by his arrival, but a few were curious and came closer. It took the pilot some 30 minutes to find and meet with a stockman and it was only after the herd had been distracted away that the pilot noticed some compression damage to a wingtip and a few scratches on the canopy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |          |             |                 |                 |          |
| 87                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Discus   | minor       | 23/08/21, -     | none            | 30       |
| Undercarriage collapse about 60 metres into an aerotow take-off ground run. The pilot pulled the release and the glider settled onto the grass, but its momentum took it over a compacted stone and earth path. The underside of the fuselage was damaged by the larger stones making up the path.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |          |             |                 |                 |          |
| 94                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | ASG 29   | minor       | 26/08/21, 16:55 | none            | 8260     |
| Field landing into soft, stony field. After the engine failed to start, the pilot continued his circuit into a harvested field. However, the field had also been harrowed, loosening the soil and exposing many large flints. The glider stopped rapidly in the loose soil, tipping on to its nose. The flints damaged the underside of the nose as well as an undercarriage door and the leading edge of one wingtip.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |             |                 |                 |          |
| 98                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | LS8      | destroyed   | 05/09/21, 13:40 | serious         | 61       |
| Glider hit trees and crashed inverted. The pilot had returned to gliding after a break of several years, having originally trained at a hilltop airfield in lower performance gliders. The pilot was relatively new to the LS8 and intended to do some practice circuits. As the glider passed abeam the launchpoint on final approach witnesses heard the airbrakes shut and saw the glider turn away. The GPS trace shows that at about 130ft agl the glider turned to the left and continued to turn until hitting the trees bordering the downwind end of the airfield after turning through almost 360°. The report suggests that the pilot's lack of experience in high performance gliders led to the pilot positioning the start of the final approach too close to the airfield in the light wind. The pilot suffered serious leg injuries and was airlifted to hospital. The glider forward fuselage and wings were damaged. See AAIB Bulletin 2/2022.                                                                   |          |             |                 |                 |          |
| 99                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | LS4      | minor       | 12/09/21, 13:00 | none            | 40       |
| Glider dropped into a pothole during an extended landing ground run due to landing with a slight tail wind, ripping off an undercarriage door.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |          |             |                 |                 |          |
| 101                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | K-21     | minor       | 07/09/21, 19:00 | none/none       | 183      |
| Heavy landing damaged the rear tyre and possibly the tailplane and fin. The report describes a late and abrupt roundout leading to a bounced landing followed by a PIO and several further landings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |          |             |                 |                 |          |
| 102                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Grob 103 | minor       | 15/09/21, 15:30 | none            | 348      |
| Rear canopy came open during solo aerotow take-off. As the previous flight had been flown solo the pilot thinks that he may have assumed that the rear canopy was closed and locked during his walk round and not properly checked. His pre-flight checks included a visual check of the rear canopy but not a physical check. After releasing and landing safely the pilot saw that the rear canopy locking lever was in the open position. The transparency had broken and the canopy frame fractured.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |          |             |                 |                 |          |
| 103                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Arcus    | substantial | 20/09/21, 15:50 | none/minor      | 4656     |
| Crash after aerotow aborted at low level. After a normal take-off, the glider P1 initially put the poor performance of the combination down to the being in the lee of trees in the 90° crosswind. Witnesses at the upwind end of the airfield describe the combination as being unusually low with the tug engine running roughly. The tug pilot reports an initial brief loss of power followed by a sustained power loss towards the end of the airfield, at which point he signalled the glider to release and turned away from the trees at the end of the runway. The tug pilot was able to complete a 180° and land back on the airfield. The glider wing hit the ground while still turning, breaking the wing, before the fuselage hit the ground, breaking the fuselage. The P1 was able to exit the glider unaided, the passenger was taken to hospital as a precaution, but suffered only cuts and bruises. The subsequent tug engine inspection found that one of the magnetos had failed after 178 hours in service. |          |             |                 |                 |          |

# BGA accident/incident summaries *continued*

## AIRCRAFT

| Ref                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Type      | Damage      | Date, time      | PILOT Injury | P1 hours     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 104                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | K-8       | substantial | 08/09/21, 11:20 | serious      | 70           |
| Heavy landing after winch launch failure. Witnesses report that the cable separated from the glider just as it started to rotate to the full climb. The glider then maintained the same attitude for a while before the nose dropped and the glider impacted the ground in a nose down attitude. One witness reports the pilot stating that she did not realise that the launch had failed until seeing the parachute below her. The safety officer suggests that the pilot's late recognition of the failure meant that the glider was probably already stalled by the time she reacted. The pilot suffered back injuries and the fuselage of the glider was damaged. |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 105                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Grob 103  | minor       | 28/08/21, 14:35 | none         | 4            |
| Bounced landing followed by PIO. The glider touched down on the main wheel, bounced and then landed on the main and nose wheel, setting up the PIO. The landing flattened the nose and tailwheel tyres and left some cracks in the gel coat above the tailwheel.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 111                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | K-21      | substantial | 26/09/21, 17:00 | none/none    | not reported |
| Glider struck marker cone during landing. The cone was used to mark the displaced threshold of the runway on a grass airfield and was partially hidden by the long grass on the edge of the runway. The leading edge of the wing was damaged by the impact.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |             |                 |              |              |
| <b>Incidents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 83                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ASW 22    | none        | 03/08/21, 11:45 | -            | 2000+        |
| Engine failure during self launch. At about 600ft the engine lost power for nearly 10 seconds before running properly. At 800ft the engine again lost power so the pilot shut it down, retracted it and landed back on the airfield. The engine ran normally during subsequent ground runs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 85                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Libelle   | none        | 10/08/21, 18:00 | none         | 742          |
| Wingtip caught in long grass next to the runway during landing ground run. The glider groundlooped, fortunately without damage. The club intend to cut this grass area more regularly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 88                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | DG-500    | none        | 28/08/21, 17:15 | none/none    | 523          |
| Wheel-up landing. The flight was flown with the gear extended and the P1 raised the wheel during the pre-landing checks. The club intend to remind their members to pay more attention to the undercarriage lever placards during their pre-landing checks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 89                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Perkoz    | none        | 14/08/21, 11:50 | none/none    | -            |
| Trim adjustment system failed. The rear seat cable clamp and grub screws associated with the trim unlock lever failed to hold the unlock cable leading to a loss of tension in the entire trim unlock system, meaning that neither pilot was able to adjust the trim. As the glider was in a thermal at the time the trim was stuck in the full nose up position for the rest of the flight. The system was repaired with the addition of industrial adhesive but after a week's intensive use the cable was again showing signs of slippage.                                                                                                                          |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 90                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ASH 25    | none        | 26/08/21, 16:00 | none/none    | 11814        |
| P2 inadvertently pulled the canopy jettison knob instead of the cockpit vent knob. The canopy remained attached and the P1 was able to make a safe field landing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 91                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | LS 10     | none        | 10/08/21, 13:35 | none         | 708          |
| Canopy came loose just after taking off. The pilot released from the aerotow and landed ahead but had to groundloop the glider to avoid going off the end of the hilltop airfield. The local maintenance firm found no fault with the canopy locking system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 92                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ASG 29    | minor       | 14/08/21, 13:15 | -            | -            |
| Pilot misjudged the clearance to a nearby JS1 while ground handling; the aileron of the ASG impacted the winglet on the JS, damaging both gliders.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 93                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Discus    | none        | 04/07/21, 19:30 | none         | 21           |
| Airbrakes came open during an aerotow launch. The wingtip runner reports that the airbrakes came open and were closed several times during the ground run before remaining open after take-off. Both the tug pilot and the launchpoint controller informed the pilot over the radio but the pilot had not switched the radio on. The tug flew back to the airfield and was about to signal when the glider pilot released. The wing runner had flown the glider for five hours earlier in the day and reported no problems with the airbrakes during his flight.                                                                                                       |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 95                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ASW 28    | minor       | 03/08/21, 15:00 | -            | 2750         |
| While towing out a wingtip caught on an overhanging branch. The glider came off the tow out gear and the tailplane struck the back of the car, damaging the fin and tailplane.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 96                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | HpH Shark | none        | 04/09/21, 15:10 | -            | 2003         |
| Wheel-up landing on grass.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |           |             |                 |              |              |
| 97                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | K-21      | minor       | 26/08/21, 12:30 | -            | -            |
| Glider wing contacted stationary golf buggy while being taken out of the hangar. The impact left a 50cm x 2cm dent in the underside of the wing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |           |             |                 |              |              |

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## BGA accident/incident summaries *continued*

| AIRCRAFT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |         | Damage      | Date, time      | PILOT Injury | P1 hours |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| Ref                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Type    |             |                 |              |          |
| 100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Discus  | minor       | 12/09/21, 10:15 | -            | 65       |
| Wing hit tow out vehicle. After detaching the tow bar the pilot rotated the glider slightly and pushed it a few metres away from the truck. As he walked back to the truck the glider continued to rotate on the tail dolly and the pilot was unable to stop an aileron hitting the rear of the tow truck.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |         |             |                 |              |          |
| 106                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | LS6     | substantial | 22/09/21, 18:00 | -            | -        |
| Tail dolly hinge failed while towing the glider. Aided by a slight slope, the glider ran into the back of the car, causing a split in the fin and damaging the rudder. The dolly had been inspected during the glider's ARC and no wear had been seen in the hinge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |         |             |                 |              |          |
| 107                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | SF 25c  | none        | 18/09/21, -     | -            | -        |
| Fuel tank cap not replaced after fuelling. The P1 had been distracted by a club member asking about field landing training while replacing the fuel nozzle at the pump. After completing the fuel log, strapping in his student and himself it was only after taxiing to the runway run up area that the launchpoint informed him of the missing fuel cap.                                                                                                                                                                                        |         |             |                 |              |          |
| 108                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | PIK 20E | none        | 23/09/21, 14:50 | -            | 9553     |
| Self-launch with unconnected elevator. The pilot noticed soon after take-off that he had no pitch control so reduced the power and landed ahead, albeit with a few bounces. While rigging the glider a few days prior the pilot had noticed that, unusually, the tailplane did not sit snugly on the top of the fin but he covered the gap with wing tape without investigating. He could see the elevator moving as he moved the control column during the DI but did not do a positive control check.                                           |         |             |                 |              |          |
| 109                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | DG-505  | none        | 26/09/21, 13:15 | none/none    | 7101     |
| Winch cable fell into trees bordering the airfield. The P1 had pulled a simulated launch failure just below 500ft ato, the winch driver initially let the cable drop but by the time the glider turned clear he judged the cable to be too low and too close to the airfield boundary to safely reel in. At the time of the release, the glider was still over the centre of the airfield and had yet to fully correct for the crosswind. The P1 also suggests that the new lightweight polyethylene cable drifts more than the old steel cables. |         |             |                 |              |          |
| 110                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | K-21    | none        | 22/09/21, -     | none/none    | 2000+    |
| Front instrument panel not secured. The panel partially detached as the glider rotated into the full climb during a winch launch, fortunately without obstructing the controls. The handling P2 was able to finish the launch and land safely before the glider was taken offline. Two of the three retaining nuts had been removed to allow the panel to be rotated to enable access to change a fuse but were not replaced before the glider was put back in service. The club will review maintenance protocols.                               |         |             |                 |              |          |
| 112                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Nimbus  | minor       | 26/10/21, 13:50 | none         | -        |
| Winch cable fell on glider being towed along the perimeter track to the launchpoint. The instructing P1 was unaware of club restrictions on simulating launch failures in crosswind conditions on the narrow airfield.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |         |             |                 |              |          |

During BGA Club Safety Officer seminars it was proposed that, to further encourage reporting, it would be a good idea to remove site names from summaries. This has been reflected in the summaries on these pages. Edward Lockhart continues to provide a little extra detail, where available, in these listings. We would also like to publish (anonymously) your stories of particular flights that have taught you a valuable flying lesson. Please send details to [editor@sailplaneandgliding.co.uk](mailto:editor@sailplaneandgliding.co.uk) or by post to the address on p3.



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