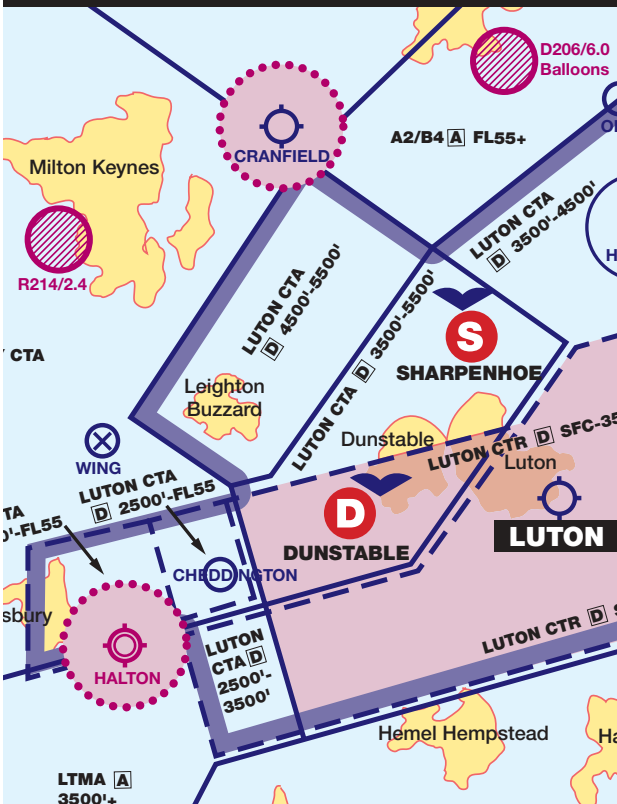
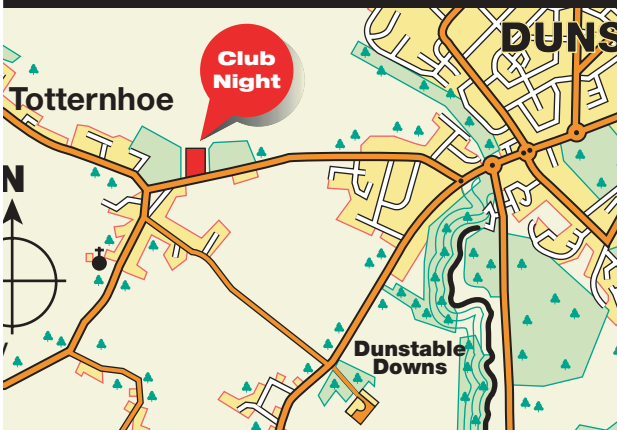


DECEMBER 2001 LOCAL AIRSPACE AROUND OUR SITES



CLUB NIGHTS DIRECTIONS TO THE CRICKET CLUB



DHPC Website
www.dunstablehpc.co.uk

BHPA Website
www.bhpa.co.uk

Useful Phone Numbers

- BHPA**
0116 2611322

- Dunstable Weather Station**
01582 472253

- London Gliding Club**
01582 663419

- Aerotowing Answer Machine**
01933 380969

- Military Freephone**
0800 515544

- Red Arrows & Royal Flights**
0500 354802 *until 30 Nov.*

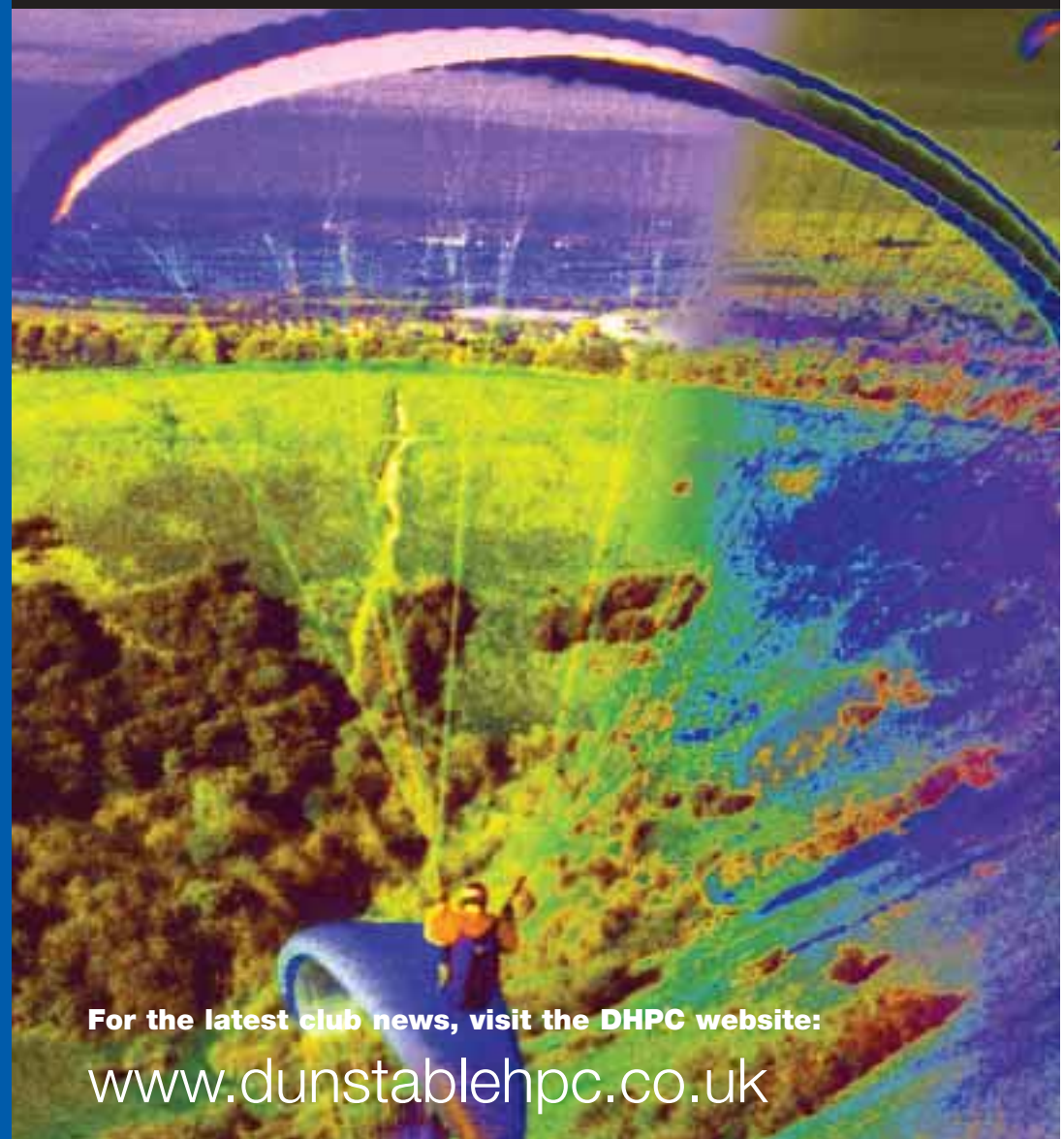
- Luton LATCC**
01895 426760

Next Club Night

London Gliding Club
THURSDAY
December 6th 2001
'Bob Drury' Talk
7.30pm sharp

Ups & Downs

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DUNSTABLE HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING CLUB



For the latest club news, visit the DHPC website:
www.dunstablehpc.co.uk

Hello again...



Well the weather has been a little kinder this month and most of us have managed to get a bit of ridge soaring in at the Downs. It was good to see you all again even if it was busy. Most people managed to keep out of each others way and avoid any conflict but please remember to be courteous and allow other pilots room to manoeuvre.

On the social side the Club night saw a successful Bring & Buy session and a short video of flying in Crete earlier this year. Thanks go out to Harry Greene for capturing the action in Crete and also his kind donation of the proceeds from the sale of his old Hang Gliding magazines from the 70's and 80's to club funds.

The AGM is in sight and we have published the date. Please make an effort to come along and hear how we have performed over the last year and have your say about how the club is administered.

We will be discussing sensitive issues like fees so make you turn up if you feel strongly about it. We do need new blood on the committee so if you think you can take on even a minor role please put your name forward.

Before the AGM we have Bob Drury and High Millers talk to look forward to and the Christmas Bash. If you want tickets for either event please phone me on 01234 721721 or e-mail me at addesign@madasafish.com

Fly safe

Steve Meadowcroft

e-mail: addesign@madasafish.com



From the Editor



Our esteemed Ups and Downs Editor (left) has done the right thing by lovely Pip and tied the proverbial

knot. We wish the happy couple every happiness together. Paul has been getting used to marriage and has already suffered one hospital visit due to earache whilst on his honeymoon!

There has been some aviation committed at Dunstable this month, and there are a few exciting events coming up. Bob Drury's talk (usually fascinating), Telford, the AGM, and the Xmas bash.

The mag is a little thin this month, but there are promises of more stories from China and Nepal coming soon – Editor Paul was actually back from the honeymoon in time for the editorial meet, but Pip wouldn't let him out to play.

Gary Freedman
(temp amateur editor)

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors or the elected Club Committee. Permission should always be sought to reproduce articles in this magazine.

Front cover photo: **Keith White**

club nights/events

December Club Night London Gliding Club Restaurant. (Tickets £6) THURSDAY 6th December

Bob Drury & Hugh Miller are taking Cross Country magazine on tour.

Bob will be giving a slide lecture on adventure flying with pictures from all over the world and then a theory session on cross country flying in the mountains. Hugh will do a section on the world air games, which will cover both HG and PG, then a section of how the magazine is put together and aerial photo journalism in general. This event will replace our usual Wednesday Club Night. I thoroughly recommend that you come along to this. Its an event not to be missed! To book a ticket please e-mail/phone your request back to **Steve Meadowcroft** at: addesign@madasafish.com (Tel: 01234 721721)

DHPC Christmas Dinner Friday 11 January 2002

Queue here for your tickets for the highly popular Xmas Bash at the London Gliding Club, all the usual attractions. Tickets on sale **NOW**, £17.50 a head. **Contact:** Steve Meadowcroft, Sue Cooper & Matt Moore for details and tickets.

DHPC AGM – Wednesday 13 February 2002

Next year we are moving the Club AGM to February, to make the changeover for new committee members easier when memberships are due for renewal.



Carbon Collapse-on

Recent Pilot rated member **Keith Clapson** had hardly let the ink dry on his new ticket when he was proving that it might have been a mistake. Amused onlookers watched as he succumbed to the lure of some of the Downs most thorniest bushes just north of the car park take off (see above). Picking your canopy lines out of one of these is always very time consuming and can be a real pain in the arse, as Richard Greaves might remember from a few years back.

You've been framed

Larry Stockman acting on advice from Gary Freedman that the Colney Heath microlight boys were a friendly bunch, decided to visit there on his bug. Gary also told him that although getting into the field was straight forwards enough

launching could be a bit trickier. And so it was. This time though the locals knew what to expect and had handily laid on a full camera crew to capture the action. Larry duly obliged and blew his launch, screwing off to the side at full sprint and piling it in, hurrah and now available in technicolour. The chappie in charge said he would be sending the tape to Beadle and that he would sportingly use half of any profits to offset Larry's subscription to their club.

Happy couple

Erstwhile Ups & Downs editor **Paul Seminara** is currently honeymooning in Australia with very lovely new wife Pip, this following a rather jolly wedding and a reception in Garston, North Watford at which a large contingent of DHPC members were spotted. Tempting though it might be to do some flying while in OZ, any even minor prang by Paul would mean that he wins outright the currently closely contested George Farley award again. Of course he might be too busy.

Congratulations

Just a little late due to an administrative error by Uncle Matt, **Denis Springford** has now received his pilots exam results. As expected he passed with a very creditable 90% so the drinks are on him.

Is it something we said?

As expected, club new boy **Richard McNeil** is showing signs of post traumatic stress after his exposure to Greg at the summer BBQ. Almost recovered, Richard has booked himself onto an LGC course for flying sailplanes to ease himself back into the flying scene. Of course this might be to ensure that when eventually he meets Greg in the sky, he would have the upper hand.

Black looks

Age is a terrible thing. Some of our older members, while still able to fly, are suffering from increasingly brittle bones and the lack of acute judgement which is the inevitable consequence of advancing years. Though never having been to Greece, **Paul Hair's** Barnet has obviously had a close encounter with a Hellenic millennium product (Grecian 2000) and in his dotage, he thought that we might not noticing it.

Cautionary tale

Bad news from the foot launched front. Our friends at Sandy microlight field have lost one of their two operational runways. This was apparently due to complaints from the residents of nearby Moggerhanger who were being overflowed by visiting pilots who had not taken the trouble to look up the local restrictions. Not that any of our chaps would do such a thing (Mr Seminara). All is not yet

completely lost as they may be able create another East-West strip nearer to the main buildings but this will be a month or two away and in the mean time it's a North-South field only. As the Doodlebugs and Mozzies are very sensitive to wind direction on takeoff this has further cramped the style of the foot launchers at this venue.

Charity begins at Totternhoe

Special thanks go out to the saintly **Harry Greene**. Not only did he donate the proceeds from the sale of his old flying mags to the club, but he bought Steve Meadowcrofts' old harness for an extortionate sum, cos he knows how hard up our chairman is. What a guy, and not a black hair in sight.

Less Trees to Hit

We have doubled the clear area at the bottom of the trail up from LGC. This may allow paragliders, struggling North, trying to reach the BL, to avoid a dangle in the trees or a head to head with an LGC sailplane! On Thursday 15 Nov, the Chilterns Trust North conservation volunteers plus some NT Wardens and me were clearing a swath next the fence, but most of the tall bushes were dead or dying, so succumbed to the chain saw, leaving a sizable clearing. Sorry I didn't get this midweek event published earlier. One paraglider flew briefly!

Zero's

The German air controllers at Frankfurt are a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location but how to get there without any assistance from them. An exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747 (call-sign "Speedbird 206") after landing: Speedbird 206: *"Good morning Frankfurt, Speedbird 206 clear of the active runway."* Ground: *"Guten morgen! You will taxi to your gate!"*

The BA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.

Ground: *"Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?"*

Speedbird 206: *"Stand by one, ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."*

Ground (with some arrogant impatience): *"Speedbird 206, have you never flown to Frankfurt before?"*

Speedbird 206: *"Yes, I have, in 1944. In another type of Boeing... but I didn't stop."*

Safety Notice

FreeX paragliders

Safety notice concerning 0.9mm Upper lines fitted to some FreeX gliders posted 28/8/01.

It has been noted that in a very few cases, lines fitted to **FreeX** gliders show small "bumps" which can be seen and felt through the polyester sheathing. Tests on these lines have shown no reduction in strength when new. However, with use, the strength of the lines may deteriorate faster than unaffected lines. We are therefore requesting pilots to check the upper 0.9mm lines which attach directly to the canopy for bumps in the core of the line and/or little loops of core material which protrude from the sheath. If more than 5 lines are found to show these symptoms, pilots should contact Air Base UK Ltd. to arrange for new lines to be fitted. We would like to emphasise that very few if any gliders are expected to show these symptoms.

Gliders which may be affected have the following serial numbers:

- Serial numbers have the form nnn-nnnnXnn-X where n=number and X=letter
- Possibly affected gliders have a "C" in the first letter position, with the following numbers after it:
Flair: 01 to 04
All others: 01 to 13

Note that no Spears or Frantic/Frantic-Plus are affected, and that none of the Flairs imported into the UK by Air Base are affected.

The Stereo tandem should be checked professionally every 12 months, as is required by law in some countries.

Safety Notice

Nova Carbon paraglider

Nova have issued a safety warning about the "Carbon" paraglider. The 'Brummel Hooks', (which hold together the speed bar system) are faulty and can come un-done, sometimes catching lines in them! Pilots owning these gliders should get in touch with Dean Crosby at 'Active Edge' or the place you bought the glider from!

Freephone Gone

The Freephone telephone number **(0500 354802)** for the latest information on Royal Flights, Red Arrows displays and Temporary Restrictions of Flying is to close at the end of November 2001.

Security and economics are being cited as reason for the closure. Pilots with internet access can still obtain information from the NATS website, but this still leaves many without easy access to up-to-date information.



Paragliders soaring the bowl pictured by Keith White on the Tandem glider

Sunday 11th November brought a busy gaggle of flyers to Dunstable, mostly paragliders in the light south-westerly.

It seemed like quite a stable day – no massive lift, but no major sink either – It was with surprise therefore that we witnessed Richard G swearing and cursing at his paraglider for some reason.

A few hang gliders took off, and despite having to dodge round some slower obstacles, had no problem staying up. Larry took off, had a comfortable flight and later landed on the pimple. The highly experienced Bill Bell had popped up to Dunstable, and thinking it wouldn't be flyable, didn't bother bringing his wing. Looking jealously

on, Bill asked if he could borrow Matt's glider. After some struggle, Cinderella couldn't fit into Matt's action man-size harness. Larry was soon on hand requesting Bill's expert opinion on the Rio, and offering a suitably sized harness.

The audience looked on as the multi-coloured, fluorescent glider took off and wafted about along the hill below the remaining paragliders. It soon became clear that a top landing was not going to happen, and the shamed BB was soon plonked in the bottom lading field. His red glow could be seen from the top of the hill.

Test conclusions:
Avian Rio *****
Test Pilot *

Heroes

One day, the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out, turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said: *"What a cute little plane. Did you make it yourself?"*

Our hero the Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: *"I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like that and I'll have enough parts for another one."*

Gotcha!

If you have any amusing snippets, send them to me at:

Richard.mzsc@virgin.net and I'll include them in the next magazine.

Agenda for **agm** Wednesday 13th February 2002

1. Chairman's Statement
2. Reports from outgoing committee members
3. Election of new committee members for 2002/3, including:
 - Chairman
 - Secretary/External Club contact
 - Membership Secretary
 - Social Secretary
 - Safety officer
 - Treasurer
 - Hang Gliding Coaching Rep
 - Paragliding Coaching Rep
 - Competitions hang gliding
 - Competitions paragliding
 - Ups & Downs Editor
4. Membership fees for 2002/3
5. Any other business

The end of the club's financial year is looming and with it the need to elect your new committee for the following season.

In order to give the new committee time to organise a smooth transition of the club's finances and management we have brought forward the AGM to February. This means that there will be a few weeks for the transfer of papers, bank account details etc, and it will make it easier to audit the accounts.

Hopefully we will have some 'new blood' on the committee with some fresh thinking. So often the hard work necessary to keep the club going is done by the same few people time and time again. Please give a little time back and help the club thrive and prosper.

13 February

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

agm



Strange Geese sighted at the Downs!

Club members were amazed to see some very large geese flying on the Downs in the past few weeks. Chairman Steve Meadowcroft said 'We have seen them before some time ago, but we thought that they had become extinct. I can't remember what they are, Han geese I think but one was seen soaring above us at about 800ft early in November and since then we've seen four more. One of them came quite close to us while we were flying, you could see his head moving around and he was obviously watching us, but they are usually very timid creatures and keep well away from us.

They only seem to fly in strong winds, probably because their wings are too small and they are a bit too heavy. I've actually seen them on the ground in the open but I think they

normally hide in the bushes and one of our members landing their probably panicked them into taking off.

The London Gliding Club pilots say they have seen them too occasionally at altitude and even on the ground hanging around the restaurant there, probably feeding on scraps, preening themselves and waiting until its windy enough for them to fly. There is a story that some years ago one of our chaps had trained them to talk, but it seems unlikely. We have heard them honking and screeching to each other but nothing anybody could understand. I know some of our members are concerned that they might get crapped on by one of them, and obviously that would be very distressing, but it hasn't happened yet so I'm advising them to keep calm.

They don't seem to be annoying anyone or causing any visible damage, and regularly fleecing them is a good way of keeping our bank account nicely feathered, so we are really quite happy to see them again. Members of the public have been warned that though the Han geese are not yet an endangered species any interference with them could have unpredictable results.

Any more sightings? Let us know

In a hurry are we, sir!

Two members of the Lothian and Borders traffic police were out on the Berwickshire moors with a radar gun recently, happily engaged in apprehending speeding motorists, when their equipment suddenly locked-up completely with an unexpected reading of well over 300mph.

The mystery was explained seconds later as a low flying Harrier hurtled over their heads. The 'boys in blue,' upset at the damage to their radar gun, put in a complaint to the RAF, but were somewhat chastened when the RAF pointed out that the damage might well have been more severe. The Harrier's target acquisition computer had locked on to the 'enemy' radar and triggered an automatic retaliatory air-to-surface missile attack.

Luckily(?), the Harrier was operating unarmed.

Committee Posts

Chairman Steve Meadowcroft

Ups & Downs editor Paul Seminara

Membership Secretary Peter Martin

Hang Gliding coaching rep Matt Moore

Paragliding coaching rep Tanya Ephgrave

Secretary/external club contact Matt Moore

Social Secretary Richard Greaves

Treasurer Pete Large

Competitions (hang gliding) Mary Rowbottom
(paragliding) Steve Meadowcroft

Safety Dave Cooper

Non committee officers

Dunstable site liaison Jim West

Sharpenhoe liaison Vince Fenlon

Chinnor liaison Pete Large

Webmaster Richard Greaves

Auditor Pat Thompson

Coaching

Hang gliding coaches

Lead coach Matt Moore Enfield 0208 367 8068

Senior coach Richard Greaves Totternhoe 01525 221283

Club coaches Bill Bell St. Albans 01727 858698

Pat Thompson Leighton Buzzard 01525 379457

Chris Saysell Harpenden 01582 760465

Mary Rowbottom N. London 0208 348 6989

Paul Seminara Croxley Green 01923 228581

Paragliding coaches

Lead coach Tanya Ephgrave Leighton Buzzard 01525 854927

Senior coach Richard Greaves Totternhoe 01525 221283

Club coaches Dave Cooper Hemel Hempstead 01442 232585

Pete Large Thame 01844 214854

Harry Green Camden Town 0207 482 4927

Neil Youd Milton Keynes 01908 511318

Peter Martin Milton Keynes 01908 227953

Vince Wakefield Stevenage 01438 233024

Helen Appleton Wanstead, N.London 07970 404036

Telephone (evening)

01234 721721 day

01234 720012 eve

01923 228581

01908 227953

0208 367 8068

01525 854927

0207 803 7416 day

0208 367 8068 eve

01525 221283

01844 214854

0208 348 6989

01234 721721

01442 232585

01442 269364 (m)07759 826369

01582 667332

01844 214854

01525 221283

01525 379457

Doodlebug. Very low airtime, recent build. Owner giving up flying in favour of horse riding (No honest he is) Phone Matt Moore on 0207 600 8438 work or 0208 367 8068 home, to discuss or arrange a test fly. Price: £2500.

Ford Orion 1.6i Ghia

F reg, MOT and Tax. Knows its own way to Dunstable Downs, South Coast and parts of Kent. Contact: Keith White

Tel: 0208 386 7841/07931 900068

SupAir Evolution paragliding harness (large) Perfect condition £150

Glider Tube for storing hang glider. For storing your glider either inside or outside the house.

Ventilated and mouse proof - £75

Paul Hair 01436 813012

Brauniger Basis IQ, one year old, perfect, instructions - £110 ono

Junkers Profly reserve, never thrown, instructions and two sorts of deployment bags - £175 ono

Harley Sirocco medium and harness - no serious offer refused.

Contact: Stuart 01763 271336 or 01920 882463

Hang glider harness: Scorpio

- blue. Very good condition. Suit 5' 5" to 5' 10" approx. Price: £150 ono. Contact Robin Hodge

Tel: 01442 870038

Rob@flight64.freemove.co.uk

Avian Amour 139

Hang glider. Really good condition, spare upright, owner gone abroad £800

Now £600 ! Matt Moore,

Tel: 0208 367 8068

Honda BROS 400cc motorbike

Immaculate condition, only 8,000 miles. Offers around £1,700

Contact: Matt, 0208 367 8068

Apco 16 Reserve Parachute

Perfect condition. Any offer welcome.

Contact: Gary Freedman

garyfreedman@yahoo.com

Tel: 07771 998 089

Paraglider

UP Vision (Small) Very few hours, Green & White with SAS1 Harness, Vario & Helmet. Offers?

Contact: Nick Bould

Tel: 01832 270043

(mob) 07768 910336

nick@bodengroup.com

BILL BELL AIRSPORTS

Instruments

Power IQ' RPM and CHT- models for PPG and PHG! Expected £399 including sensors

Sonic audio only vario £ 99

Basis IQ £199

Classic IQ £289

Competition IQ £379

Competition IQ GPS £469

For the non-digitally inclined I still have a couple of Davron analogue varios at silly prices,

Bill Bell Airsports

33 King Harry Lane, St Albans, Herts, AL3 4AS

Tel: 01727 858698

Articles for publication

All articles are always welcome and especially photographs.

I will return all your originals on the club night unless you indicate otherwise.

Send your articles in to arrive by the 20th of the month.

Pictures

Please identify them lightly on the back in pencil.

Or scan them at 400+dpi in colour and e-mail them to me as .jpg or .tif files.

Text

Send as e-mail, ASCII text (.txt) or Word95 (.doc)

Hand written or typed is ok too.

Paper and floppy discs to:

Paul Seminara

11 Gill Close

Croxley Green

Watford, Herts

WD18 8WS

e-mail:

Paul@Seminara.

freemove.co.uk