

Club Bulletin 166

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Published monthly. Aimed mainly at club contacts/secretaries. Covers administrative topics and news from the Executive Council. General interest items are repeated in Skywings magazine for all members.

BHPA

1: CAA Mode S Transponder Consultation

On 31st January the CAA published the phase 2 consultation documents for their latest proposals on the compulsory carriage of transponders - go to www.caa.co.uk, click on the "Mode S" menu item, and follow the links.

It should be noted that the proposals are less draconian than last year's proposal of all aircraft in all airspace. However the BHPA believes that they still represent a significant risk to both our activities and General Aviation as a whole. Pending a full review of the CAA's documents our current position is that we do not believe that the transponder carriage proposed provides the CAA's stated safety improvements on a reasonable cost v benefit basis.

The BHPA team of Mark Turner, Phil Jones and Tom Hardie will carry out an assessment of the CAA's documentation and provide you with their thoughts in sufficient time for you to respond by the consultation close of 17:00 on 31st May 2008. Please keep in touch through updates on www.bhpa.co.uk.

This is YOUR airspace use we are talking about, and if you don't seek to protect it officialdom takes the view that by silence you are stating that they do not affect you.

For more information contact:
Tom Hardie, 01309 696 919, tom@primarysolution.co.uk

2: Membership

We are still receiving new applications for FME members without proof of student status being enclosed. This causes extra work for the office staff in chasing up proof of student status, which then results in delays in processing other membership applications. If at the time of joining this documentation cannot be attached to the application, please take the full annual fee. In future if the office receives an application for FME without the required documentation, the whole intro membership book will be returned.

It is apparent that some schools/clubs are still not checking their students' membership cards before training/flying etc. It is important to check them regularly as if their membership is not current, then they are not insured. Please call the BHPA office if they do not have their membership card to hand and we will confirm their status for you.

For more information contact:
Ruth Holyoak, 0116 261 1322, office@bhpa.co.uk

3: Coach Revalidation

In recent years the BHPA has made several major improvements to the way it ensures that Instructors and certain other licence holders are fully current. The FSC has now turned its attention to ensuring that all licensed Club Coaches and Senior Coaches are also fully current and active. This should minimise the chances of any accidents occurring during coaching activity – and it should help minimise the legal exposure of any coach if the worst came to the worst.

A coach revalidation system has therefore been introduced. This simply requires all Club Coaches and Senior Coaches to have a declaration of support signed by the Club's Chief Coach at membership renewal time – e.g. As the licence holder's Chief Coach, I can confirm that he/she continues to be a valuable active member of the club's coaching team. (In the unlikely event of the club having no nominated Chief Coach then the club Chairman should sign this.)

The FSC also recommends that coaches should re-attend the Coach Course at least every five years to ensure that nothing gets forgotten and that they are fully up-to-date with current thinking. (The course fee is reduced by £10 for re-attendees.)

At present the BHPA has some 700 licensed Coaches. It is quite certain that many of these are completely inactive – perhaps having consciously decided to take step back in our more litigious society. There is therefore also a box on the membership form for coaches to tick if they no longer wish to hold a Coach Licence.

For more information contact:
Mark Dale, 01937 585 587, mark-dale@bhpa.co.uk

4: Elementary Pilot

Schools are reminded that Elementary Pilot are available from the BHPA office. Please call now if you are going to need more badges for the start of the season.

For more information contact:
Elaine Lane, 0116 261 1322, elaine-lane@bhpa.co.uk