



621 HISTORIC FLIGHT

INFORMATION PACK

SPRING 2023



HISTORY

621 VGS Historic Flight (HF) was formed in 2003 and consists of current and past members of 621 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, together with other like-minded individuals, who united to preserve and operate former Air Training Corps gliders from the 'wooden era'. The aim of the group is to provide a flying museum so that ex glider pilots and cadets from the past can relive the experience of flying these delightful machines with a secondary aim of introducing young pilots of the modern era to being able to get a hands on experience of what went before them.

All the aircraft are maintained and operated to British Gliding Association (BGA) standards. Members pay an annual subscription the proceeds of which are used solely to fund the upkeep. All servicing and more in depth maintenance is carried out by inspectors who themselves have links to these aircraft or the Air Training Corps and have every wish to ensure their survival into the future.

Operating separately from the Air Cadet publicly funded gliding school the self-funded group had been very fortunate at Hullavington Airfield to share the cadet facilities at no cost which meant every penny could be ploughed back into the restoration of each glider. The 13 years spent at Hullavington in the cavernous ex RAF hangar promoted the perfect environment for maintaining and more importantly promoting the longevity of the gliders as they could remain rigged and covered protecting the precious fabric covering.



A very sad day came when Hullavington was sold by the MOD and the current cadet gliders moved to RAF Little Rissington. Unfortunately, the RAF decided they could no longer support the operation of privately owned gliders and the Historic Flight was required to leave.

The main members of the group had to do some serious soul searching and were faced with the realisation that the Historic Flight had been taken as far as it could and the time was here to disband.

Nobody could ignore that since inception the Historic Flight had grown to five airworthy gliders and a separately owned Venture Motor Glider along with a large spares package plus all the launching support including a 1950's Wilde Winch which started life as a WW2 Barrage balloon winch and is believed to be the only one left in existence.



With that in mind a renewed vigour took over to find a new home albeit in the commercial environment of a BGA gliding club. After a false start the Historic Flight has found a new home with Bristol and Gloucester Gliding Club at Nympsfield. They have made us extremely welcome offering all kinds of support but we have to pay our way. With thanks to our loyal members and a handful of new recruits, we have managed to support ongoing operations at BGGC since Summer 2020.

OPERATING COSTS

INSURANCE for the two dual seat gliders in 2023 is £2400, we are extremely lucky that a benefactor pays for the single seat gliders insurance on our behalf.

The four **CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS INSPECTIONS** cost us £800 as they were simple inspections with only one of the gliders requiring remedial work this year which as yet is an unknown cost.

HANGARAGE at Nympsfield is £700 per glider. To save costs we keep two derigged in trailers and pay for two hangar slots which again has been paid for up to December this year by a donation in order to get us going at Nympsfield and prove we could make it work.

By increasing annual subscriptions to the group we are able to cover the insurance and annual maintenance but this has now reached a point where members are unable to personally fund more. At Nympsfield we are required to pay the club directly for launching facilities so any flying revenue has now dried up. We are surviving at present by continued and heartfelt small donations from like-minded individuals

The ongoing restoration and maintenance of the ground equipment therefore is now eating into the small cash reserves and with the prospect from December of paying a further £1400 for hangarage the Historic Flight is seeking help and ideas with how to create further funding to ensure its continued existence and ability to carry out the main aims.

OUR AIMS

To give an idea of our future planning over a 3 year period we are attempting to raise funding for the following :

- 1) Priority - Hangarage costs £1400 x 3
- 2) Ongoing restoration costs -
 - a) Cadet MK3 wing pulley replacement £2000
 - b) Swallow wing recover £3000
 - c) Cadet MK2 finish stalled refurbishment £1500
- 3) Investigate the possibility of a purpose built modern hangar.

With a secure base at Bristol and Gloucester GC and knowledge that the Historic Flight is viable moving forwards it would then be our aim to seek funding to further promote historic gliding not only as an aviation activity but as a motivational team environment within the current day Air Cadets and the wider youth community.

RECENT NEWS



MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

GETTING ORGANISED

Last year, the HF finally appointed a small committee to help secure the future of the group. Turn the page to meet our group of dedicated volunteers that are leading the efforts to keep our beloved fleet airworthy and in the skies.

HOME SWEET HOME

LIFE AT NYMPSFIELD

Two years since our move, we report back on life at our new home - Bristol and Gloucestershire Gliding Club.

LEADING THE GAGGLE

HF AT JNR NATIONALS

Our latest Instructor member, Dan Welch, shows the Juniors how it's done, marking thermals in the Sedbergh at last year's UK Junior Nationals



HF SUPPORTING VGC RENDEZVOUS IN JULY 2023

In 2021, BGGC won the bid to host the Vintage Glider Club 'Rendezvous' which will take place from 20th-27th July 2023. This event precedes the main VGC International Rally which will take place at Cotswold Gliding Club the following week. The Rendezvous will see upwards of 100 Vintage Gliders fly from Nympsfield from all across the continent with visitors from all around the world. This is a hugely exciting opportunity for both the HF and BGGC. If there are any HF members that would like to get

HF COMMITTEE

As we continue to grow, it was felt it was time to form a committee that would take the lead on all HF matters. The committee currently meet virtually once a quarter with a standing agenda which includes (but is not limited to):

- Future funding opportunities
- Accounts
- Flying Matters
- Aircraft Serviceability
- Equipment Serviceability
- Membership





HF SHOWING THEM HOW IT'S DONE AT THE UK JUNIOR NATIONALS

In August 2021, Dan Welch decided it was only right to show the Junior Pilots competing at Aston Down how it's really done. It was a cracking soaring day and the competition director was more than happy to send our trusty Sedbergh as the Sniffer. Dan and Joey enjoyed over 70 minutes airborne in some great thermals. So great, Joey became the audible variometer whilst they both kept a keen lookout for those pesky Juniors.





HOME SWEET HOME

Two years on from our relocation to BGGC, it's clear to see this was the right choice for the HF. As many of you know, the HF has always thrived on it's inclusive and family atmosphere. We often joke that as much cake eating, tea drinking and BBQing takes place as actual flying and whilst sometimes, we feel guilty about that, good quality time spent together is what the HF is really about. That is partly why when we reinvigorated our membership types, we opted to call our two membership types 'Friend' and 'family'. You can read more about the new membership types on page 4.

With its stunning countryside, ridge and caravan park, Nympsfield has provided the perfect home and the HF has been truly welcomed with open arms. We have tempted most of the regular flyers at Nympsfield to take a ride in the Mk3 and Barge. In addition, we have welcomed with open arms several new members to the group from the BGGC membership and we sincerely hope to attract more.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank all those that have contributed to the HF over the past year. Please see our full membership list below:

HF INSTRUCTORS

Adam Clarke • N Blake • K Burns • J Rees • A Stacey •
G Summerell • A Webb • D Welch

HF PILOTS

G Beard • B House • D Kitcher • D Mansbridge • D Poyser • A Rigby
• L Short • P Turner • C Ullrich • M Wintle • P Woods

HF FRIENDS & FAMILY

J Beard • S Clarke • A Davey • G Fraser • R Newbold • B Page
D Perkins • S Stent • A Trickey • J Williams • T Willis • D Welch • A
Welch • Mark Johnson





FLYING HIGH

The recent hot weather in August gave 4 of our pilots the opportunity to climb to 8000ft! Adam and Geoff who claimed the highest, only returned as Adam was shivering so much he was shaking too much to fly.

HOW TO KNOW WHEN WE'RE FLYING

You may have noticed that we've stopped using the doodle poll method. To know when we're hoping to fly, please use the whatsapp group.

THE FUTURE

The HF currently have sufficient funds to cover the next year's expenses (insurance, hangarage etc). However, we will be seeking additional funds over the next 12 months to ensure the HF's future. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the committee.

HF IN S&G

We were fortunate to get a double page spread in Sailplane & Gliding Aug/Sep 21 issue! There will be copies in the BGGC clubhouse if you missed it.



618 REUNION

We had the pleasure of hosting ex-members of 618 VGS at BGGC last autumn and reintroducing them to the gliders they'd frequently flown in decades before. It's events like this that bring the HF into its own. We've had numerous donations and memberships as a result of this event and only hope that more ex air cadet instructors will come and visit us in the future.

POINTS OF CONTACT

If you have any queries or would like further information, please email us at historic_flight@621vgs.co.uk



