

ke-off. We missed out on the  
 conditions to be had once you  
 e beautiful mountains to the  
 r east of St Andre. The main  
 ting the dates earlier is in the  
 St Andre in good conditions.  
 be a bit less inverted, so the  
 ould be better formed, less bumpy  
 ged. With decent weather we  
 get a bit higher base, giving us  
 spend more time at altitude  
 view.  
 Panel have chosen the best venues  
 ources and local organisation  
 d they look forward to seeing you  
 other fantastic series of competition

tasks. For more information and registration  
 details visit [www.pgcomps.co.uk](http://www.pgcomps.co.uk).

REPORT BY STEVE MASH

### BCC becomes Airwave Club Challenge

After seeing Bruce Goldsmith at the NEC show I got  
 in contact with Markus Vilinger, the CEO of Airwave.  
 We have come to an agreement whereby Airwave will  
 sponsor the British Clubs competition series and get  
 some useful publicity. We decided to call it the  
 Airwave Club Challenge as there already is an  
 Airwave Challenge.

The level of the sponsorship is a load of goody  
 giveaways, Magic bags and the like. Airwave  
 will also help us with the cost of the trophies,

meaning that I will have more to spend on stuff  
 like free barbecues, at-cost beer and maybe a  
 hog roast at the final. This is already booked at  
 the Long Mynd for either the weekend before  
 the August bank holiday or the weekend after,  
 depending on the weather. We may even have  
 money to pay for some retrieve drivers. All this  
 for £35 per team of six for the whole year!

The treasury and website side of things is still  
 done by Martin and Amy Stanton - great thanks  
 to them. They don't even fly any more, but in  
 many ways the modern BCC (oops! Airwave  
 Cup) is their baby.

I'm praying we have a better summer this year.  
 Last year we only got a few tasks in, and as our  
 comps finished at the end of June we were able  
 to see the good weather starting after our  
 series had closed.

I propose to keep the rules pretty well the same  
 as before, except that we must impose the 5km  
 minimum XC distance fully. We don't want a  
 load of inexperienced pilots flopping off a dodgy  
 hill to score 1,200 metres and a broken leg! The  
 rules do allow for non XC tasks, but essentially  
 the series is training for XC flying and we have  
 brought many good pilots on.

I also hope we see the hang gliders do  
 something! Last year my only encounter with  
 hang glider pilots was as I was leaving from  
 the final at Llandinam - I was accosted by two of  
 the Cornish lads who wanted to fly in the  
 sporting winds! I had to tell them they were the  
 only ones to have turned up, alas! Even if there  
 are no rounds it would be great to see the  
 hangies at the final. It should be a great party if  
 the weather holds up.

Avon and SE Wales will definitely kick off with a  
 competition over the Easter weekend. We have  
 an internal comp scheduled and it's a good  
 chance to get a round or two in. We can also set  
 a round in SE Wales on April 12th - 13th, and  
 I'm hoping that Bruce will be able to tie that in  
 with a talk at the Avon club on April 10th.

To get a team registered, get on to your club  
 treasurer and send a cheque to Amy Stanton, 1  
 Chardyke Drive, Temple Cloud, Bristol BS39  
 5BE. To contact the Airwave Club Challenge go  
 to [www.flybcc.co.uk](http://www.flybcc.co.uk) and  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FLYBCC>.

REPORT BY KEN WILKINSON

### BPCup dates

The dates for the 2008 British Paragliding Cup are  
 as follows. Online registration for these events can  
 be found at [www.bpcup.co.uk](http://www.bpcup.co.uk).

May 3rd - 5th	Snowdonia
May 23rd - 26th (provisional)	S E Wales
June 21st - 24th	Long Mynd
July 12th - 13th	Borders
August 1st - 3rd	Dales

There will be an added incentive this year for new  
 pilots who have not competed in the BPCup  
 before, with reduced entry fees and special  
 newcomer prizes. If you've ever wondered what  
 it's like to compete in a friendly and supportive  
 arena at some of the best flying sites in the UK,  
 now's the time to enter.



Fichet judges advance as Goran Djurkovic touches down on the target. PHOTO: ANDREW WEBSTER

### A beginner's guide to accuracy

Wouldn't it be great if, after floating round a hillside  
 for a couple of hours, you could just pick out a spot  
 in a field and land exactly where you wanted to, or  
 that in an emergency you could land in a tight spot.  
 This is where accuracy could help you out.

What is accuracy? This is a question that we often  
 get asked, especially by hill-flying paraglider pilots.  
 So in this article I'm going to give an overview of  
 what we are about and what we do, hopefully putting  
 a few rumours to bed.

Accuracy is a flying skill that allows pilots to  
 land in a small area. In accuracy competitions  
 pilots try to land as close as possible to a 3cm  
 dot in the centre of a target area, and compete  
 over a number of rounds.

There are two different competition scenes or codes  
 in the UK: Classic Accuracy and Paragliding  
 Accuracy. Traditional Classic Accuracy takes place  
 on an airfield and uses either tow vehicles or  
 winches to get the pilot in the air. This was once  
 predominantly low-performance parasending  
 canopies, but more and more high-performance  
 canopies are making an appearance.

Much more recent are Paragliding Accuracy  
 competitions, which have been running since about  
 2000 in the UK. These can take place either on an  
 airfield or on a hill. For the hill competitions the  
 original plan was a simple top-to-bottom flight,  
 keeping in flying order and landing in the target  
 area. However, recently we started introducing  
 competitions where pilots can soar around for a

while before flying in for a target approach. Many  
 pilots fly in both codes, some using just paragliders  
 and some using both parascenders and paragliders.

One major difference between the two competition  
 codes is that in a Classic Accuracy you are allowed  
 to fall over after making your first point of contact.  
 However, you must remain standing up when flying  
 in a Paragliding Accuracy competition.

Accuracy started out and continues on the airfield  
 with tow launch parascenders. After releasing from  
 the tow you would fly around and then approach a  
 target and try to land as close as possible to its  
 centre. This nicely combined the fun of flying with  
 the challenge and skill of landing exactly where you  
 wish to. As this was a traditionally school-centred  
 activity there was a group sense of fun and an  
 enjoyable day out. From this sprung the competition  
 side of things, where a group of pilots competed  
 against each other to accumulate the lowest  
 distance score over a number of flights. In recent  
 years more and more paraglider pilots have turned  
 up on airfields to try their hand and are getting very  
 good scores. Many of these pilots are traditional  
 parascenders who have taken up hill flying.

Some people who might have an interest in the  
 sport are put off by thinking that they wouldn't be  
 good enough to land on a precise spot. They needn't  
 worry, the scores are generally measured out to  
 10m in centimetre increments; that's a pretty big  
 circle to aim for! If you are new to the sport we will  
 measure even further out for your log book so that  
 you can see yourself improving. In most  
 competitions there is also a novice category, so you  
 may still be able to win a prize competing against  
 people with similar experience.

In accuracy we are aiming for a low score, which  
 can sound confusing. For example if you scored  
 301cm in one round and 50cm in the next you  
 would have a total of 351cm. If you got a score of  
 10cm and 32cm your score would be 42cm,  
 therefore having a better score.

You are scored on your first point of contact. This  
 means that if your right foot touches the floor first,  
 that is the point that's measured from the centre of  
 the target. You don't have to stay on that point, so  
 in Paragliding Accuracy you can touch down and walk  
 or run away, as long as you collapse your canopy in  
 a controlled fashion and don't fall over. In Classic  
 Accuracy you can fall or roll over - whatever you  
 want really.

There are several people in the target area. These  
 are the chief judge, event judge, three fichet judges,  
 two strike judges, a recorder and someone  
 monitoring the wind. When you've done your target  
 approach and touched down the three fichet judges  
 will come into your first point of contact from three  
 positions - one in front and one from either side just  
 behind - therefore getting an accurate fix from three

different angles. There are also the two strike  
 judges, one in front and one behind, who indicate  
 which foot or other part of the body landed first. The  
 event judge runs the target, but the chief judge is in  
 overall charge of the whole target area.

After landing, once the fichet judges have a first  
 point of contact, the event judge confirms this with  
 the strikes and then with the fichet judges. If at least  
 two of the fichet judges are in agreement the point is  
 measured and the score is passed to the recorder by  
 the event judge. After this the pilot signs for their  
 score. Once the pilot signs they are deemed to be  
 happy with their target approach, with no major  
 factors which could entitle them to a re-launch (lack  
 of height, winds over limits, etc).

Another point to make about accuracy is that there  
 is no special equipment needed (other than a tow  
 yoke in a tow competition). You don't need GPS,  
 vario, camera, map, radio, special wings or  
 harnesses. The only thing that is banned in accuracy  
 competitions is in-flight radio contact. This is to  
 prevent coaching from the ground and ensures  
 everyone lands by their own skill.

In Classic Accuracy there is a National  
 Championship held in the UK, and a European  
 Grand Prix series having three or four competitions  
 in a season. In Paragliding Accuracy there is a  
 National Championship and a World Cup series of  
 six competitions, mainly in Europe, during a season.  
 Both codes have their own leagues where pilots get  
 points depending on their position relative to other  
 UK pilots, which get totted up over the season.

In Paragliding Accuracy there are also FAI European  
 and World Championships, usually having national  
 teams of five pilots. Selection and entry for the  
 British Team to these championships are run by the  
 BHPA Accuracy Panel under the supervision of the  
 squad manager. Pilots interested in representing  
 their country need to register for the accuracy squad  
 and attend accuracy training camps in the run-up to  
 a championships.

Should you wish to find out more information,  
 please contact the Chairman or any other member  
 of the Accuracy Panel.

JONATHAN PARKINSON

### Accuracy Panel personnel changes

There have been yet more changes of personnel in  
 the Accuracy Panel following the resignation of the  
 Chairman Andy Shaw. The Panel would like to thank  
 him for the hard work he has put in over the last few  
 years despite being busy with other flying  
 commitments. Andy has been one of the few CFIs  
 that has consistently supported accuracy over the  
 years, and the whole accuracy community has  
 benefited from this. Andy had great vision for  
 promoting accuracy, and hopefully he will still be in  
 the background to offer some assistance.

Liz Lawrence has taken on the role of Chair and  
 Andy Webster has taken on the role of Secretary in  
 addition to his Skywings role. The Accuracy Panel  
 still has vacancies for some officer positions and  
 would welcome anyone who is interested in joining  
 us. You can join just as a Panel member rather than  
 take on a specific officer's post if you prefer. If you  
 are interested in joining the Panel, please contact  
 the Chair ([lizlawrence@btconnect.com](mailto:lizlawrence@btconnect.com)), or any other  
 Panel member. Every bit of help would be  
 appreciated; this year there are two national  
 competitions to be organised as well as national  
 teams for European and World Championships.

### Calendar dates

Please note these additions to the accuracy calendar that appeared in the last issue.

May 1 - 4	Jugra International Accuracy Competition	Jugra, Malaysia
May 17 - 18	European Accuracy Grand Prix	France (location TBA)
June 28 - 29	Dutch Classic Accuracy Competition	Horst, Holland
July 26 - 27	Birdwings Classic Accuracy Competition	South Cerney, Gloucs

Details for the Malaysia competition are at [www.paraglidingmalaysia.com](http://www.paraglidingmalaysia.com). The contact for the other three  
 competitions above is Arthur Bentley ([arthur.bentley@virgin.net](mailto:arthur.bentley@virgin.net)). Note also that the National Classic  
 Accuracy Championships on August 23rd - 25th will be held at North Luffenham, Lincolnshire.