

AGC Weekly News

31 July/1 August

Weekend Roster

Saturday

Drury closed - Flying at Matamata. The instructors will co-ordinate operations there.

Sunday

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Winter Lecture Series

Russell Thorne

Remaining Winter Lecture series will be held on Saturdays at 9am – All are welcome.

Exams - Glider Technical and Radio Theory - Saturday 7 August.

Lecture - VHF Radio Procedures - Saturday 31 July.

Exam - VHF Radio Practical 14 August in the Drury hangar at 09h00.

Our Duo Heads South

Last chance to add your name to the list of pilots wanting to fly the Duo elsewhere. If you are keen

to go but have not put your name forward, please contact Ross now.

Gerards Video Picks



An Introduction to Wave Soaring

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whCkAGH7thU&t=88s>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XU16da91tw>

Annual Award Recipients

First solo: In Cheol Kim, Nathan Montano, Tristan Harvey-Smith, Georgia Schofield, Keith Macy and Matt Kerrigan.

Angus Rose Bowl: Maurice Honey

Green Air Trophy: Graham Cochrane

Zeman Vase: Paul Schofield

Banton Trophy: Patrick Driessen

Instructors' Trophy: Tristan Harvey-Smith

Ardmore Shield: Patrick Driessen

Liddell Trophy: Not awarded this year

Neill Grant Trophy: Georgia Schofield

Bent Stick Trophy: David Moody

Background details to these trophies forms an interesting part of our club's history, and follows further on in this newsletter.

Mid Winter Mushroom Risotto Evening

Ross Gaddes

I am happy to report that the awards evening went every bit as well as I hoped and in fact better. With the help of Simone and Chrissy, Simon presented a great meal that was wonderfully finished off with a special sorbet. Thanks for the really hard work put in by Simon, Chrissy and Simone.



Simon at work

Our club has not only been able to present another night of fine dining we have been able to meet and chat, listen to some fantastic flying exploits and best of all make a few dollars as well. Vaughan and Paula Ruddick were great guests

and Vaughan's presentation was really inspiring, with some great pictures of areas I'd like to visit, but from the Northern end.



Following Vaughan's talk we distributed, firstly the serious awards which sadly had been curtailed last year because of Covid.

One special award was the Angus Rose Bowl which is a GNZ award given at the last GNZ AGM to Maurice Honey. Maurie has been of huge value to the AGC and the award is well deserved. Maurice, Paul Knight and John Baylis were also honoured with a letter of appreciation from the committee o.b.o all of Auckland Gliding Club. The work that these members have put into our club over the years cannot be understated – so we have officially said "Thank You" now.

After initial awards we also had some fun, but important awards given to those interesting flying feats during the last season.

More on the awards further on in this newsletter.

Our Duo has been Repaired

The Duo DX is now serviceable and back in its trailer. Luckily Sailplane Services had a new hinge in stock. The old hinge was drilled out and the new item bonded back before being filled and painted.

Once the paint has hardened, the repair can have its final polishing next week.

However, as the Soaring Track booking system is currently not operational, it has not been possible to judge if there is any interest in taking the Duo to Matamata this weekend. The committee has therefore resolved to keep the Duo at Drury.

AGC Awards Presentations

- ▶ Pilots everywhere remember their first solo flight and what came after the congratulatory handshakes and pats on the back from their instructors.
- ▶ Various commemorative traditions have evolved since the first solos in heavier-than-air-craft.
- ▶ I distinctly remember my instructor wielding scissors, removing a large patch of my shirt tail upon which he documented the facts of the flight, and then signed it and hung it on the wall in the briefing room.
- ▶ This paralleled other water initiations when a dousing with a bucket of water, sometimes chilled with ice was administered.

1ST SOLO CERTIFICATES

First Solo Certificates were presented to the deserving pilots on the right:

- ▶ In Cheol Kim 1st Jan 2020
- ▶ Nathan Montano 9th Feb 2020
- ▶ Tristan Harvey-Smith 15th Mar 2020
- ▶ Georgia Schofield 31st December 2020
- ▶ Keith Macy 7th Jan 2021
- ▶ Matt Kerrigan 21st May 2021

- ▶ It was 1911 and George Bolt and **Bill Angus** had been experimenting for some years with the design and construction of balloons and model aeroplanes.
- ▶ Now, on December 23, 1911, George Bolt was about to become, as he himself said years later, "the first man to get off the ground in Christchurch".
- ▶ The glider was modelled on the Chanute, an open-framework biplane with a fixed tailplane and vertical stabilisers at the rear, but without any movable control surfaces. The structure was made from close grained Oregon timber, the fittings from mild steel plate and the wings were covered with calico sewn by Bolt's mother.
- ▶ In order to position the glider for a downhill launch, Bolt and his friends climbed to the top of one of the lower slopes of the Cashmere Hills in Christchurch, reassembled the craft and waited for a suitable breeze.
- ▶ "I will always remember the thrill of finding myself a couple of feet off the ground and feeling the glider accelerate as it moved through the air. I flew only about 18 metres and, while landing, ran down one of the boys ... the glider caught up with him very quickly and he had a painful leg for some days."
- ▶ The glider had no controls, but Bolt soon learnt how to shift his bodyweight to direct its flight in the fashion of modern hang gliders.
- ▶ "I found myself able to obtain heights of up to 30m and distances of 180m or more without much trouble."
- ▶ **The Angus Rose Bowl is awarded annually in recognition of outstanding services to the sport of gliding in this Country.**
- ▶ **The Winner is Maurie Honey**



THE ANGUS ROSE BOWL

- ▶ This beautiful trophy was presented to the Club by it's then President, Morrie Green in 1960. Morrie also had the distinction of importing the first German sailplane direct from that country, a two seater Bergfalke GAQ.
- ▶ He also owned a Tiger Moth ALK that the Club used for towing. Unfortunately this aircraft, like most of the Tiger Moths the Club leased ended up a crumpled heap. It was later rebuilt to fly as AGZ in the eighties.
- ▶ The COSIM variometer had two tubes each with a small bead the floated up according to the rate of ascent or descent.
- ▶ **RED** was down, **GREEN** was up - hence the search for **GREEN AIR**.
- ▶ Without the efforts of tonight's recipient, it just would not be possible for us to get off the ground to search for **GREEN AIR** without all the hard work that 'someone' does to support the whole operation.
- ▶ **The trophy is awarded for general services to the Club in a non-flying role.**
- ▶ The Winner is Graham Cochrane



GREEN AIR TROPHY

More on the Green Air Trophy on the next page...

MAURIE GREEN WITH BERGFALKE (GAQ) AT ARDMORE

- FIRST GERMAN GLIDER IN NEW ZEALAND



The Cosim Vario

Green Air
means you
are going
UP!

- ▶ **HISTORY :** Tom Zeman was the Czechoslovakian Trade Commissioner attached to the Soviet Embassy in Wellington in the 1960's and was a great help to the Club in working through the problems associated with importing the first Blanik (GFS) into New Zealand. The Blanik, which flew for the club from 1964-1974 cost the Club Four Thousand Pound (\$8000).
- ▶ Tom also became a member of the Club and whenever in Auckland, flew with the Club at Ardmore.
- ▶ **This year awarded to the pilot of the highest placed Club Glider in The 2021 SMEG Auckland Task Week.**
- ▶ **The Winner is Paul Schofield and crew**

Zeman Vase



LET BLANIK CLUB GLIDER GFS (1964-1974)

- ▶ **Neville Banton** was one of the club earthmoving contractors, together with Alan Cameron and Maurie Honey, who when the Club purchased the farm in 1973, did the original tree removal, earthmoving and drainage to form the Cossey Farm strip, as it was then.
- ▶ **Awarded to the winner of the 2021 SMEG Task**
- ▶ **held 2nd to 9th January 2021.**
- ▶ **The winner is Patrick Driessen**



BANTON TROPHY

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Instructors' Trophy

- ▶ Presented to the Club by Graeme Alex Hugh McAlpine, who flew Spitfires in the Far East with the RAF.
- ▶ Born in 1924, Graeme joined the Club in 1967 and when he became an Instructor, carried out a lot of instructing on attitude flying without instruments.
- ▶ Also taken into account is the flying experience of the pilot. Graeme retired from all flying in 1988 and moved "up north" to build a retirement home.
- ▶ Graeme McAlpine died in 2004, aged 80.
- ▶ **The trophy has traditionally been awarded on a points system based upon a no instrument circuit.**
- ▶ **The winner is Tristan Harvey-Smith**

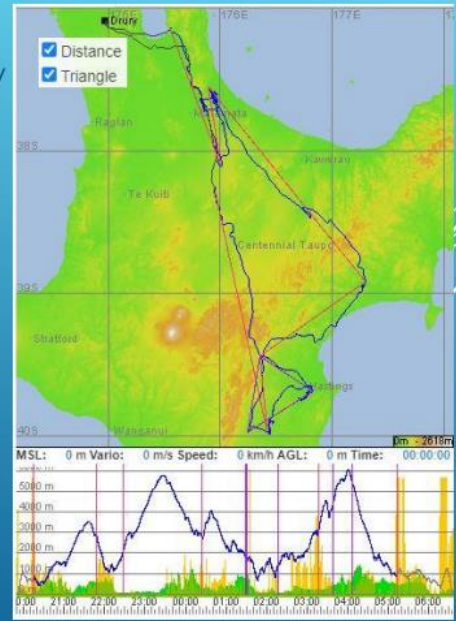
GRAEME MCALPINE FLEW SPITFIRES IN THE RAF FAR EAST AIR FORCE



ARDMORE SHIELD

- ▶ Although obviously given to the club during its tenure at Ardmore Airfield from 1953-1981, the history of this trophy is a bit of a mystery, it is awarded for the outstanding flying achievement of the year.
- ▶ This year this trophy will be awarded for an flight, that although it technically ended with the motor being started, it was truly an outstanding achievement.
- ▶ The winner is Patrick Driessen

Date 18 Jan 2021
Distance 614km
Speed 81 Kph
Flight Time 8hrs 57mins



CHARLES HENRY RUPERT LIDDELL TROPHY

- ▶ Presented to the Club by Charlie Liddell (1914-1996) who was a well known engineer and character on Ardmore and had a long association with the Club. Charlie was also the owner of the original Club kitset two seater Slingsby T31 Rosie (GAD) whose first flight in June 1952 is posted on YouTube.
- ▶ This is to give the lower hour pilot something to aim for that cannot be taken by any of the more experienced pilots.
- ▶ **This trophy is awarded to the most meritorious flight by a pilot with less than 70 hours in his log-book.**
- ▶ **Not awarded**

LIDDELL TROPHY AND SLINGSBY T31B (GAD)



- ▶ **HISTORY: Neil Grant** joined the Auckland Gliding Club in 1941, and later served in the Royal New Zealand Airforce. During this service he had a serious flying accident.
- ▶ He held Silver Badge Number 2 in New Zealand. Neil was a very active member of the Club.
- ▶ He was unfortunately killed in a motor accident on his way home from the Club on 31 July 1964. This trophy was presented to the Club, in his memory.
- ▶ He is pictured second from left in this photo.
- ▶ **Awarded to the Most Promising student pilot**
- ▶ **The winner is Georgia Schofield**

NEIL GRANT TROPHY



Georgina Schofield with Paul Schofield

- ▶ This trophy, representing perhaps mans earliest achievements in aeronautical design also proves that even in the 20th century the boomerang maker still has the unpredictability of an art rather than the certainties of a pure science. Despite numerous flight tests, this beautifully crafted piece of wood can only be described as one-way. Hence the name of the trophy.
- ▶ Thankfully gliding still has this same kind of uncertainty. This is what gives us the opportunity to take up the challenge and increase our skills more and more with each flight.
- ▶ This trophy is in recognition of a pilot who has demonstrated that he/she has had the courage to extend themselves, to try to improve their skills but they were not quite as successful as they had hoped .
- ▶ **This trophy represents a bold effort that ended up as a one way flight.**
- ▶ **This trophy is awarded to the pilot who had the longest retrieve after taking off from Drury.**
- ▶ **The winner is David Moody**

THE BENT STICK TROPHY

Landouts are part of
Gliding-

If you have not landed out
recently, you are not trying
hard enough.

-Anon

BENT STICK TROPHY



The "Give it a Go"
Encouragement Award

A Special Report from our Chairman

Giddy Team AGC,

Having come to the end of another season the committee have been reviewing activity on the field and utilisation of the glider fleet. Despite a challenging last year our flying hours we're healthy and membership has grown.

Much to our relief the roading project has encountered issues and is now a matter for somewhere in the distant future.

We've experienced a season of growth and the mood is buoyant. If you weren't at the Prize

Giving last weekend it was an excellent turnout and a brilliant night!

From the strong growth in new pilots to a pent-up demand from those more experienced cross country types, we've focussed on optimising the subscription fee structure with an aim to promote activity in the coming season.

Here's a sampling of factors discussed:

- The glider charge out rate of \$/minute for cross country flight is significant - up to \$240 per flight in the Discus 2 and Duo. If the subscription model was a single fee or everyone were on the B Scheme, we'd likely see cross country or extended local flights increase.
- Does the current cost of the B Scheme act as a dis-incentive to uptake (twice the rate of an A Scheme subscription fee). Many of the current B Schemes we're taken up by members joining in the last half of the season so charged at a discounted rate.
- Many of the private owner group have expressed a desire to use a club two seat aircraft to enable friends and family to experience the hobby we all love so much. The minute rate and current B Schemes are a barrier now.
- The launching facilities (tow plane and winches) are where the club derives a large part of it's revenue. It's desirable to drive launch activity which results in more flying, faster progression for students and retention of members. It's not desirable to increase launch costs.
- We'd like to see more dual cross country available to those early in their flying careers. Also, the transfer of knowledge from our more skilled competition pilots.
- Our Youth members and the Youth Glide movement have been well supported with benefit to the club. We want to continue that experience. The *"Catch 'em young and keep them keen"* approach is working well.
- Club patronage at competitions and camps has been one of our club's strong points. We'd like to further develop that trend.

- The Club must also recover costs of its operation and to that end have budgeted for a very small surplus. The overarching goal is to arrive at year end as close cost as is safely possible.
- How do we lessen the massive complexity and sheer volume of work the Treasurer is exposed to? There are initiatives underway in regards integration, refinement and automation of systems to assist with this perennial issue.

To that end the committee have set the Subscription Rates for the 2021 / 2022 season as follows:

A scheme \$750. This is up from \$700 (noting that, due to the lesser price of \$650 being incorrectly listed on one form, members were invoiced \$650 last year).

B scheme - an additional \$650, reduced from the current \$1,100, so a total of \$1,400 compared to the present \$1,800.

Youth rate - will be 50% of the fees above

Notes: Aerotow and winch rates to remain the same. The Free Winter hour "trial" has been discontinued.

When you get your subscription invoice, it will have the facility for you to opt in to the B Scheme. Even if you're a private owner, the committee encourages you to consider doing so. Think of those friends and family who'd love to experience



this part of your life.

We expect to have more discussion on subscription-setting options at the forthcoming AGM, including the good and bad points of having both this season's approach and others, such as a single fee as some clubs presently have. Enabling an open discussion at the AGM and continuing that discussion through the next 12 months will ensure a well informed and broadly accepted decision on future fees.

Warmest regards,
Dion

Pictures from the Mid Winter Prize Giving



David Moody and his Bent Stick



Members, Family and Friends



Maurie Honey and the Angus Rose Bowl



Last but certainly not least – man of the evening - our guest speaker Vaughan Ruddick

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