



## WWGC Newsletter April 2023

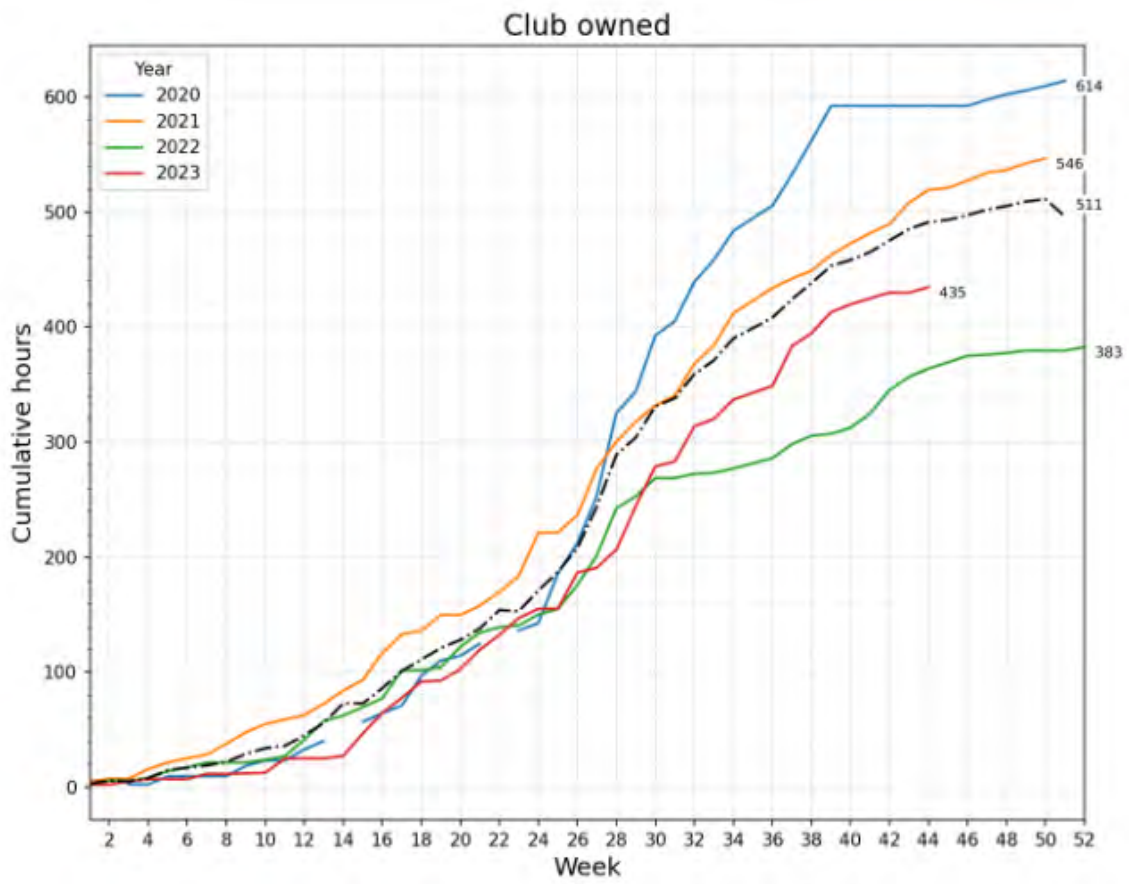
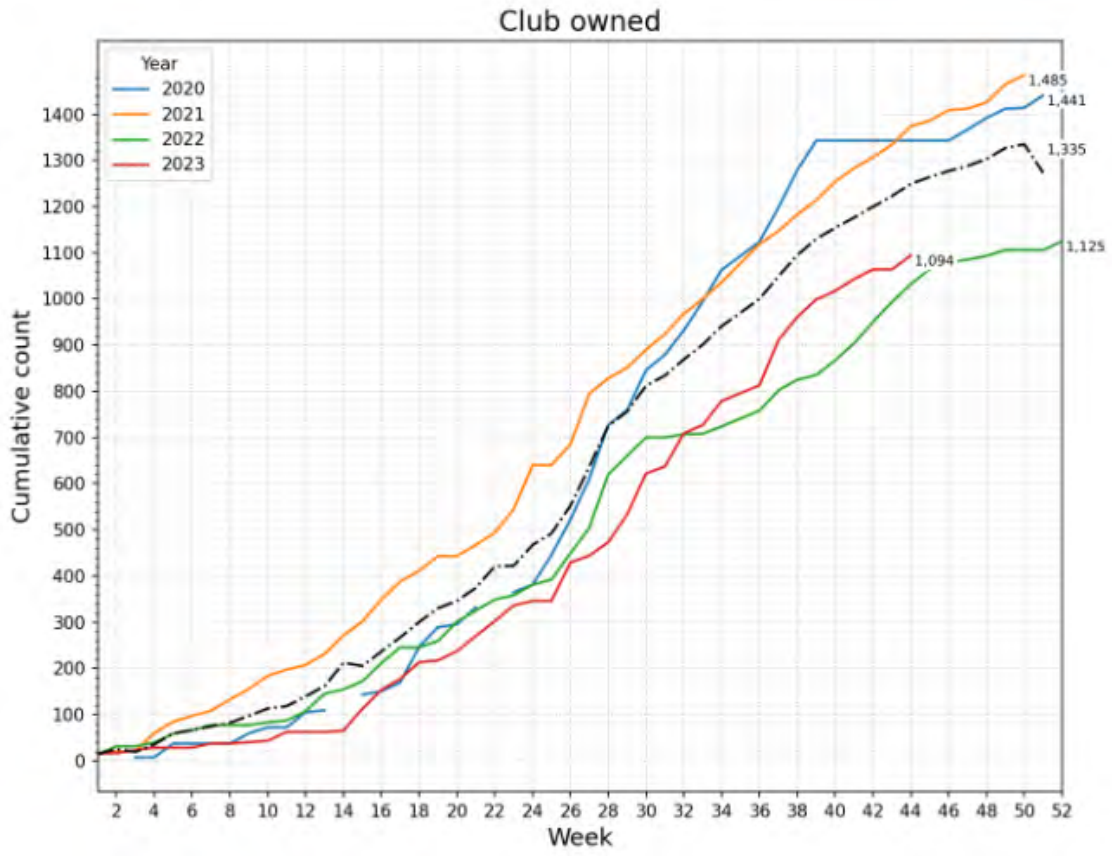
### **From the President - Simon Casey**

A short newsletter this month. As you are well aware, we are heading into the off season with shorter and colder days. We have had significant rain and this has kept the water table high meaning the grounds are soft and you would have read Martyn's assessment. This means that although we can continue gliding for now, a decent amount of rain will render our field inoperable.

Note that the winter months often provide very stable conditions. Not good for soaring but perfect for low level training. We also are likely to get a number of westerlies leading into winter which is also a great opportunity for wave flying.

### **Utilisation**

The latest year to date utilisation figures are shown below courtesy of Martien.



The number of flights of club gliders is still higher than the same time last year but the lead is reducing. However the number of flying hours is now higher than for the whole of the last financial year ending June. So although the quantity of flying is similar to last year, the quality is higher.

If you are interested in viewing more of the financial year to date flying statistics including private flights, click [here](#).

## Flying from Hood Aerodrome

David is arranging operations being moved to Hood aerodrome in Masterton. We are not sure of the dates yet but it will be likely from either June or July for a couple of months depending on the condition of our own field. Hood is ideal for winter flying and we usually operate one twin from there.

We are of course dependent on the use of a tow plane and David will discuss the availability and use of the Upper Valley tow plane with them. This will be a great opportunity for those who have not aero towed for a while to get current again. Also those who have not experienced aerotow should try for an aero tow rating. It is essential that you have an aerotow rating when flying from most other clubs or in competitions.

Although aerotow is slower and more expensive than winching, it has the significant advantage of taking you directly into the lift or to a higher altitude for upper air exercises.

## Achievements

We had the following achievements over February and March:

- Tom Smith - Solo Congratulations Tom!!



## Trailer Park Liming Project

We had a great working bee the other day organised by Martyn and Allan. It was to put lime on the trailer park to better protect the glider trailers from moisture over the winter months from weeds. It also is a pain to mow and keep tidy. Below are a few photos. Thanks to all those who helped.





## **Paul Buchanan Joins Us**

We will be seeing a lot more of Paul Buchanan at the club. This is because he is temporarily basing himself at the club as he has sold his hangar at Hood. We are working with Paul on how to best accommodate his workshop requirements.

## **Birthday Launches**

For May, the free birthday winch launches go to:

- Sajeev Madathiveetil
- Paul Williams
- Lucas Pullen

- Fabian Sivorath
- Elliot Snook

## New Members

During April we welcomed the following new members:

- Eddie Williams
- Lucas Pullen
- Charlie Brider

