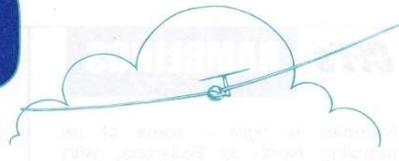


What's Up?



Newsletter of the Leinster Gliding Centre, July 2023 • Issue 1 of 2023



LEINSTER
GLIDING CENTRE

Before we continue...

A shout out to our new members, three month members, not so new members and anyone else who is free on Saturday the 22nd.

We will host a new members day and social evening [post flying].

If you have alternative arrangements, cancel them!

Its Summer!

Welcome to the first edition of the Leinster Gliding Centre newsletter. As we move forward and give the 'all out' to the LGC, the intention is to make this a more regular newsletter to keep you informed about what is going on in the club.

So, if I look at the calendar it reads July and the mind switches to Summer. For me, I am programmed to wear shorts from the 1st of May. There was rugby on the tele for the past few weeks, and the Aras has had another garden party. Yet I now have a water feature in my garden, and it wasn't there in June. I wore a fleece on the airfield yesterday for the first time since April. I am totally confused. I believe the Committee (all rise) were in negotiations regarding fishing rights on Lough Gowran.

For those of you who have not flown off '21, it is a seasonal lake that appears from Jan to April, but has threatened to make a reappearance this month. One of the collateral benefits of Lough Gowran is that it washes the Sheep deposits from the tow rope. Our X Country pals are walking around with faces as long as the Naas Road in traffic! What is going on!

Well quite a bit really. It would be remiss of me not to mention the great day in March when we welcomed Leinster Gliding Centre to the airfield and celebrated our heritage and recognised all that has brought us to where we are. More of that in the report from the top.

Despite the weather, we have had some good flying and you can catch up on all that has happened in the air in the CFI's update - for our newer members, that's

Chief Flying Instructor. *(note: that is not a question on the SPL papers. Ed.)*

We welcome all our new members, including those who have recently joined us on the Trinity College project, and are delighted that you are managing to clock up your flights.

Thanks to those of you who have asked for updates from the Committee. This has been received and acknowledged and we will have a regular update from the team here in What's Up going forward.

A word from the Chair.

I want to start by giving the warmest of welcomes, on behalf of everyone in LGC, to all our recently joined members. After years of pandemic shutdowns, I cannot fully express how wonderful it is to once again be introducing new pilots to the glorious sport of gliding. We eagerly anticipate the many tales of lift won and sink suffered that you will be telling around the compound, clubhouse and various socials over the years to come. And if ever you need to ask someone something, we are here to answer your questions – don't hold back 😊.

The first half of 2023 has been a phenomenally busy time for us in LGC. From the outset, change was in the air and in March we made the long anticipated shift in identity from Dublin Gliding Club to the Leinster Gliding Centre. In doing so, we have acknowledged our operating base and proudly identified ourselves as the centre of excellence for gliding in Ireland. What

was most welcome was the level the internal support received from within the club. Whether it was the mammoth task of getting our teeth into the tidy up of the compound or the massive provision of food and goodies for launch day, the level of contribution was colossal. Equally, the enormity of community and local political support that was garnered on the day must be acknowledged. It was far greater than we had dared hope for and underscores how positive a move this was.

Before moving away from this however, I want to restate, as this cannot be said too often, that in moving to our new identity, we celebrate the rich heritage that Dublin Gliding Club enjoys. The name Dublin Gliding Club lives on and is embraced within the heart of Leinster Gliding Centre. From the Club's earliest beginnings, that had former World War II foes become friends and founders of our Club, to stunning national records being set (records of 24,000 feet above Kerry and



L-R Cllr Fintan Brett, Cathaoirleach Kildare Co Co, Minister of State Martin Heydon TD, Cecily Begley, CFI of LGC and Trevor McHugh, Chairman LGC

over 500km distance across the midlands) and culminating in several of our members representing Ireland up to World Championship level as well as competing in various aerobatic competitions - our past and present members have done us all proud. The move to change our identity is a move to a future that embraces and

cherishes our rich heritage, while honouring it by strengthening our future.

Hot off the heels of this was the launch of the Trinity College research project and many of you reading this now are participants in this. The uptake has been exceptional and means we are welcoming so many new female members to our sport. This is not only something we hugely welcome, it also makes gliding in Ireland somewhat unique across Europe as we promote meaningful levels of gender balance into the sport that we all love so much.

And all of that only brought us up to April, with May providing a great start to our soaring season. Since then we've had two courses and some Task Week activities alongside our normal club operations. Unfortunately, while the weather was superb on the ground, June did bring persistent easterlies and these were then replaced by westerlies that have proven difficult to operate in on some occasions – and the weather has not been entirely kind so far in July. Nonetheless, determination has proven worthwhile and some days we have grabbed weather windows to have some terrific flying – it proves Damien's point, arrive early and get things started. That way, should a weather window open we can take advantage of it.

Separately, the enormous work done by the relevant team of inspectors who brought GLZ through her 3,000 hour check must be acknowledged. This was a huge undertaking that commenced some months ago and saw a huge level of work get completed allowing for GLZ to return to the grid early in the soaring season.

Now that it is done, we have a wonderful glider back in service thanks to the dedication of a small group of glider inspectors who have given hundreds of hours of their time to get GLZ back online in time for the summer.

A huge thank you to you all.

As if this was not enough to squeeze into the first 6 months of 2023, we have commenced a regular, diarised set of social events at the club. Since May we have had regular BBQs out at the clubhouse, following flying. Backed up by the De-Rig bar, another first for the club, we have had 20+ people attending these with great craic being enjoyed. And just to add to it, at the more recent one, we were treated to an air display from Eddie Goggins (granted, this was intended for the music festival in Punchestown, but we still got to enjoy it). Once the roar of Eddie's engine had faded away, the sound of music emerged from the clubhouse as a few people took out their guitars and a bit of a session ensued.



A quick heads up that there will be a New Members event held on 22 July at the clubhouse. More details provided above, and if you are one of our newer members I do encourage you to attend. The purpose is primarily to provide a forum for you to raise any questions you may have in relation to how things function around the club, what the various roles are, etc. Of course, if any longer standing members

would like to attend, please feel free to do so but those newer to LGC are likely to get the most out of the session. This will be followed by our next club social event at the clubhouse.

All in all, it has been a terrific start to 2023 and we're still only half way through the soaring season. I look forward to seeing you all airside soon!

Trevor

Flying news

Congratulations to all those who received last year's trophies (awarded March 2023 at the launch of the Leinster Gliding Centre):

CFI's trophy	Ian de Bri
Boomerang trophy	Not awarded
Local soaring trophy	Pawel Novak
Club ladder	Tom Deane
Harty Memorial	Dan Begley
Greene (IGSA)	Peter Denman

What are they all for? Well, briefly: the CFI's trophy is awarded to the pilot making the best progress (under Silver C level). The Boomerang is awarded for the longest closed circuit task in a club glider (100k or more, and handicapped, based on an Ka8 flying 100k). The local soaring trophy is for the pilot achieving the most soaring in a club glider.



Tom receiving the Club Ladder trophy from Minister of State Martin Heydon TD.

The Club ladder (and the IGSA Ladder) are based on the OLC (online competition system) and the club member with the most points on the OLC Plus wins both trophies. The Harty Memorial trophy is for the member contributing the most to the club in the past year, who is not a committee member. The Greene cup is awarded by the IGSA to the pilot who did the best flight of the year. The Early Bird, which was not awarded this year, is for the first cross-country of the year that completes a pre-declared FAI 100k task in a Ka8 (or handicapped equivalent in another machine) prior to the 1st May. Also not awarded this year was the Brian Connolly Memorial trophy for the best wave flight and the Ken Mellor Memorial trophy. So – lots of awards you can aim for next year!

Achievements this year

Kenn McDonagh and Ian de Bri both completed their SPL 50k local flights in May. Rudi Villing completed his SPL on 6th June 2023, the first of our pilots to do so since we moved to the new EASA system. PJ Moran flew cross-country on 27th May for a 100K IGSA Diploma (part A) (pending ratification). Well done all! Although July is producing a mix of rain and wind, the August weather usually provides some more good soaring. Be ready to make the most of it!

Trinity research study

The “Women’s experiences of gliding” study, run by Trinity College Dublin, commenced at the end of May. The study involves joining the club for six months [membership and first 20 flights paid], engaging in the club’s activities, taking

part in two research interviews with a member of the TCD research team, and completing some short questionnaires. Thirty women have joined the study, with one enthusiastic member having had ten flights already! A big welcome to all our new members; we look forward to seeing you around the airfield in the coming months

Fleet update

It is really good to see that we have a full fleet available. That's both ASK21's, our ASK13 and the two K8's and our two tug aircraft EI-BIK and G-AVOO.

In saying this, there is a big thank you to all who have helped over the course of the year to ensure that our housekeeping was undertaken. On one particular note we owe a massive thanks to Joe Walsh, Dan Begley and Colin Hadden who undertook the project to bring EI-GLZ through the 3000hr check



This was no minor task, but a well run project requiring significant hours in the workshop, and pouring over copious amounts of detail to not only deliver the project, but to do so in time to bring the aircraft back on line with minimal delay to the original estimates.

So with the fleet in tip top condition, we are now planning for the annual cycle of

ensuring that we are ready to keep operational into 2024.



Derigged and ready for some TLC

Many of you will have seen the call outs for support in the workshop and hanger. As a club we are dependant on time put in to ensure not only fleet availability, but that we have the resources available to carry out what ever tasks are necessary. All of this falls to us as members. We will share the schedules in a forthcoming update, but for now, consider how you can help, and rather than be asked, maybe offer.



GLZ back in the air

Committee Matters

To help everyone understand the nature of the activities taking place at committee, we will be including a "Committee Matters" section in upcoming editions of What's Up.

To start, and for the benefit of our recently joined members, our committee team is:

Chairman:	Trevor McHugh
Chief Flying Instructor:	Cecily Begley
Treasurer:	Michael Walsh
Membership Secretary:	Colin Hadden
Child Welfare Officer:	Breno Gomes
Secretary:	PJ Moran
Site Manager:	Ron Staeps
Technical Officer:	Damien Molloy

As a quick look back, the current committee started their year with the mammoth task of the renaming of the Club. This involved long hours and weekly meetings up until 25 March to ensure we were ready to go. The Committee is aware that there are some last remaining actions that are being resolved one-by-one and they have been prioritised in amongst other pressing matters.

Since then, our April meeting returned the agenda back to standard planning matters for Leinster Gliding Centre and subsequent meetings have continued this theme with a strong focus on the strategic development of the Gliding Centre.

One of the first major operational items that arose was the need to take GLB off-line to replace the l'hoteliers which were at end-of-life.

From a finance perspective, Michael has set a target for expanding the strategic redevelopment fund for LGC over coming years while Trevor is working with each head of division on agreeing budgets for the year. On the Tech Officer side, Damien has set out a work programme that is to improve on shelving space in the hangar so as to de-clutter this important area. It has also been agreed that a track out from the hangar is to be created so as to improve how we move our aircraft in and out of the hangar.

On the Site Manager side of the house, Ron has been working on making some improvements on the Clubhouse and Compound areas. Huge progress was achieved in clearing up the entire area in advance of the 25 March and this has been delivered. A roster will be put together of volunteers who can take on the grass cutting of the compound together with strimming as necessary around the trailers and keeping the patio area clean. A budget is being put together to improve the trailer areas.

Breno has been working on finding a route through to LGC being capable of submitting our own Garda Vetting requests rather than having to put these through an external body which has not worked well for us in terms of slow turnaround times resulting in unnecessary delays to some club personnel being vetted. This matter is now well progressed though we are not quite ready to make our own submissions directly to the Garda Vetting centre, which is the objective.

With the combination of a significantly increased level of social media activity combined with the work on those joining

us through the Trinity College research project, Colin has been kept extremely busy throughout the period. This work continues unabated.

As a Committee we are keen to ensure that the Gliding Centre is a warm and welcoming space. Our membership is growing again after a number of difficult years through the pandemic. To build on what has already been achieved, it was agreed that a club social would occur at the clubhouse each month. The first of these occurred in May and has continued each month since with the next being on 22 July. Prior to this upcoming social, there will be a New Members event to enable our newer members learn more of how the club functions and to provide a forum for them to raise any queries that they may have. We encourage all our newer members to attend if they are available to do so.

A first for the Gliding Centre is the De-Rig Bar. This was launched with the intention of supporting greater post-flying social interaction when, for too long, we all just hopped in our cars and left. To date, the use of the De-Rig Bar has been well

beyond expectations and there's been a few emergency restockings required!

The Committee is looking at ring-fencing the proceeds of both the De-Rig Bar and the sale of club merchandise for specific purposes. This could be for something big, like building up the fund for refinishing GLZ, or something more immediate with a lower budget requirement. This is an ongoing matter, but the Committee wants to stress that the use of the De-Rig Bar and the merchandise sales has made a modest but very welcome boost to the Gliding Centre's finances, so your support is greatly appreciated.

The above items only represent a small amount of what is happening but we hope gives some insight into our activities. Volunteers are always needed for a variety of activities. For now, we welcome Brian McBride taking over the role of Editor for What's Up, and to those who have agreed to assist with the maintenance of the runway grass. We will be doing a call out for more assistance in other areas over time so if there is anywhere that you feel you could help with please do let us know.



We welcome any contributions, be they articles, communications, photos, or other snippets. We of course reserve the right to edit or publish the article.