

**An Introduction
to Bowland Forest
Gliding Club**

Welcome to Bowland Forest Gliding Club

Thank you for wanting to know about gliding at Bowland Forest Gliding Club.

Visitors are always welcome. You can come to watch the flying, bring your own glider or you can fly in one of our gliders or if you just want a gliding experience then you can buy a gliding experience flight in a two seat, dual control trainer glider with one of our qualified instructors.

Gliding Experience Flight and Gift Vouchers

We offer visitors the opportunity of an experience flight combined with a 12 week temporary membership. The non-refundable voucher can be obtained by either emailing the Voucher Administrator on vouchers.bfgc@btinternet.com or vouchers@bfgc.co.uk giving a name for the voucher, details of the height, weight and age. Unfortunately there are limitations that are imposed by the gliders that are used.

These are:-

Height: Ok if you are between **4ft 6 inches (137cm)** and **6ft 2 inches (188cm)** tall.

Weight: Ok if you are between **7 stones 2 lbs (45kg)** and **16 stones 3 lbs (103kg)** fully dressed.

Age: The minimum age for a gliding experience flight is **13 years** and the minimum age to fly solo is **18 years** at this club. Additionally, it must be noted that parental consent must be provided for person under the age of **18 years** and for all persons under the age of 18 a parent must accompany that person for the duration of their stay on site. There is no upper age limit to gliding.

You will be flown in a two seat training glider with dual controls by a British Gliding Association approved instructor. You will be launched to approximately 1000ft by a very powerful, purpose built winch. As gliding is very weather dependant, it is not possible to predict the length of the flight or the overall height that will be obtained. Normally the flight can last around 20 to 25 minutes but if unable to stay airborne, due to prevailing weather conditions, we will offer two shorter flights as an alternative. In either case you will experience what a gliding flight is like and you will enjoy the view of Lancashire and the area of outstanding natural beauty in which the club is situated.

From the date of the experience flight, you will have a 12 week club membership during which you may fly under instruction at normal club rates.

What keeps you in the air without an engine?

The glider gets its lift from the air flowing over the wings exactly like a powered aircraft. The only difference is that the glider uses its height as its energy source to maintain sufficient flying speed in the same manner as a bicycle freewheels downhill. A glider only stays up for long periods when the air that it is flying in is rising faster than the rate at which it is gliding downwards.

Is gliding safe?

Gliding does carry certain risk. We believe that this level of risk is acceptable. As part of our pilot's training and annual flying assessments we train to potentially reduce risk. Therefore, you will be asked to sign a disclaimer before flying. Approximately half a million glider flights take place each year in the UK.

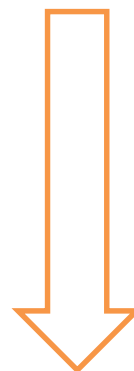
What are the medical requirements for gliding?

As a general rule, if you are medically fit enough to drive a car then you are fit enough to fly a glider. You need to be able to read a car number plate at 21 meters and be free from fits, blackouts, dizzy spells, epilepsy, recurring fainting or giddiness, uncontrolled high blood pressure, angina, coronary artery disease or insulin dependent diabetes. We also have a **zero** tolerance of the taking of recreational drugs, such as cocaine and cannabis. You will be required to sign a declaration of medical fitness before you fly a club glider.

If you are in any doubt as to your fitness please seek your doctor's advice.

What is the usual progression in gliding at Bowland Forest Gliding Club?

Glider Experience Flight
Regular Instruction (BFGC Pre Solo Card)
Solo (BFGC White Card Pilot)
Bronze Certificate and Cross Country
Endorsement (BFGC Red Card Pilot)
Silver Certificate (BFGC Yellow Card Pilot)
Gold Certificate (BFGC Blue Card Pilot)
Diamond Certificate (BFGC Blue Card Pilot)
Long Distance Diplomas for 750 km and 1000 km flights



What should I wear?

Our Club is situated 600 feet above sea level and like all airfields it is usually fairly windy. It is also agricultural land where sheep may have grazed, when we are not flying, and therefore, with the flying activities as well, it can be quite muddy after rain. You are well advised to come dressed in a similar manner to that required for fell or hill walking and only consume food if hands are thoroughly clean.

Can I book a time to fly?

Only if you have a gliding experience flight voucher where you can contact the Club's Voucher Administrator on **07753 218872** to book your experience flight on either a predetermined Saturday or Sunday according to availability of capacity and instructors. The club is run entirely by its members, there are no paid members and this allows us to offer the facility to fly at a very reasonable cost. The experience voucher entitles you to a 12 weeks' temporary membership of the club from the date of your experience flight. This temporary membership allows you to fly as often as you like, at normal club rates within this period. We fly, weather permitting, on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year and demand for the two seat glider can vary day to day. Our usual operation for members is run on a first come first served basis by putting their names on an attendance list as they arrive and on very good flying days this can lead to flight delays as flights are longer. To alleviate this problem and to facilitate advance training we have allowed a limited number of pre booked flying slots each weekend but for **FULL** club members only. Temporary members are only allowed to fly by their position on the flying list.

About the Club

The club was formed in 1950 at Squires Gate Airport (now Blackpool Airport) by Jack Aked and a small band of enthusiasts. It moved to Samlesbury in 1965 courtesy of then English Electric (now BAE) where it stayed until 1973, when the club moved to its present site at Lower Cockhill Farm, Chipping.

The club is an entirely self help organisation with no paid members. All development work, maintenance, repairs and day to day operations are carried out by skilled members. Should experience flight voucher holders decide that they would like to take up the 12 week temporary membership, along with any new fully paid up members, then they will be given the necessary explanations and training and will be expected to carry on with the club's tradition of all members helping out where ever they can.

All flying training is carried out by qualified instructor approved by the British Gliding Association under the watchful eye of the Chief Flying Instructor. The club operates a continuous structured training programme that supports pilots from their very first training flights up to experienced and qualified cross country pilots. Membership varies around 150 members, of which about 100 are full flying members.

Club Fees

See our web site for current fees (www.bfgc.co.uk)

Club Days

The club is open throughout the year on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

In addition, the club is open for three to four extra weeks a year (known as Club Weeks) in the summer. These extra dates vary but are usually associated with the Bank Holidays.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to Go Solo?

Natural ability, age, experience of instruction are the commonest factors influencing progress to solo. A very rough guide to the number of launches (flights) to solo can be calculated from your age + one third your age + 20 = the number of launches to solo. (e.g. age 45 + 15 + 20 = 80 launches to solo)

Is it difficult to fly a glider?

No. If you can drive a car then it is almost certain that you will be able to fly a glider.

How do you control a glider?

In exactly the same way as a powered aircraft, through a control column to control raising and lowering the nose (pitch) and raising and lowering the wings (rolling) and through the rudder pedals to move the nose from side to side (yawing).

What is the ideal weather for my flight?

Any day when it is sunny, with good visibility and a light to moderate wind from any direction except North. However, it is quite feasible to fly in winds up to 20 miles per hour, and on less promising days.

Where to find us

We are approximately 10 miles North East of Preston and some 2 ½ miles out of Chipping village on the Garstang road with Parlick Hill on the right.

Club web site: www.bfgc.co.uk

Club enquiries: enquiries@bfgc.co.uk

Voucher email address: vouchers.bfgc@btinternet.com or vouchers@bfgc.co.uk

Club telephone number: **01995 61267**

Voucher telephone number: **07753 218872**

Club Address: **Bowland Forest Gliding Club,
Lower Cockhill Farm,
Fiddlers Lane,
Chipping PR3 2WN.**