



The Vintage Glider Club of Great Britain

NEWS LETTER

January 1975

FROM THE RALLY SECRETARY

Here's what we have all been waiting for - and first things first, the programme for the coming season:-

March 28 Friday to Monday 31 March, Easter - Spring Rally

South Wales Gliding Club, Usk, Monmouthshire, "the wave site", with ridge soaring close around and the club field at the bottom. This site was an 'out day' visit during last year's Competition Enterprise and was highly spoken of, not only for the location, but also the very friendly welcome, which I know we will also enjoy. Easy approach via the new Severn Bridge and the M4 motorway. Reserve this first date of the season: full details follow with the next News Letter in early March.

Apr. 26 Saturday to Sunday 27 Apr. - A weekend 'Jolly'

to the Upward Bound Trust at Haddenham Airfield, Bucks., under the Glider Pilot Regimental Assoc. banner. This will be a down to earth "do for yourself" gathering: back to the grass roots with the VGC Marquee for self-catering and the trailers for sleeping in - but the locals will be marvellous.

May 25 Sunday to Monday 26 May - Spring Bank Holiday

The VGC has been invited to attend a Vintage Flying Display on Monday, 26 May, at Shuttleworth Aircraft Collection, Old Warden, Beds. It is anticipated that the Shuttleworth Trust will provide the aerotow launching on the Monday for a display of Vintage Glider Flying. Facilities available for 'overnight' stay Sunday 25 May, which will provide an excellent opportunity to see the Aircraft Collection.

During this period the 'Manuel Wren', reputed to be the oldest glider in the UK, and which has recently been acquired by Mike Russell and Chris Wills, will be on static display prior to a major C. of A. for return to life.

June 7 Saturday to Sunday 15 June - Competition Enterprise

run by the Devon and Somerset Club at North Hill near Honiton, Devon. This will be on somewhat similar lines to last year, except that it will be a single class handicap contest with alternative pilot-selected choice of task. Given the right conditions, cross channel free distance will be attempted (with free air-tow retrieve to a Customs entry airfield) - this could be this year's top challenge to the Vintage movement. We have a limited reservation of places held for us for vintage aircraft, with VGC members at a special reduced entry fee of £20 (plus VAT) instead of £28. The VGC entry will be grouped together on the field, with our Marquee as a Rally Centre, and we will arrange for "mutual" retrieves (as for any of our usual

VGC Rallies), so do not feel put off if you are a 'loner'. Please write to Frances for a leaflet, but book early as the total entry will certainly be taken up.

July 4 Friday to Sunday 6 June - Popular Flying Association Annual Rally

at Sywell, Northants. The PFA are prepared to offer a 'Vintage Glider' prize - it is up to us to indicate that we are willing to come to this rally with our gliders for Static Display (air-tow in and out by arrangement). This is a terrific aircraft rally (with gliders already attending in previous years) and will be worth the trip (I was there in 1974). The Vintage Glider Club would have its Marquee for publicity purposes and manning will be needed - volunteers and attenders with gliders, please advise Frances.

July 19 Saturday to Saturday 26 July - the highlight of the year -
The International Vintage Rally at Gruyere/Switzerland

The meeting nearby to this delightful Swiss town is being arranged in conjunction with our Swiss members, the Willis Bischof and Schwarzenbach, and will comprise entries from several European countries. The area has been carefully chosen to provide a very interesting terrain but with an adequate number of safe landing areas. I propose that we travel out on a party arrangement (with hopefully appropriate channel crossing rebate) with the following tentative programme:-

Wednesday evening, 16 July: Depart Harwich/Felixstowe for over-night to Rotterdam with a 'get together' evening on board.

Thursday, 17 July: Motorway through Germany and stay over-night at the Freiburg Gliding Club (camping and trailers - otherwise local accommodation). This town is close by the Swiss Frontier - I have good personal connections with the Club as my 'Goevier' came from there.

Friday, 18 July: Into Switzerland (Basel) and through to Gruyere and settle in ready for the Rally.

This is not the shortest route, but it is undoubtedly the easiest to drive as it is lowland motorway all the way to Switzerland, and also partly inside, and very good time can be made with minimum effort. The shorter route through France, apart from having a lot of holiday traffic, would involve crossing the Jura mountains into Switzerland.

No specific arrangements are proposed for the return to UK as it is felt that many members would like to spend some holiday time in Switzerland with the 'Swiss National Day' on the next Friday, 1st August, with much dancing and other national celebrations. My Swiss wife (as distinct from all the others) will do a note for the next News Letter about holidaying in Switzerland and various excursions she will arrange for the 'non flying' attenders, and it is hoped that many members with wives, etc. will team up to come on the trip. I will be happy to arrange a 'clearing house' of spare car seats for any members not bringing a glider to assist in sharing expenses. In the meantime, would all members who hope to come on this rally please let Frances know within the next few weeks, indicating whether definite or maybe, so that I can pursue the best deal for the channel crossing. Please come forward any members who may be able to assist in getting good terms.

September 19 Friday to Monday 22 September - Autumn Rally

To be held at Camphill, the home of the Derby and Lancs Club, a ridge soaring site. The Annual Dinner will be held on the Saturday. Reserve the date, more details in subsequent News Letters.

This and That

Comments are always welcome, we learn from the criticisms but hope for constructive suggestions; the Rallies are for you, so we will try to make them all you would like them to be. We are hoping that this Swiss trip will be something of a new departure - as a holiday trip for the family as well - the best of both worlds: you fly while the family trips around, and everybody is happy.