

**Health and Safety Policy, LEC Airfield  
Bognor Regis Gliding Club (BRGC)  
On behalf of BR Aviation Ltd  
Issue No. 1, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013**

The Bognor Regis Gliding Club (BRGC“the Club”) intends to assert an excellent attitude towards safety and it is the desire of all pilots to maintain and improve on this record. We must see health and safety as being our first priority in all of our activities. We recognise that gliding is not considered to be a "highly dangerous" pastime; however, around airfields, aircraft and gliders and in the operation of these, there are numerous hazards for the unwary. Our task is to identify and eliminate risks as far as reasonably possible. The residual and unavoidable risks, which we must all accept when we are involved in flying activities, must be reduced to the lowest practicable level.

The Management has given extensive thought to the question of safety and has produced this pamphlet to set out in this Club's health and safety policy. It is aimed at assisting in the prevention of hazards, accidents, incidents and dangerous occurrences but it can only be effective with your willing commitment to safe operations. Please keep it in a safe place and consider how the contents apply to you and your involvement in the Club.

***General Statement on Club Policy***

The BGGC exists to facilitate and promote gliding and related activities. It is the policy of the Club that its operations are executed at all times in such a way that it complies with LEC Airfield planning permissions BR/17/48A dated 07.02.1948, BE/21/74 dated 23.04.1974

BR Aviation Ltd & operationally BRGC will ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all of its pilots, visitors and other persons likely to be affected by its operations. Recognising that safety is of the highest priority, the Club's operations shall, where appropriate, be in accordance with the British Gliding Association Operational Regulations, the British Gliding Association Site Operations Manual and the relevant parts of the Air Navigation Order and will be conducted with reference to the requirements of this document. This policy is the direct concern of the directors, the Management the Chief Flying Instructor, the other pilots. The Club's policy on health and safety shall be applied to LEC Airfield and to operations at any remote location except where operational regulations in place at that location take priority.

JT Hitchcock, MD, 01.08.13

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## ***The Law***

The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the various specific Regulations under that Act and other associated legislation represent the main law affecting the Club. With regard to each Club member's responsibility, the HSW Act requires you to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety of yourself and others who may be affected by what you do, or fail to do.

## ***Helpful Definitions:***

**Hazard** means anything that can cause harm (e.g. chemicals, electricity, working from ladders, etc).

**Risk** is the chance, high or low, that someone will be harmed by the hazard.

## ***Responsibilities - the Management***

Responsibility for all health and safety matters rests with the Management, which comprises the Managing Director BR Aviation Ltd (MD) and the Chief Flying Instructor (Of whom can be the same person. With regard to its responsibilities to ensure that the Club has an effective health and safety policy, and that proper observance of this is monitored on a regular basis, The Management shall:

- Ensure that the club has an effective health & safety policy.
- Set up clear lines of responsibility for safety issues.
- Ensure that, as far as reasonably possible, adequate resources and funding are available to ensure implementation of the policy at the LEC Airfield and at any remote venue where the club may operate.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the club's health and safety policy.
- Foster a safety first attitude in flying and ground activities.
- Set a good example to others by adhering to the health and safety policy and by promoting safe practices.

## ***Responsibilities - Management***

The MD and CFI shall be overseeing all safety matters associated with either flying or non-flying Club activities. In particular, it shall:

- Report to the MD & CFI any health and safety matters.
- Make recommendations to the MD & CFI on amendments to the Club's health and safety policy.
- Advise the MD & CFI on the need for resources.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the stated policies.
- Take appropriate action to ensure observance of health and safety requirements.
- Provide for the recording of accidents, incidents and dangerous occurrences.
- Arrange for appropriate warning signs to be erected.
- Ensure that equipment is maintained in a safe condition.
- Foster a safety first attitude in flying and ground activities.
- Set a good example to others by adhering to the health and safety policy and by promoting safe practices.

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## ***Responsibilities - the C.F.I.***

The Chief Flying Instructor shall:

- Report to the MD on a regular basis.
- Be responsible for all aspects of flying safety.
- Set appropriate standards for flying safety.
- Monitor safety standards.
- Take appropriate action to rectify any breaches of health and safety stipulations.
- Foster a safety first attitude in flying and ground activities.
- Set a good example to others by adhering to the health and safety policy and by promoting safe practices.

## ***Responsibilities – Pilots***

All Pilots shall:

- Acknowledge read this BRGC health and safety document.
- Make themselves familiar with this BRGC health and safety policy.
- Abide by the requirements of this BRGC health and safety policy.
- Take care of the health and safety of themselves and of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions in Club-related activities.
- Take all reasonable precautions and, where advisable to wear appropriate clothing for the activity to be undertaken.
- Report any hazards, accidents, incidents or dangerous occurrences to the MD and, where flying operations are involved, to CFI.
- Ensure that any accidents, incidents or dangerous occurrences are recorded in the record book provided for that purpose.
- Engage in no activity, flying or otherwise, unless they are satisfied as to their level of competency at the task and their understanding of all of the health and safety issues related to the task.

It is obligatory for all pilots to adhere to this BRGC health and safety policy and to comply with any instructions given by the CFI. The wilful failure of a member to adhere to the stated policy or legitimate instruction given will be considered a serious matter for consideration by the MD or CFI who shall apply sanctions as necessary to ensure the safety of other pilots & visitors.

## ***Prevention of Fire***

BR Aviation Ltd has a substantial capital investment, *aeroplanes, gliders and equipment*. It is essential to protect this investment against losses due to fire or explosions. There must always be adequate precautions and protection against these hazards.

Pilots should-

- Ensure that they do all they can to mitigate fire risks.
- Familiarise themselves with the operating instructions on fire extinguishers.
- Not tamper with fire fighting equipment.
- Not block access to fire-fighting equipment.

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- Obey no smoking signs where these are displayed.
- Refrain from smoking in the vicinity of the aircraft or gliders.
- Dispose of cigarette ends carefully.
- Avoid the use of flammable substances near to a source of ignition.
- Not use open containers for storing inflammable liquids.
- Ensure that all electrical apparatus in *aeroplanes*, gliders or vehicles are switched off when not in use.

IF YOU SEE AN OUTBREAK OF FIRE - RAISE THE ALARM  
Evacuate the area Extinguish the fire if you decide it is safe to do so.  
Call the emergency services if appropriate

## ***Flying Operations***

It is impossible to set down hard and rigid rules to govern all aspects of flying operations considering the wide variety of conditions under which flying operations take place. LEC Airfield does have special considerations, the adjacent railway line, proximity to high voltage power lines, deep water, Narrow 17.5 meter wide tarmac runway with no immediate obstructions on either sides, 15 drain covers, gravel drainage, sea breezes, Fences & Closing Gates, public footpaths, noise considerations, limited access, possibility of the runway being partially blocked by temporary obstructions, pilots are advised to carry out careful observation of the surface before operations each day. Pilots must have seek prior permission to and do so at their own risk, MD & CFI cannot be held wholly responsibility or poor airmanship. LEC Airfield is currently undergoing refurbishment, civil engineering & landscaping, there approximately 20 aches of new grass & 12 aches of old uneven grass runway 01/19, the Tarmac Runway 05/23 is in excellent condition, visiting pilots please read Pooleys flight information guide for runway orientations, local map & information.

The following requirements indicate the elements seen to be necessary to achieve the desired standard of safety in ideal circumstances but it is highly likely that it shall be necessary for pilots to depart from the stated norm to cater for the prevailing circumstances. In all cases pilots must exhibit the highest standards of airmanship showing consideration for others and making safety for all the highest priority.

Except on the instruction of the Chief Flying Instructor (CFI), his deputy or an instructor the following shall be adhered to:

- So far as reasonably practicable gliding operations shall be conducted in accordance with the relevant parts of the current edition of "Laws and Rules for Glider Pilots" as published by the British Gliding Association. A copy is displayed for members to peruse.
- So far as reasonably practicable all operations of aircraft shall be in accordance with the Air Navigation Order.
- All gliders operated at the site must have third party insurance with a minimum limit of indemnity to third parties of £500,000 (or higher amount if recommended by the BGA) and evidence of the insurance must be made available on request.
- Pilots shall conform to the launch procedure in operation at the site as directed by the CFI.
- All pilots flying into LEC Airfield for the first time are required to either be flying with the MD or CFI or have already carried a check flight into the airfield & has been authorised to fly into LEC Airfield as pilot in charge. Strictly observe these Clubs operating procedures

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to have obtained prior permission to land from MD, CFI or spoken to an authorised person on the "Bognor Base Station" on 129.975mzh.

- Soft cushions are not permitted in gliders.
- "Bognor base Station" is a very part time listening station; there is no authority for giving instructions to pilots of gliders or aircraft from this base radio.

### ***Tug Operation***

Operation of tug aircraft shall be in accordance with the directions of the CFI.

- Only those persons suitably qualified and approved are permitted to act as pilot-in-charge of the club's tug aircraft, such approval to be conveyed by the CFI in accordance with the directions of the Club Management.
- The aircraft shall be operated in accordance with the Air Navigation Order.
- Tug pilots may at their discretion carry passengers in aircraft.
- All tow ropes and rings shall be carefully inspected before use each day.
- *The tug pilot shall contact "LEC Airfield" on the approach frequency 129.975mzh or by telephoning the MD, CFI each day before landing at LEC Airfield.*
- When aerotowing, the maximum number of persons who may fly in the combination is limited to three.
- There are no refuelled facilities on the LEC Airfield site, refuelling must take place at one of our neighbouring airfields.
- Aircraft are to be refuelled at Goodwood Aerodrome or Southdown Gliding Club when there is less 12 gallons reserve remaining in the Tugs and 7 gallons in TMG 10 litres in SLS, its desirable to fly to neighbouring club each day ready for the next day use in order that fuel tanks may be left almost full overnight to reduce the risk of water contamination of the fuel.
- There shall be no smoking or exposure of naked lights at or near the fuel installation.
- Those undertaking refuelling operations must make themselves familiar with the risk assessment of the neighbouring airfield.

### ***Operation of Vehicles on the Airfield***

There is limited access to LEC Airfield, prior permission is required to either operate the manual Cox Crossing railway gates at the rear of Wicks DIY Store or access off Felpham Way, via Angela's Paddock-the Lyons families open Grassland (please Close the gates) & then over the River Rife's bridge on to the airfield perimeter. Be aware the access tract cuts across the active runway/cable run, exercise extreme caution before crossing active side of airfield.

The following rules apply, exercise caution when using either your own vehicle or BRGC retrieve vehicles and users must comply with the following:

- Only authorised retrieve vehicle shall not be operated on the LEC Airfield site.
- At the start of each day's operations there shall be a check of oil, tyre pressures, water, brake fluid & equipment.
- *Only those with a valid driving license are allowed to drive the retrieve vehicle.*

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- The speed of the vehicle shall not exceed 15 mph except in emergencies.
- The vehicle must not be left attached by rope to a glider when stationary or unmanned.
- The vehicle Lights shall be operated during use around the LEC Airfield.
- *The primary function of the retrieve vehicle is to clear landed gliders to the boundary of the airfield.*
- *Returning gliders to the launch point or hangar shall be a secondary function.*
- Drivers must carefully check to ensure that their proposed route does not obstruct any aircraft landing or taking off.
- *Children are not permitted to travel unsupervised in the vehicle.*

### **Movement On and Around the Airfield**

- *Pilots must obey the 15 MPH speed limit on the LEC Airfield site, please note is a public footpath along the East of the airfield, members of the public are require to stay West of the fencing on the designated path, pilots please should you observe the public straying off the designated path via an open gate,(which should be closed at all times) or somehow traverse the 1.8 M high fence to the West please cease activity whenever possible until the matter has been resolved.*
- *Pilots must not take private vehicles on to the LEC Airfield site unless specific permission has been 1<sup>st</sup> been obtained by MD or CFI or authorised person.*
- Visitors must not venture on to the airside of the LEC Airfield unless adhering to Network Railway "Users Guide" safety signs & received training & temporarily lent a key from MD or CFI for the sole purpose of traversing the Cox Crossing, locking gates & immediately returning keys, example policy in the HSE guidelines BRGC website "Railway Crossing Users Guide", visitors and or pilots are not allowed to leave the public rights of way to enter upon the active side of LEC Airfield without being either, previously authorised, escorted or briefed.
- Pilots are not allow any pets on to the LEC airfield of the site except remaining on the public footpaths and must restrained by a lead at all times.
- Pilots must ensure that children are accompanied by and are under the control of an authorised adult at all times when on any part of the LEC Airfield site, especially as there is deep water, contaminated land & high voltage power lines, propellers & fast moving cables.
- Non pilots must keep away from the aeroplanes whether a pilot is on board or not and must be aware that propellers are dangerous at all times even when apparently stopped.
- All persons must keep away from launch cables or ropes.
- Pilots must not walk in front of or near to gliders at launch point except for the specific purpose of attaching a cable for the procedure for launching that glider.
- Visitors must stay with the pilot, until advised to leave and shall follow the instructions given.
- When moving around the LEC Airfield visitors must travel under the direction of, MD, CFI or Authorised pilot, walk via the perimeter, observe the fencing & hazard signs, watch out all round for aircraft or gliders taking off or landing and be aware that aircraft may be trailing long ropes.

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## **Care of Visitors**

- Pilots must recognise that visitors to the site need special attention.
- Visitors must observe the LEC Airfield & Network Railway hazards signs
- The full length of the West boundary of LEC Airfield is a deep tidal river, "The Rife" there is also a deep tidal culvert traversing the airfield east to West at the South end of Tarmac runway 23, plus drainage ditches along most of the East boundary. All member are warned of this potential hazard risk of drowning. The bottom of the Rife & Culverts, being tidal is very muddy with steep banks, it would be plausible to get into difficulties very quickly.
- Please ensure our visitors are aware of the potential hazard & in particular Parents accompanying children & teenagers. Apart from the fact that Airfield are potentially hazard due to moving Aircraft & propellers & fast moving steel cables, this addition risk of deep water its essential parents keep their kin under strict supervision at all times, if they become misplaced, inform the instructor immediately so we can locate then ASAP & bring the problem to a quick resolution

Pilots shall assist any visitors who require help

## **Contaminated Land**

The bank just South West of the Windsock up to the Cox Crossing is designated as contaminated land, the area is fenced of and or surrounded by ditches, with clear **KEEP OUT** signage, there has been extensive testing carried out in this area it is deemed as an outstanding ecological site with many rare species & flowers, as the area had been if left undisturbed for over 70 years. It has been assessed as "very low risk", never the less the Members are instructed **NOT** to traverse this area. Member please ensure visitors especially children & inquisitive teenagers observe the signage as it might pose a very small risk to health. Only specialist authorized contractors have the authority to access the site.

## **Parachuting**

There is a strict policy of **NO** parachuting adjacent to or over LEC Airfield in view of our close proximity to the town & electrified Railway line running parallel most of the length of the East boundary, unless in a genuine emergency.

## **Fitness to Fly**

Pilots are required to complete a medical declaration before flying solo or as pilot in command with the Club. Pilots should be aware that the use of alcohol or drugs whether prescribed, patent, recreational or as part of drug trials is not compatible with safe flying operations. Persons taking such substances should be aware that they may have a detrimental effect on their ability to fly as pilot in command or as a pupil and should consult their doctor and inform the CFI accordingly.

## **Reporting of Accidents / Incidents etc**

Pilots must report all hazards, accidents, incidents and dangerous occurrences as soon as reasonably practicable. These events shall be recorded in the book provided for that purpose and this shall enable patterns or trends to be identified and shall assist with the prevention of similar events. Where appropriate, a full investigation shall be carried out.

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## ***Actions in Case of Accident***

Pilots must in the event of an accident take immediate action to reduce the immediate hazard give first aid if required telephone emergency services if appropriate, inform MD & CFI, if appropriate make notes to aid any possible following investigation.

## ***Private Activities***

Many activities carried out at the LEC Airfield, pilots are directed and as such would mainly be for their own benefit, for the benefit or goodwill assistance to others. These activities could be many and varied but in the main would centre around handling, lifting or maintenance of their own or other pilots' equipment. Any accidents or injuries resulting from these activities would not be the responsibility of BRGC/BRA Ltd. Each person should exercise sufficient and appropriate care to reduce as much as possible or to totally remove any risk of causing accident or injury to themselves or others either directly or indirectly as a result of carrying out these activities whilst on the LEC Airfield site.

## ***Operation of Agricultural and Horticultural Equipment***

Pilots should be aware that there are risks in using agricultural and horticultural equipment and should observe the following:

- *Only those persons with a valid driving license are permitted to drive the tractor.*
- *Members must note the dangers of working with fuel injectors.*
- *Drivers of the tractor must be aware of the risk of overturning and take all reasonable steps to prevent this occurring.*
- *Pilots using the communal lawnmower should take care to avoid foot injury by the rotating blades, safety boots are recommended.*
- *The lawn mower must not be operated with the rear door open.*
- When using the lawnmower or strimmer, eye protection, ear defenders and safety boots are recommended.
- Children are not permitted to use this equipment.
- There shall be no refuelling of lawnmowers adjacent to aircraft.

## ***Use of Tools and Equipment***

Pilots should take care when using tools and equipment and should observe the following:

- Tools and equipment should only to be used if the person concerned is fully competent in their use.
- The work must be undertaken in a suitable place.
- Adequate precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of individual and others.
- Adequate protective gear must be used or worn.
- Pilots make use of tools and equipment under their own authority and should not do so if they have any doubts or concerns regarding their level of competence, their own safety or the safety of others.

## ***Good Housekeeping Please help keep LEC Airfield a safe environment to operate from***

Untidiness can be dangerous and may lead to injuries. Paying simple attention to tidiness can help prevent injury. Persons undertaking work activities should observe the following:

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- Inspect the runway each day, check for articles which may potentially damage the aircraft.
- Collect above waste into bins or to temporary heaps for disposal later.
- Keep equipment and materials clear of access points & runways.
- Never block access to COX Crossing or public footpaths.
- Store materials off site, preferable in car parked in the designated car park.
- Do not stack collect waste in a way, which might topple over.

## ***Personal Cleanliness***

Your health may be affected if you do not keep yourself and the airfield clear.

- Wear appropriate clothing for the activity you intent to carry out
- Always wash your hands before handling food and after handling any materials, which may be harmful.
- Use gloves whenever possible.
- Do not use solvents or abrasives to clean your hands, use there are WC facilities on site.

## ***Manual Handling***

Pilots should be careful not to causing injury to themselves through manual handling.

- No pilot should lift weights greater than their capabilities and in no case more than 25kgs.
- When objects to be lifted exceed this weight help should be sought or mechanical lifting employed.
- Use gloves for lifting if necessary.
- The correct method for lifting is to grip with the palms of the hands, bend knees, keeping the back straight and lifting using thigh muscles.

## ***Use of Electrical Equipment***

There is no electrical supply on the LEC Airfield site there are no buildings! The exception of a functioning but redundant pylon (formally used to supply the old hanger), the hazards associated with the railway crossing & electrical equipment associated with visiting aircraft.

## ***Use of Glider Trailers on the LEC Airfield Site***

There is permitted storage for trailers on site but limited access to LEC Airfield. Strict prior permission is required from the MD or CFI prior to bring trailers on site.

## ***Footpath Access to LEC Airfield***

We recommend parking the north end of Sainsbury's car park adjacent to petrol station, there's plenty of spaces & the store doesn't appear to check registrations, walk past the petrol station cross the roundabout follow the public footpath signs around the rear of the Wicks DIY Store, you will see the railway crossing & the Airfield beyond, continue to follow footpath signs via the kissing gates, Style to the Footpath Crossing, please observe the signs, **Stop, Listen, Look both ways before crossing**, beyond the 2<sup>nd</sup> style you will see a set of Airfield gates & signs, they should be unlocked, please ensure you close the gates behind you unless you find them both open for vehicle access. Please don't just wonder around looking for someone, wait adjacent to the railway gate until some comes to assist you.

## *Operational Procedures for Vehicle Crossing Cox Railway Crossing*

User Worked Crossing with Telephone (UWC-T)

### **Crossing Description**

Network Rail defines the crossing as a User Worked Crossing with Telephone (UWC-T), which are commonly found on privately owned land.

BR Aviation Ltd as the Airfield owner is the licensed crossing operators and has adopted Network Rails "***User Guide for Manual Crossings***" as the definitive guide to using the Cox Crossing, these guidelines must be strictly adhered too, authorized users will require training & signature for our records. Copy of guide can be accessed via BRGC Website.

There is the provision of a telephone so that prior to crossing, the Signaller for the line, can be contacted for up to date track movement information.

### **Procedures prior to crossing.**

**All persons wishing to cross the railway line with a vehicle at the Cox Crossing manual railway gates must first Contact the Managing Director, Julian Hitchcock 07860 469939 or one of his Authorised Key Holders.**

The vehicle that will be taken across the crossing will be in a well maintained and roadworthy. Access to the Cox Crossing is via the 1st roundabout too Wicks DIY Store, drive past their car park, follow the deliver route round to their loading bay, drive just passed their security gates, (Do Not Obstruct their gates), park just back from the railway gate, allowing sufficient room for open gate towards you.

### **Crossing Procedures.**

- 1) You must use the telephone to get permission to cross
- 2) Tell the signaller if you are crossing with a large or slow vehicle or towing a trailer
- 3) When the signaller tells to cross, unlock & open the gates on both sides of the railway
- 4) Cross Quickly
- 5) Close the gates after crossing
- 6) You must telephone when you have finished, ensure the gate are locked

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## **Rules**

Should the telephone adjacent to the crossing be out of action, do not attempt to cross, dial the landline listed in the telephone box, await instruction from the signalman

200 meter south of the Cox Crossing is a steep bend. Trains are approaching up to 70 MPH you may not see or hear them, **Never** attempt to cross without contacting the signalman, this is stupid & very dangerous, BR Aviation Ltd could have its licensed withdrawn, Failure to close the gates NR could imposes up to £1,000 fine as the driver is obliged to report the gate open, there could be wondering cattle the Signalman will halt all trains until the situation is resolved. BRGC will take breaches very seriously, members can expect be expelled from the club immediately.

## **Relevant Legislation**

The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974  
Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (amended)  
The Provision & Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998  
Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992

***This policy was adopted BR Aviation Ltd & BRGC on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016***

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Julian Hitchcock MD