

Cotswold Gliding Club

Radio Telephony Training Syllabus

Background

Most gliders have a radio.

Some have radios that only operate on the gliding frequencies; however, increasingly many have multi-channel air band radios. Air space restrictions and the increasing use of radio by many pilots make it sensible for all pilots to have at least elementary capabilities in the use of radio. To this end the Committee has decided that radio training will form part of the Club's training syllabus and that **all** pilots will have to show a basic competence in the use of radio.

Requirements

The use of air band radio in the United Kingdom is restricted to those who hold a Radio Telephony Licence. Exemptions exist for the use of those frequencies designated for the use of the British Gliding Association members, and most air traffic control operators recognise that it is sensible to accept calls from non-licensed users where it is in the interest of safety to do so. It is therefore desirable that all pilots obtain a CAA radio licence. However, the Club recognises that some pilots may not wish to do this, and as a consequence proposes to introduce competency requirements that reflect the needs of the Club in its limited use of radio. Therefore all pilots will be required to obtain a limited capability in the use of radio, and given the number of existing club members who will require training, these training requirements will be introduced progressively so as to enable each member sufficient time to meet the new requirements.

Competency Levels

Any pilot who has a current CAA Radio Telephony Licence will automatically meet the requirements of this syllabus.

The competency levels required by this syllabus are intended to be introduced immediately for ab initio training, and will be rolled out over a period of two years for all other full flying members. The basic competency levels are designed to ensure that members are capable of understanding air band radio messages and have the ability to communicate safely in accordance with CAA protocols.

The syllabus is therefore aimed at providing training that will allow pilots to communicate effectively for all gliding purposes.

Training Material

All the information necessary to enable a club pilot to become competent are contained within two documents:

British Gliding Association Laws and Rules 14th Edition (part 10)

Civil Aviation Authority Radiotelephony Manual CAP413 (chapters 1-5 & chapters 9-10)

Copies of the latest version of these documents are available from the BGA and CAA web sites (www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP413.PDF & www.gliding.co.uk).

Syllabus Requirements

Pilots will be required to demonstrate an adequate knowledge of:

General operating procedures including, transmitting technique, the phonetic alphabet, transmission of numbers and time, standard phraseology, the “Q” code, and position reporting.

The operation and use of the bus radios.

It should be noted that not all sections of the CAA manual are relevant to gliders, but as glider pilots often maintain a listening watch on CAA channels when flying close to controlled airspace or for listening on flight information it is considered important that pilots should have an understanding of the transmissions they are listening to. Furthermore pilots flying cross-country may have to enter an aerodrome air traffic circuit when landing away from base or seek VFR clearance to cross Class D airspace. In these circumstances knowledge of the correct radio procedures is essential.

Competence in the areas highlighted above are the minimum requirements of this syllabus but it is recognised that training more advanced training may become necessary for cross country pilots, possibly as part of the cross-country endorsement training.

Training

The Cub has two RT training sets that enable pupils to practice RT transmission and reception on secure circuits. Trainers designated by the CFI will carry out training. Training shall consist of assistance in learning and understanding the theoretical requirements of the syllabus followed by practical training using the RT training sets.

Competence will be verified when a designated trainer issues a certificate of competence following the successful completion of a verbal theory and practical test.