

# NOVA

Newsletter

August 1995

## Editors Bit

Hi there, as you may have just noticed this copy of NOVA is not in the usual format. Now if you're sitting comfortably I'll give you my feeble excuse for this issue being of a newsletter style. The last issue was rather late due to a lack of material, some of you have noticed that I ended up writing a lot of it, and was posted about a week or so before I left the country to go to France. When I came back there were still no new articles waiting to be put into a new copy of NOVA. However I have finally been promised several new articles from people who have been out on the continent this summer flying. Most of the people who have promised articles are of paradangly nature so come on all you hangies give me something for NOVA or the next issue could be a tad boring for you. Send all you articles to the usual address. Anyway back to the excuse, as a result of this lack of articles and the fact that I have only just returned to the country not a lot had been done on a new issue of NOVA. Rather than holding off completely and waiting to produce a September issue I decided to make sure everybody was kept up to date on the club goings on by sending out this newsletter that you are holding. Any complaints phone Pete coz I'm off flying ha ha.

I've just been away in France flying in the British Open in St Andre. The competition was struck with bad weather with only two tasks flown a 50km triangle and a 100km race to goal. John Sylvester won the Open and also became British Nationals Champion. There were several local pilots in the comp. The North East BBC were also in attendance, as they have been following Pat Holmes all year in his defence of the title he won last year. The two news items that I have copies of give an interesting view of our sport, hopefully we will be able to show them at a club meeting soon.

Anyway that's enough from me so on to the serious club business.

See you on a hill. ☺ *Marcus*

**Avon Hang Gliding and Paragliding teams have a made it to the FINALS of the AIR WAVE Challenge !!!**

## Le Hot Gossip

Good News - Tim and Lisa Pentreath are proud parents after the recent birth of their daughter Emily. Congratulations.

If you are ever at the nationals and someone asks to borrow you motor bike, as they undoubtedly will, just say NO. Saying yes can be costly, as Matthew Cook found out when he leant his bike to Richard Carter who promptly proceeded to fall off it.

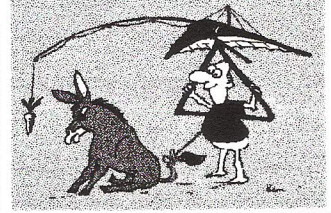
During a recent Airwave Challenge round one Avon pilot was miles higher than everybody else at over 4500ft above Pandy, but what we want to know is why didn't you go over the back Ron?

Fiona Macaskill is now getting a reputation for landing in trees. She received an award for just such a landing during the Nationals in St.Andre, a branch from a fir tree. The incident occurred during the training week, the canopy draped over three trees but luckily she came to rest only just off the ground. A local hunk appeared from nowhere and retrieved the canopy by cutting down the tree with an axe he just happened to have in his back pocket. Just over a week later in Annecy, Fiona was again in the trees after a deflation on takeoff at Planfait. This time she and her glider were extracted from the vegetation by a group of hunky Italians. Luckily no major injuries were sustained in either incident, but the canopy now has a few patches and new lines.



**All Out Weekend  
September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
RAF Kemble**

Please Support Colin Lark's Efforts



## September Meeting (6/9/95)

Howie Travers will be coming to the September meeting to talk about Competition. Howie doesn't need any introduction but for those of you that have been living in Outer Mongolia recently, Howie is the Chairman of the BHPA Paragliding Competitions Committee, and therefore he is in charge of the Paragliding Nationals. He should also be talking about his plans for a British Cup as an alternative means of entry to the Nationals.

Of course both Avon teams will have competed in the finals of the Airwave Challenge so there will also be lots of tales of "there I was..."

## Site News

I've been away for a bit so I've not heard of any epic flights except 3D's 100 milers from Frocester and Neil's 60 from Westbury.

### Westbury

I'm still progressing the range issue along with others; progress is slow.

And once again - **DON'T** fly deliberate top to bottoms and **DON'T** land in any fields other than the correct one. **AND** while I'm at it don't land on the side of the hill or the top field to the left of take off, I can't believe people are still doing this. If you see a new face **DO** make sure they know the rules, don't leave it to others. Jeeez!!!

*Chris*

## Competition News

High cloudbases, hot sunny weather (except for our Airwave Challenge weekends), long XC flights - are we talking about the UK? I think most of us would agree it's been the best summer for ages. Long may it last!

## Airwave Challenge

Yes, those brave boys from the Avon Club have made it through to the finals of the Airwave Challenge after a fine performance by all on Saturday 19th August at Pandy against the Long Mynd club. Where were all the other teams? - up at Hawes in the Dales, due to a major communications failure! So two legs were held with the winners of both going through. The original semi-final was held at Hawes on 12th/13th August but yes, you've guessed it, was totally blown out!

Well done Bertie on his excellent flight, landing just to the west of Brecon, and also to Dave McCarthy on his first XC. Chris Jones and Ron Smith also flew - Chris's XC chances were reduced because he landed to help an injured pilot (name unknown but not Avon), and as for Ron, he seemed quite content wafting round just below the air lane at flight level 55 (probably around 5,800' amsl on the day) taking in the view!. Convince us you weren't in it Ron!

Name	Distance
Bertie Grotian	30.0 km
Tim Pentreath	18.7 km
Simon Kerr	11.5 km
Dave McCarthy	10.6 km
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.8 km</b>

So it's off up to Hawes this weekend to do battle with the Cumbria, High Sports, Dales, Dunstable and IOW clubs. As I write this on Friday morning I must admit the forecast is looking highly suspect - I rather suspect we'll be making a third trip up to Hawes in a fortnights time!

The team going up is Mark Drake, Simon Kerr, Dave McCarthy, Marcus King and myself.

### Go For It '95 - Avon PG XC League - 25/8/95

Lots of new flights since the last league was published (22/6/95) including a 45km flight by Mark Drake, and three around the 30km mark by Bertie Grotian, Simon Kerr and myself. Most notably Wayne Seeley, Barry Seeley's 15 year old son, flew 40km from Frocester on Sunday 13th August on his first XC flight. Wayne was flying a Harley Sirrocco, so it just shows you don't need a "hot ship" to go a long way! Anyway, well done Wayne - we look forward to having you as a member of the Avon Club in due course.

#### All sites league

Rank:	Name:	Canopy:	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	Total (5):	Total (all):
1	Mark Drake	Apco Extra	45.7*	33.0*	25.5*	24.3*	22.1*	150.5	211.0
2	Tim Pentreath	Nova Sphinx	30.6	18.7	10.9	9.1	7.0	76.3	109.1
3	Simon Kerr	UP Kendo	28.6	11.5	10.6	4.8		55.5	55.5
4	Tim Brunskill	Condor Tornado	34.0*	7.2*	4.6	3.3*		49.2	49.2
5	Bertie Grotian	Trekking Espace	30.0					30.0	30.0
6	Angus Macaskill	Not known	20.4					20.4	20.4
7	Fiona Macaskill	Trekking Muira	15.7					15.7	15.7
8	Karl Ford	Firebird Barracuda	10.8					10.8	10.8
9	Dave McCarthy	Flight Design B3	10.6					10.6	10.6
10	Ellie Milln	Fun 2 Fly Profile	4.8					4.8	4.8
<b>Total</b>								<b>423.8</b>	<b>517.1</b>

#### Avon sites league

Rank	Name	Canopy:	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Mark Drake	Apco Extra	25.5*	24.3*	21.5*	3.1		74.4
2	Tim Pentreath	Nova Sphinx	6.5	6.1	6.0			18.6
3	Tim Brunskill	Condor Tornado	7.2*	3.3*				10.5
<b>Total</b>								<b>103.5</b>

\* = mid-week flight

Please continue to notify me of details of your flights (Date, Canopy, Site, TO grid ref, LZ grid ref): home 01225 424953 / work 01225 447003 / fax 01225 443256.

### And finally...

Lisa produced a bouncing baby girl, named Emily, on Sunday 9th July. Funnily enough I've had the best flying for ages since then - something wrong here I think! Emily has already been spotted on the hill - at Selsley Common she was sporting the latest long-line, high aspect-ratio Maclaren "3 in 1" pram, complete with optional multi-coloured windsock!



## AIRWAVE SEMI FINAL - Dales 15 and 16 July 1995

Some last minute phone calls and arm twisting (but obviously not enough of the latter) saw myself and Chris Moseley driving through the pouring rain on Friday night, wondering what the hell we were doing. Then we remembered, it's a competition, it always rains for competitions! With our minds now reconciled to the inevitable Chris and I arrived in Hawes in time for a quick pint to the sound of 'On Ilkley Moor By Tat' from the regulars of the White Hart, an experience to be missed!

Saturday saw a Southerly forecast, so Dave Garbe, Chris and myself trudged up Nappa Scar and got rigged. The meet head flew and went down, so we waited for a rain shower to go through. A couple more locals flew and stayed up, but landed before the next shower. Then the sky went dark and we did some serious sheltering under the gliders, with occasional interruptions for carrying the gliders out of the rotor before they succeeded in ground looping.

Eventually the sky cleared (a bit), unfortunately the light southerly was now a brisk south-westerly, making the cliff take off decidedly interesting. However once the glider was correctly positioned the air was actually smooth and only about 25 MPH. Cris and Dave decided to carry down, but being team leader I had to fly and perform the compulsory dive off the end of the ridge for a 5.6Km flight. Putting us into 3rd behind Dales and Northumbria with Dunstable in 4th. The only person to attempt a top landing after the wind had picked up managed to total his Rumour, pushing the broken leading edges through the sail!

Sunday was decidedly better and everybody rushed up Wether Fell. Open XC again saw people dribbling slowly over the back in whatever lift they could find. After an hour or so I was just about ready to face the top landing when something came through with Hoover written all over it.

Chris, myself and a Non-competing Northumbrian pilot were soon at cloudbase (3,400ft AMSL - 1600ft ATO), where Chris and I decided to hang around. There were some clouds on our side of Wensleydale (the south side), but these looked broken and badly formed, so I eventually decided to head for a spur coming out of the cloud street on the north side of the valley. The decision was helped by seeing the Northumbrian pilot low in the valley, but circling. Soon we were playing 'dodge the glider in the wispy bits' whilst heading along the street towards Leyburn.

The street stopped at Leyburn, but a cloud shadow out in the Vale of York convinced first the Northumbrian pilot and then Chris to go on a glide. I started to follow but then realised that the cloud they were heading for was decaying, so I decided to hang around in anything I could find. This didn't last long so eventually I followed the others. When they started to circle I pulled speed to join them, unfortunately they give up on the thermal as I reached them, as it was barely a zero, more a half down. Chris and then the Northumbrian pilot picked a field, whilst I found another 1/2 and 1/2 thermal. Yet again it only lasted for two turns so I headed on for an extra mile to the next set of grass fields.

Dave Garbe had left the ridge earlier and after losing his thermal attempted to soar the ridge behind Wether in rough air. This wasn't working so he attempted to set up a landing to discover his harness zip was stuck.

After an interesting glide, dodging dry stone walls, he managed to open the harness just before his landing for a credible 9 Kms on his first XC.

I managed 35Km for the longest flight of the day, with Chris's flight being the second longest on the day. For some reason the Northumbrians picked a team that couldn't make Sunday. Hence :

First	Dales	1490
Second	Avon	909
Third	Dunstable	458
Fourth	Northumbria	440

Hence Dales and Avon go to the Airwave Finals in Wales on the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

Contact me before then if you want to fly for your club!

Neil Atkinson



## Avon Hang Gliding XC League

Pilot	Flight Number							Total (km)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Jim McMackin	111.00	80.00	151.00					342
Jason Board	72.98	155.30	102.34					330.62
Neil Atkinson	51.16	75.67	73.96	42.89	60.88			304.56
Colin Hale	22.62	27.60	41.77	48.85	31.17 o/r	24.62 o/r	26.95 o/r	223.58
Nick Romanko	50.00	22.18	82.73	29.02 o/r	21.44			205.37
Chris Jones	37.00 o/r	37.96 o/r	49.54					124.5
Kevin Winter	78.00							78

### More Le Hot Gossip

Simon Kerr has finally bought a new canopy. (UP Kendo)

Dave McCarthy has been spotted flying outside of Wiltshire.

Chris Jones is running an ambulance service for broken feet between Pandy and Nevill Hall.

Paul Davis has made use of Chris' service.

### Ray Bass Runs From Whores

(Oops that should be Hawes)

Yes news has now reached down from the windswept North of England where our valiant Hang Gliding and Paragliding teams were doing battle in the final of the Airwave Club Challenge. Avon were in a very strong position with the title of Overall Club Champions 1995 being decided between Avon and Dales the only 2 clubs in Britain to manage to qualify with both teams. As with all competitions, or so it seems, the start was dogged with bad weather, with rain and a cloudbase that started on the hill and then moved down towards Hawes during the day. The next day was a tad windy so the paraglider pilots were sent off to do what they wanted, but it was thought that it would be OK for the hang gliders so they sat on the hill all day. At this point Ray Bass decided it was time to go home so off he went, leaving us a man short. Paul Ellis jumped into the team never having flown an XC before. It maybe Ray was worried about getting involved in the party games that evening at the BBQ. Next day was turned out to be brilliant for both paradanglers and hangies. Team Avon didn't have the best of days but put up a respectable performance with Neil Atkinson rumoured to have flown 97km and be one of the furthest hang glider pilots away, we think he was trying to fly home. All the Avon paraglider pilots got away, some earlier than others, but unfortunately Mark Drake was DQed after flying what must have been one of the longest flights of the day, 52km, only to breach and land in a special rule zone. It was decided to extend the paragliding competition so as not to put too much pressure on the less experienced paraglider pilots to fly in the strong winds so all the paraglider teams will be going up again next time. The final scores are not known at the time of writing but more will appear next time.

### And Finally... A Word From The Chairman

I'm writing this on a gusty Bank Holiday Sunday while the hang gliding and paragliding teams are away at Hawes for the Airwave Challenge final. I hope its not as windy up north. No doubt there will be a write up of the weekends activities, flying and otherwise, appearing soon. It was good to see club members turning out for the earlier rounds even when the forecasts were far from promising. Spending a cold Saturday on the Bloreng wrapped up in my paraglider to keep the rain off is not something I want to repeat too soon.

We had some good turnouts for the club meetings in the first half of the year. If we arrange a speaker then we can guarentee then a decent sized audience. Once again we need some ideas for the autumn meetings. If you can come up with the idea, I'll help put the effort into organising it.

*Pete*

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