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## The Bloreng

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## Meetings

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Jan 1998  
Update

Hi there, this is just another quick newsletter to let you know what is going on in the club. A full NOVA will hit your doormat in January, I promise. In the meantime here is the latest from the committee.

You will find attached to this newsletter a pledge sheet from the South East Wales club giving details of the situation with the Bloreng and a pledge form so you can give your own donation. As well as this individual response the committee thought the Avon club should make a contribution to the fund as most of our members regularly fly SEW sites especially the Bloreng. It was decided unanimously at the committee meeting to pledge £2000 to the fund.

We would maybe have given more but it was felt that we needed some funds in reserve in the light of the present situation at Ubley and the continued negotiations. Lets hope that all goes well for the South East Wales Club as they have put considerable effort into securing this site.

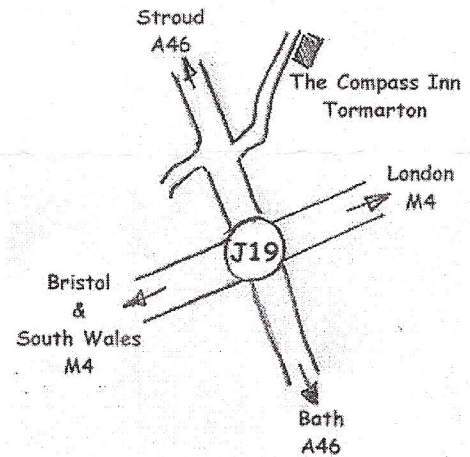
**NEW VENUE** The Compass Inn, Tormarton  
**NEW NIGHT** First Thursday Of The Month

There will be **NO JANUARY MEETING**. Contrary to earlier discussions we have decided not to have a meeting in January as per usual

**February Meeting - Thursday 5th of February - Ladies Night and Trophies Presentation** See the back of this sheet for all the details.

**March Meeting - Thursday 5th of March - Fiona Macaskill** will be giving a talk with slides on her various exploits flying in various PWC events around the world in 1997. Fiona has gained a ranking of 6th women in the world with two top 3 placings. This should be an interesting evening giving a glimpse of competing at international level.

Yes we have a new venue, why may you ask are we moving? Well for a start we won't be able to use the current location past the middle of the year and we all felt that it isn't that suitable, this is especially true when there is a talk and half of the people are forced to stand at the back. The new location at The Compass Inn, Tormarton is easily accessible being a matter of yards from Junction 19 of the M4 Motorway. It also provides us with excellent facilities there will be a bar for our exclusive use and a function room that we can use for speakers along with TV and Video, over head projector etc. We are hoping to show videos before the meetings start and will also be trying to organise pilot lectures etc., for those that need them, again to be run prior to the meeting.



The above map shows the location of the new meeting venue. It is the first road on the right after you turn onto the A46 heading North towards Stroud.

Please note at the request of several members we are not going to allow smoking in the function room.

## Colin Says

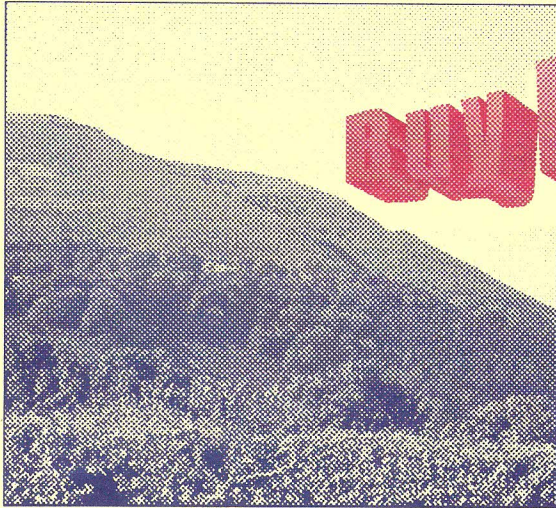
And finally a few words from the Chairman. We have just had our last committee meeting for 97 it was well attended and several major decisions were made that will affect us all in the year ahead. Come along to our new venue and check it out, we have lots of new members that have only heard of our older club hero's and would dearly love to meet them. You know who you are, Geoff, Kevin, Bertie, do I have to name you all, are you still out there? Come on guys round up the other old codgers and come along to the Ladies night on the Thursday 5th February or suffer a year of torment and bullying.

I would like to wish all members a very happy Christmas and good flying year in 98 and look forward to seeing you at the next club night.

Send Your Articles and Adverts for NOVA to:

Marcus King, 159 The High Street., Batheaston, Bath BA1 7DW.

NOVA is the newsletter of the Avon Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club.



# Blorenge!

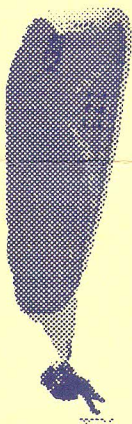
**The BEST nil-wind  
site in Britain -  
and it's at risk!**

## **Judge for yourself . . .**

Jim Bowyer once told the S.E. Wales club that theirs was one of only three areas in the whole of the U.K. which had the facilities required to host major competitions. Apart from that, thousands of club level pilots visit the area over long weekends and holidays for the sheer variety of flying sites. Big open sites which face almost right round the compass; many miles in all directions before you hit the sea; a club which is committed to keeping as many sites as possible available to all, no wonder it's such a popular area.

But land usage is becoming an increasing struggle. Right now, three of the biggest and most famous open sites are threatened. Pandy is a constant battle. At Merthyr, once the best site imaginable for first high flights, the bottom landing was lost last year when a factory was built on it. Now fresh mining works threaten to block access to the top - which could effectively render the site unflyable. Blorenge is to be sold.

Two members-only sites are threatened. Blaenavon and Varteg are on a huge tract of land which is for sale, and which will be wanted for coal. The only practical course here seems to be to negotiate with the new owners *if* the sites are still flyable - one recent plan would have written Blaenavon off completely.



**But Blorenge is a different matter. The parcel of land is relatively small. There is no economic coal. It is within bounds of hope that our sport can raise enough money to buy it. The club have been working hard to find a solution which would ensure continued use. If necessary, we will make a bid for the land. The Reggie Spooner Trust have already made a sizeable donation. The South East Wales club will be committing its reserves. And an application has been made for SportsLott funding. But we cannot rely on that - we won't have an answer until it is already too late to do anything else.**

And we cannot pass the buck to the BHPA. Whatever the outcome of the AGM discussions about them buying sites, it will be too late for this sale. Fliers must do it for themselves or it won't be done at all.

**So we are acting now to raise more money, in the hope it won't be needed, but in case it is.**

Make no bones about it. If the land goes into private hands we could be stopped using the site. True, there are rights of way, but these apply only to the footpaths. The moment you step off to go to the front and rig you could be trespassing.

**How to buy a mountain . . .  
see over. . .**

It's true we could sit back and do nothing except wait for the new owners to say we can carry on. It's also true that sitting back could lose us the site.

## THE ONLY WAY TO BE SURE IS TO OWN IT OURSELVES

### How to buy a mountain

The S.E.Wales club, in its role of managing the sites in its area, are leading the attempt to secure the site. If it becomes necessary to bid, a special company or trust would be set up to hold the land.

Donations are being sought. These will be only be collected if a bid is necessary, and will be paid into an account opened specially for the purpose. Money for the purchase will always be kept in this account and will not be mixed with S.E.Wales club funds. The bid, if one is made, will be made on behalf of the company or trust, which will then own the land if we are successful.

A key to this is that money must be in our possession before the bid is made. NO BID WILL BE MADE WHICH INCLUDES MONIES PROMISED BUT NOT YET GIVEN.

### What if the bid doesn't succeed?

Then the club will negotiate with the new owners. If necessary, a lease would be considered, and monies raised for the purchase may be used for a lease instead.

### What you can do!

Think hard about how much flying sites are worth to you. Then write out a cheque for as much as you can afford. Make it payable to 'Blorengel Account'. If you don't have your cheque book handy - just fill in your name and address and let us know how much you want to give. We will contact you. Whichever you do, put the cheque and/or the form in one of the Buy Blorengel boxes on the Offpiste or Trekking stands, or post it to the address below. BUT PLEASE DO IT AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

Your cheques will only be cashed if the club committee judge that we have not raised enough through SportsLott and the other gifts mentioned, and we promise to get in touch with all donors to let them know  
1/ How much was bid 2/ Whether their money is needed and 3/ What the outcome is.

----- **TIME WAITS FOR NO-ONE - SO DO IT NOW!** -----

**Yes!**

CUT THIS OUT AND GET IT TO US!

I want a part in keeping Blorengel. I have considered what I can afford, then dug a bit deeper (same as when I buy a wing), and I want to give £\_\_\_\_\_ (Fill in here.)

I am (Mr/Ms/Mrs) \_\_\_\_\_

My Address is: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (VERY IMPORTANT) \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque, dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 1998, made payable to 'Blorengel Account' [ ]

I don't have my cheque book handy. Please get in touch [ ]

Please don't give cash!

All forms and cheques will be passed to the Buy Blorengel co-ordinator:  
Roger Bassil, 4, Stanmer House, Lypiatt Rd., Cheltenham, Glos., GL50 2QJ.  
Phone 01242 232403 (Eves. 7.30 till midnight, or rainy weekends)

**Buy Blorengel  
Act today!!**

Avon Hang Gliding & Paragliding Club  
New Years Buffet Dinner

Thursday 5th February 1998

The Compass Inn  
(Tormarton)

Ladies Night  
Presentation of Club Trophies

Wind up time, best dressed pilot award and much more.

Hot running buffet.  
Tickets £10 per member

Members  
Wife's and Girl Friends are free of charge.  
(one per member only)

7.30 for 8pm  
Dress as formal as you like.

Please send cheque made payable to the A.H.G. & PG. Club to:  
Colin Lark. 52 Long Street. Dursley. Glos. GL11 4JG.  
Tel: 01453 546991

Insure Cheques arrive by the 2nd week of January

Remember to let us know if your wife or girl friend are coming along.  
Its free for the Ladies so bring them along its a great venue with a nice atmosphere.

Directions: Turn North off Junction 19 of the M4. Stroud direction (A46) 500 yds turn right (sign posted Tormarton) the Compass Inn is 500 yds on the right.

The Compass Inn is the new venue for club nights on the first Thursday of the month. We think you will be impressed.

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Marcus King, 159 The High St, Bathenston, Bath, BA1 1DW or email *Error! Reference source not found.*  
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