

## **GLIDING UPDATE**

Following the Squadron OC's Conference, I just wanted to update you all on what was discussed and the outcomes from that:

### **643 VGS Activity Weekend**

643 VGS at Syerston have offered us an activity weekend on the **26/27 Jul 08** where they will give 20 cadets GIC flights over the two days. The offer included the opportunity to camp overnight at the unit and carry out other adventure training (AT) type exercises in-between the flying slots available. We would be responsible for organising the AT activities, they would organise the flying.

A show of hands at the conference was narrowly in favour of not taking up the AT offer and just sending 10 cadets on the Sat and a further 10 on the Sun to take advantage of the GIC flying in winch launched gliders which is a rarity for cadets on W&B Wing.

As 198 and 497 Sqns already attend 643 VGS, I propose to omit them from this opportunity and offer it to any other squadron on the Wing that is interested. Can I therefore ask you please to consult your squadron diaries and put your bids in to Steve Rayner at Wing HQ. He has agreed to co-ordinate the replies and allocate places as fairly as possible. **Can we have all replies in please by the end of April 08.**

As I am a couch potato and know nothing about AT planning, if we get a similar opportunity next year and would like to take up the AT offer, I will need someone with experience in AT activity to undertake co-ordination of the event. That is over a year away but you might like to keep it at the back of your minds if you are interested in helping out.

### **Issue of Blank Medical Certificates F6424**

I have had a spate of medical certificates being returned from HQAC Accounts Section because they do not bear the Wing Stamp and have not been completed correctly. HQAC refuse to pay the doctor unless the forms are correct. Can I please remind you that the only source of valid blank medical certificates is from me and you request one by filling in a Gliding Scholarship Application Form which is available from the Wing Website, download a copy and keep it as a master to photocopy as you wish. Once I receive the form I will post a valid medical certificate direct to your cadet, I fill in most of the details for them, so it only requires the doctor to do his bit. This system works well and has eliminated many of the problems we had in the past.

I suspect the forms returned from HQAC have originated at local CCF units and have been copied from the relevant ACP. However I would be rather embarrassed if they came from one of our squadrons as I have sent the forms back to HQAC Accounts Section and suggested they contact the doctors direct rather than pester me!

### **Morning/Afternoon GIC slots at 633 VGS Cosford**

Well you heard it yourselves, 633 VGS have now agreed to morning and afternoon GIC slots. This means you will not be kept hanging around all day, the morning GIC contingent should get the first sortie of the day and can quickly be on their way. The squadrons furthest from the VGS will be able to ring in the morning to confirm flying is available in the afternoon. If flying is cancelled, it will save them a wasted journey. However the onus is on you to call the VGS, don't expect the VGS to have the time or capacity to chase cadet squadrons.

The morning contingent will have to turn up regardless as there is no way of predicting the weather far enough in advance to enable them to be stopped in time. This is a step in the right direction, so please do not let the Wing down and ensure you turn up for your gliding allocations. As you know all no shows are reported direct to HQAC and OC Wing will require you to write a letter of explanation and apology if you let the side down.

Steve Rayner has had the 2008 GIC list from 633 VGS and will be issuing allocations to squadrons in the near future with squadrons furthest from the VGS getting the afternoon slots.

### **Change of the Gliding Year**

In the past the gliding year has run from 1 Apr to 31 Mar (ie the Financial Year). Nobody really can remember how this came about but as of this year it will change and all gliding statistics will be recorded over the calendar year 1 Jan to 31 Dec in line with the rest of the Air Cadet statistics.

### **VGS Contact Nos**

Please find below the contact Tel Nos. for the three VGS. Copy these into your diary, phone or wherever else you keep your important Tel Nos. so that you have this information readily available if required.

**633 VGS – 01902- 377320 or 01902- 372393 Ext 4667 or Ext 4668**

**637 VGS – 01451 – 810078 or Mob (caravan) 07786-504892**

**637 VGS – Cadet Management Officer, Fg Off Chris Pringle – Mob 07793-681024**

**643 VGS – 01400-264543 or Mob (caravan) 07867-585517**

Thank you for your continued support for gliding. Keep the application forms coming in so I can maintain a healthy waiting list. This enables us to fill short notice slots due to cancellations which means more gliding for our cadets!

Sqn Ldr Bernard Tisley RAF VR(T), 8 Mar 08