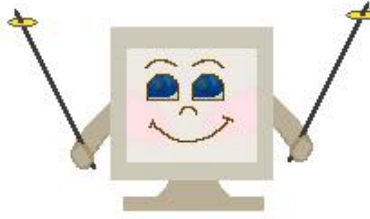


OGC 2007 Winter Newsletter



Here we are in the middle of winter and exciting things are happening.

THE BIG NEWS - OGC have purchased a 1997 Discus CS from Germany, as a replacement for the Hornet, and we expect this to arrive in NZ in September so it will be on line for this season. Look at this beauty.....



OGC's latest acquisition to its fleet - a 1997 Discus CS

This is a major undertaking for a small club with the net proceeds from the sale of the Hornet realising \$21,000 and upgrading to a glider that will cost just over \$80,000. We have only managed this with a substantial loan from Gliding New Zealand and the generous offer of two members to provide debentures. It is a bit scary so members can help the club by putting extra cash in their accounts this season – every dollar will be appreciated. We also need to boost our membership so if you know of anyone wanting to fly at Omarama encourage them to join the OGC. We have a very attractive, modern fleet available in which to enjoy the best soaring in the world!

We would like to thank Peter Robinson for sourcing this for us and negotiating with the seller - his fluency in German helping no end, Ross Drake who travelled 400kms to survey it for us, Bruce Drake and Alfred & Agnes Spindelberger (our Cobra factory friends) who finalized the deal and made it happen in a hurry by very generously raiding their bank account. Arrangements have been made to get the Discus in its flash Cobra trailer towed from Freiberg to Griffe and packed into the container, which we will be sharing with the Nelson Gliding Club's Twin Astir, in time for its journey starting on the 20th July.

Yes UO Trailer has finally arrived!



UO Trailer at Lyttelton alongside HMNZS Canterbury

The brand new DUO Cobra trailer arrived in style on the 28th June sailing up the Lyttelton Harbour on HMNZS CANTERBURY, escorted by helicopters its navy crew impressively standing to attention along the decks, to be welcomed at its first port of call in NZ by a Government Minister, band, top military personnel from the Ministry of Defence, Army, Navy and Air Force with gold sashes and medals aplenty, Maori challenge and Haka.



It was a very impressive welcome and no other trailer would have ever received such an illustrious welcome. Tim arranged for the trailer to be unloaded leaving me nothing else to do but arrive at the ship and enjoy the thrill of towing it off the wharf. Once again tremendous thanks to Lt Commander, Tim Cosgrove, who did so much to make this happen for us. Although not all the accounts are to hand so far we have spent \$3,250.89 with accounts still to come for couriering the rego plate to Germany, some minor adjustments to the trailer to meet NZ WOF requirements, and to pay for the Registration and WOF. It will surely be the cheapest brand new Cobra trailer ever landed in New Zealand and the tremendous savings has helped considerably towards the upgrade of the Hornet. It was a real team effort and all those involved have been thanked in an article in the August GK so I won't repeat it here.

Next season

On Line booking system

Feedback indicates members want to know they have a glider booked before travelling some distance to Omarama. Providing an 'on line' booking facility was seen as a way of encouraging members to do more flying by making glider availability visible to everyone so booking a glider will become a whole lot easier.

As a brief overview:

The Club computer could be equipped with on line access for members to make and check bookings while at Omarama.

There needs to be a minimum "On Line" booking for the DUO of five days which will apply to both members and commercial operators hire. This would preclude one day bookings interfering with commercial week long course hire. If there are no 'On line' bookings for that week day - day hire would be allowed.

Our two single seat gliders - LS6 GWC and the new Discus – can be booked by members on line up to 3 days consecutively mid week but if no one else comes along it is there to fly! 25th December through to mid January is to remain on a day by day basis. Members receive priority to book up to 10 am on the day. When there are no bookings made by this time the glider will be released to commercial operators.

If not there by 10.0am at the Daily Briefing (unless it has been noted a later arrival time applicable to the booking) the booking is deemed to be a 'No Show' and reverts to all comers.

It is proposed to get the On Line system operational soon. If you have any advance bookings you wish to make now please let us know.

Training/Mentoring/up skilling and support for OGC Pilots

It was agreed we cannot see the club set itself up to provide a training service in the short to medium term but we would like to see the club provide more membership services and this could include having our gliders at gliding camps such as Flock Hill and Nelson Lakes and encouraging our members to attend these. They really are a lot of fun with a real club atmosphere. Flock Hill (in the Canterbury foothills near Castle Hill) is held Labour weekend and Nelson Lakes camp mid February. If you are interested in attending both or one of these let us know.

We would like to see the club offer X-C training courses and we have approached Glide Omarama with regard to running an early season X-C training course for OGC members using OGC gliders to keep the cost down. Gavin is willing to do this and will get back to us with cost etc. Anyone interested in making further enquiries should contact Phil Plane 021 656 098 or 03 438 9599 who has offered to co-ordinate this.

Mentoring of low time pilots.

We recognize this can be a problem with the current 'independent ops' club structure. Don Mallinson and Phil Plane have their commercial duties to attend to but are happy to help where they can in regard to advising and answering questions.

Your opinions, ideas, comments and what you would like to see happen are always welcome!

Keep warm until what promises to be a very exciting season ahead.

Warmest regards to all - *Yvonne*

