

# CLUB FOCUS

## DARTMOOR GLIDING SOCIETY



In the late 70s, the Albatross Gliding Club was set up by predominantly Naval personnel, who cleared much of the gorse to create an airfield on Burnford Common below Brentor on the western side of Dartmoor National Park. After it closed down, the site reverted to grazing until Dartmoor Gliding Society was formed in 1983 and set up as a not-for-profit community amateur sports club. We are a grass roots club based firmly within the local community, made up solely of volunteers. Whilst our funding has been limited, the club continues to grow and we are always looking to find grants to help us.

The club has come a long way from those early years and this year we are celebrating our 40th anniversary with a live band and BBQ at the airfield.

We have a comfortable clubhouse with toilets, fully-fitted kitchen and flight simulator, a hangar for our six aircraft, a workshop and a hangar for our three winches, tractors and vehicles. There is a well maintained single grass runway orientated approximately 110-290. We have a roomy launch hut at the west end of the airfield and a very comfortable launch point bus at the east end of the airfield, which contains a hob, seats and tables.

A small friendly club and BGA accredited Junior Gliding Centre, we have around 50 members – the youngest is 13 and the oldest 80. Instructors offer training from pre-solo up to instructor level.

During easterly winds we often get wave off Dartmoor and, with no controlled airspace above the airfield and an approved 'wave box', we regularly get great height gains straight off the wire. The record height gain from the airfield is over 16,000ft and the longest duration was by Richard Roberts, over seven hours to Bicester and almost back, just under 500km. Many members have their own gliders and we always welcome visiting pilots.

The airfield is on the western side of Dartmoor and cross-country flights are frequently made over the spectacular Cornwall and Devon countryside. Straight off the launch we get fabulous views of Dartmoor and down towards the city of Plymouth and the south coast. With a small height gain up to around 2,500ft above the airfield we can see both the north and south coasts at the same time.

We provide trial flights and a structured one-day introductory course.

**Steve Fletcher**

### AT A GLANCE

**Membership:**

Full: £285

Junior: £115, with discounts for senior and family members

**Launch type:**

Winch (club): £9 (Private) £11  
£6.50 for juniors

**Club fleet:**

3 x K-13, 2 x K-8, SF27

**Private gliders**

15

**Instructors/Members:**

8/42

**Types of lift:**

Thermal and wave

**Operates:**

Wednesdays, weekends, most Bank Holidays

**Contact:**

01822 810712 Clubhouse  
[info@dartmoorgliding.co.uk](mailto:info@dartmoorgliding.co.uk)  
[www.dartmoorgliding.co.uk](http://www.dartmoorgliding.co.uk)

**Long and Lat:**

5035531N 00409100W  
Brentor Base Frequency:  
130.105