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Editor's note

Last month saw some major events and achievements at Portmoak. First, we had the Scottish Cross Country Development Week with G Dale and over 20 gliders participating. This was followed shortly by Portmoak hosting the first Scottish Interclub League for this year.

Unfortunately the weather was not very good at the beginning of the SCCDW, but the last 2 days saw some great flying, including 3 silver distance achievements (article below). Some of G Dale's lectures will be made available on the club's

Youtube channel later on. Meanwhile, turn the pages and you can see some photos from the event.

Day 1 of the ICL was just a high gain day as the wind was too strong to set a task and only a few pilots participated. Day 2 was better and the results can be seen on [Soaringspot](#).

The next big event coming up is our Open Day on the 26th of June. If you haven't volunteered to help with it yet but would like to do so, please contact the office.

Wolf Rossmann

Silver Badge Hattrick

It's the 18th of April, day five of the Scottish Cross Country Development Week. After spending the previous days in the clubhouse trying to absorb as much knowledge as we possibly could from gliding legend G Dale, the weather gods decided to grace us with a promising XC day.

The three of us, Stephen Clinton, Lachlan Sloan and Claire Conway had been waiting for this day - the day where we could do our Silver Distance flight and complete our Silver badges.

That morning we discussed the forecast, which was for a good thermal day but challenging wind conditions with a brisk 20kt south westerly. With that in mind, we de-

ecided that the best plan of action would be a 'downwind dash' to Kirriemuir. Getting there would be quick, quicker than most of us imagined, but getting back was going to be a challenge (as we found out).

Tasks declared, and after a quick chat with the CFI, we were ready to grid.

Lachlan and Stephen pulled out two of the club's Juniors (HHD and FUS respectively) while Claire prepared ERR, Edinburgh University Gliding Club's ASW-19.

We all set off at around 12:30, Claire first, followed by Stephen and then Lachlan. It was a challenging start, with each of us thermalling in the strong winds. Topping up some height at the hill and using some of



in view. Stephen rounded the Drumshade turn point first, followed by Lachlan. The 50k was in the bag, but now we were looking at a different sky (lots more blue!) with strong headwinds, meaning we had a fight ahead.

Claire in ERR pushed north towards Perth, flying over the ATZ towards the hills to the north before rounding the Kirriemuir turn-point, another 50k in the bag, but now facing a totally clear sky. At this point Stephen was thermalling west of Dundee and north of the Tay fighting the wind, and Lachlan was fighting a thermal for the last bit of lift.

Lachlan was first to land out, picking a great dirt field just to the north west

of Dundee. He later found out this was a soil research field and if he had landed in the adjacent one, he would have done some potentially costly damage. Claire having spotted Kirriemuir airfield decided to land rather than pushing into the blue ahead, however she found a Piper Supercub smack bang in the middle of the runway.

Instead, she decided to land in an adjacent field

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than attempt to land before, or overfly and land after the cub. She later got a free flight in it after the pilot seen her land!

crash'. The paramedics, on seeing him in one piece, stood down the air ambulance at Perth which had been put on standby.



Thanks to our speedy retrieve crews, we were all able to make it back to the Green Hotel in time for the final talk by G. Although not sure how much of it any of us absorbed after the mentally exhausting day we'd just had!

What's most important, is that all three of us had a blast. They are flights we'll never forget, and hopefully we all have many more XC flights ahead of us this season and in the years ahead.

We'd like to end by saying a huge thank you to everyone who helped us out on the day, with a special mention to Sant Cervantes, Phil Dolan, Ron Smith, and Martin Phillimore for organizing the SCCDW. It was a huge

Stephen managed to cross the Tay but couldn't get over the hills, so landed in a farmers field at Newburgh...only to have two fire engines, an ambulance and a police car show up for a 'plane

success and we hope there will be many more to inspire future generations of pilots who want to cut to chord and go cross country.

Pictures from the Scottish Cross Country Development Week





Welcome back

Portmoak Heritage Collection's Slingsby T45 Swallow returned to flight after a layup of eight years.

Built in 1967 so just a bit younger than the two pilots who flew her after giving her a new C of A.