



## Topic of the month: November 2023

### MAKING GOOD DECISIONS

This month's topic is not the result of any specific incidents, but general advice on how to be a safe pilot.

As pilots we constantly have to make decisions and accidents often occur as a result of one or more decisions that could have been better, and this accumulates and can end in disaster.

Good decisions are the result of good planning. This starts before you launch.

#### Pre Flight

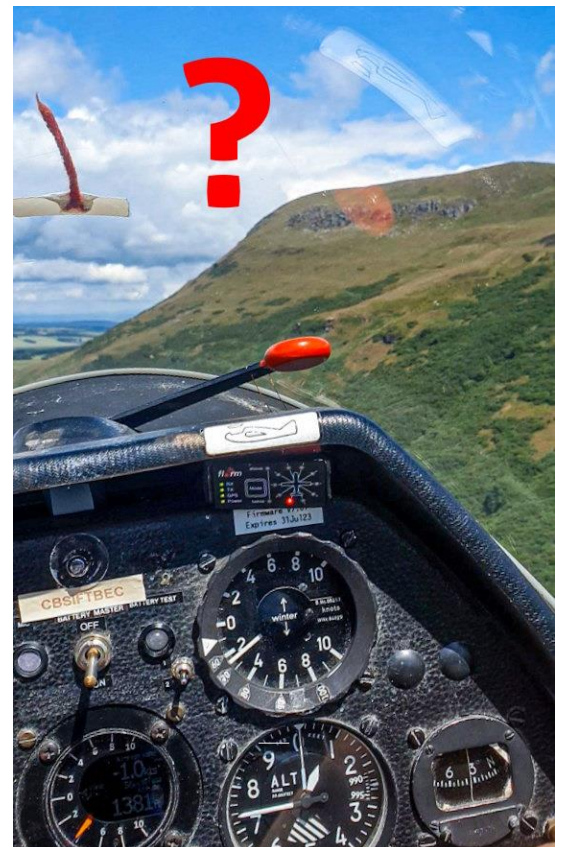
- Plan your Flight
  - Have you thought about TEM? There are many good resources about Threat and Error Management on the BGA website. Take a look at those before your next flight and put it into practice.
- Plan for Eventualities
  - What is the wind doing
  - Which way do you turn
  - Do you know which fields you can land in if it's a low aerotow launch failure
- Good ABCDE checks result in less chance of surprises during the launch and the flight
- Whether its XC or local soaring, make a plan what you want to achieve during your flight

#### Launch

- Keep wings level and release immediately **before** a wing touches the ground
  - Before the launch, ask the wingman to lower a wing until it nearly touches the ground so you can see what it should look like when you must release
- In case of a launch failure follow the plan you made during your "Eventualities" preflight check
  - Its at this point that bad decisions are made if you haven't had a plan for what to do

#### Flying

- While flying you will have to make many decisions and you will obviously also make some bad ones. It is important to recognize these and learn from them. At the next stage of your flight think about what was wrong with the last decision and how you can improve on that.



## **Circuit and landing**

- Did you plan your circuit before you took off?
- Is that plan still valid?
  - Wind direction or wind strength may have changed
  - Your planned landing area may be crowded
- Don't forget your pre landing checks
- Use and listen to the radio
- Have you thought about what to do if your circuit does not work as expected?
  - Overshoot and undershoot, decide early how to compensate
  - Sudden obstruction on the airfield, where best to go instead

## **After the Flight**

- Debrief yourself
  - What went well and what did not go so well
  - Any bad decisions and what would have been better
- If anything concerned you during the flight, rehearse in the simulator
  - For example, ballooned landing, thermalling, spin and stall recovery, xc country planning and flying

A few bullet points to remember:

- Plan your flight
- Plan for Eventualities
- Use Threat and Error Management
- Debrief yourself and consider any bad decisions you made during the flight

Cheers,  
Wolf