

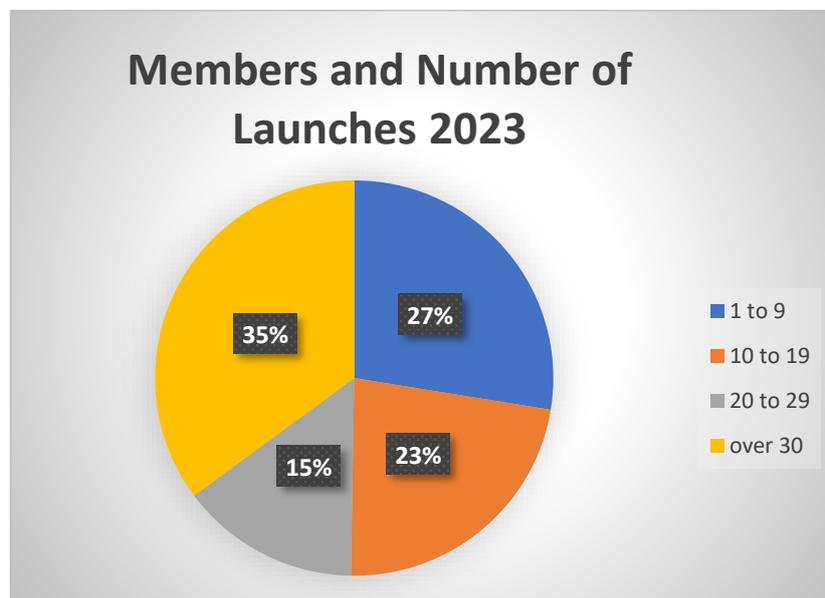
Topic of the month: March 2024

Currency

Now that the weather is improving, we all need to get current again and most of you will already have check flights.

We all know the BGA's Currency Barometer (if you don't, get an instructor to explain it to you) but being current on that does not really mean you are current. Your flights that got you to green may have been some time ago.

It is important that you fly regularly. The following diagram shows what percentage of our members are in a specific range of launches during 2023.



Half of our members had less than 20 launches during 2023.

This is not enough to stay current.

In addition to the currency barometer, you need to fly regularly. You can see from the Airfield manual (reproduced below) when you need a check flight if you have not flown for some time.

Remember that the recency requirement is for each launch method

If you have been doing many winch launches, but no aerotow for a couple of months, you need to get an aerotow check.

Level of Experience	Restrictions/Currency	Privileges
Solo, with fewer than 10 satisfactory solo flights.	Daily check flight before flying. Signature in logbook from supervising instructor for all check and solo flights.	All flying must be under the direct supervision of an instructor.
10 satisfactory solo flights, but not yet a qualified pilot.	SGC instructor recommendation and signature in logbook. Briefing before every flight. Signature in logbook from supervising instructor for all check and solo flights. Check after every 10 th flight until Bronze completed. Check flight every 3 weeks. 24 month progress check required.	As above.
Qualified pilot, but pre-Silver or less than 100 hours. Note: minimum age 16 for this qualification.	Check flight every 3 weeks if red on currency barometer. Otherwise, check flight every 6 weeks since last flight using proposed launch method. 12 month checks required.	Self-authorising for flights in own aircraft, under overall supervision by an instructor on the field. Authorisation required from SGC instructor for all flights in SGC aircraft. Briefing recommended from SGC instructor for cross country flights in own aircraft.
Silver Badge and 100 hours or holding a BGA Instructor rating	Check flight or discussion with instructor if 6 weeks since last flight using proposed launch method. 12 month checks required, except that instructors follow standard BGA annual revalidation requirements. Must retain 30 days currency to instruct or carry passengers.	Self-authorising for flights in own aircraft. Authorisation required from SGC instructor for all flights in SGC aircraft. Briefing recommended from SGC instructor for cross country flights in own aircraft.

Having a check flight after some time of not flying does not make you current. If you haven't flown for a while, it will take some time to get to your previous flying capabilities again. Take care on your next few solo flights and don't be too ambitious.

If you are an instructor or BI and haven't flown for some time, a check flight will not make you current to take a student. Have several solo flights first before you take a student or visitor up. Instructors will also need to do the required solo and instructing flights each year for their rating revalidation. Details are on the BGA website at <https://members.glider.co.uk/laws-rules/instructor-requirements>

Some bullet points to remember

- **Currency and recency relate to launch method. Being current on one launch method does not make you current on another.**
- **Make sure you get your annual checks done.**
- **Fly regularly**
- **As instructor, it takes more than a check flight before you take a student up again**