# Topic of the month: November 2024
## Wings Level during Launch

This was the safety topic in May, only 6 months ago, but it is worth repeating now, as wing drops during the launch keep happening. Luckily, so far there was no serious accident, but your luck could run out at any time.

Having a wing touch the ground during the launch, especially a winch launch, can have disastrous consequences.

### Pilots

Its part of the **E**ventualities during your preflight check to say to yourself **"If I cannot keep the wings level release immediately"** or similar words, but the important thing is to release **before** the wing touches the ground.

If you are unsure of the view ahead when the wing is close to the ground, ask the wing runner to hold the wing near the ground, look ahead and remember that view. It is not that far off the horizontal for most gliders. DO this especially when you are in a type that you have never flown or not for a long time.

If there is a crosswind component, your upwind wing will go up as soon as the wing runner releases it. Anticipate this and correct immediately. If you can't correct it, **release immediately**.

And always be prepared that there could be a stop signal early in the launch. So don't rotate too quickly and be prepared for a launch failure at any height.

### Wingrunners

Make sure you hold the wings level. The dihedral of the wings may give the impression that you are holding the wings level if you only look at the wing you are holding.

If the wing you are holding is parallel to the ground, then the wings are unlikely to be level. The tips of the wings must be the same distance from the ground.

If there is a cross wind, you may experience an up- or downward pressure on the wing. If this happens, stop the launch and tell the pilot. If there is an upward pressure on the wing and the launch proceeds, you are actually holding the wing down. As soon as you let go of the wing it will move up and depending on the force of the pressure it may be too much for the pilot to correct.

*Safe Flying*
*Wolf*