



Topic of the month: March 2026

Ground Supervision

Gliding is a relatively safe sport, but keeping it safe requires all of us to look out for each other and contribute to airfield supervision. Whilst the supervision of the airfield during operations is ultimately the responsibility of the Lead Instructor, it is impossible for them to see everything during the day and therefore it is important for all members to watch for hazards and speak up when they are identified.

Launching

The most critical stage of flight a glider can be in during normal operations is the launch, especially on winch. Events unfold very quickly and the pilots are required to remain completely concentrated.

- During a launch, the launchpoint caravan is kept quiet so the signaller can hear any signals being shouted at them.
- The signaller listens out on the radio for downwind and other traffic calls, and responds to any aircraft overflying the vicinity quickly with concise information on our operations.
- The wingtip runner ensures that there is no traffic that *may* conflict with the glider being launched (including if they were to have a launch failure). **They should also visually check that the airbrakes and canopy are in fact closed and locked** – where they haven't witnessed this happening, they should ask the pilot to confirm.
- The signaller continues to monitor the launch until the glider is released, and is always prepared to issue a stop signal using both the radio and lights.

Ground Handling

Recently, a substantial amount of damage has been caused to gliders by simple ground handling mistakes that could have been avoided by pausing for a moment to review the situation before moving a glider.

- When towing a glider, both the wingtip holder and the driver must watch for traffic. The driver should pay attention to (but not stare at) the wingtip holder.
- When putting aircraft into the hangar or removing them, an instructor or experienced pilot must be present. For the Perkoz, at least one person must be an instructor, Ground Supervisor, or inspector.

Call for Ground Supervisors

The club relies on volunteers to continue operating. If you are interested in becoming a Ground Supervisor, please contact Brian Shortridge on WhatsApp: 07871 706697

Happy Soaring

Ollie