



SCOTTISH GLIDING CENTRE

SGC Optional Pilot Development Card

Name

Membership No.

This card is for recently qualified pilots, or for those who are solo but not yet qualified.

The exercises here are intended to help new pilots develop their skills. They are not mandatory. Some will already have been signed off on the yellow or green cards. Most are for solo practice and you can pick the ones that interest you most.

You can sign off items yourself when you're happy with them but for some exercises practising with an instructor will probably help you progress faster. Space has been left for you to add your own items if you wish.

Exercise	Notes	Satisfactory	
		Date	Sign

Preparation for flight (if not already covered elsewhere):

Daily inspection			
Aircraft documentation (ARC etc)			
Checking NOTAMs			
Checking the day's weather			
Verifying mass and balance limits			
Use of checklists (pre-circuit etc)			

Theoretical knowledge:

Gliding meteorology			
XC task planning and technique			
Navigation – dead reckoning skills			
<i>Sailplane Rule Book – SFCL rules</i>			
<i>BGA Managing Flying Risk</i>			
FRTOL qualification			
<i>Space for your own topics...</i>			

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Soaring skills:

<i>Lookout:</i> technique, scan cycle, situational awareness			
<i>Handling:</i> co-ordinated turns and turn reversals with string in middle, varying bank angle as desired – aim for perfection!			
<i>Thermalling:</i> practice centring in local thermals; when centred, fly to another thermal and repeat			
<i>Hill soaring:</i> Benarty, Bishop, elsewhere if feasible			
<i>Wave:</i> contacting and climbing in wave; understanding the hazards			

Precision landing:

Approach: ½ to ⅔ airbrake with steady airspeed. Never shallowing.			
Spot landing: Pick reference point and where you will stop. Debrief yourself on accuracy.			
Landing in unfamiliar parts of the airfield (consult an instructor first)			
Side slipping on the approach			

Cutting ties with the Bishop:

Take a 2000' aerotow on a thermal day and soar without using the hill at all.			
Push out from Bishop to Milnathort or Glenfarg, monitoring range to airfield.			
Practise picking fields whenever you fly.			

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Cross country skills and technology:

Know how to download and interpret IGC files from a logger (your own or from Flarm in a club glider).			
Configure your moving map software – practice with it on the simulator if possible.			
Understand how to update airspace files (eg ASselect). Load BGA turning points, JEDI points and outlanding fields. Consider joining Paul Ruskin mailing list for files.			
Understand how to use McCready settings.			
Final glide: from several km away (and <u>high</u>) see what height your software estimates you'll be back at airfield; fly it and see how accurate it was. (Do this with minimum 1000' return height at airfield.)			
Repeat previous exercise with different McCready setting and corresponding airspeed. (High MC gives more margin on final glide.)			
Thermal practice: using only thermals, see how much total height you can gain in a 30 minute period, by climbing, airbraking down and climbing again. Analyse your IGC file to tally up your total gain of height within the time limit. Compare with friends if possible.			
Put a JEDI task into your device; fly it; download and analyse the file. Upload it to the BGA ladder (and be sure to tick the "JEDI ladder" box). <i>[You need CCE if going out of gliding range.]</i>			
Plan your 50k flight – have options ready for when the right day comes.			
If possible, XC coaching flight in two-seater with a pundit.			
Fly tasks on Condor to improve planning skills and use of instruments.			

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Safe handling:

Get really familiar with the stall characteristics of whatever you fly most			
Spin avoidance: experiment with slip and skid in turns and take glider to departure			

Ground-based skills:

Glider rigging and derigging			
Trailer towing			
Winch driving			
Pilot owner maintenance			
Further progression with aircraft maintenance skills, towards qualification?			

Aerobatics (never do solo until signed off):

Join club aerobatics coaching session			
Get signed off for a specific manoeuvre, eg loop			
BGA Standard Aerobatics Badge			
Further aerobatics if this is your thing			

Further progress and PIC multi-seaters:

Check for solo in DG505 / Perkoz			
Buying into a glider syndicate?			
F&F signoff			
Back seat checkout			
Training for BI or IFP?			