



# **HANDBOOK OF THE GLIDING HERITAGE CENTRE**

**Issue 2.0 February 2023**

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 The Nature of the GHC

The Gliding Heritage Centre (GHC) is a private company limited by guarantee (No. 7992376) and also a registered charity (No. 1148972). It was incorporated in March 2012 and became a charity in August 2012. There are no shareholders, and any profit cannot be distributed to the members.

The GHC is based on the south side of Lasham airfield on land leased from the Lasham Gliding Society (LGS). There are close links with the international Vintage Glider Club (VGC) and with the Lasham VGC Group (LVGC Ltd). Many of the GHC members also belong to the VGC and the LVGC, but the GHC is a separate organisation with a different constitution and different objectives.

## 1.2 Objectives

The primary objective of the GHC, as stated in its Articles of Association, is.

*To advance the education of the public in the history of gliding, in particular but not exclusively, by the provision of a heritage centre and the preservation of historical gliders, artefacts and records which can be displayed.*

The centre is a working museum where visitors can see vintage gliding flying as well as learning about the gliding heritage of the UK. It also provides a focus for the vintage gliding movement in the United Kingdom.

## 1.3 Facilities and Glider Collection.

The current facilities of the GHC comprise the original hangar (The Chris Wills Memorial Hangar) built in 2013, a second hangar opened in 2018 and a purpose-built workshop (The Trish Williams Workshop) completed in 2021. The workshop has a viewing room where visitors can see the restoration work underway and an office. The viewing room is also used for presentations to visitors and GHC meetings. The collection of vintage gliders (the largest in the UK) is listed on the website [www.glidingheritage.org.uk](http://www.glidingheritage.org.uk) together with more details of the history of the GHC.

## **1.4 The Purpose of this Handbook**

The legal constitution of the GHC is formed by the Articles of Association of the company. This handbook describes the general procedures and rules for operating the GHC. It is re-issued when appropriate as the GHC evolves. The more detailed rules (for example the operation of the workshop) are describe in separate documents which are available to members in the office of the workshop.

## **2 MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the GHC is open to anyone who has an interest in vintage gliding and who would like to support the objectives of the GHC. A small annual membership fee is charged to help offset the running costs of the centre.

The benefits of membership include:

- The opportunity to support the objectives of the GHC.
- The right to vote at general meetings and to help decide the future policy of the centre.
- The possibility of flying in a range of vintage gliders owed by the GHC (See Section 4).
- The possibility of keeping privately owned vintage gliders in a GHC hangar so that they can be exhibited and flown. (See Section 5)
- The possibility of using the GHC workshop for the maintenance and repair of privately owned vintage gliders. (See Section 6)
- Access to help and advice in maintaining vintage gliders.
- Belonging to an organisation that can represent the interests of the UK vintage gliding community to other bodies including the British Gliding Association, and the VGC.

Memberships forms and details of payment options can be found on the Join Us page of the website.

## **3 MANAGEMENT**

### **3.1 The Committee**

The GHC is managed by a committee formed by GHC members who act as the directors of the company and trustees of the charity. The committee holds regular monthly meetings, and the minutes are made available to the members in the workshop office. The procedure for electing the committee is set out in the Articles

of Association.

### **3.2 General Meetings**

The GHC holds annual general meetings. Other general meetings are called as appropriate. General meetings are run in accordance with the procedures set out in the Articles of Association.

## **4 FLYING VINTAGE GLIDERS AT LASHAM**

The GHC provides opportunities for its members to fly in vintage gliders depending on their experience and qualifications. This enables visitors to see the gliders in the air and it helps to preserve the knowledge of how to operate vintage machines. Flying fees are charge for these flights to help cover the running costs of the gliders. The current scale of flying fees can be found in the table of charges and fees. There is a link to the table on the Join Us page of the website. Approval to fly GHC gliders can be given by GHC instructors and may involve a briefing and/or a check flight.

It should be noted that members of the GHC who wish to fly at Lasham must either be full or temporary flying members of the Lasham Gliding Society and must abide by the LGS flying regulations. Owners of gliders kept at Lasham must pay the appropriate facility fee to LGS.

## **5 THE HANGARS**

The hangars are used for two purposes:

- To provide accommodation for the gliders in the GHC collection.
- To allow as many vintage gliders as reasonably possible to remain rigged so that they can be flown more often and seen by visitors.

A limited number of privately owned vintage gliders can be accommodated in the second hangar. Priority is given to non-Part 21 gliders. If the demand for private hangarage exceeds the space available, a ballot is held. More details of the criteria for selecting the private gliders accommodated in the hangar are available in the workshop office.

There is an incidental benefit to these owners and so they are charged extra fees as a contribution to the running costs of the centre. The current scale of hangar

charges can be found in the table of charges and fees via the link on the website.

## **6 THE WORKSHOP**

The primary purpose of the workshop is for the maintenance and restoration of the GHC collection. It also enables the skills and knowledge require to work on vintage gliders to be preserved. When space is available, the workshop can also be used for privately owned gliders. Applications should be made to the GHC Secretary. The rules and regulation regarding the use of the workshop can be found on in the workshop office. The current charges for private use are shown in the table of charges and fees.

## **7 VISITS TO THE GHC**

The centre is open to members of the public and visitors from other gliding clubs at any time by prior arrangement depending on the availability of a GHC host. A request can be submitted via the Visit Us page of the website. In addition, regular guided tours are conducted every Sunday starting at 2:00pm. These is no need to book for these Sunday tours. Visitors are met by the guide at the LGS clubroom and escorted to the GHC.

## **8 REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIATE IN GHC RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Participation in some of the GHC activities and unescorted access to the airfield requires membership of other organisations. This is summarised in the table on the next page.

<b>GHC Related Activity</b>	<b>GHC Membership</b>	<b>VGC Membership</b>	<b>LGS Membership</b>	<b>Membership of Another Gliding Club</b>	<b>Approval to fly</b>
Visit the GHC	X	X	X	X	X
Join the GHC as a member	X	X	X	X	X
Participate in GHC non-flying activities	✓	X	X Note 4	X	X
Fly GHC gliders at Lasham	✓	✓ Note 1	✓ Note 2	✓ Note 2	✓
Fly GHC gliders at other sites	✓	✓ Note 1	X	✓ Note 2	✓
Fly a private vintage glider at Lasham	X	X	✓ Note 2	✓ Note 2	✓
Have a private glider considered for GHC hangar space	✓ Note 3	X	X	X	X
Private use of the GHC workshop	✓ Note 3	X	X	X	X

**Note 1** VGC membership may be required by the insurance company.

**Note 2** This can be temporary membership of the LGS but may require the applicant to also be a member of another gliding club. Flying GHC gliders at other sites may require membership of that gliding club.

**Note 3** All members of a syndicate (except genuine non-flying members) must be members of the GHC.

**Note 4** Social membership of LGS may be required to gain regular unescorted access to the airfield.