

BGA Cloud Flying Endorsement

Autumn has arrived and, although we have far fewer soaring opportunities, we can still fly and continue to improve our skills and experience. If you have a Bronze C, Cross-country Endorsement and at least 30 hours P1 then why not have a go at the BGA Cloud Flying Endorsement (no soaring weather required!)

The BGA CFE was introduced in 2014 to formalise cloud flying training in gliders in the UK and, for those who wished to obtain an EASA LAPL(S) or SPL, to provide a way of qualifying for the Sailplane Cloud Flying Endorsement on those licences.

To obtain a CFE on your BGA Certificate you need to undergo a comprehensive briefing, which takes two or three hours and is best done in a group, then the endorsement is issued on the basis of either:

- A current or recent Power Instrument Flying Rating;
- Assessment by an authorised BGA Flight Examiner.

If you have no experience of flying on instruments then you will need some training, this should be less than a couple of hours flying and covers the following fairly basic instrument flying skills:

- Flying straight;
- Turning;
- Achieve and maintain a heading;
- Recover from too steep a turn;
- Estimate your position (using GPS or Dead Reckoning);
- The Basic Stabilisation and Recovery Manoeuvre.

You will find it challenging and rewarding and, perhaps, encourage you to go on to experience your own cloud climbs with the appropriate management of risk. Perhaps you may be faced with a let down through cloud, while on a club wave expedition, and be very glad of the skills acquired at The Park!

At present we can provide the training and Flight Assessment at The Park, the Puchacz is an excellent glider for this and both VN and FUY are suitably equipped. The Venture is also suitably equipped and provides a cheaper way of training and practising for the Flight Assessment.

If you would like to have a go at this then speak to the CFI or one of the other two instructors who are supporting this activity, Nick Bowers or Stuart North. If you already have your CFE but would like a refresher, why not attend a briefing and/or do some more instrument flying practice – there are ways that we can make the flying more challenging than for the basic qualification!

Stuart North