

Trailer Hitch Allocation Policy



March 2024

This policy document describes the provision and management of trailer hitches by the Midland Gliding Club (the Club) and the obligations of members who are allocated a hitch.

Background

Members and visitors are required to keep any trailer brought onto the Club's property on a designated trailer hitch and to

- keep the trailer in a roadworthy condition
- maintain any aircraft kept in the trailer in an airworthy condition unless
 - it is awaiting scheduled inspection or repair

or

- The committee grants permission for an unserviceable aircraft to be kept at the Club for a specific purpose, and the owner/syndicate manager complies with any conditions imposed (see Note 1).

1. Allocation of trailer hitches

The Club will allocate a specific, numbered trailer hitch to any 'Ordinary Full Member' who applies to keep an airworthy glider on-site in a roadworthy trailer that they fully or partly own (see Note 2).

- **Syndicates** intending to keep a trailer at the club must nominate a 'syndicate manager' who is an Ordinary Full Member of the Club and a member of the syndicate.
- **'Trailer owners'** and **'syndicate managers'** wishing to keep a trailer at the Club must
 - apply for the allocation of a numbered hitch and pay an annual trailer hitch fee⁴or
 - pay visitor's trailer hitch fees to use an unallocated hitch.
- **'Full - P2 only'** members wishing to keep a trailer at the club must upgrade their membership category to 'full' before applying for a trailer hitch.
- **'Associate'** members wishing to keep a glider at the club, including **'second BGA club'** and **'reciprocal'** members, must use an unallocated visitor's hitch and pay visitors' fees.
- **Visitors** bringing trailers will be allocated a visitor's hitch by the office, which must be used for the duration of their stay⁵.

2. Trailer hitch tenure and renewal

Trailer hitches are allocated for a maximum period of one year.

Owners/syndicate managers can apply at any time for a hitch to be allocated to a trailer to be brought on site. However, all trailer hitch assignments are reviewed at the end of March and allocations made for the next membership year to best reflect members' requirements and preferences.

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- Applications for renewal of hitch assignments and for new assignments must be made using the Club's [Trailer Hitch Application Form](#). Applications will be considered only if made by an ordinary full member who is
 - the owner of the trailer *OR*
 - the syndicate manager responsible for the trailer
- Applications will be considered in the following order of priority; applications for
 1. renewal of existing hitch assignments made before March 8th of the preceding membership year.
 2. assignment of unallocated hitches
 3. reassignment of allocated hitches to new owners/syndicate managers
- Trailer hitches allocations will NOT be renewed if any of the following apply
 - there are outstanding trailer hitch fees
 - the trailer is not in roadworthy condition or is judged by the Club's Fleet officer to be likely, within 12 months, to become unroadworthy.
 - the glider in the trailer is not airworthy.
- Applicants may be asked to verify the airworthiness of their aircraft and the condition of the trailer before a hitch is assigned.

3. Trailer hitch charges

A trailer hitch fee is charged to the owner/syndicate manager for each trailer kept on an allocated hitch.

- The Club invoices trailer owners/syndicate managers in advance for trailer hitch fees.
 - A discount of 50% will be applied for the third and subsequent glider trailer hitches allocated to the same owner. Hitches allocated to syndicates are excluded from the discount scheme.
 - In the absence of an application to renew an assigned trailer hitch at the end of a membership year, fees will be invoiced unless the owner/syndicate manager advises the club office that the hitch is no longer required AND removes the trailer from the airfield.
 - Trailer hitch fees accrue until the trailer is physically removed from MGC property.
 - Trailer owners/syndicate managers who cease to be a member of the Club remain liable to pay trailer hitch fees until
 - another full member notifies the club in writing that they accept responsibility for paying the fees and compliance with the Trailer Hitch Policy
- or
- all outstanding fees have been paid, the trailer is removed from MGC property AND the club is notified that the trailer is no longer on site.

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4. Electricity charges

Electricity provided at trailer hitches will be charged at the current rate and invoiced quarterly.

- There is no fee for connecting to an unmetered hookup box. All members allocated connections at the club's unmetered hookup boxes will share equally the cost of the electricity delivered to all the unmetered hookup boxes.
- A fee of £25 p.a. will be charged to any trailer owner/syndicate manager allocated a metered supply in addition to charges for the actual electricity used.

5. Management of hitches

A colour-coded, numbered and dated tag will be permanently attached to each hitch after the hitch fee has been paid. The hitch will then be reserved even when the trailer is off site and visitors will be advised to find an unmarked hitch or expect to be moved.

A list of allocated hitches is maintained on behalf of the committee and can be viewed in the 'Members' section of the website **TBD**

- The **owner** or **syndicate manager** shall notify the Club of any changes to the registration details of the aircraft kept in a trailer on an allocated trailer hitch.
- When a trailer with an assigned hitch is sold, the new **owner** or **syndicate manager** must apply for the allocation a trailer hitch in their name.
- Trailers must be removed from club property
 - within 14 days if the owners/syndicate manager is requested to do so for any reason by the MGC committee.
 - by March 31st if the hitch allocation is not renewed for any reason
 - within three months of any trailer hitch fees, electricity charges or other related charges becoming due and remaining unpaid
 - if the trailer is judged by the Club's Fleet officer to be likely, within 12 months, to become unroadworthy.
 - if the glider in the trailer is not airworthy and inspection or repair is not scheduled.
 - when the trailer owner resigns from the club (see Note 3).

6. Disposal of lapsed members' trailers and aircraft

Membership ceases if subscriptions or fees are not paid in good time (Rule 8.2). Should that occur, a process (Rule 31.2) exists for legitimately disposing of the property of former members that remain on site.

If a former member cannot be contacted, the Club will dispose of abandoned trailers and gliders under these provisions.

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7. Terms and Conditions

1. The trailer Owner, or syndicate manager acting for the Owners comprising their syndicate, is required to be an Ordinary Full Member of the Club unless agreed in writing by the MGC Committee.
2. The Club grants to the Owner(s) the right to park a glider trailer on the numbered hitch allocated to the trailer by the Club, from the date the trailer hitch fee is paid until the end of the same membership year (31st March).
3. Trailer hitch fees are charged pro rata for hitches allocated part way through a membership year until the end of that year. One twelfth (1/12) of the annual trailer hitch fees is payable for the month in which a trailer is allocated a hitch and subsequent months to the 31st March.
4. The Club may terminate the right to park the glider trailer on the hitch by not less than three months' notice, in which case trailer hitch fees paid in advance will be refunded.
5. The Owner(s) agree to pay the trailer hitch fee and the charges for any electricity supplied to the numbered hitch within fourteen days of receiving a request for payment.
6. The Club is not a bailee of the trailer (including its contents) and so owes no duty of care to the Owner(s) in respect of it.
7. The Owner(s) shall keep the trailer in a good, clean, and roadworthy condition and shall remove it from the site when the right is terminated.
8. The Club reserves the right to require the Owner(s) to move the trailer to another numbered hitch on reasonable notice to the Owner(s).
9. The Owner(s) shall notify the Club
 - a. of any changes to the registration details of the aircraft kept in a trailer on an allocated trailer hitch
 - b. if the trailer is sold or a new syndicate manager is appointed
 - c. when the trailer is removed permanently from the Club's property

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NOTES

Note 1: Exemptions for non-airworthy aircraft

Members who wish to keep unserviceable aircraft at the Club may apply for an exemption to the policy of allowing only serviceable aircraft to be kept at the Club. Requests must be made in writing to the Committee stating the reason(s) for keeping unserviceable aircraft at the Club.

Requests will normally be granted if the reasons given align with the Club's objectives as set out in the Constitution, for example, completing a scheme of restoration to return the aircraft to flying condition.

If granted, the allocation of a trailer hitch will be

- for a specific trailer and aircraft
- only for the purpose stated in the application
- subject to any conditions set by the Committee
- subject to the trailer being roadworthy.

Exemptions permitting members to keep unserviceable aircraft at the Club will be reviewed by the Committee each year and extended only as appropriate to achieve the original stated objective.

Note 2: Change of membership status

An Owner wishing to change their membership status from Ordinary Full Member to Associate Member will be required to remove their trailer from the airfield before their Ordinary Full Membership lapses; in the interim they will be charged the full membership subscription and trailer hitch fees.

Note 3: Resignation of membership

Members are reminded that they must formally resign if they wish to leave the club, otherwise membership will continue. Regardless of whether a member has resigned, trailer hitch fees will be levied while a trailer remains on site.