

Midland Gliding Club Trailer Hitch Policy

Outline: v2.0 March 2025

Draft, to be ratified by the MGC Committee.

Members are invited to provide feedback by email to the Club secretary secretary@midlandgliding.club by 20th April'

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

Background

The objectives of the Club are primarily '*to foster and promote gliding*' and to '*provide the appropriate facilities*'. To satisfy these objectives, the Club provides trailer hitches to anyone intending to fly a privately owned glider from the airfield.

Members' trailer hitches are located at the north end of the hitch rail; hitch #1 is next to the hangar with numbers increasing to the south. All visitors' trailer hitches are to the south member's hitches.

Trailer hitch management

The Club manages trailer hitches to ensure

- members who pay the appropriate fees benefit from exclusive use of a specific hitch.
- the Club receives fees for all trailers on site.
- timely action can be taken so that no trailer/aircraft becomes a liability to the Club.

Subject to receiving a valid application, the Club will allocate a specific numbered trailer hitch to any roadworthy trailer housing an airworthy glider that are

- owned by a Full Member of the Club (the 'Owner').
- part owned by a Full Member of the Club who is a member of the syndicate (the 'Syndicate Manager').
- owned by a visitor who joins the Club as an Associate member.

Trailer hitches are allocated at the Club's discretion to best reflect members' requirements and preferences. A list of currently assigned hitches can be downloaded from the 'Members' section of the Club website.

Once allocated, a trailer hitch is reserved exclusively for the trailer assigned to it for the period granted by the Club. A lock or other device may be used to secure the hitch when it is not occupied by the trailer assigned to it and any other trailer put on the hitch may be moved.

Numbered and dated tags are provided by the Club to physically identify trailer hitches that are assigned to members' trailers.

The Club will move any trailer on site that does not have a hitch assigned to it; normally this will be to the south end of the trailer hitch rail, pending removal from site by the owner or disposal by the Club.

Visitors' trailer hitches

Visitors who bring a trailer to the Club must inform the office on arrival at the time they apply for Associate Membership; the Club office will allocate a numbered visitor's hitch.

Visitors' trailer hitch fees are charged

- *from* the day the trailer is brought to the Club
- *to* the day on which it is removed from the site *and* the office has been informed that the trailer is no longer at the Club.

To ensure efficient use of the Club's rigging area and airfield,

- visitors' trailers must be kept on the assigned hitch for the duration of their stay.
- visitors' aircraft that are left rigged must be parked at least 50 meters from any trailer.

Visitors who do not observe the above will be charged double the published visitors' trailer hitch fees.

Members' trailer hitches

Eligibility for members' trailer hitches

Only Full Members are eligible to have a member's trailer hitch assigned to their trailer [see [Note 1](#)].

Syndicates that want to keep a trailer at the club must nominate a Syndicate Manager who is a Full Member of the Club to act for the syndicate. The Syndicate Manager must

- apply for the allocation of a member's trailer hitch to their syndicate's trailer
- pay *all* trailer hitch and related fees in full on behalf of their syndicate
- communicate relevant parts of the MGC Trailer Hitch Policy to their syndicate's members
- action any request from the Club relating to their syndicate's trailer or aircraft.

Full members who want to keep a trailer at the Club must be the owner of the trailer or in a syndicate with a nominated Syndicate Manager and

- an application for a member's hitch must have been submitted by the Owner/Syndicate Manager *before* bringing the trailer to the Club.

or

- they must use an unallocated hitch on visitors' terms [see [Note 2](#)].

'Full - P2 only' members who want to keep a trailer at the club must

- upgrade their membership category to **'Full Member'** before applying for a member's trailer hitch to be assigned to their trailer.

or

- use an unallocated hitch and pay visitor's trailer hitch fees.

'Associate' members who want to keep a trailer at the club, including **'second BGA club'** and **'reciprocal'** members, must use an unallocated hitch and pay visitor's trailer hitch fees.

Applying for a member's trailer hitch

All applications for a member's trailer hitch must be made online by the Owner/Syndicate Manager using the Club's Trailer Hitch Application Form.

- Applications for the allocation of a member's trailer hitch to a trailer that is new to the Club must be submitted before the trailer is brought on to the airfield.
- Applications for the allocation of an unassigned member's trailer hitch may be made at any time or, with mutual agreement, apply to swap assigned trailer hitches with another member.
- Applications for the allocation of an already-assigned member's trailer hitch may only be made when the assignments are renewed at the start of the membership year.

Allocation of members' trailer hitches

The Owner/Syndicate Manager may be asked to verify the airworthiness of their aircraft and the condition of the trailer before a trailer hitch is assigned to their trailer.

Members' trailer hitches will be assigned in the following order of priority

1. renewal of existing hitch assignments, if submitted before 15th March.
2. allocation of unassigned hitches to trailers brought to the Club by Full Members

3. reassignment of already-allocated hitches with the mutual agreement of all parties

The Club may reallocate trailer hitches at any time and for any reason. Consequently, Owners/Syndicate Managers may be required to move their trailers from a previously assigned hitch.

Renewing a member's trailer hitch assignment

Members' trailer hitches are assigned for a maximum period of one year, lapsing on 31st March.

Owners/Syndicate Managers wishing to retain a hitch from year-to-year must apply to renew the assignment of that hitch to their trailer. This should be done before the end the membership year by submitting an online application using the Club's Trailer Hitch Application Form.

The assignment of a member's trailer hitch will NOT be renewed if any of the following apply

- there are any 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.

If no application to renew an assigned hitch is received, the Club may move the trailer to a different hitch without notice.

Change of trailer ownership

When a trailer with an assigned hitch is sold and the trailer remains at the Club, the new Owner/Syndicate Manager must apply online for the allocation a trailer hitch in their name using the Club's Trailer Hitch Application Form.

Obligations of trailer Owners/Syndicate Managers

By applying for the allocation of a member's trailer hitch, the Owner/Syndicate Manager of a trailer agrees to

- keep the trailer only on the hitch assigned to it
 - maintain the trailer in a roadworthy condition
 - maintain any aircraft kept in the trailer in an airworthy condition unless
 - it is awaiting inspection or scheduled 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 [[Note 3](#)]
- remove the trailer from site at the end of the membership year, unless they apply to renew the trailer hitch allocation
- pay outstanding and future trailer hitch fees at members' rates until the trailer is removed from the site
- reposition their trailer to a different trailer hitch if requested to do so by the Club
- advise the Club in writing if they no longer require an assigned member's trailer hitch.
- remove their trailer from the Club's property
 - immediately, if the trailer is judged by the Club's Fleet officer to be likely, within 12 months, to become unroadworthy.
 - immediately, if the glider in the trailer is not airworthy, inspection or repair is not scheduled and no request for an exemption to the Policy has been submitted.
 - 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.
 - before a change in membership category or the resignation of the trailer Owner/Syndicate Manager will be accepted by the Club [see [Note 4](#)].

Trailer hitch fees and related charges

Members' trailer hitch fees are set annually by the Club and published in the Club's Price List.

The trailer Owner/Syndicate Manager is liable for member's trailer hitch fees from the date the hitch is assigned to the date the trailer is *physically removed* from MGC property.

Hitches allocated during the membership year will be charged pro-rata in advance for the period up to March 31st.

When the assignment of a member's trailer hitch is renewed at the end of a membership year, the full annual fee will be applied to the Owner's/Syndicate Manager's account on 1st April, unless paid monthly by direct debit.

If no application to renew an assigned trailer hitch is received, the Owner/Syndicate Manager will incur ongoing fees until the Club is advised in writing

- that the hitch is no longer required
- and
- the trailer has been removed from MGC property.

Any trailer Owner/Syndicate Manager who ceases to be a Full Member of the Club remains 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 MGC Trailer Hitch Policy
- or
- the trailer is removed from the Club's property *and* the Club is notified in writing that the trailer is no longer on site.

Electricity provided to trailers will be charged to the Owner/Syndicate Manager at the current Club members' rate and invoiced quarterly. Unmetered and metered electricity supplies will be charged as follows:

- There is no fee for connecting to an unmetered hookup box. All Owners/Syndicate Managers allocated a connection at any of 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 and the metered units of electricity charged.

Unidentified and abandoned trailers

The Club has the right to move, without notice, any trailer occupying a hitch assigned to another trailer and marked with a valid tag.

The statutory Rules (2012) of the Midland Gliding Club Limited provide for the situation in which trailers and/or gliders are abandoned at the Club.

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 whose trailer remains on site cannot be contacted, the Club will dispose of the abandoned trailer and glider under these provisions no less than 12 months after the owner's membership ceased.

Notes

Note 1: Change of membership status

An Owner/Syndicate manager who has a member's trailer hitch assigned to their trailer and intends to change their membership category from Full Member to Associate Member will be required to remove their trailer from the airfield before their Full Membership lapses; in the interim they will be charged a Full Membership subscription and trailer hitch fees.

Note 2: Members' trailers on site without an assigned hitch

Any member's trailer brought on to the site without an assigned hitch must be put on a visitor's hitch, the office informed, and fees paid at visitors' rates until a member's hitch is assigned.

Note 3: Exemptions for non-airworthy aircraft

Members who wish to keep unserviceable aircraft at the club may request an exemption to the Policy.

Requests must be submitted to the Committee in writing, stating why they want to keep the aircraft at the Club and providing evidence that doing so will be consistent with the Club's Rules and Constitution. For example, they may want to complete a scheme of restoration with the aim of returning the aircraft to flying condition.

If granted, the allocation of a trailer hitch to an unserviceable aircraft will be for a specific purpose and subject to the trailer being roadworthy. The exemption will be reviewed each year and extended as appropriate.

Note 4: Resignation of the trailer Owner/Syndicate Manager

Members are reminded that they must formally resign if they wish to leave the club, otherwise membership will continue.

The resignation of an Owner/Syndicate Manager will not be accepted until any trailer they have on site has been removed from the Club. In any case, regardless of whether they remain a member of the Club, the Owner/Syndicate Manager will be liable for ongoing trailer hitch fees and related charges, which accrue as long as their trailer remains at the Club.

Terms and Conditions

1. The trailer 'Owner', or the 'Syndicate Manager' acting as the 'Owner' on behalf of the members of their syndicate, who applies for a member's trailer hitch is required to be a Full Member of the Club.
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. One twelfth (1/12) of the annual trailer hitch fees is payable for the month in which a trailer is allocated a hitch and for each subsequent month to the 31st March.
4. The Club or the Owner(s) may terminate the right to park the glider trailer on the hitch by not less than three months' notice in writing to the other.
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 of any changes to the registration details of the aircraft kept in a trailer on an allocated trailer hitch.