

BRITANNIA *Soars*

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BRITISH NATIONAL COMPETITIONS



As was the case with our own national soaring contest this year, the results of the British Gliding Association's annual event were far ahead of any previous year. The Competition was held this year from August twenty-ninth to September fifth at Bradwell Edge, the site of the Lancashire-Derbyshire Club near Great Hucklow, which is a few miles northeast of Chesterfield.

The Competition was directed by Major Goodfellow, of the local club, who acted as umpire of the Contest, and was ably assisted by two other officials. The ease and informal manner in which they officiated spoke

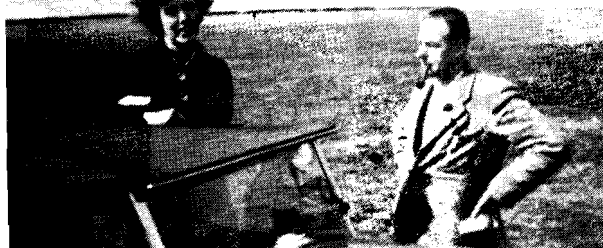


—Dr. Karl O. Lange
Joan Meakin Price after making her Silver C

eloquently, not only of their capabilities, but also of the good sportsmanship of the British pilots.

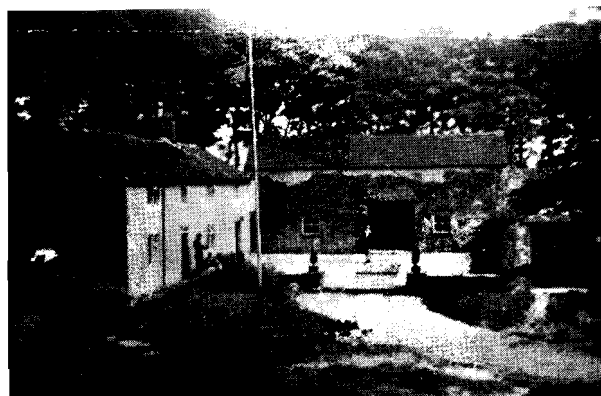
The site of the Lancashire-Derbyshire Gliding Club is on top of a hill with an excellent slope of about a mile and a half facing west, another slope facing north-west, and a third for southerly winds. All take-off sites are in easy reach of the Club buildings. The west slope, ending up in a plateau, permits winch tow with considerably more towline than we can use at Elmira. All launchings from this site were done with the help of two winches of the local Club. On the northeast slope, they used rubber shock cord, although on at least one start they didn't use anything, but just ran the glider on the skid down hill by pulling on the wing tips.

The two winches operated quite satisfactorily. On



—Dr. Karl O. Lange
Mrs. Philip Wills and Major Goodfellow, umpire of the contest.

one, they have the drum mounted on the drive shaft of an old Buick, with an extra clutch and brake to operate the drum. There is no automatic feed of the rope, but a second man feeds it onto a drum very much the same way as Gus Scheurer did at Elmira last year. As a cut-off device, they use a hatchet, which is supposed to be operated by the second man, and which they claim is more reliable than our guillotine, a contention with which we cannot agree. Since practically all of the English gliders have only skids, they have to use a special two-wheel gear, which can be released after the glider is off



—Dr. Karl O. Lange
The Lancashire Derbyshire Gliding Club, Great Hucklow, scene of the contest

the ground. Their technique is to jerk the glider from the standing position into the air with great acceleration, in order to avoid bouncing back on their removable landing gear.

In comparing their performances with ours, we can come to several interesting conclusions. The first and most obvious is that they enjoyed better weather conditions than we; a fact which is born out by the observations of Dr. Lange, who was our representative at Bradwell Edge.

First, let us look over a few of the statistics before we give a description of the flights made each day. The total number of gliders entered was 24, as against our 54, and the pilot contestants were 43 representing 7 clubs, to our 147 representing 14 clubs. These figures may be