



Soaring

The Journal of The Soaring Society of America, Inc.
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JOHN WILLIAMSON WINS BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Sgt. John Williamson of the RAF, only 32 years old, won the British National Soaring Championship flying an Elliotts Olympia 419X sailplane. The Championships were held from May 13-22 at the Lasham Soaring Center and were noted for their good weather which helped to produce 50,000 miles of cross-country soaring.

The Championships featured two Leagues, 50 sailplanes in League 1 for the pundits and 40 in League 2 for those aspiring to Gold C distance under a handicapped scoring system. Another 22 had applied to fly in League 2 but could not be accommodated. Towplanes numbered 20, permitting 90 sec. take-off intervals.

League 2 Champion was a team of David Kerridge and Alan Purnell sharing a Skylark 3F. They earned 5360 points. Standard Class Champion was Gerry Burgess with a Ka-6 in League 1.

Minimum distance for scoring was 20 miles. If 60% or more scored, the day's points were based on 1000; if just more than 20% scored, maximum points were 250; if fewer scored, the day did not count; in between, the maximum points were in proportion to the percent that scored.

For the nine contest days, Williamson scored 7968 points. He was 1st on four days, 2nd on another, 4th on 2 and next best in the high 900's on the remaining two when numerous others tied for firsts.

On one distance day, 36 in League 1 flew more than 190 miles to the coast. The following day, 13 in League 2 made about the same flight and on the day after that 7 in League 1 repeated the distance.

First six in League 1 were:

John Williamson, Oly. 419X	7968
George Burton, Skylark 3B	7121
Philip Wills, Skylark 3F	6772
A. Dean Drummond, Oly. 419	6597
D. H. G. Ince, Oly. 419X	5878
Anne Burns, Skylark 3B	5818

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CONTENTS

John Williamson Wins British Championship	1
CBSA Memorial Day Weekend Soaring Meet	3
373 Miles in a 1-26	4
The Haller Award	6
The Prue Standard Sailplane (photo)	6
4th Annual Jim Swearingen Memorial Soaring Meet	7
Nationals Notes	8
The Brieleb Soaring School	9
1961 MASA Memorial Day Weekend Soaring Meet	10
Report on CVSM Meeting	11
Fauvel Sailplanes (photos)	17
Radio and EASC	18

SOARING FEATURES

Safety First — The Gray Hair Department	12
SSA News	13
Club News	14
Free Material Available	15
Canadian News	16
Calendar of Events	19
Letters	19
F.A.I. Soaring Awards Earned	20
Classified Advertising	21

Cover photo: Hal Bovenkerk of Schenectady, N.Y., takes-off on a winch tow in his Schweizer 1-23D sailplane at the Ballston Spa Airport. Photo by Jim Parrott.

\$5 will be paid for any picture submitted if used for the cover.

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