

Bath Wilts & N. Dorset Gliding Club

Launching in a cross-wind

During a crosswind launch there is always a risk that a wing will drop. This is particularly likely on the south side of the field due to the sloping ground where the upslope wind can lift the into-wind wing and cause the downwind one to meet the sloping ground. This can cause a dramatic and potentially very dangerous ground loop or cartwheel.

To prevent this, the advised technique is to keep the wings level *with the slope* during the ground run. Holding the into-wind wing will make it easier for the wing holder to keep the wings level with the slope. The stronger the crosswind, the further out from the track the glider must be placed before launching.

To summarise:

When flying from the south side of the field in a crosswind

- The wing holder must hold the into-wind wing and position it parallel with the slope prior to launch
- The pilot should concentrate on keeping the wings parallel with the slope throughout the ground run, whilst using rudder as normal to reduce the yaw

When flying from the north side of the field in a crosswind

- Normal x-wind procedures apply