

Bath Wilts & N. Dorset Gliding Club

Launching in a cross-wind

During cross-wind launching from the south side of the field there is a risk of the upslope wind lifting the into-wind wing and causing the downwind one to meet the sloping ground. This can cause a dramatic and potentially very dangerous ground loop. It happens when the downwind wing is held, as is the usual practice in a cross-wind, and the pilot uses full rudder to counteract the expected weathercock into wind. The result is that the into-wind wing lifts and with very little clearance on the other wingtip, a groundloop can start before the pilot is aware of what is happening.

The key point is to keep the wings parallel *with the slope* during the ground run. Holding the into-wind will make it easier for the wing holder to keep the wings level with the slope. The stronger the cross-wind, the farther out from the tracks the glider needs to be positioned before launching.

When flying from the south side of the field in a cross-wind:

- 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

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

- Normal x-wind procedures apply

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