

GLIDING HERITAGE CENTRE

Aircraft Summary Sheet



YS53 Sovereign – a metal 2 seater

Manufacturer	Yorkshire Sailplanes (YS), construction number 3. YS bought the T53 design and manufacturing rights from Slingsbys in 1969 when the latter went into receivership. The final one produced as Yorkshire Sailplanes subsequently went bankrupt in 1975.
Year of manufacture	First flown 14 th June 1974 at Wombledon, G Bailey-Woods the pilot.
Registration marks	BGA 1897, G-DCXV. This is an EASA glider (2008) not Annex 2.
Airworthy	YES
History	A surprisingly small number of owners, just 3. Firstly Thames Valley GC at Wycombe Air Park followed by the Dunkeswell GC and finally the T53 syndicate at Bowland Forest GC who purchased the glider in 1987. At the time of purchase in 1987 the glider had flown 1430 hours from 13532 launches! As at handover at Lasham 14112 launches were recorded with 1823 hours. Note Slingsbys originally built the T53 with it primarily intended for ATC use. Indeed the ATC signed an initial order for 40. However, the ATC cancelled this after testing evaluation – in particular the spinning characteristics were seen as unacceptable for a basic trainer.
Notable flights	None recorded in the logbook but we're advised there have been several good wave flights when the glider visited Feshiebridge. Also it has flown in a number of 2 seater competitions at Pocklington.
Restoration history	Completely renovated by the T53 syndicate between 1987 and 1994. First flown again May 1994.
Other	Kindly donated to the GHC by the T53 syndicate based at Bowland Forest GC. Delivered to Lasham on 10 th November 2016, and after rigging it had 4 aerotows on that day. This is the last 2 seater glider built in the UK.



CXV just about to fly at sunset (Colin Simpson)

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Waiting for the next tow



Turning finals to land



CXV In her new home

Date last updated

13/11/2016