BGR Registration

This document describes the new (March 2023) registration system.

## The form

The same form is used across the site but the form “knows” what it is meant to do so depending on which page you are on you will only be presented with the options relevant to that particular operation.



The first thing that will be noticed is that the form used for registration is completely different. When the original (Mk 1?) form was written many of the features on the web that we now take for granted were either not available or were so new that it was unlikely that many “real life” users had browsers that could take advantage of them.

Some of those features have themselves now been superseded but in general any feature used on the form has been available in all major (and most other) browsers for at least five years.

Also noticeable is that the form doesn't just contain data entry items, there are also “informational” items such as the phase of the moon and a daylight status bar. These update dynamically as you change the start date, time and schedule.

All fields have a red border if its value is invalid, such as the email field in the above screenshot. This turns to green when you enter or choose valid data. You will not be able to submit a form if any fields have a red border.

**Note that valid and correct are different.** For example, the forename field accepts letters (upper or lower case) and there must be at least two letters. So if your name was “Al Smith” then “Al” or “al” is a valid forename but “A” is not. If you accidentally typed “Ol” then that is valid because it meets the criteria of two or more letters but it's not actually correct.

In the top left of all forms is a read-only field that contains your registration ID.

### The start time field.

This uses a built in browser feature that unfortunately has some, ahem, peculiarities. You may only pick dates between the current date and the 31st December of next year.

The time field is limited to 15 minute steps, i.e. you may choose times on the hour, a quarter past, half past and a quarter to the hour when using the numeric input. Occasionally (as during Covid) this may be set to one hour. However if you use the date-time picker which displays a calender like widget then you can actually pick any minute of the hour. The field then shows a red border as the time doesn't match the 15 minute rule.

Similarly when using the numeric input you may actually pick an invalid date such as 31st February but again the field recognises this as invalid.

As mentioned above there are three “information” fields which reflect what is happening on the date chosen.

### Today's starters

This shows a list of all those times where someone has registered a start time along with count of how many are starting at each time. This updates as you change the date in the start time field, if someone registers for that day whilst you are making changes then that new data will appear.

### The phase of the moon.

This uses a Unicode character for the image. Quite why some systems chose yellow as the colour is anyone's guess, this page shows what the symbols will look like on any given system - <https://emojipedia.org/first-quarter-moon/> The code only shows eight possible phases rather than the astronomically accurate daily appearance. Generally though it's close enough.

### The daylight bar

This shows the hours of daylight and darkness in graphical form with your chosen start time as the left edge of the bar. Sunset is indicated by a red slot, sunrise by a yellow one.

## The Calculator

<http://bobgrahamclub.org.uk/index.php?page=calculator>

The calculator form uses a cut down version of the calculator to be found on Bob Wightman's site. It doesn't allow for multiple paces during a round or for different length stops at road crossings.



The form may be used prior to registering, if a schedule is saved then that data is used to pre-populate the registration form when you come to register.

Beneath the form is the resulting schedule table. As with the information items on the form this updates in real time to reflect your choices in the form.

The schedule data saved through this form is kept separate to that saved via the registration and management pages. If the two diverge in some manner then the form presents a pair of buttons allowing you to swap between the two. If you have selected the registration data then the save button changes to “Override Schedule”, should you click on this then the calculator data is overwritten and the two sets of data (registration and calculator) are the same.



## Registering

There are several ways to register with the new system depending on how you have previously interacted with the site.

An important thing to note is that only one registration is permitted per device (i.e. machine and browser), registering a second contender on the same machine & browser will overwrite the first.

The easiest procedure to understand is that of someone who has never previously registered.

Go to <http://bobgrahamclub.org.uk/index.php?page=register>and choose the fourth item in the drop down list. This will take you to the actual form.

If you have saved a schedule using the calculator then those values are used to set the start date and time, the schedule and direction so you just need to fill in personal details. Once all fields are valid, i.e. have a green border, then click submit and you are done!



If you haven't played around with the calculator and saved a schedule then the form defaults to today's date and the current time. In this instance when you click submit the registration details are copied to the calculator so that they are ready for you on that page. This is the only time that the calculator data is updated behind the scenes, in all other cases it requires your input/confirmation.

The next simplest is for someone who registered for an attempt prior to 2019 when the registration ID system was introduced. In effect the system can't find your details so you will need to register as if you were a first time user.

Finally for those who registered in the years 2019 onward, you will need your registration ID to hand (it was sent in the confirmation email) choose the second option from the drop-down “Move an existing registration to the new system” on the registration page. On the subsequent page paste in your ID and select the year (or “2023 onward” if that applies) that you'd registered for then click “Submit”.



The system should now find your details and fill out the next form for you. It will use the time and date of your original registration so that will need to be updated before registering.

The above is a one-time process. Once you have registered with the new system all subsequent attempts, even those in future years, just require you to manage that rather than register again.

If you attempt to register a second time then the system will warn you:



And won't allow the registration to take place. The warning shows what it believes was your original registration, if that is not the case and you are certain that you haven't registered then contact the membership secretary using the contact details on the website.

## Managing your registration

Whether you have registered for the first time or migrated to the new system you will have a new option in the site menu: “Manage my Registration”.

This page consists of three parts linked to by the buttons at the top of the page:

* Update details of your attempted
* Ratify your Attempt
* Did not succeed

We won't concern ourselves here with the second and last. The first contains another version of the main form and is almost identical to the registration form but with the forename and lastname fields set to read-only.



As with the calculator form, if the data from the registration/management and calculator forms differs then you are presented with the option as to which to view.

## Synchronising devices

It's common these days if not to have two internet enabled devices then to have access to more than one: mobile phone and desktop/laptop; work computer and home device; etc. As such there needs to be a way for individuals to enable access to their registered details on the second machine and to keep those details synchronised.

For the first: Accessing registered details on a second machine, go to the registration page and choose option 3 “I wish to sync a new device”.

On the subsequent page paste in your ID and leave the year as “2023 onward” then click “Submit”.



The system should now find your details and fill out the next form for you. Click “Submit” and you are done.



One thing to note is that the new device will use the last data you saved either from the registration page or the management page on the other device.

The second possible reason for synchronising data is if you have made changes on one device and wish to use those on a second. A short scenario makes this easier to understand.

* You have a home machine and a computer at work.
* You have set up both devices as in the previous example, i.e. you registered on one then synchronised the other.
* During lunch at work you decide to change your schedule and save it.
* You get home and now your home computer does not have the same data as the one at work.

The system records when each device last updated the registration data and on opening the update/management page checks if the data on the server is newer than that held locally. If it is then you are presented with a dialog asking what you want to do:



This dialog will only appear once for each desynchronisation (is that a word?) so if you do not synchronise your home machine and continue to make and save changes on your work machine then when you do synchronise you only pull down the last change by clicking the “Sync Remote” button.

If you do choose to synchronise the data then the registration data on both machines and the server will be identical but the calculator data may be different on both machines.



## Summary

Hopefully all the above will help in using the new system. The hardest part to figure out is migrating an existing registration to the new process.

All the above as bullet points.

* Only one registration may exist on a device/browser combination.
* Data saved on the calculator page will be used for registration if there is no previous registration data.
* Data saved as part of the registration process will be used as initial values on the calculator page if no calculator schedule has been saved.
* If the registration data and calculator saved data is different then on the update and calculator forms the user is offered the option of which one to use.
* The user may choose to synchronise the registration data and calculator data from either the update or calculator pages.
* The user may choose to enable management of their data on multiple devices by synchronising them using their registration ID.
* The user may keep multiple devices in step by pulling newer data from the server.