



## INTRO COURSE

## WHAT NEXT?

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## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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Having had your first taste of gliding you may be wondering how to learn more and enjoy the wealth of opportunities that gliding offers. Apart from your time in the air your Intro or Intro+ course brings with it:

- Free Membership – one month for the Intro course, and 3 months for the Intro+ course
- Flights at standard member's rates – about £40 for a half hour lesson
- Club open 7 days a week
- Flying on weekday evenings – quieter and more relaxed

Just ring the office to get your name in the diary. When you arrive, call in at the office to pick up your daily course membership card. This shows how much flying credit you have and must be handed to your instructor before you fly.

## UPGRADE TO ANOTHER COURSE

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We offer a range of courses to help you progress. If you are serious about learning to fly, your best choice is the Intensive. This offers 6 months club membership and 56,000ft of aerotow. If you fly regularly the course should get you well on the way to your first solo. The Basic course offers 3 months' membership and 28,000ft of aerotow.

You can upgrade your Intro or Intro+ to a Basic or Intensive at any time during the membership period, you will only pay the difference in price. This represents fantastic value for money, for instance, upgrading from the Intro to the Intensive Course reduces the cost for a 2,000ft aerotow lesson from £60 to just over £33.

## SOLO AND BEYOND

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The first achievement is to go solo. Once you have gone solo you be 'on checks' for a period. This means that when you come to the airfield you will need to fly with an instructor who will decide whether you can handle the conditions solo on that day. In time you will reach the stage where you can decide for yourself whether you can manage the conditions – if in any doubt, ask for a check flight. You should also have a check flight after a lay off.

You will fly your early solos in a two seater training glider, and then progress to single seaters. First come the K18 (DJK) and the two Juniors (FZA and HNK), after which you will move onto the two Pegasus (318 and 987). At this stage you will be working towards your first cross country flight.

Your training will follow the BGA syllabus for trainee pilots. It usually takes between 25 and 45 flights to go solo, although this depends very much on your motivation and how often you fly. A couple of flights at least every two weeks is a good target. As well as learning to control the glider you will also develop your safety awareness both on the ground and in the air. Do not be discouraged if occasionally you seem to be getting nowhere, or an aspect of flying gives you particular trouble. It is part of the normal learning process – remember how it was when you learned to drive. You will work through the British Gliding Association badges from Bronze to Diamond. For more information see Notes for New Members on [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://www.bookergliding.co.uk)

The process of learning to glide need not be frustrating. There is a lot to learn on the ground as well as in the air and spending time at the launch point helping to get others airborne and becoming part of the Booker team is a rewarding and enjoyable experience in itself. And, maybe sooner than you thought possible, you will be sent solo and a whole world of gliding will be there for the taking.

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

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You can broaden your flying experience and improve your skills by getting involved in other aspects of flying.

### *Competitions*

Gliding competitions are usually last for 9 days and involve the competitors setting off on a pre-set task suited to the weather on the day. The winner is the pilot who completes the task in the shortest time – or gets the furthest if they all land out. Scores are handicapped to allow pilots flying gliders with different performance to compete. Booker, along with several other clubs, hosts a regionals competition every year, and there are also nationals competitions for the various classes of glider.

### *Task weeks*

Booker holds at least one task week a year to enable members to develop their cross-country skills together and to practise competition flying in a relaxed atmosphere.

### *Aerobatics*

Aerobatic flying is an excellent way to explore the flight envelope and build your confidence in handling the glider in unusual attitudes.

### *Instructing*

Another way to extend your skills is by training to be an instructor, which has the additional benefit of helping out your club.

### *Expeditions*

Every year we visit other clubs, for a holiday and also to experience flying in different conditions. In the autumn we go to Aboyne on Royal Deeside, the UK's premier wave flying site and a good place to try for height gains. And in the spring we visit Shobdon in Herefordshire and/or Long Mynd for thermal and ridge flying. The expeditions are open to all levels of experience, including pre-solo. For an explanation of wave, ridge and thermals, see our website [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://www.bookergliding.co.uk).

### *Vintage*

Some club members are also members of the Vintage Gliding Club, an international body devoted to the preservation, restoration and flying of Vintage, Oldtimer and Classic gliders. VGC rallies are often held at Booker, giving you an opportunity to see historic aircraft in the air and on the ground.

## **SHARE THE FUN**

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If you enjoyed your course, why not bring along your friends? We have special rates for groups during the day or in the evening. Ask the office for details.