



CADET SCHEME

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Booker Gliding Club's cadet scheme enables young people to learn to fly at very low cost, following the same training syllabus as other club members. To join the scheme you must be 15 to 21 years of age and in full time education.

As well as learning to fly, cadets also have the opportunity to gain experience in other aspects of gliding club operations, everything from managing the start line for a competition to briefing new members and course participants.

The scheme can enable access to flying scholarships and many cadets have put the skills learnt through this scheme to good use in furthering their chosen careers in aviation.

How much does the training cost?

Free flying is earned by helping with the club operation on 'duty' days. The more you put into the scheme the more experience you will gain and the more free flying you earn. As well as earning free flights, you are also entitled to unlimited flying at around 50% of the normal club member rates. There is a small annual membership fee.

How often will I do 'duty' days?

Between March and September, you will usually to attend the club for one weekend day every three to four weeks in order to assist with the normal operation of the club. You will also attend for five to seven weekdays during the summer holiday period. Arrangements during the winter will depend on the number of cadets in the scheme.

How do I apply?

Fill in an application form and post it to the gliding club along with a short letter describing why you want to join the cadet scheme.

Can I try gliding out before I join?

You can take a trial lesson or a half-day course at the club. If you then join there may be a small reduction in your annual membership fee. During the low season (October to Spring) there are sometimes reduced price trial lessons available for potential cadets. If you visit the airfield we can assign a club member to tell you more about the club and gliding.

How does the flying training work?

Flying training follows the standard British Gliding Association syllabus and is the same as for any other club member. On joining you will be given a log book, and a training progress card on which your instructors will record the parts of the syllabus you have covered. You can book training flights via the club office just like any other club member. You can also take training flights in the evenings and occasionally on your duty day. A typical training flight lasts from 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the weather and the exercises being flown.

What are the restrictions on entry to the scheme?

Cadets must be aged 15 to 21 and in full time education.

Because of the design of the glider and controls there are some physical limitations, these vary depending on the type of glider.

Height – from about 152cm (5') to 193cm (6' 4")

Weight – from about 44kgs (7 stone) to 100kgs 16 stone.

Medical - it will not be possible for you to fly if you suffer from, fainting or certain physical or mental disabilities. You (and your parents if you are under 18) will be asked to sign a medical declaration.

How are the cadets selected?

The Chief Flying Instructor and the member in charge of the scheme will review applications received. They will then invite suitable applicants to come to the club for an informal chat and, subject to space being available, will select candidates for the scheme and write confirming acceptance.

What will I need to study?

Before going solo you will take a short and fairly simple examination. For this you will need a basic knowledge of theory of flight, air law, navigation and meteorology. The information required can easily be picked up during the training. There are a number of suitable books available from the gliding club office.

How long will it take for me to go solo?

In order to succeed in any aspect of flying you need to commit time and energy, and in order to be a good pilot a responsible attitude and degree of self motivation is required. How long it takes to go solo varies from one person to another, it also depends on how frequently you fly. As a rough idea you should complete most of the training if you manage to do 35 flights within one year. You will progress more quickly if you can fly more often, without long gaps between flights.

Even after you have gone solo your training will continue until you have the experience, skills and confidence to make decisions about varying weather conditions on your own.

What will I do on my duty days?

The activities on any given day will vary. The list below provides an example of the sort of duties you would be involved in. These activities are carried out as required and shared with other club members:

- Setting up the launch point – radio, parachutes, log board, etc
- Cleaning the gliders and canopies
- Moving and parking gliders
- Log keeping
- Using the radio at the launch point
- Hooking on, signals, launching gliders
- Safety on the airfield, ropes, propellers, access, look-out
- What to do in an emergency
- Ropes, repairing, splicing, weak links
- Packing up at the end of the day
- Introduction to course structure – what we offer

For more experienced cadets

- Hanger packing and unpacking
- Basic launch point supervision – safe and efficient operation
- Management of launch point personnel and students
- Assessment and preparatory training for basic instructor rating
- Basic rating completed (not before age 17)
- Training in running competitions