



**Handicap  
Distance  
Tasks now go  
on the ladder  
See P 6.**

# The Booker Newsletter

**HOW TO FIGHT THE TAG FARNBOROUGH AIRSPACE PROPOSAL See page 3**

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From the CFI  
The Farnborough Airspace Proposal  
Members' Achievements  
Dates for your diary  
Evening Groups Start Again  
Cartoon  
Ladder Corner*

*This month we welcome Denis as our new Chairman, Richard has a reminder about LAPL applications, Jane gives us a write-up about Talgarth and our Ladder Steward Jeremy Gilbey brings the great news that Handicap Distance Tasks in comps and task weeks can now go on the National Ladder and that brings Tim and Jim's HDT concept (see current S & G) right into the heart of competitive gliding. And April has arrived with some excellent soaring weather!  
William*

## From the Chairman

There are quite a few significant changes to report this month. Firstly I am very honoured to be Chairman of the best members' gliding club in the UK. At the recent AGM Geoff stood down and we thanked him for his five years of inspirational leadership. We also said goodbye to Hilary who has retired from the office after eight years, we thanked her for her dedication and support. We were pleased to welcome four new members on to the committee, Hugh MacDonald, John Sugden, William Parker and Mark Wolff. We look forward to their new ideas at what is a time of great opportunity for the Club. We also reported that we have a new landlord; Sean Brown Managing Director of HeliAir has bought Arora's shareholding in AAA. At meetings with Sean he



*Our new Chairman  
Denis Campbell*

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has assured us that he wishes to develop the airfield for General Aviation and he sees all the existing tenants including the Gliding Club as being essential for its future success. He is now in negotiations with WDC for renewal of the head lease. It is very welcome to have a landlord who talks to us directly and includes us in his future plans for the airfield. We have been assured that our lease will be renewed so we are working on the details. We will keep you updated on developments.

We have responded to the Council plan for future development of the airfield. We supported development of the existing built up areas and opposed plans for building on part of the grass areas. It is part of wide ranging proposals in the area and WDC should be reporting the outcome soon.

As you will know from Jane's postings there is a serious threat to gliding from the proposed airspace changes put forward by TAG at Farnborough. William has included a piece on this. It is not just Lasham and Parham who will be badly affected by these but also our ability to fly cross country to the south. It is essential that we fight these proposals and ensure that they are not implemented.

Richard has been putting in a tremendous amount of work to ensure that we are compliant with the new EASA regulations, I am glad to say he is well ahead of things and the BGA have been asking his advice various matters. Remember that the Club will help you get your new EASA licence for a small fee. You will also see that the Bus is being transformed by a team led by Vic and John, part of this work is necessary for EASA compliance (not a joke), the rest will be a great benefit to us at the launch point.

The soaring season is upon us with a successful expedition to Talgarth, with Klippeneck in Germany next.

There is an excellent article in the latest S&G by Jim and Tim about the Handicapped Distance Task competition which starts here on the 19<sup>th</sup> April; this is a real opportunity to have some great cross country flying, Nils will as usual organise fantastic weather.

We have two new faces in the office, Raury and Faeba, they are both students at Bucks New University and will be working for us at the weekends. Shelagh now works Monday to Friday and is our Office Manager. Wishing you all safe and exciting flying  
Denis



*Sean Brown, MD HeliAir*



*New weekend assistant  
Faeba*



*New weekend assistant  
Raury*

## From the CFI

So it would appear that the waters have receded, the wind has dropped (a bit) and therefore I'm pleased to announce that the season has officially started!

We've had a busy month both here at Booker and also away at our annual Talgarth expedition. I'm pleased to report that this year's expedition, although still a rather muddy one, provided us with soarable weather on all but two days.



Talgarth is a fantastic site to fly from and a highly recommended way to start your season off. It was particularly pleasing to see so many new faces coming along with us, trying their hands at mountain flying and generally enjoying a spring Welsh holiday.

Last week, amongst numerous cross country flights we ran our first Bronze Course of the year. Congratulations to Chris Arnold, Hakan Gokalp and Andrew Whitten for numerous successes during the week.

The motorglider has been kept busy with many of you taking up the offer of some discounted field landing training, a gentle reminder to you that almost half of all sailplane accidents in 2013 were related to field landings.....

There's also been a steady stream of licence applications arriving on my desk, another gentle reminder to those who haven't applied yet; there's only one year to go! Please do not hesitate to come and find me should you have any questions.

I'm going to sign off now as it's looking like a cracking day outside and I want to go flying!

See you at the launchpoint!

Richard

## Object to the Farnborough Airspace proposal. Act Now!

It is vital that the gliding movement actively protest against the TAG proposal for new airspace for Farnborough. This LAA article spells out the problems it presents to the gliding world. Objections should be phrased in your own words and submitted to the 'consultation' website. You'll find directions at:

[www.consultation.tagfarnboroughairport.com](http://www.consultation.tagfarnboroughairport.com)

## The LAA article

The March issue of the LAA magazine 'Light Aviation' contained an article setting out the Class D controlled airspace proposed for Farnborough. This covers a very wide area, which is currently highly used by all forms of GA, whereas Farnborough's own traffic forms a small proportion of this. In particular, the proposed CTR, from ground up to the Class A TMA, sits across the two highly used transit routes, N-S west of Heathrow and E-W between Heathrow and Gatwick, and a radio mandatory zone completely prevents use of the E-W route by non-radio aircraft.

Valid reasons for objection include:

- Whilst TAG Aviation state that the traffic is forecast to double at Farnborough there is no justification provided to support this forecast.
- Their traffic is entirely private jet traffic, with an average of just 2.5 passengers per flight. Far more people use the area in light aircraft and gliders and therefore it is unreasonable to give such privilege to small minority use.
- No proper facts have been provided for the total current volume and pattern of use of the airspace, nor the forecast effect of the proposed CAS on both safety and restriction of use.
- Crossing clearances will be limited by both the new SERA rules for VFR flight in Class D airspace and increase in Farnborough's own traffic for which this CAS is sought. The new rules coming into force later this year require VFR traffic to be 1000ft below cloud in Class D, which effectively precludes crossing when cloud base is below 2500ft; very common in this country.
- All practicable avoidance routes raise serious safety concerns. Lasham gliding site, one of the busiest in the world, is located just to the west of the CTR, and there is only a very narrow gap between the Farnborough and Gatwick zones through which East/West bound traffic outside of controlled airspace will be funnelled.
- Outside the CTR, a large area of CAS is proposed which substantially lowers the current base of CAS, again reducing the available Class G airspace thus increasing traffic density.
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Even if you live far away from this area, you should lodge your objection as this proposal could set a precedent for airspace grab by other airports.

The full consultation is at [www.consultation.tagfarnbroughairport.com](http://www.consultation.tagfarnbroughairport.com), which gives details on how to lodge your objection. Note that your objection is not limited to the format given; they will accept any form of written objection.

**ACT NOW!**

## Member's achievements

Dan Cash on a PPL Conversion course Solo'd on 18<sup>th</sup> March

Craig Cairns converted to the Pegase

## Dates for your Diary

- Easter Egg Cup Aerobatics comp 19-21 April
- Handicapped Distance Task Comp 26 April -4 May
- Kilppeneck Germany 7-22 June

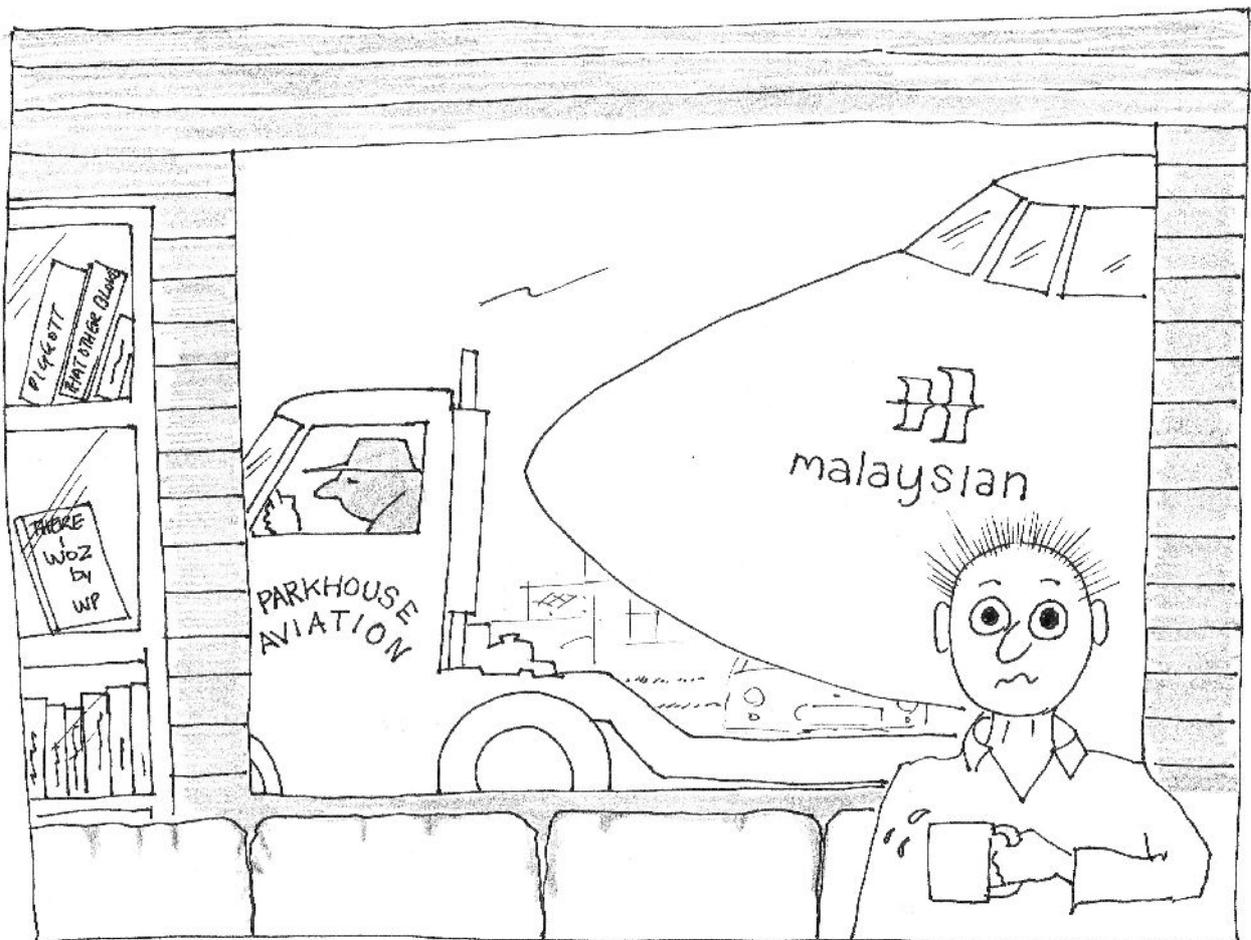
## Evening groups have started again

Tuesday - Graham Saw - specialising in aerobatics

Wednesday - Chris Rowland

Friday - Symeon Economou

Give the office a ring if you are coming. It's a great way to polish up your flying skills. It's also a good time to bring along a group of friends or colleagues for an evening out.



## Spring in the Black Mountains

A sizeable group of enthusiastic pilots joined in the club's annual expedition to Black Mountains GC in Talgarth, which ran from 29 March to 4 April. BMGC operates from a site with many advantages - splendid views, a handy ridge, frequent wave - and the loudest noises apart from the tug are sheep and birdsong. It does however present some interesting challenges, notably the length and slope of its various runways. On Day One we set about check flights. Richard flew with a local instructor in one of their K13s, and then spent the rest of the day in the back seat of KCZ showing the rest of the group how to apply their flat land training to a different type of landing area - good practice for field landings. The following few days offered opportunities for ridge flying and a tiny bit of wave for KCZ and the club and private single seaters to enjoy. There were a couple of scrub days during which members explored what else the area has to offer - walking, the Big Pit in Blaenavon, trout fishing (but no fish), and of course flying models. On Friday our patience was finally rewarded with a rather late clearance and an afternoon of sunshine with a westerly straight onto the length of the ridge.

Expeditions to different sites are a great way for pilots to widen their experience, as well as getting to know fellow club members, and a spring expedition blows away the winter cobwebs and helps in getting current for the season. Many thanks to our hosts at Black Mountains GC, and in particular their tug pilots who worked hard to get us off the ground in some quite interesting conditions, also to Richard Crockett for organising and running the expedition.

## Ladder Corner

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It is even more important this year with the current threat to airspace caused by the Farnborough proposal see link <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/airspace/farnborough.htm> to record your flights on the national ladder [www.bgaladder.co.uk](http://www.bgaladder.co.uk) It helps the BGA represent us by showing how much we actually use the airspace.

Remember you may enter **any task** you do on the ladder, whether undeclared or declared. Declarations must be made before launching, either electronically into a logger, or in writing and given to an authorised person (I would suggest a senior instructor on duty ½ cat or full).

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You can also put your trace on the ladder. This option comes up after you have submitted your task. BUT air space infringements will invalidate a task and putting up a trace makes it very public!

The designated Club Tasks do not need pre-launch declared. These tasks may be flown in either direction and will always be scored as if pre-declared. They may be flown in addition to, or instead of, a pilot's main task. These tasks are useful for use as fall-back tasks, or following early abandonment, or early completion of another declared task. They can also be used as a primary task if airborne without a pre-launch declaration.

The declared tasks for Booker this year are:

BOB-BIC-DID-BOO 100k FAI triangle (The Milk Run)

BOB-MEM-BOO 100k o/r

SOS-FMA-AVE-BOO 200k FAI triangle

(FMA is Four Marks station on the watercress line - south of Basingstoke)

BOB-ANE-BUC-BOO 200k triangle

BOB-FRO-EVE-BOO 300k FAI triangle

BOB-BUL-COB-BOO 300k triangle

Have a look at them on SeeYou (you can download a copy onto your computer at home), Google or the task briefing on BGA ladder site via the calculator page. Remember to load them on your PDA or GPS

### **Variable Sector Format Flights**

This year there is a tab for variable sector format on the flight calculator page this allows the new competition structure that Tim and Jim have worked so hard to develop to be scored on the ladder.

Apart for selecting this tab you enter flights in the usual way on the calculator page and just put your handicap barrel size in the box, there are some additions stipulations:

This type of task may be selected provided it is part of an organised event, such as a GP-style competition, or a task week, or as a set club task that involved more than one pilot. During submission you will be asked to provide event details, such as location, name of event, number of gliders participating, handicap spread. These details will appear on the flight details popup.

Thanks to Tim and Jim for your great work in design, development and getting the BGA to put the new type in the comp handbook.

I am looking forward to our own competition starting on April 19th

Jeremy Gilbey [Jeremy@gilbey.eu](mailto:Jeremy@gilbey.eu) ladder steward

## Club Communications

We use Yahoo email groups, which we encourage all members to subscribe to, in order to provide a quick way to communicate with the membership. Details are below.

**Booker GC Forum** – Open to all members to participate. The Forum provides the opportunity to share ideas about the Club. Send an email to: [bookergc-forum-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bookergc-forum-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and *include your membership number when applying.*

**Booker GC Expeditions** – Open to all members to participate. Send an email to: [bookergc-Expeditions-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bookergc-Expeditions-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and *include your membership number when applying.*

**Booker GC X-C** – Targeted towards those pilots who fly cross-country or who aspire to develop their cross-country skills. Send an email to: [bookergc\\_xc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bookergc_xc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and *include your membership number when applying.*

**Booker GC Instructors** – This is for Booker instructors only to easily email each other. Mainly used for swapping duty days. Send an email to: [BookerGC\\_Instructors-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BookerGC_Instructors-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and *include your membership number when applying.*

The **Booker GC website** at [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://www.bookergliding.co.uk) has a Members Page. This contains the latest Club news snippets and links to previous newsletters, meeting minutes and several useful and informative Club documents. The Members page is accessible to everybody (not just members) but certain documents, such as committee minutes need a user i/d and password. To obtain these, go to the members page and click on the 'email Administrator' link. Don't forget to *include your membership number.*

**For the latest news about what's happening check out <http://bookergc.blogspot.com/>.**

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\*\*\* All view expressed within the newsletter are those of the contributor and do not necessarily represent the view of the Club or committee \*\*\*

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. If you'd like to submit an article for a future edition please send it to William Parker by email at ([williamparker275@gmail.com](mailto:williamparker275@gmail.com)). Please note new email address

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