



The Booker Newsletter

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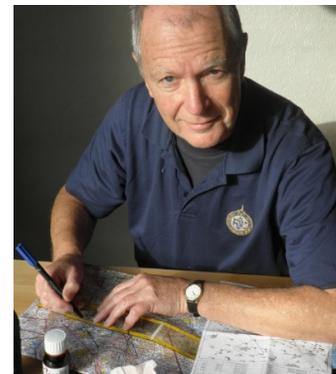
In this edition we have an appreciation of the life of Geoff Tabbner. There are a selection of pics from the Regionals, weather forecasting made easy, a new way of arranging two seater xc training, an opportunity for a great day out at White Waltham...all this and more....

Happy reading.
Jane

From the Chairman

Everything that has happened at the club this month has been overshadowed by the tragic loss of Geoff Tabbner. An appreciation appears on page 3.

The highlight for July was the Red Kite Regionals. All offerings to the weather gods were unfortunately ignored and we had just three competition days – disappointing but far from disastrous. Following a spell of excellent weather, the Regionals brought on a very unstable and showery spell. Indeed, on the evening of Day 2 the heavens opened to such an extent that Noah would have been reaching for his tools and the club hangar was seriously flooded. However, we were extremely lucky to have Nils forecasting for the comp and he managed to find excellent windows in the weather for the three task days. Day 3 was particularly interesting because all morning it poured with rain but a clearance and a 'possible' task was forecast for noon. It didn't seem very likely to say the least. But at 1pm the sky abruptly cleared and the grid launched (with a fair few relights) around 2pm for a 2.30 start.



August 2017

The HDT task was Booker Bridge, Finmere, Moreton in Marsh, Huntercombe and home. Conditions were really excellent despite a whiff of wave over the Cotswolds that made for a short tricky spell. I mention this in detail because although clearances can sometimes be agonisingly slow, there are occasions when the weather goes from awful to awesome in an hour or so, presenting great opportunities to fly for those with an eye on developing conditions.

Congratulations to Ken Barker who won the competition and to the runners-up Mark Davenport and Denis Campbell, equal second just 14 points behind the winner. The organisation of the competition was exemplary for which we can thank Richard for directing and task setting together with Nils. There are too many in the Competition Organising Group to mention everybody but special thanks go to Bob Smith and Jane for managing Control so smoothly, to Bob Sinden and the team of cadets that ran the grid, and to Pete Wyld the scorer whose saintly restraint when the scoring system locked up was much admired. John Hubb did a great job organising the bar, the beer and the food for the barbecue. Shelagh



and Chris in the office worked wonders with land out calls on top of all their usual admin work. Flying the K21s with various members were Chris Rowland and Andy Monk, giving their P2s an invaluable taste of XC racing and even getting around the task against the odds. And finally, thanks to all the competitors who were up

for giving it a go. Although the weather wasn't great we all had a good time and importantly our visitors all commented favourably on our HDT tasks and the welcome and help they received at Booker.

Turning to the matter of the lease – we have now seen, tabled by Wycombe District Council, draft lease terms which are broadly acceptable for the future operation of the gliding club for the next 25 years. There are points of detail yet to be negotiated but the committee is now more confident that a satisfactory outcome can be achieved.

Let's hope the current spell of unsettled weather moves away to give us an August to remember for 5 knotters and 5,000 foot cloudbases.

See you up there!

William



Geoff Tabbner 1948-2017

Geoff was not only a close friend and mentor to many, he was also an excellent leader.

During his time as chairman he gave the club much needed direction which enabled us to



overcome a number of challenges to our right to fly at Booker. He firmly believed that there would always be gliding at Booker and that no challenge to that would ever be too great for the club. Indeed, his legacy of working tirelessly to ensure our freedom to fly continues with a team of club members working to complete the project he started –to secure a long lease for the club so that we can all continue to enjoy flying from Booker for many years to come.

I am sure that many of you will have been deeply shocked when you heard that Geoff had died in the Alps and will have wondered how this could happen to such a skilled and experienced pilot. Geoff was an explorer through and through. He didn't enjoy 'the

norm'. He liked to push the boundaries and he liked to push himself. It gave him great satisfaction. He relished flying long distances to unusual places, such as his flight from Booker in which he turned Land's End. Having mastered skiing, mountaineering and hang gliding Geoff found his calling in mountain soaring. The Alps were his playground and he knew the mountains well, both as a climber and as a glider pilot.

Geoff lost his life on Friday 14th July in the peaks near Briançon in South East France. A week later his wife Anne and his daughter Louise joined his closest mountain flying friends Jon, Ben and Dane for a private service in a local church overlooking some of Geoff's most beloved mountains. After the service Anne brought Geoff's ashes back to England in his glider trailer. She called it his final retrieve.

In September there will be a service to remember him followed by a gathering of all who knew Geoff in all his adventure sport activities to say farewell to one of the most popular pilots you could ever meet at any gliding club anywhere in the world.

As soon as the arrangements for these events have been made we will let everyone know. All will be welcome. Geoff will live on in our hearts and minds.

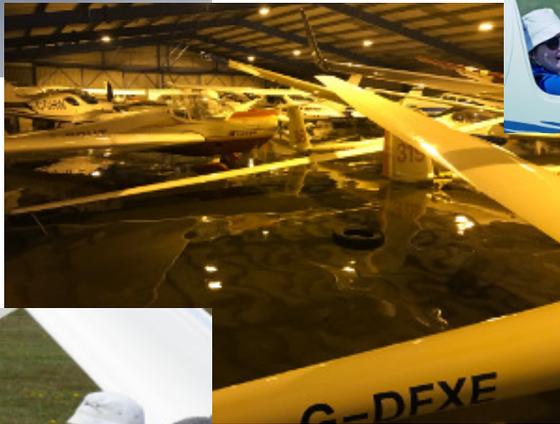
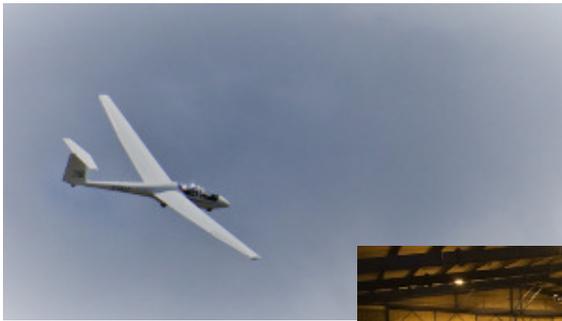
Richard

Members' achievements

Congratulations to:

Sam Husband – solo
Michael Otty – re-solo

Regionals photo gallery



EASA pilot licensing – a reminder

A reminder that from 8th April 2018, all glider pilots, motor glider pilots and tug pilots will need an EASA licence in order to fly an EASA aircraft. Only those who are training or who do not currently meet the standards to obtain a licence may fly without one.

Until 7th April 2018 the above listed pilots, including those who have converted to hold an EASA licence, can choose to operate as they have done under BGA requirements. The BGA will continue to use and train for the BGA Gliding Certificate and associated endorsements and ratings ahead of 2018.

It should be noted that a pilot holding an EASA licence must comply with the medical requirements associated with that particular licence.

For further information the BGA has some excellent advice on its website, or you can come into the club and chat to an instructor who will be able to help you.

Richard Crockett

A free day out at White Waltham



We have once again been invited to attend West London Aero Club's Members' Day with our simulator. According to their website the event will include 'flour bombing, Antonov flights, vintage cars and bikes, a range of stalls and various flying displays' – it was certainly a lot of fun last year. We will need a couple of volunteers to help with getting the sim there, setting everything up and 'flying', in return for which you get free entry to this private event. **The date is Saturday 2nd September.** Please let me know if you can help.

Jane Moore

Funds for Juniors training to be an Instructor



Younger pilots considering becoming an instructor are reminded that funds are still available to help with the costs of training - £500 for BIs and £1000 for Assistant Instructors. These funds are generously provided by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots.

To take advantage of this superb opportunity, please contact lizzie@gliding.co.uk.

CAA news delivered to your inbox or phone

Checking NOTAMs is a necessary part of planning xc flying, and the CAA has recently introduced a useful service to deliver alerts, not just on restricted airspace but news and regulation topics of your choice. It is particularly useful for advance notice of air displays and Red Arrows transits. You can register for the service here: <https://www.caa.co.uk/Our-work/CAA-SkyWise/>.



Weather forecasting for beginners

Working out whether it is worth driving to the airfield for a flight is not as difficult as it might seem. A good place to start is the electronic noticeboard in the clubhouse, which you can view from the breakfast table via this link: <http://bookermembers.co.uk/noticeboard-xc>

If you are planning a 500k then you need to have more than a passing acquaintance with tephigrams and other mysteries regularly explained by Jim White as part of the winter series of briefings, but for local soaring or short cross countries you can work out quite a lot for yourself using free forecasting websites:

The BBC gives a broad idea of what to expect at locations of your choice – Booker and your proposed task areas: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/2646914>

XCweather provides a similar forecast of wind strength and direction, and temperature – plus cloud cover: http://www.xcweather.co.uk/forecast/sl7_3dp

RainToday shows rain on the way: <http://www.raintoday.co.uk/>.

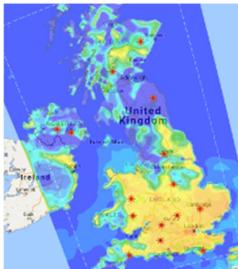
The Met Office also has rainfall radar:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/observation/rainfall-radar/#?map=Rainfall&fcTime=1501618800&zoom=5&lon=-4.00&lat=55.01>

Sat24 shows cloud cover and enables you to see whether there is likely to be a clearance: <http://en.sat24.com/en>

The Met Office publishes an animated surface pressure chart – what to look for is the movement of fronts. The best gliding weather is likely to be after the passing of a cold front:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/surface-pressure/#?tab=surfacePressureColour&fcTime=1424606400>



As noted in the last newsletter, RASP gives a graphic picture of where the good weather is over the UK:

<http://rasp.stratus.org.uk/app/rasptablegm/rasptable.php>

You can also use RASP by Turnpoint to look at the development of thermal activity at Booker and any other TPs you intend to fly round:

<http://rasp.stratus.org.uk/app/blipbytp.php>

And finally – you could take a look at the forecasts done by experts – but bear in mind that they are forecasting for their own area and pilots:

Andy Roch at Dunstable produces an outline forecast early every morning:

<http://www.instructor.andrewroch.co.uk/weather.htm>

David Masson at Lasham produces a detailed forecast for any day that offers XC prospects:

<http://www.lashamweather.co.uk/forecasts.php>

Keeping in the loop

Under the section below headed **Club Communications** you will find details of Yahoo groups which club members use to communicate with particular interest groups. Technology has moved on since these were set up so, although the groups are still operational, the club is experimenting with Whatsapp. We have set up a group for xc pilots to get together and encourage more flying, this already seems to be working well.

Two seater xc training

There is a separate group to enable students who would like to find out about cross country flying to contact instructors who are willing to fly two seaters cross country. It is *not* a booking system, just a means of getting in touch. You will need to help with getting the glider out and ready to fly, and you will find it helpful to join in with checking weather and NOTAMS and planning the task.

If you would like to be included in either of these groups, ask an instructor.

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@yahogroups.com and *include your name and membership number when applying.*

Booker GC Expeditions – Open to all members to participate. Send an email to: bookergc-expeditions-subscribe@yahogroups.com and *include your name and 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@yahogroups.com and *include your name and membership number when applying.*

Booker GC Instructors – This is for Booker instructors only to email each other easily. Mainly used for swapping duty days. Send an email to: bookergc_instructors-subscribe@yahogroups.com and *include your name and membership number when applying.*

The **Booker GC website** at 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

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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 name and membership number*.

For the latest news about what's happening check out

<http://bookergc.blogspot.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/bookerglidingclub>

*** All views expressed within the newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club or committee ***

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. If you would like to submit an article for a future edition please send it to Jane Moore at jxmoore@gmail.com

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