

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

August 2020

AGM 2020
3rd October
1800hrs

Easter Egg Cup Aeros Comp – 26th Sept



Whispering Wardrobes Vintage Rally – 12th / 13th Sept

CONTENTS

page 2	CFI's update
page 3	On-line booking – coming soon
page 3	Who's flying what and where
page 4	<i>Evening flying – now 5 days a week!</i>
page 4	Links to useful information – new!
page 5	Cartoon by Nikki Saw
page 5	Members' achievements – shaking off those lockdown cobwebs
page 6	The Chairman's view
page 6	Easter in September – the Aerobatics comp
page 7	Whispering Wardrobes – vintage glider rally
page 7	Aboyne 2020
page 8	Virtual Aboyne – Condor racing
page 8	Wave entry from a rotor thermal climb
page 9	Farewell to two old friends
page 10	Dates for your diary – <i>new dates for 2021</i>



CFI's update

I think it's safe to say the past few months have been rather unusual. Our lives as we knew them have changed and we're all getting used to the 'new normal'.

For some of us COVID has been nothing more than an inconvenience, but for others it's had a significant impact and our thoughts are with our fellow members whose friends and families have not been so lucky.



Over the past few months it's been the club's priority to make sure we have been there for you, the members, both to give support, but also to continue with the activities you enjoy. Clearly for some time we were unable to fly and during that period we ran numerous lectures and other online activities through the week. Such activities included a comprehensive return to flying / Bronze lecture series, lectures on competition flying, online cross-country tasks and soaring tuition via Condor, a 'a meet the members' session, members meetings and the Saturday morning weather brief and task setting competition. For those who were self-isolating there was even a team of members on hand ready and willing to go and collect shopping etc.

With staff on furlough and the office closed, communication has clearly been a challenge but we have managed to send email updates. The main medium of communication has been through the club WhatsApp group which now has in excess of 110 members and it's through that group that all activities have been advertised.

Mid-May finally saw us given the green light to return to flying, but for solo pilots only. Clearly the inability to conduct refresher flying and check flights presented us with a challenge but the far bigger challenge was finding somewhere to fly. Because of numerous operational changes our home base at Wycombe Air Park had to remain shut. Thankfully for us, Chiltern Park aerodrome was open and available and therefore we moved the operation there.

Chiltern Park has been the most fantastic place to fly and I think those who were able to fly there had a wonderful time. Of course it could not have happened without the airfield operator, Dennis Pearson, who has been a huge support to us and has facilitated our activities for near on four months now! On **Saturday 4th September** we are having a small celebration at Chiltern Park to thank Dennis for accommodating us and I sincerely hope to see as many of you there as possible.

At the beginning of July we finally got permission to fly 2-seater gliders again. The club took the active decision not to return to trial lesson and new course flying but to focus on existing club and course members. We also extended existing courses until 31st October to make sure everyone could have the flying they so rightly deserved.

It's been wonderful to see so many of you back at the club and to get everyone flying again. We are now making a full return to operations and have welcomed our first 5-day course. Hopefully the first of many for what is left of the season.

August 2020

If you're not on the WhatsApp group, please do contact me and I'll sign you up. There's loads of information which comes through it, plus the links to the virtual briefings we now run every single day.

Despite all the challenges, we've been rather busy over the last few months and I for one am extremely pleased to see so many of you back at the airfield.

It's great to be back!

Richard Crockett

On-line booking – coming soon

We will shortly be able to accept [on line bookings](#) for club member training and a limited number of trial lessons and courses at Booker. We will run a trial during September to iron out the process and documentation, but bookings made during the trial will be valid. Booking is on a first come first served basis and club members will be limited to having two future bookings at any time. Booked training will be given priority, but club members needing training and those on courses already in progress will still be able to arrange same-day flying at the daily briefing, which booked members should also attend if possible. We will send the password for club member and course bookings via the WhatsApp group when the system is up and running. Processes will be revised over the winter months so that we can understand the best way to use on-line booking during next season.

Who's flying what and where

We have now resumed a full flying operation at Wycombe, although a handful of gliders remain at Chiltern Park.

Medical requirements

Members must be in good health and should strictly follow the UK Government guidance on identifying the symptoms of COVID-19. Any member with virus symptoms must stay at home and follow medical guidance.

Wycombe Air Park

All training is at WAP, 7 days a week. There are slots for launches but there is no need to book, just turn up and put your name on the list at the launchpoint. Single seaters are also welcome, both private and club.

Evening groups now operate on every weekday – all from 1700hrs. There is no slot system, you can take off when you like and fly until dark.

There is no longer full Air Traffic Control at WAP and an Air-Ground system is currently being tested. Please be patient while this beds in. **All flying operations will be on 126.555 and gliders must make 'downwind' and 'finals' calls to Wycombe Radio.** If you are unsure about the new procedures, please ask the Duty Instructor for a briefing before flying.

Chiltern Park

A handful of gliders remain at Chiltern Park. If you wish to fly there, please attend the daily

briefing at 0830 (notified on the club Whatsapp group) and let us know.

Booked flying and Office

The office remains closed and no pre-booked flying is available, we hope to launch an online booking system soon. At the moment, the flying diary is arranged at the daily 0830 briefing.

WhatsApp groups

Most communications to club members, including Zoom session details, are currently delivered through the Booker Gliding Club group. Any member is welcome to join the group, just ask the CFI (contact details below).

There is now also a Booker Banter group for general chitchat. If you would like to join this group, ask Jeremy Gilbey jeremy@gilbey.eu

Further Information

Ask the CFI at cfi@bookergliding.co.uk, or 07970 465918.

If you have any comments or questions about the club's current situation, you can contact Chairman Symeon Economou chairman@bookergliding.co.uk

Information on COVID-19 symptoms, distancing guidelines and PPE can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



Evening flying

While the light lasts there are evening groups on every weekday, from around 1700 until it gets dark. There is no slot system, you can take off when you like and enjoy the view as the sun gets lower. It's a great time to go solo, practice circuits or aerobatics, or convert to a single seater – or just do a bit of mutual flying and have a chat. It would help if you said you were coming at the daily briefing or on Whatsapp, but feel free just to turn up.



Links to useful information

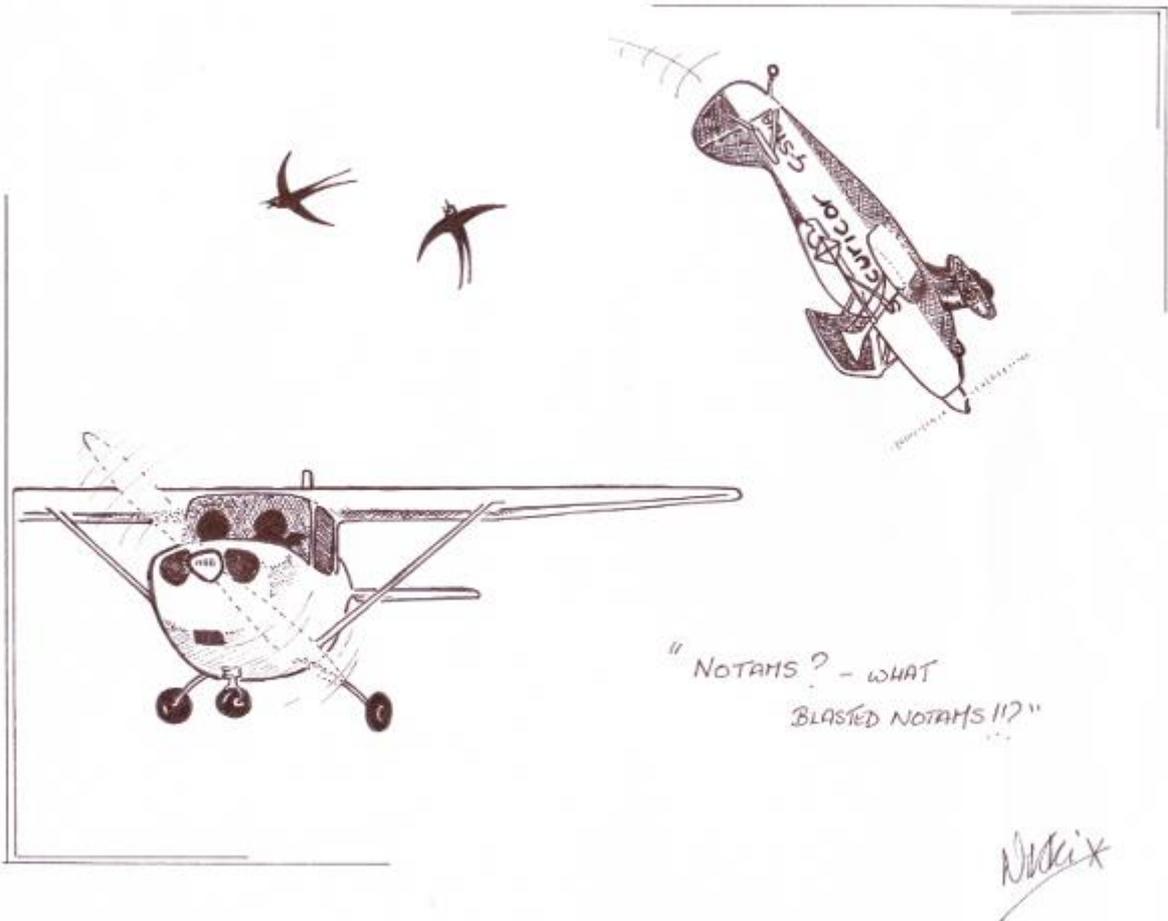


The Club Documents page on the Member section of our website contains much useful information. Recent additions are links to:

- ↳ Safety Occurrence Report (SOR)
- ↳ Pilot's Outbrief
- ↳ Guidance on Daily Inspections.

Here's the link: <http://www.bookergliding.co.uk/clubdocuments.html>





Members' achievements



Brian and Ossian O'Sullivan – re-solo

Father and son team Brian and Ossian took advantage of a sunny Tuesday evening to blow away those lockdown cobwebs and get back to solo flying. They are spending a week at the airfield soon so we look forward to reporting further achievements.

August 2020

direction of the wave edge you identified when you started. Now, at cloudbase, increase your speed while still turning so that you are flying at 60-70 knots in a tight bank. Next you straighten up, unleash that energy and head hell for leather through the turbulence towards that elusive wave edge. Two things may happen. One, you fly through the turbulence, miss the wave, and sink down to re-enter the rotor thermal and try again. Or two, magically, the rough and tumble of the rotor gives way to the smooth air of rising wave, you ease off the speed and as the orientation of the wave bar becomes apparent you work your way to the best lift and up you go - you're back in the game!

William Parker



Farewell to two old friends

We are saddened to announce the recent deaths of two former members, Mike Fountain and Arne Joergensen.

Mike Fountain

Mike, who had a haulage company and garage in Aylesbury, was a member for many years and owned an LS4, 275. He was also well-known for his love of dogs, he was never without one. On one occasion there was an incident on the airfield when a pilot managed to crash on the ground run by mistaking the rudder adjust cable for the cable release. He climbed from the resulting heap of fibre glass uninjured but unfortunately stepped back onto Mike's dog which promptly bit him. Even in his later years and increasingly frail, Mike liked to visit the airfield to meet old friends and have a flight in a two-seater.

Arne Joergensen

Arne was a colleague of Nils Wedi at ECMWF where he worked on graphics applications to display weather. His claim to fame is setting off on his Silver distance and landing at Brize Norton having mistaken it for Enstone. He managed to talk his way out of it and was even allowed an aerotow home. He owned a DG303 and a Porsche – with no towbar – and was never without a cigar. He left Booker in 2013 to return to his native Denmark where he continued gliding.



.....

Dates for your diary (subject to change)

2020

4 th September:	Chiltern Park celebration and thank you party
12 th / 13 th September:	Whispering Wardrobes vintage glider weekend
26 th September:	Easter Egg Cup Aerobatics comp
<i>2nd / 3rd October:</i>	<i>Elite London – new date</i>
3 rd October:	Annual General Meeting 1800hrs
10 th – 25 th October:	Aboyne expedition
21 st November:	Awards Evening
19 th December:	Members' Christmas party



2021

13 th – 28 th March:	Spring expedition to Lleweni Parc
5 th – 20 th June:	Summer expedition to Montricher, Switzerland
10 th -18 th July:	Booker Regionals
9 th – 24 th October:	Aboyne expedition

.....

Club Communications

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

The Yahoo groups have been superseded by Whatsapp groups. The current ones in use are:

Booker Gliding Club – general club information and notifications including details of online daily briefings

Booker Instructors – information and swap requests for instructors

Booker Expeditions –set up in the run up to each expedition.

If you wish to be included in any of these groups, contact the CFI.

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 committee minutes need a user ID 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.

August 2020

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

**Published by Booker Gliding Club
WYCOMBE AIR PARK, MARLOW, BUCKS SL7 3DP
Office Tel: 01494 442501**

Booker Gliding Club Ltd is a company registered in England with company number 1492733
Registered office address: Wycombe Air Park, Booker, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3DP
VAT number: 350 4182 83

© Booker Gliding Club 2020
