



Congratulations to Will Ellis, sport class winner at the Bicester Regionals

The Booker Newsletter



Stadium? What Stadium? Come to the celebration party at BGC Saturday 13th August. See page 5

<p>Contents <i>From the Chairman</i> <i>From the CFI</i> <i>Olympics Update</i> <i>Members' Achievements</i> <i>Aboyne coming up</i> <i>Noise Abatement Zones</i> <i>Party Party!</i> <i>Silver Course recalled</i> <i>Update on cadet achievements</i></p>	<p><i>Welcome to a seriously info-rich edition of the newsletter. Geoff catches the mood of the moment and flags up the 'End of the Stadium' Party. Denis reports on real improvements in the Olympic position and reminds turbo users about the noise abatement zones. Mike has a timely reminder about outlanding safety. Robert Turner recalls the recent Silver Course and Doug Hilton details some terrific achievements by the club's cadets. As ever, thanks to all the contributors.</i> <i>William</i></p>
--	---

Fellow Booker members,

As writers go, I am one of the worst. It takes me for ever to get started and I am easily distracted. Each month William twists my arm and, most months, I put pen to paper and try to summarise my thoughts about the club. Each time I have done so, I am heartened by what I see in terms of the effort, skills and motivation that so many of you put into running the club. This time, as I begin to write, I am surer of the conviction that I have held since taking on this role two and a half years ago. As a club, we are blessed with an amazing diversity of talent, skills and experience which, when united and focused on a common goal, can achieve amazing things.



When news of a proposed Rugby stadium and sports village development on our airfield first broke, no one, not the council, not the rugby community, not even ourselves, would have thought that we could muster such strengths to defeat it. You all amazed me with the tenacity, passion and dedication that so many of you brought to the task. The main committee members, members of the 'Saving Booker Committee' and the members of GASP so ably led by Gary Nuttall, all did an amazing job. It is important that we celebrate our successes along the way so I do hope you will all join with the BBQ and party at the club on the 13th August.

We have a few more challenges to face yet, to safeguard our future beyond 2014 but, based on what you have all achieved so far, I would say we stand a fighting chance and my money is on you, the members of Booker Gliding Club.

Given all that we have had to contend with, it's sometimes hard to remember that we are doing this for gliding and to remember to do some! Fortunately, I was able to spend some time in Serres and got a healthy dose of intensive gliding to regenerate me. I was most

impressed with Mike Collett and Doug Hilton's ability to instruct day after day in such an exciting and demanding arena. We are very lucky to have a CFI and Deputy CFI of such high calibre. Two other members impressed me in this last month. One was Mike Gatfield, flying his first full competition in the juniors, and making a pretty good job of it, despite having an inferior glider. The other was our own, enigmatic, Will Ellis, who executed a very convincing win against a strong field in the Bicester Regionals Sports class. Well done both of you.

In this edition you will see some more good news that relates to the concessions won on the Olympic Airspace restrictions. On behalf of us all I would like to thank Denis Campbell, Alan Green and Emily Todd for the great work they have done.

See you at the launch point,

Geoff

From the CFI

The month of July has been good for the club, with regards to both the future of the airfield, airspace and the level of flying, with summer deciding to finally show its face. This has led to a plethora of member's achievements this month. Firstly congratulations go to Will Ellis for winning the Bicester Regionals very convincingly and also Mike Gatfield who held his own in the Junior Nationals at Aston Down. Back at home the club ran a very successful Silver course with all of the members achieving elements, if not all, of their Silver badges during the week with one individual completing all three legs in one flight!



Also, please don't forget we've got a **Task Week coming up (Starts Saturday 13th August)** and also another Bronze course. These are a great opportunity to meet people at a similar level and have an intense week of flying to help you achieve your goal for the season; sign up in the clubhouse.

Unfortunately we've had another field landing prang. Thankfully all concerned were ok. However, it does highlight the risks associated with outlanding. Being in practice for one and also having a good knowledge of what the farmers are doing to the fields at a particular time of year can reduce these risks significantly. There are a variety of different methods of doing this but by far the easiest and, in the long run, cheapest option is to do forty minutes or so in the motorglider.

One of the main contributors to outlanding accidents is people flying themselves into a cul de sac and running out of options. This should not be the case while flying XC, please take into account the field landing options around you and further down your track. Depending on your height these do not need to be individual fields initially but areas of outlanding options. As you get lower try and start narrowing down your choices to a point where you're happy with a field and can fly a safe circuit. Ensuring you're checking the field for any signs of wires and anything else that may make a landing unsafe, but never fly yourself into a situation where you've got nowhere to land.

On a lighter note I had a very productive meeting with some senior officials at RAF Benson last month with the aim of improving our relationship with our closest military neighbour. One of the key discussion points was to try and improve their understanding of gliding, what we do and why, and I believe this was achieved. I hope to put something in detail for the next

newsletter, but in the meantime if you transit overhead their ATZ or it looks like you may enter the ATZ, or even land there, please give them a call on 120.9 and I suspect you will get a much more understanding and tolerant reception.

Finally a church notice, recently we've been operating on runway 35 a fair amount. Please remind yourself of the 35 crossing procedures. Always cross between the second and third markers and only cross after you've been given the green light, and do then cross promptly. Do not stop on the runway at any point. To be able to see the green light you must be looking at the tower not at the landing aircraft like a club member who I witnessed waiting for a very long time indeed. If in doubt, as usual, ask.

Safe Flying,
Mike

Olympics update

There is some good news about the Olympic Airspace Restrictions planned for 2012: They have been reduced from two months to one, from 14th July to 15th May. We are meeting with the officials involved on Monday the 8th August to discuss how the Club will operate during the remaining period. When the Restrictions were first announced things looked rather bleak for the Club. Unfortunately the BGA were not able to involve Booker in any discussions on how we should best deal with what would have been a two month ban on us flying from WAP.

As the main thrust of the BGA campaign seemed to be aimed at ensuring Clubs on the periphery of the zone would be able to operate and to obtain some amelioration of the Flow Airspace Restrictions we started our own campaign. A letter to our local MP Steve Baker resulted in him asking a question in the House of Commons about the damage these restrictions would do to Booker Gliding Club. This resulted in a meeting at Westminster with the Minister for Transport, Theresa Villiers. Alan Green and I attended along with Steve. The Minister was cordial in her welcome and listened attentively to our case, she then handed us over to the technical team responsible for implementing the restrictions. We found to our horror that the alleviations that had been hinted at were not forthcoming, and the restrictions were to be more draconian than we had anticipated. Alan then had further meetings with another two senior Ministers and wrote to all three laying out a convincing argument that the restrictions should be reduced to one month. He briefed the representative of the GA Alliance who was also to meet with Theresa Villiers. We also contacted most of the GA groups to ensure that they were keeping pressure on the Ministers. I am pleased to report that the outcome was an announcement that the restrictions would effectively be reduced to a one month period.

Steve Baker will be coming to have a flight with us shortly. He visited prior to his election as MP and has been very supportive. It would be very helpful if members could email a letter of thanks for his involvement so far to:

<http://www.stevebaker.info/contact/>

You will need to include a postcode within his constituency so if you live outside his area please use the postcode for the Gliding Club SL7 3DP.

We will be discussing our plans for next season with the membership to ensure we continue to meet your needs.

Denis Campbell

Members' Achievements

Oli Polden	1 hour bronze leg
Phil Binnee	Bronze 1 st & 2 nd leg
Graham Morfey	5 hour silver distance
Craig Cairns	Re-joined as Full Member, and re-soloed
Robert Turner	Silver Height & Silver distance (again!)
John Otty	Silver height, distance and duration
Guy Trees	First flight in Junior on 30 th July

Soaring doesn't stop in September, come to Scotland and discover wave.

The expedition is suitable for all levels from beginner to hotshot and is an excellent way of building skills and experience, as well as getting to know other club members.



(pics from Glyn)

Aboyne airfield, home to Deeside Gliding Club, has two hard and two grass runways and there are plenty of cable-break and land out options nearby. We have accommodation for week 2 in a 6 bedroom Norwegian log cabin, and there are plenty of cottages and B&B options.

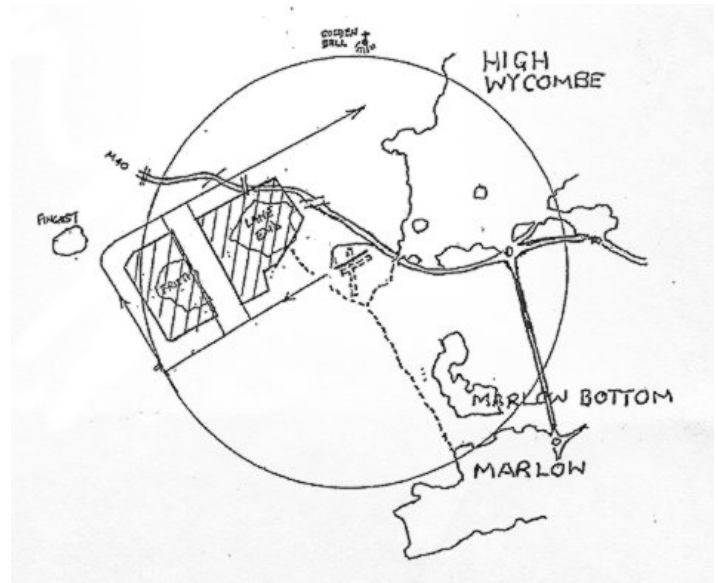
Secure your place now with a £50 deposit. The dates are:

- **week 1: 2 – 8 Oct**
- **week 2: 9 – 15 Oct**
- **week 3: 16 - 22 Oct**

Jane Moore

Noise abatement

It seems that some of our members unfamiliar in the practice of the Dark Art of the Turbo have been motoring over Lane End. Some of the residents have pointed out that whilst they are very supportive of the Gliding Club and our operation, they would prefer it if these "powered machines" could run their engines in accordance with our noise abatement procedures. The map below shows the areas which must be avoided, Marlow Bottom and High Wycombe are also areas which should be avoided.



Denis Campbell

Booker Gliding Club **** PARTY INVITATION **** **Saturday 13 August**

Come and celebrate at the Stadium Scrappage Party on Saturday 13 August, 1830 onwards. Booker Gliding Club is hosting a party to celebrate GASP's success in fighting off the stadium and the saving of Booker airfield for its proper purpose. We will have a barbeque with chef and former restaurateur Phil in charge. There will be an opportunity for our GASP guests to see a glider up close and it is also possible that there will be some flying going on, including someone practising aerobatics (we can't put on a display because it requires a licence but even ace pilots need to practise). All this plus a couple of drinks for a mere £10 (£5 for children under 15). We will have a marquee in case the weather is not ideal, and even tables and chairs.



Pick up your tickets now from the office. Please say if you are vegetarian or have other dietary requirements.

We are also offering Trial Lessons at the special rate of £55 (normal price £98) to GASP supporters, bookable on 12th, 13th or 14th August, subject to availability.

So that we have an idea of numbers for the party, please RSVP to info@nostadiumatbooker.org.uk

Highlights of the Silver Course 25th – 30th July

Three silver-hopefuls turned up on Monday morning with aims to end the week with shiny new badges to sew onto our jackets. Mike's first morning briefing was short and to the point – "it's up to you guys to make the most of this week", so we did!

John Otty was coming back to gliding following a bit of a break and needed to do all 3 silver legs, Dave Humphreys already had 2 legs ticked off so needed the 5 hour endurance, and I needed height and endurance.

The day looked promising - John started the morning with a quick refresher from Richard, and then moved swiftly on to the Junior, Dave had his Discus out of its box, and set off looking for a place to park in the sky, and I went for height. Our skills weren't quite up to the "promising" conditions, and much landing practice followed. In the meantime Mike, leading by example, got out his Starship Enterprise and blasted off into the blue with a rate of climb not dissimilar to the learning curve us three mortals were trying to scale. But by the end of the day John had honed up his skills, Dave had done 3 hours (only 2 more to go then – easy-peasy!) and 987 had managed to drag me to 5500' over the Aylesbury Vale.

On Tuesday we were joined by another Dave, David Hamilton who already has a silver but enjoyed it so much he decided to do it again. The morning weather wasn't so good for flying, but ideal for glider fettling so under Robin's watchful eye 987 got a few niggling problems sorted, and 314's vario problem was diagnosed. The afternoon weather improved, and John got reacquainted with the Peg.

Wednesday dawned bright and clear, and by 10am lots of puffy clouds brought the promise of a good day - and for some of us it was. The super hero of the day was John, who set off on a 50k to Membury, and returned 6 hours later having done all 3 silver legs on the one flight. David Hamilton departed on a 300k - we hadn't had news by late afternoon, so things looked promising, and sure enough he soon whistled into view, unfortunately he was in a car, courtesy of a local farmer (mental note to self - make sure your mobile is charged before setting off). Still, a fine effort. In the meantime Dave Humphreys and I were wearing the tuggies out and competing for the shortest soaring flight of the day and.

Friday was a bit of a washout – lectures and guidance from Mike, then home early.

Saturday was again bright and blue and after something of a tentative start Dave in 314 and me in 987 set off with the object of flying BOO-BUC-CHV-BOO in more than 5 hours (a blistering average of 20kph!). Much hesitant radio chatter along the lines of "shall we press on?" "Oh, I'm not sure.." was thankfully soon silenced by 987's dodgy battery, and from then on we proceeded in sensible silence, joined at one stage by an armada (or is it a school?) of Bicester Regionals. And I am pleased to say that almost 6 hours later we both made it back.

So, 3 silvers attempted, 3 gained, and a great week – couldn't ask for more. Our thanks to all, especially Mike for his patience and perseverance.

And to all you aspiring-silverers out there, it really was a great week, frustrating, rewarding, funny, informative, but above all enjoyable. Well worth joining in next time.

Robert Turner

Getting the better of a sea breeze

Jim recently posted this intriguing account of flying over sea air on the XC forum...

Yesterday was the most fun I have had all year. Short task but fantastic conditions. Started probably an hour too late not expecting much on BOB BUL BUC BO1 BOO 208K. By 1420 the sea air was blown on a moderate SE'ly beyond OVE cutting off my approach to BUL. After a bit of dithering I took a climb at KGS to cloudbase, now 5000ft, and glid at best LD in and out of BUL back to NES over the top of the slice in still, gently advecting air. It was like being in weak wave. Never done that before, great! At NEW the sky went ballistic again with 6000ft bases and 7kt climbs. A climb to 5000ft S of BUC gave me an easy 63k final glide home. Looking N from BUC it was just the same as far as the eye could see and I heard on the radio two guys having a great time around Wittering. By the time I left the field at 1730 the sea air had come all the way up the plain as far as DID, don't recall seeing that before either.

Jim White

News and updates on recent achievements by some of the Booker Cadets

The cadet scheme at Booker has been running successfully for several years now and continues to achieve its objectives of introducing young pilots to the sport and helping them to become pilots in the future. Several past cadets now have successful careers in aviation and more importantly are still involved in gliding either at Booker or at other clubs – ‘hooking’ them young bodes well for the future of gliding.

The cadets are helped significantly by the bursaries and scholarships that are available to them which they have to work hard to be selected (and also work hard to make the most of the opportunity once awarded). A small snap shot of our current cadets who have received scholarships this year has Siena Whiteside (RAFA) and Will Hilton (Air League Education Trust) just completing their NPPL’s, Sam Gervais (Air League Education Trust) just commencing 12 hours of NPPL training and Mike Gatfield competing at the Junior Nationals. The skills the cadets pick up gliding can help with other flying training (other cadets take note!) – glider pilots with a BGA Gliding licence (Bronze C and Cross Country endorsement) can get an NPPL by taking the 7 CAA written exams and flight instruction of as little as 10 hours!



Siena Whiteside and Will Hilton alongside their instructors having gained their NPPL’s



Mike Gatfield getting last minute advice at the Junior Nationals and a competition finish

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 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 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 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 and *include your 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 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/>.

*** 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 (william.parker5@btinternet.com).

**Published by Booker Gliding Club
WYCOMBE AIR PARK, MARLOW, BUCKS SL7 3DP
Office Tel: 01494 442501/529263**

Booker Gliding Club Ltd, t/a Booker Gliding Centre
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 2011