



Aboyne!
6th -20th
October

The Booker Newsletter

Thame BBQ Sunday
12th August ~ 17:00

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From the Chairman

If Dickens had been a glider pilot he might well have said it was the best of times and it was the worst of times. This year has been really dire for cross country flying weather –probably the worst in the memories of our longest standing members. And yet members have made use of even the smallest windows of opportunity to grab 500s, fly cross country, to instruct and learn and to fly trial lessons. On top of that our Thame expedition is proving to be a wonderful success. A



change of scenery, freedom from some of the niggles about our home base, fewer local airspace restrictions, easy access to the Cotswolds and the camaraderie of everyone mucking in to set up the club at Thame have all given club members a big boost. As a result there has been lots of flying at Thame and, more to the point, we have overcome the massive problem that closing down over the Olympic period would have caused. Of course we are greatly in debt to the members of the Upward Bound Trust who have proved to be very patient, helpful and friendly. That friendship could be very important to the club in the future. So I urge you to come along to the barbecue planned for Sunday 12th August to show our appreciation of the great hospitality we have received from the UBT. We will be at Thame until Wednesday 15th and, if you haven't come over to fly there yet, do drop in if only to sample the atmosphere.

When we get back to Booker there are a couple of things to look out for which we may have put to the back of our minds while at Haddenham. One is the need to plan flights to arrive back with sufficient height on the gliding side of Wycombe Air Park and to fly a proper Booker circuit. The other thing is the terrain between the plain and the airfield. Returning XC pilots will again need to factor in crossing the ridge, fewer landable fields between there and WAP and making sure you have enough height for a proper circuit.

Looking ahead we have the prospect of our annual Aboyne expedition from October 6th to the 20th. It's a magical site and a great experience for anyone at whatever level. If you are new to our sport you will learn a tremendous amount by flying in a two seater in Aboyne. And of course if we get good wave conditions there just isn't a gliding experience quite like it. We'll be there for two weeks and now is the time to get your name down on the list.

If the weather has been giving us the worst of times, the best may still be yet to come. The forecasters seem to be suggesting an improvement in conditions for the next few weeks.

Many thanks to all those who have made the Thame expedition possible, they are too numerous to mention by name but I must make special mention of Doug Hilton and Richard Crockett without whose tireless work to set up, implement and operate the club at Thame it would never have happened; from all the membership – a big thank you to you both.

Looking forward to seeing you at Thame and when we get back to Booker.

See you at the launchpoint

Geoff

From the DCFI

Well, we have been operating from Thame for nearly three weeks and it is very pleasing to see that so many of you have embraced the chance to fly from a different site whilst still doing it under a 'Booker' umbrella. For the more experience pilots it is probably just a case of being able to continue flying where you have experienced operating from other sites during competitions or on expeditions whereas for some of the newer members it is possibly the first time of flying from a new site.

Whatever category you may have fallen into, the skills and judgments that need to be displayed are very similar – circuit planning (based on where you are going to land not fixed ground features), awareness of airspace, navigation, operating into a much reduced area than we are used to at Booker and understanding the different issues associated with operating at a site with a winch. It has not all been perfect (is anything?), but what has been very positive is the learning that has been going on and seeing how you have all adapted and broadened your skills and knowledge – one area in particular (which may seem a trivial point but is a useful skill) has been the need to clear the glider to the side of the runway at Thame after landing by steering on the ground after touch down.

One of the things that has happened as a consequence of our move to Thame has been 'check' flights for many of you. The title 'Check' may seem daunting and being a pass/fail issue – nothing could be further from the truth as those of you who have had them will realise. They have been a chance to ensure you know the local landmarks, airspace and a review of your flying not to ground anyone but to enhance your flying skills and abilities. If you consider an Olympic Gold medallist, the best of the best, yet they still have a coach, receive training and input as to how to improve, which is what we should doing also.

The recent weather has improved significantly and this has been reflected in the achievements that many of you have made, the badges being claimed and the cross country flying being done – well done to all of you.

We still have a short time left at Thame, make the most of it. There is a bit more needed to get ready for flying and packing up at the end of the day than at Booker, please do your bit to help out and if you haven't already done so take the time to say hello to the UBT members, they are a really great bunch of people and have been immensely helpful and friendly to us.

Safe flying

Doug

Dates for your diary

- **Thame Barbecue Sunday 12th August 1700. Good food, drinks and a chance to thank our Upward Bound hosts.**
- **Aboyne Expedition. October 6th – 20th**

Members' achievements in July

- **Gold distances -300k- by Mike Gatfield and John Otty**
- **All 3 Silver legs by John Sugden**
- **Silver height by John Hubberstey and conversion to the Pegasus**
- **Bronze legs by Ben Followell (also converted to the Junior) and Craig Cairns**
- **Zeljko Livancic 1st flight in K18**

The move to Thame and the odd glimpse of flying weather have delivered this excellent clutch of achievements . Well done to all these members and their instructors.

The soaring year doesn't end in September

There is still plenty of flying to be done in October during the club's annual expedition to Scotland to fly in wave (for an explanation of wave see <http://www.nokaviation.com/wave.html>). The trip is open to pilots at any level including pre-solo, and is an excellent opportunity to get those elusive height badges as well as a great way to go cross country without going round in circles.

We will be guests of the Deeside Gliding Club at Aboyne, Aberdeenshire for 2 weeks from Sunday 7 October. The club has accommodation booked for the first week and there is plenty of self catering or B&B in the area for the second week or those who prefer to be independent. Get your name on the list in the office now to secure your place. Look out for the posters in the clubhouse with more information about the trip, or type 'Booker Aboyne' into YouTube for highlights from a recent expedition.

Jane Moore

Booker's Olympics at Thame



Finally after all the planning Booker Gliding Club is now operational at Thame for the duration of the Olympics Airspace restrictions.



Booker's temporary clubhouse, office, water ballast and gazebo

The final stage of the move of gliders and tugs (and associated equipment) to Thame under the guise of 'Operation Pegasus' was led by Richard Crockett and completed before the airspace restrictions were imposed and fitted in around some of the dreadful weather that occurred at the time.

So far the expedition to Thame appears to be going well and everyone is enjoying themselves and the airspace restrictions have not had a detrimental impact on our fun. This also seems to be the view of the Upward Bound Trust Gliding Club members.

As was to be expected there were a few teething issues but because of the great relationship we have already built up with the UBT these were discussed and improvements made to the way we work and co-operate.

The atmosphere and comradeship around the launch point has been truly superb. Some of the highlights have been the barbecue organised by Sally Longstaff and the 'Olympic' themed beer which has gone a long way to cement relations between our two clubs, the bacon and egg fry up most mornings and most important of all the flying we have been able to enjoy.





There has been a real mix of weather, wet and windy to start followed by a week of blue skies and extremely high temperatures and climbs. This has enabled some great flights to be made with several thousands of kilometres flown and an impressive medal table (with more to come).

Booker Medal Table		
Gold	Silver	Bronze
2	4	2

Flying at weekends often seems to run on into the late evening but nobody seems to mind having to hang around to ensure tugs get refuelled and everything gets put away (especially with the prospect of a drink at the end). Seeing how the UBT members get everything packed into their hangar at the end of a days flying is a sight to behold (and they don't mind us helping out either!)



And the best part of all this is that it doesn't end until 15th August – we should all be very grateful for the generosity and friendship shown by the UBT.

Doug Hilton

Booker at the Wycombe Community Festival

Sunday 5 August saw The Rye in High Wycombe humming with activity as the local sports clubs set up their stalls to give 'tasters' of what they had to offer. Booker's marketing team was there early with one of the Juniors, which was soon rigged and positioned with our excellent set of banners. Even before the gates opened we were getting visitors curious about gliding, and as soon as the public were admitted we had a queue of small and not so small persons keen to sit in the cockpit and find out about gliding. It was a fantastic opportunity



to draw attention to what goes on at Wycombe Air Park and what the gliding club has to offer. There were a couple of torrential downpours in the morning, but for most of the day the sun shone and the sky looked wonderfully soarable. We did a brisk trade in summer evening trial lessons as well as having promising conversations about our longer courses. The team also took time out to look around the rest of the show and sample the excellent food on offer, and entertainment came to us in the form of the carnival procession and various bands. All in all a great day out which will have raised the club's profile in the local community. Many thanks to Chris Collett, Chris Arnold, Henry Ross, Hugh MacDonald and John Hubberstey for giving up their time.

Jane Moore

The right way to fold your map

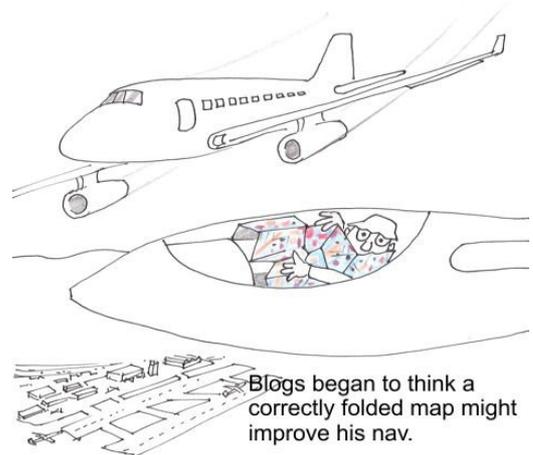
There are many approaches to folding maps to make them manageable in the confines of a glider cockpit. Many of these involve cutting off large chunks of the map and the key and if the map is repeatedly folded to focus on a task area it soon begins to look like last Sunday's newspaper.

Luckily there is a correct way to fold an aviation map so that the end result is:

- Small enough to fit on your lap
- Big enough to show most tasks
- Quick and easy to re-fold along one set of (ie.the same) creases
- Remains compact and flat

With this method the map (or more correctly –the chart) can be folded to put any location at the centre of the visible area. The instructions are in a PDF available for download at:

<http://www.flyingshack.com/documents/FoldingahalfmilUKAeronauticalchart.pdf>



Blogs began to think a correctly folded map might improve his nav.

William P

A cautionary tale . . .

It starts with a Saturday landing out near Grafham Water – familiar territory to most of us, but it went down hill from there!

On the way home, a tyre burst so we pulled off the A43 to change the wheel.

Problem # 1 – the scissors jack in the trailer couldn't lift the weight or rather we physically couldn't turn the handle! Problem solved by using the tow car's scissors jack. . . . or so we thought .

Problem # 2 – the spare wheel supplied by the trailer maker didn't fit! As you might imagine, this caused me both serious embarrassment and a complete sense of humour failure!

We had to abandon the trailer, after putting the shredded tyre back on, and head home. It stayed there for 2 more days – trailer tyres aren't sold on Sundays or at least not by KwikFit in Northampton.

Problem # 0 – I should have renewed the tyres some time ago, so entirely my own fault . . . but I would still have been caught out by the spare wheel not fitting.

A thought for those of you towing to Aboyne – are you sure that your tyres really are OK, that your jack is usable and, finally, that your spare wheel actually fits?

If not, I can recommend Adams & Page for tyres, Halfords for a hydraulic jack and Abex Trailers for wheels . . and I have a spare wheel, complete with brand new, unused tyre for sale.

David Fogden



Meanwhile back at Booker Heli-Air experiment with hand-launching

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 (williamparker275@gmail.com). Please note new email address

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
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