

# Booker Gliding Club Newsletter



## Happy Christmas to all our members

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*Another year has flown by as fast as a party balloon on a final glide. We've had a great regionals (bit windy though) and two successful task weeks. There were also expeditions to Shobdon, Cerdanya and Aboyne. Other highlights for 09 include a very successful cadet programme, first solos almost every month and some brilliant curry nights. No doubt there will be loads of plans for 2010 in the next issue.*

*William Parker*

## From the Chairman

### Fellow Booker members

The festive season is rapidly approaching and the longer nights by the fireside give us time to reflect on the year behind us. The year was a milestone for Booker Gliding Club in many ways. In a time when the threats to our wonderful sport continue to challenge us on a local, national and international basis you, the club members, have pulled together to strengthen our position. Our activity level has increased, our membership has grown and we have turned a loss into a breakeven.



With the help of our club members in the legal profession, the BGA and our solicitors we have made a stand against the misguided tactics of the airfield management and had restored the rights granted to us under the head lease and the sublease. We have launched a lobbying campaign with local and central government figures to carry those rights forward beyond 2014.

We have seen some amazing contributions to the club's health from so many of you. To those of you who have committed time and effort, our thanks and appreciation. We all thank you. Here are just some of those contributors;

Dave Byass – *glider maintenance against all odds! And Aboyne expedition leadership.*

Adrian Hegner and the BAS team , John Nicholls, John Sawney and Paul Sawney – *tug maintenance, and workshop certification to part M.*

Denis Campbell – *Deputy Chairman, airfield management interface, political lobbyist and office team leader.*

Glyn Read – *liaison with Wycombe District Council and rent review negotiator.*

Hilary and Shelagh – *the 'Office', Administration.*

Mike Collett - *CFI, Regionals Director, Aboyne Expedition leader, part time glider maintenance and British Gliding Team Member.*

Anne Roberts – *keeping the committee on track and company secretary.*

William Parker – *newsletter editor and Cerdanya expedition leader.*

Don Harvey – *website maintenance.*

Bob Smith and Emily Todd – *Youth Programme and Cadets.*

Steve Williams, Jane Moore, Symeon Economou and Chris Collett – *The Sales and Marketing Team.*

Bob Davy and more recently Andrew Betteley – *Chief Tug Pilots.*

Graham Morfey and David Fogden– *the finance team.*

John Herman – *property maintenance and a nice warm clubhouse again!*

Roger Neal – *the government learning initiative.*

Instructors, tugpilots, cadets ,volunteers at promotional events and everyone else who gives time to help the club prosper- *we all thank you.*

On a more sobering note we have had another incident of unreported glider damage again to our Discus 314. This has to stop and Mike Collett will be introducing some tighter controls over its use. To everyone, I ask you to treat club equipment as if it were your own. In a sense it is, and continuous carelessness is costing us all money. More alarmingly, unreported damage could lead to someone getting hurt or worse. You know if you've damaged a glider. Failure to report such damage is dangerous and such actions do not fit in the world of aviation.

Denis Campbell and I attended the recent BGA Chairman's conference. It was reassuring to meet other clubs and hear success stories about clubs who had faced similar challenges to our own and had triumphed. We picked up some good ideas. Jane Moore has recently convened a meeting with the Sales and Marketing folk from some of the other clubs to share ideas and I must also thank Jane for bringing together a group of recent solo pilots to get their views on how we might improve things. All of this input will go in to the strategic planning process that gets underway this week and we will be sharing the plans with you in the New Year.

It just remains for me, on behalf of the committee, to wish you and your loved ones a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a fabulous year of gliding in 2010.

See you at the launch point.

Geoff

Geoff Tabbner

## From the CFI

The only good thing I can say about last month's weather was at least it was consistent. However, despite the deluge of rain which made me seriously consider starting a boat club on the airfield we have managed to keep flying whenever we had the chance and even surpassed last year's launches for November. Despite the above there have been a number soarable days, which admittedly you wouldn't rush off cross country on, but are a welcome surprise for the time of year, these included a number of members' flights which contacted wave notably Anne Roberts who spent the best part of an hour above cloud.



November saw the club welcome the Wycombe Air Traffic Controllers for a couple of lectures, explaining to them how we operate and most importantly why. This was a great experience, I believe, for both parties involved. Some of the findings will be covered in the Instructor meeting (more info next paragraph). Partly on the back of this I've put up a poster on the notice board asking if anyone is interested in gaining their radio licence. This will be carried out at Wycombe Air Centre and usually takes place on a Tuesday evening across four weeks. I feel this is a real advantage for anyone flying locally and especially cross country from any club, not just Booker. If you're interested put your name on the poster and if you've got any queries just ask.

**Want to get  
your radio  
licence this  
winter ?** 

Now looking forward a few months I'm planning on holding an Instructors' meeting in mid February. The agenda is filling up well and looks like we've got plenty to discuss but I'd like some input from the club's Instructors on any issues or concerns they may have; this will be an opportune time to address them no matter how insignificant you may consider it. You can contact me in the usual ways.

*Mike Collett*

## Members' achievements in 2009

For the first time in many months we don't have any first solos to report, mainly because it's been chucking it down. However this has been a great year for first solos (as well as plenty of badges and type conversions). Twenty-two pilots have soloed at Booker this year. Soloing is of course a unique achievement for every pilot and nobody ever forgets that first time when the instructor didn't get in the back. But this is where the fantastic adventure and all the rewards of a gliding career begin. It's also great –indeed essential – for the life of the club. So congratulations to all those pilots who soloed and a huge vote of thanks for all the instructors who made those solo flights possible.

## New lecture series

These new lectures fill an important gap, giving easy to understand (we hope) explanations of the basic topics that pilots need to study. To join in just turn up on the day.

### Fundamentals Of Gliding (FOG) briefings

These lectures, or extended briefings, are aimed at club members who are learning to glide. Experience can be anything from just five or six flights up to Bronze C level. Post Bronze C pilots are also welcome to come along, and their input to any discussion would be most welcome.

These are effectively extended briefings and they supplement the briefings that are normally provided by instructors prior to performing the various air exercises in the syllabus.

Attending these briefings will provide a more grounded understanding of some aspects of gliding at Booker, and hopefully satisfy your desire to progress efficiently and safely towards a first solo and beyond.

All take place on Saturday mornings in the clubhouse briefing room.

Duration is about 1 hour minimum plus discussion.

Please note the start times, these may vary on the day in order to maximise any opportunity to unpack the hangar and fly.

In fact, why not get your name down to fly on the day and turn up at **08:45** to help unpack the hangar. That way you can get the most out of the winter days, and maximise your progress towards solo.

**Dec 19th 2009. 09:00. The antidote to christmas shopping lecture.**

Finding thermals and staying in them; thermalling airmanship. Gary Nuttall.

**Feb 13th 2010, 09:30 Introduction to gliding meteorology.**

Basic gliding meteorology and how to make the most of the weather. William Parker.

**Feb 20th 2010, 09:30 Airspace and the altimeter.**

A basic outline of what Airspace is and where it is around Booker plus an overview of how the altimeter works and altimeter settings. Bob Smith

**Feb 27th 2010, 09:30 Glider daily inspections and ground handling.**

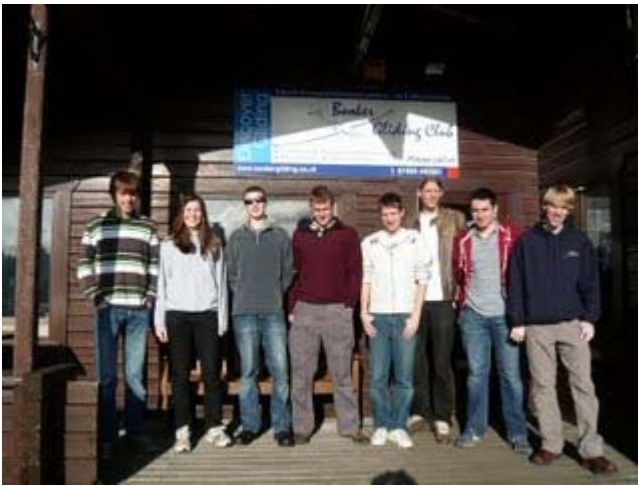
Everything you wanted to know about being on the airfield but were afraid to ask. Jane Moore.

**Mar 13th 2010, 09:30. Circuit planning and execution.**

How we teach the circuit, how to fly it and how this relates to other gliding training such as field landings and failed launches. Symeon Economou.

**Mar 20th 2010, 09:30. Stalling Spinning and Spiral Dives.**

The theory and practical training advice. TBD



## Cadets Open Day

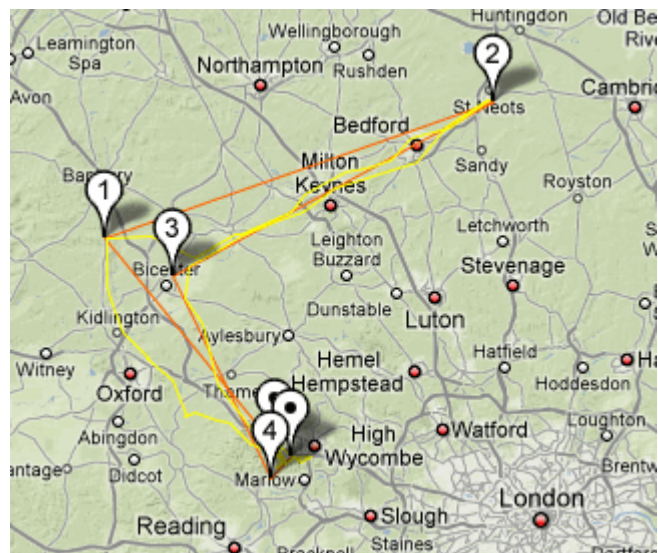
This year's crop of cadets have made brilliant progress and have done a great job helping out at the launchpoint on their duty days. Here they all are outside the clubhouse on the recent Cadets Open Day organised by Bob Smith.

## A cross-country experience in the Duo

After a summer monsoon denied me the chance of flying in the Duo during the regionals, Mike suggested a flight during task week. Forecasts for the 18<sup>th</sup> August looked good and on the mailing list, tentative optimism snowballed into 500k predictions and days booked off work. Arriving at Booker it quickly became apparent (as it so often does) the day had not started in such an optimistic manner. Mike was not to be discouraged and after careful consideration set Dedington – St Neots – Bicester, a task of about 240km.

With Mike P1 and me P2 in the front we launched just before 12pm into an overcast and unwelcoming sky. As we headed out, Mike took the controls, suspecting that the first part would be tricky and he was right - as we crossed the ridge, no lift to be found! In a Pegase or Junior I would have been scurrying straight back to Booker, but we pressed on toward Oxford, trying to find that elusive bit of lift. I started to think we'd be landing out, especially when Mike asked me to set the radio for Chalgrove - thankfully the weakest of climbs nearby saved us and we were back on our way. Another strong climb near Oxford and our first leg was assured.

By the time we got to Dedington the cloudbase had lifted and the sun started shining. I took the controls and we followed Dave (918) toward St Neots, over Milton Keynes and Bedford. The skies continued to improve and I got a great introduction to "speed flying" – flying at high speeds, ignoring all but strongest thermals and hardly losing any height, I really started to appreciate the capabilities of the Duo Discus. As we turned St Neots we were able to increase the speed even more and seemed to return to Bicester in no time at all. Around Thame we started the final glide – over the ridge, gaining speed down the Hambleton Valley, then turning back north to arrive over the airfield at about 120kts was



an unforgettable part of the flight. I look forward to trying that in a Junior (just kidding, Mike!)

I'm sure that in one flight I learnt more about thermalling and cross-country techniques than I did in a whole summer of solo local flying. As I write this autumn has well and truly arrived but once the sun starts shining again I'll be the first in the queue to get another flight in 315 - an essential experience for anyone who'll be doing their first cross-country flying next year.

John Portwin

## Marketing update

### Seasonal gliding goodies

### Solve your Christmas problems and spread the word about gliding

Ask at the office for the following, available now or coming shortly:

**Greetings cards** featuring views of gliders in suitably seasonal settings

**Desk calendars** - a refill for the one you bought last year, or a complete outfit - brighten up your office and get your colleagues talking.



**Gift vouchers and 'wrapping'** - give the gift of flight this Christmas, and for a little extra buy a gift box containing a model glider, poster and other material, it looks so much better under the tree than an envelope.

Jane Moore

## Bronze lectures 2010

A reminder of those bronze lecture dates in January

- 9th January Theory of flight- *Bob Smith*
- 16th January Navigation and Notams- *Steve Williams*
- 23rd January Meteorology- *Alun Jenkins*
- 30th January Air Law, Airmanship, Radio and the Exam- *Jane Moore*

### **Insurance share wanted**

*I am a cadet looking to improve my cross country skills next year but am currently at school with limited funds so am interested in entering an insurance share to help this.*

*I am very careful with kit making sure it is always looked after with plenty of TLC and am open to any offers and any terms.*

**If you are interested, please contact Mike Gatfield on 01628 483237 or at [mikegat@btinternet.com](mailto:mikegat@btinternet.com)**

## 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-ubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bookergc_xc-ubscribe@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 ([william.parker5@btinternet.com](mailto:william.parker5@btinternet.com)).

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