



Olympics:  
Thame is on!  
14<sup>th</sup> July-15<sup>th</sup>  
August  
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# The Booker Newsletter

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**Merry Christmas to all our members, staff and friends**

## Fellow Booker Members,

First of all, a big thank you to all of you who have made the effort to turn out for recent events. The tidying up of the airfield, felling trees and shrubs on the overgrown perimeter, so ably led by Will Ellis, was a job well done thanks to an enthusiastic group of you joining in. It is symbolic of the club taking command of its own destiny. Our landlord has, for many years, been reluctant to meet the obligations of the head lease and sub leases and so, it is up to us to ensure that the environment in which we pursue our wonderful pastime is not allowed to deteriorate any further.

The consultation session on our plans for the Olympic Airspace restrictions, organised by Denis Campbell brought out another strong team of members. Your input was much appreciated. Denis Campbell, Doug Hilton and Graham Morfey have



worked hard on developing the plans to enable us to create an opportunity for Booker members to fly together throughout the period. It should be really good fun.

The awards evening saw another good group of stalwarts supporting the clubs activities and recognising those who had achieved milestones in their gliding throughout the year, be they first solos, silver Cs or fast five hundreds. Congratulations to all those who received awards. To all of you, who supported and participated, a big thank you and thanks to Sally Longstaff for taking on the task of organising the venue

Christmas approaches rapidly and as we look back on the year 2011 it was a watershed year for Booker Gliding Club. It was a year in which we saw the strengths of our diverse and wonderfully talented members united in a common cause. So many of you contributed, in so many ways, such that we overcame a seemingly insurmountable barrier. We emerged victorious and stronger than ever. We have built strong friendships with the local residents, who were fantastically supportive of our cause, and we helped to swing a local election to deliver a council that is willing to listen to the views of their electorate. We still have a few hurdles to jump but we are in good shape.

During the year we went exploring. Mike Collett led teams to Talgarth in wales, Serres in the French Alps and, of course, Aboyne in Scotland. A great time was had by all who participated, with perhaps a bit too much excitement in one instance! We are planning some more expeditions in the year ahead and I really encourage you to join in. Amongst all of this activity Mike Collett managed to find time to complete the qualifications that will enable him to become a commercial airline pilot. Well done Mike and thanks for all the good work on the expeditions.

Our Booker Gliding Club staff; Mike, Hilary, Shelagh, Richard, Sue, John N, John S, Paul and Robin, have all done a splendid job for us throughout the year, keeping the show on the road. A big thank you to them and to all of the members who contribute their time and effort, thank you.

On behalf of your committee I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a New Year filled with lots of fun, safe gliding.

See you at the launch point.

Geoff

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*So we come to the end(almost) of an eventful and successful year for the club. There's an impressive list of badge achievements and activities that range from Alpine soaring to beating back the undergrowth at the airfield.*

*Plus a summary of who has done what on the BGA ladder. Emily T updates us on what the club has been doing for cubs and scouts. Bob S updates the FOG lecture schedule. There's a request from Jim and pictures from the Awards Dinner at the Grouse and Ale. Happy Christmas.*

*William*

## From the CFI

As we fast approach the end of yet another year it's a great time to reflect on some of the achievements of the club over the last year. It's been somewhat of a trying year with the fight against the stadium overshadowing much but with an amazing amount of help and effort from your committee, various sub committees and you, the members, we fought it off with the support of the local community. However, this year we've also managed to achieve much on the flying side. To start with at the beginning of the year we had a successful expedition to the Black Mountains Gliding Club at Talgarth where club members had the chance to sample the Welsh mountains in close quarters. We also had our first expedition to the French Alps at Serre, which was, for most, their first taste of big mountain flying. More recently we had an incredibly busy Aboyne expedition, which is shown by the fact we are still on course for winning the National height gain ladder! I think the success of these three expeditions shows the willingness from our members to explore and extend their gliding horizons. We are already planning these trips again for next year so watch out on the notice board for developments.



Back at home we ran a successful Booker rules comp with lots of flying. Booker GC is lucky enough to have some very talented pilots in its midst and this was shown by good results in competitions and also on the BGA ladder. This year we also started our 5 day courses which ran through the summer months and very successful Bronze and Silver courses. The above contributed to us having a creditable 12 solo's this year and a further 5 Silver C's.

Another area where we've made superb progress is our PR with firstly the locals, with our summer BBQ, behind the scenes we've been working hard with RAF Benson to educate them about our needs and make them more friendly to deal with, the CAA and NATS working hard to ensure that our future airspace is protected and improved, the local youngsters with many trips by Scouts and Cubs to the club hopefully providing future members and finally working with local politicians and councillors in helping to secure a firm future for Booker GC . On top of these there are many other areas that are also being worked on.

Our maintenance team have been working relentlessly to provide us with the tugs and gliders to keep you in the air. Once again we will be offering our glider workshop facilities to members for annuals and ARC's so please book these with the office. Another area we've worked hard at this year is looking after our airfield and you will undoubtedly have seen a marked improvement. This is almost entirely due to the hard work of the forty or so members that turned out to help a number of weeks ago.

My thanks go to all the members that volunteer for roles within the club at a whole manner of levels that make Booker what it is, but please don't get complacent, as next year will pose a number of challenges or opportunities depending on how you look at it, that will need a good amount of effort from us all, but we will reek the benefit I'm sure. I'm sure I will be echoing the treasurer but we must keep our membership numbers growing so please bear this in mind and help persuade people on courses etc to continue to full members, this requires a small amount of effort with a huge reward.

Finally on a personal note my thanks go to Doug Hilton, , Bob Davey and Richard Crockett, Hilary and Shelagh and a very supportive committee that have helped me endlessly while I've been having a challenging year completing my commercial flight training.

Happy Christmas and New Year,  
Mike

## Members' Achievements in 2011

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b><u>1stSolo's</u></b><br>David Baker<br>Marc Selzer<br>Guy Trees<br>Sam Gervais<br>Matt Hocker<br>Peter Richards<br>James Giles<br>Nick Von Merveldt<br>Ali Elliot<br>Ben Followell<br>Stuart Whitehouse<br>Chris Matthews | <b><u>DiamondBadge</u></b><br>Nick Newton<br>Mike Collett  | <b><u>SilverC</u></b> John<br>Otty Graham<br>Morfev Robert<br>Turner Martin<br>Blanchard<br>Simon McCracken           |
|  | <b><u>Instructing</u></b><br>Will Ellis (BI)<br>Will Hilton (BI)<br>John Otty (BI)<br>Doug Hilton (MGIR) | <b><u>1<sup>st</sup>100k's</u></b> Sally<br>Longstaff John<br>Otty Robert<br>Turner Will<br>Hilton<br>Simon McCracken |
| <b><u>Re-Solo's</u></b><br>Craig Mitchell<br>Victor Day<br>Brian O' Sullivan<br>Rob Grant<br>Craig Cairns  | <b><u>BronzeBadge</u></b><br>John Lambie<br>Stuart Whitehouse<br>Phil Binnie<br>Jon Sudgen               | <b><u>GoldDistance</u></b><br>Oli Llewellyn   |
|  |  | <b><u>GoldHeight</u></b> Jim<br>White Jeremy<br>Gilbey Richard<br>Crockett  |

Apologies to those that might have been missed!

## Important message about cloud flying from the BGA

*Geoff T received this letter which contains an **urgent request** for all pilots to contribute to a EASA consultation by **23<sup>rd</sup> December**.*

Dear Chairman

You will be aware of the deluge of European regulation that the BGA is dealing with on behalf of its members. I'm sure you are aware that EASA licensing rules will impact on us from around 2015. On the whole, these look manageable.

However, we and our Nordic colleagues noticed quite early on that EASA had excluded sailplane cloud flying privileges from the EASA proposals. As such, we pushed hard to reinstate those privileges. EASA has responded and is currently consulting on the EASA sailplane cloud flying rating proposal within a wider consultation labelled as NPA 2011-16.

The BGA is comfortable with EASA's sailplane cloud flying proposal. However, we know that those out there - primarily with commercial interests in keeping gliding 'out of the way' - will be opposed to EASA's proposals. Therefore its VITAL that we obtain maximum support for the cloud flying proposal.

There is of course no safety case for opposing a sailplane cloud flying rating.

Please can I urge you to ensure that ALL your pilots receive a copy of the attached document and that you encourage them to respond as advised. The EASA consultation ends on 23rd December 2011.

This information is available on the BGA website at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/npl/2011-16Responseguidance30Nov11.pdf>

Thanks in anticipation.

Pete Stratten  
BGA

## Fundamentals Of Gliding (FOG) Update

### FOG Lecture Update.

After a great response from fellow Booker instructors, we now have eight, yes eight of these Fundamentals of Gliding lectures scheduled for the 09:30 Saturday morning slot over the winter period.

For December there are two lectures; on the 10th we have Jane Moore talking about ground handling and DIs, then some hands-on rope splicing practice. For the week after, Richard Crockett has prepared a talk on circuits and landings.

For the full schedule of lectures see the links on the members page of the web site.

<http://www.bookergliding.co.uk/members/BGC3459.html>

Whilst on the subject of the web site, we have now recovered from a technical hitch (eg I had forgotten the password) and the Google Events Diary is back up to date. I will update this page with links to various posters about club events etc as soon as I can, so if you want to know when that important club event starts, check the members page.

Making regular visits to the club website has the added advantage of raising the ranking of our site in Google.

### New Years Day flying.

The club will be open for flying on New Years Day. Come along and use your free launch (of course you WILL pay up your membership early to get the free launch), escape the festive madness and blow away the cobwebs. There is talk of a spot landing (and landing in a straight line) competition if we can find anyone who knows how to organise it! This will also be your opportunity to get your photo on the Blog with the first flight of 2012.

## Good news for Booker at the Olympics

The UK Government has made the delivery of a safe and secure *Olympic Games* a paramount objective. To achieve this extensive airspace restrictions and prohibitions are being introduced. Additional Temporary Controlled will further reduce airspace available for general aviation. For many General Aviation pilots this will mean severe curtailment of their flying activities.

The good news is that Booker Gliding Club sees this as an opportunity to do something different for our members and do more rather than less. For the period 14<sup>th</sup> July to the 15<sup>th</sup> August we will be moving our operation to Thame airfield. We have operated there very successfully in the past during Aero-Expo. The difference this time is that it will be for longer. We will be focusing on encouraging members to achieve their next step in gliding from first solo to first 500km (or 750km). We held a well-attended meeting in the Clubhouse on the 27<sup>th</sup> November and there was overwhelming support for the project from those present. Doug Hilton has been working closely with the Upward Bound Trust a great bunch who operate there mostly at weekends. Thame is an ideal site with only gliding taking place and free of airspace restrictions.

What we need now is your input. What would you like to achieve next summer? What courses would you like us to run? What can you do to help? We will have a further meeting in the New Year to consolidate ideas and suggestions and most importantly to set up a group to make it all happen. Perhaps we should award our own Gold Medals for achievement during the restrictions!

Denis

## BGC support for youth groups in 2011

Given that over the last few years there has been an increase in the youth element at the club I thought it was about time I provided the membership with a brief synopsis of what has been going on. Whilst I have been running with the 'youth' mantle the visits could not go ahead without support from other members to whom I am very grateful for their support; I will not attempt to name them all as I will only forget someone but it has really been a group effort. If you'd like more information please feel free to ask when you see me around the airfield.



This year we developed and ran a half day course for local junior school children which included classroom activities, such as a work book, paper aeroplane design, a lesson on the gliding simulator (condor) and basic teaching on how things fly. This went down so well, with all sessions being oversubscribed, that we hope to offer the course again in the future.

Recently we have had a visit from a group of Beavers from the 2nd Watlington Scout Group who all seemed to thoroughly enjoy their time and were kind enough to send us lovely hand drawn thank you cards, as well as more recently Henley Scouts. The Scouts were oversubscribed and so we may organise another visit in the spring for the other half of their group. There were a few exciting individuals who we may see at the airfield in due course and during both visits there were some very interested parents.

Over the past couple of years we have also seen our cadets progress exceedingly well with two becoming Basic Instructors (Mike Gatfield and Will Hilton), and many others going solo (too many to mention), winning our Easter Egg Cup Aerobatics trophy (Will Hilton-2010 and Siena Whiteside-2011), Guy Trees has also made great progress in aerobatics, winning a trophy at Lasham. The cadets have also generally been getting involved in club life - this was evident by the number of cadets who were at the club helping with our work party a few weeks weekend ago.



Emily Todd

## Annual Awards Bash at the Grouse & Ale

Around forty members and guests gathered at the Grouse & Ale on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> for the annual Booker GC Awards Dinner. The catering was really excellent and after dinner, presided over by Denis with a bit of help from Geoff and your newsletter editor, the evening proved to be an entertaining reminder of the years' 'interesting' episodes and a very impressive recognition of club members' achievements. Many thanks to Geoff who took on the role of photographer with his phone camera in difficult light conditions -see next page. Congratulations to Denis and Will Ellis who each scooped three trophies and to Mike C who netted two. And many thanks to Sally Longstaff who did so much of the work to make the event happen.

## Booker Gliding Club All Stars 2011

### **Brian Edwards Trophy (Student deemed to make the best progress)**

- Phil Binnie

### **Jim Coach trophy fastest 1<sup>st</sup> 100k**

- Sally Longstaff

### **Good show trophy most promising up and coming pilot**

- Oli Llewellyn

### **Best Cadet**

- Ben Followell

### **Kirtleside best out and return flight**

- Will Ellis

### **Thames Valley Trophy for the longest flight**

- Denis Campbell 509km

### **Aerobatic cup**

- Guy Trees

### **Challenge 300km cup**

- Jim White 105.3kph

### **Challenge 500km cup**

- Denis Campbell 90.5kph

### **Height Gain trophy**

- Will Ellis 19010ft

### **Knee Trembler trophy**

- John Herman **Best newsletter article** ○

Robert Turner

### **Harry Cook Trophy for the most demanding flight**

- Will Ellis

### **BGA ladder winner**

- Denis Campbell

### **Height ladder**

- Mike Collett

### **Weekend ladder**

- Shack Roberts

### **Fastest flight**

- Mike Collett

### **Silver C Certificates awarded to:**

John Otty Graham  
Morfe Robert  
Turner Martin  
Blanchard Simon  
McCracken

### **First Solo Certificates awarded to:**

Dave Baker  
Phil Binnee  
Marc Selzer  
Guy Trees  
Sam Gervais  
Matt Hocker  
Peter Richards  
James Giles  
Nick Von Merveldt  
Ali Elliot  
Ben Followell  
Chris Matthews



The Awards Dinner in Pictures.





## Ladder Corner December 2011

Well I guess it's definitely the end of the season now unless we get some inspirational ridge days. Have to ask Jim if he has booked any with her upstairs (*who she?--Ed.*). I'm sure he will let us know in good time!

I thought I would print the latest ladder output for you, but will also put copies on the notice board in the club house. Here is the open ladder and congratulations to Denis Campbell for another great performance.



|    |                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|----|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1  | Denis Campbell   | 3229 | 3116 | 2710 | 2707 | 2292 | 2252 |
| 2  | Jim White        | 3672 | 2654 | 2318 | 2224 | 2184 | 2160 |
| 3  | Shack Roberts    | 2675 | 2612 | 2611 | 2130 | 2128 | 2059 |
| 4  | Jon Gatfield     | 3030 | 2355 | 2352 | 2127 | 1797 | 1711 |
| 5  | Will Ellis       | 2900 | 2304 | 2085 | 1627 | 1173 | 988  |
| 6  | Mike Collett     | 2556 | 2346 | 1913 | 1490 | 1145 | 1131 |
| 7  | Nils Wedi        | 2502 | 1765 | 1644 | 1644 | 968  | 957  |
| 8  | David Caunt      | 2162 | 2031 | 1958 | 1285 | 999  | 956  |
| 9  | Oli Llewellyn    | 1696 | 1654 | 1613 | 1521 | 1199 | 1023 |
| 10 | William Parker   | 2045 | 1464 | 1288 | 1244 | 1208 | 1002 |
| 11 | Doug Hilton      | 2050 | 1967 | 1455 | 732  | 726  | 560  |
| 12 | Ben Crook        | 2120 | 1435 | 1155 | 1067 | 969  | 462  |
| 13 | Geoffrey Lyons   | 2082 | 1312 | 1000 | 995  | 929  | 775  |
| 14 | Mike Gatfield    | 1389 | 1222 | 1218 | 1087 | 870  | 716  |
| 15 | Stephen Williams | 1651 | 1116 | 1106 | 1062 | 655  | 621  |
| 16 | Alan Johnstone   | 1813 | 1774 | 1108 | 575  | 526  | 0    |
| 17 | Jim Pengelly     | 1987 | 1471 | 987  | 725  | 339  | 0    |
| 18 | Will Hilton      | 1466 | 749  | 638  | 561  | 0    | 0    |
| 19 | Jane Moore       | 915  | 710  | 427  | 427  | 233  | 220  |
| 20 | John Herman      | 1618 | 1042 | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| 21 | Robert Smith     | 1937 | 346  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| 22 | Phil Cumming     | 1332 | 847  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| 23 | Glen Alison      | 1218 | 552  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| 24 | Jeremy Gilbey    | 577  | 503  | 482  | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| 25 | Simon McCracken  | 580  | 413  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| 26 | Calum            | 659  | 276  | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |

|           |                            |     |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>27</b> | Clark<br>David             | 814 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <b>28</b> | Hamilton<br>Robert         | 703 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <b>29</b> | Turner<br>Adrian<br>Hegner | 531 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

The distance ladder is reproduced below. Well done Jim for your great commitment to getting out there and flying and also for the weather forecasts which help to inspire the rest of us.

|              |                     |                |            |              |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>1</b>     | Jim White           | <b>5413.5</b>  | 25         | 216.5        |
| <b>2</b>     | Denis Campbell      | <b>3990.1</b>  | 14         | 285.0        |
| <b>3</b>     | Jon Gatfield        | <b>3009.9</b>  | 12         | 250.8        |
| <b>4</b>     | Shack Roberts       | <b>2428.5</b>  | 8          | 303.6        |
| <b>5</b>     | David Caunt         | <b>2172.8</b>  | 11         | 197.5        |
| <b>6</b>     | Mike Collett        | <b>2166.0</b>  | 11         | 196.9        |
| <b>7</b>     | William Parker      | <b>1833.0</b>  | 10         | 183.3        |
| <b>8</b>     | Oli Llewellyn       | <b>1619.2</b>  | 7          | 231.3        |
| <b>9</b>     | Will Ellis          | <b>1482.2</b>  | 7          | 211.7        |
| <b>10</b>    | Geoffrey Lyons      | <b>1427.7</b>  | 7          | 204.0        |
| <b>11</b>    | Nils Wedi           | <b>1289.8</b>  | 6          | 215.0        |
| <b>12</b>    | Mike Gatfield       | <b>1270.8</b>  | 8          | 158.9        |
| <b>13</b>    | Stephen<br>Williams | <b>1245.5</b>  | 8          | 155.7        |
| <b>14</b>    | Doug Hilton         | <b>1210.8</b>  | 6          | 201.8        |
| <b>15</b>    | Ben Crook           | <b>1201.6</b>  | 7          | 171.7        |
| <b>16</b>    | Alan Johnstone      | <b>1072.5</b>  | 5          | 214.5        |
| <b>17</b>    | Jim Pengelly        | <b>865.2</b>   | 5          | 173.0        |
| <b>18</b>    | Jane Moore          | <b>647.2</b>   | 6          | 107.9        |
| <b>19</b>    | Will Hilton         | <b>646.9</b>   | 4          | 161.7        |
| <b>20</b>    | John Herman         | <b>552.4</b>   | 2          | 276.2        |
| <b>21</b>    | Robert Smith        | <b>406.2</b>   | 2          | 203.1        |
| <b>22</b>    | Phil Cumming        | <b>344.0</b>   | 2          | 172.0        |
| <b>23</b>    | Jeremy Gilbey       | <b>318.6</b>   | 3          | 106.2        |
| <b>24</b>    | Glen Alison         | <b>290.6</b>   | 2          | 145.3        |
| <b>25</b>    | Simon<br>McCracken  | <b>246.6</b>   | 2          | 123.3        |
| <b>26</b>    | Adrian Hegner       | <b>195.3</b>   | 1          | 195.3        |
| <b>27</b>    | Calum Clark         | <b>180.2</b>   | 2          | 90.1         |
| <b>28</b>    | David Hamilton      | <b>160.1</b>   | 1          | 160.1        |
| <b>29</b>    | Robert Turner       | <b>116.0</b>   | 1          | 116.0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                     | <b>37803.2</b> | <b>185</b> | <b>204.3</b> |

And we mustn't forget the Wooden ladder where Will Ellis put up a great performance in his KA 6E including a flight of over 300Km as well as a great height performance at Aboyne (19010 ft).

| Pilot              | Club                       | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | Total        |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| 1 Adrian Emck      | Lasham                     | 3063 | 2989 | 2893 | 2745 | 2634 | 2498 | <b>16822</b> |
| 2 Will Ellis       | Booker GC                  | 2900 | 2304 | 2085 | 1627 | 162  | 0    | <b>9078</b>  |
| 3 Ray Whittaker    | Lasham                     | 1986 | 1574 | 1297 | 1295 | 1222 | 932  | <b>8306</b>  |
| 4 Ric Foreshew     | Southdown GC               | 2093 | 1302 | 1141 | 1058 | 0    | 0    | <b>5594</b>  |
| 5 Timothy Fletcher | Bath, Wilts & N. Dorset GC | 2682 | 1802 | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | <b>4484</b>  |

To date 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2011 based on the ladder figures a recorded 921,171.1 Km has been flown in the UK this year. Last year 1,112,149.8 Km was flown. I know that illness and injury inhibited some this year, but I am sure that if everyone put their flights on we could have been over the million again.

So next year let's go for a new record and please remember to put your flights up.

JeremyGilbey

## One man went to mow...

Recently Jim White brought his tractor mower over to Booker to tackle the brambles and undergrowth on the threshold to 06. The result will make the 06 launchpoint a whole lot easier for gridding and parking. The club owes Jim a big thank you for that effort on a b\*\*\*\*y freezing day. To help keep the boundary area clear and to make it easy to maintain Jim sent the following.....

*'Last weekend I spent a day mowing down the long grass in the glider park, around the peri track and on the 06 threshold including quite a lot of the brambles over there. The latter was made possible by the sterling efforts of Will and all the members who cleared the trees and rubbish earlier in the month. We should be able to make much better use of the margins over that side next year.*

*I expect I will be back again sometime so have a plea. Please do not chuck rocks, bricks, or breeze blocks on the grassy area behind the glider park. I hit several with the cutter as I cannot see them in the long grass, please chuck them right up on the berm, or leave them in a big visible pile. Also if you mow the grass around your trailer, I would be grateful if you would also carry the cuttings all the way off the field. The tractor is quite powerful but struggled with heaps of cuttings left in the long grass. Next time, if we can burn or move more of the tree fellings, I may be able to fight the brambles back some more.'* 🙏

## Last Word: give a flight for Christmas

Stuck for a present? Why not give a Trial Lesson? At £55 (special price for members) this is a real bargain. Just call the club and speak to Shelagh or Hilary.

## New Prices for 2011

Last year the committee decided to freeze prices and there was no increase in either subscriptions or facility fees. At the same time there was a stringent culling of costs. All staff wages were frozen, we closed for two days every week in the winter and our flying staff were reduced during the summer. Numerous other savings were achieved in our expenditure. Despite an indifferent summer and a significant fall in our Trial Lessons and Course sales we have managed to achieve a break even in revenue cash flow. This was due to the work of all members but especially the staff who ensured that our flying income was maintained.

In the last twelve months the Retail Price Index has been running at 5%pa and as you will be aware from your household expenditure, many items have risen at a faster rate. Your committee has a responsibility to ensure that the club remains viable and that means that at a minimum, it must breakeven each year. In order to ensure that this happens we will continue to maintain our tight control on costs but we have no alternative but to increase prices to compensate for the costs that are hitting us. We have therefore decided to increase all charges by 5% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January although the subscription increase will only take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

In the past a number of members have helped the club by paying their subscription early and this enables the club to avoid overdraft fees during the lean months at the beginning of the year. We hope that members will continue to do this and as a "thank you" we will provide a free launch (2,000ft) to every full flying member who pays in full before 1<sup>st</sup> January.

For those members who do not wish to pay a lump sum we are introducing a new system of payment so that subscriptions can be spread over twelve months .

You will also see that we have altered the charging parameters for launches, this means that if you pull off at 1,800 ft instead of 2,000 you will be paying less than last year.

A summary of the principal price changes is set out below, whilst the full list may be obtained from the office.

|                                      | <u>Current</u> | <u>New charge</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|                                      | £              | £                 |
| Full membership                      | 615            | 645               |
| Full membership(6 monthly payments)  | 102.50         | 108               |
| Full membership(12 monthly payments) |                | 55                |
| Associate                            | 65             | 69                |
| Country                              | 330            | 350               |
| Student & Junior                     | 100            | 105               |
| Facility fee                         | 295            | 310               |
| SLMG                                 | 970            | 1020              |

|               |          |       |
|---------------|----------|-------|
| Soaring – K13 | 25.20 ph | 26.40 |
| - K21         | 25.20    | 28.80 |
| - K18, Junior | 27.60    | 28.80 |
| - Pegasus     | 33.60    | 35.04 |
| - Duo         | 37.50    | 39.60 |

All soaring (excluding expeditions) maximum charge is 3 hours

|                     |      |       |
|---------------------|------|-------|
| Launch- Fixed       | 9.50 | 10.50 |
| Plus Fuel surcharge | 5.00 | 2.00  |
| Plus per 100 ft.    | 1.00 | 1.20  |

Graham Morfey

## 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 *includeyourmembershipnumberwhenapplying*.

**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 *includeyourmembershipnumberwhenapplying*.

**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](mailto:bookergc_xc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and *includeyourmembershipnumberwhenapplying*.

**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 *includeyourmembershipnumberwhenapplying*.

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 *includeyourmembershipnumber*.

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**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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