



Who won the club ladder in 2013? See P 7

The Booker Newsletter

Stay current – buy a season ticket –see page 3



Many sherries and whiskies later ... over Lapland

Happy Christmas to all our members, staff and friends

<p><i>From the Chairman</i> <i>From the DCFI</i> <i>Stay Current with a Season Ticket</i> <i>Dates for your diary</i> <i>Booker's Latest Lottery Grant win</i> <i>HCGP update</i> <i>Trail Lessons for Christmas Presents</i> <i>Booker's stand at the Flying Show</i> <i>Ladder corner results for 2013</i> <i>Jerry's Early Days Collection</i></p>	<p><i>We have a jingle bells December issue to wrap up the year. Geoff and Richard look back at some highlights for 2013, there are dates for the Bronze lectures in 2014, Jane reports on a successful marketing trip to the NEC, there are details of our latest Lottery Grant win (for Flarm) and Jerry has a rummage in the attic. Finally Jeremy rounds up who did what on the National Latter this year. Special thanks to all who keep the articles coming, and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year</i> <i><u>William</u></i></p>
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From the Chairman

Dear Fellow Booker members,

It is that time, again, gliders tucked up for the winter and time to reflect on the year that has passed. For the club it has been an eventful year with a mix of fortunes but some superb gliding along the way. Expeditions to Talgarth, Le Blanc and Aboyne, with a good deal of sunny weather at home.

We saw the introduction of the world's first handicapped grand prix racing, some financial backing from Sport England, lots of cross country and aerobatic flying and some new members welcomed to the fold.

The New Year will see further improvements to the handicapped grand prix racing developed by our very own Tim Scott now ably assisted by Jim White. Several other clubs are adopting it and the BGA are expressing interest too. Of course the objective is to enable everyone to join in and have fun irrespective of their glider's performance. That is what the club is all about too, enabling pilots, of all abilities and interests, to get the most out of this wonderful sport.

The New Year will also see the introduction of Graham Saw's wonderfully conceived simulator which ingeniously provides feedback in control forces, just like the real thing. We will also be trying one or two new destinations for the famous Booker expeditions, giving members, of all abilities, the chance to fly over and explore new scenery. You will all, doubtless, be in various stages of securing your new EASA licences. Whilst we were fearful that this would be an onerous task, it has been proven that, with Richard Crockett's help and guidance, it is in fact quite easy. It is heartening to read about the government's initiative with the CAA, to reduce red tape and their appointment of a team to administer GA driven by Grant Schapps, Minister without Portfolio, who is a keen GA pilot himself. We can be grateful that the BGA have been working hard, on our behalf, to represent the views and needs of gliding. In all, it was a good year with a few challenges successfully overcome. We have lots to look forward to in 2014. I want to thank all of you, who do so much to make Booker Gliding Club such an enduring success, and wish each and every one of you, and your families, a peaceful Christmas and a New Year filled with lots of safe and enjoyable flying. Just remember, "God will not deduct, from man's allotted time on earth, time spent flying!"

Happy Christmas everyone.

See you at the launch point.

Geoff



From the CFI

What a fantastic year 2013 has been!

As Graham reported last month the launch rate is up, membership is up and course sales are up. As if that wasn't good enough we've received almost £70,000 in two separate grants to improve what are already excellent facilities, the first to revamp our blister hanger and build a trailer for the simulator and the second to fit FLARM to all our tugs and two seat gliders.



This incredible success is testament to the hard work put in by each and every one of you.

So here's to those of you that keep coming to the airfield time after time to take launches, those who keep our kit airworthy, those who teach us to fly, those who manage the club on a day to day basis, and those who go that extra mile to make Booker Gliding Club the special place that it is. Who knows what's in store for us in 2014 and what we can achieve!

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Richard

Stay current – buy a Season Ticket

The STAY CURRENT Season Ticket offers members a package of discounted launches as an aid to keeping current over the winter. The scheme applies to all club gliders except the Duo Discus 315. The ticket entitles you to:

- 10 launches to 2000ft
- free soaring
- tows above 2000ft charged at £1.10 per 100ft

For two seater flying, the ticket may only be used by P1 or for check flights, not for regular instruction.

Tickets are valid from 1 October 2013 to 28 February 2014. Launches not taken by 28 February will be forfeited and the balance outstanding will be a contribution to club funds. The ticket is non-transferable.

All this for the **bargain price** of **£295**, payable in cash or by debit card only.

Dates for your Diary

Bronze Lectures:

These take place on Saturday mornings starting promptly at 10.00 am in the clubhouse briefing room.

4th January 2014 – Navigation by Steve Williams

11th January 2014 – Principles of Flight by Symeon Economou

18th January 2014 – Human Factors by William Parker

25th January 2014 - Meteorology by Jane Moore

22nd February 2014 – Radio Telephony by Ashley Birkbeck

8th March 2014 - Air Law & ATC Procedures by Wayne Aspland

15th March 2014 – Operational Procedures by Michael Gatfield

These are confirmed dates. Watch the notice board in the clubhouse and the website diary for dates for the remaining lectures

Other subjects which will be covered in February and March include:

- Flight Performance and Planning
- Aircraft General Knowledge

Expeditions:

Talgarth 29th March -- 4th April . Places are limited so get your name down now on the list in the clubhouse.

Richard Crockett

Booker gliding club wins £9,892 Sport England lottery grant



Improved flight safety and better cross-country training

The funding will be used to fit Flarm collision avoidance units in our tugs and two-seater training gliders. Booker operates at a 'pinch point' between controlled airspace sectors, with large amounts of transit traffic squeezed together. Fitting Flarm in club gliders and tugs will improve flight safety for local flying and in the circuit.

The British Gliding Association (BGA) syllabus lays great emphasis on safety, and the first item on the syllabus is the importance of a good lookout. The BGA supports the use of Flarm units, in addition to effective lookout, for providing warnings of nearby aircraft.

Flarm can also be used tactically in competitions and on cross-country flights, so it is ideal for training students in cross-country flying using lead and follow.

In the club's Press Release for this great news Denis Campbell said, *'We are delighted by this opportunity to improve flight safety and enhance our cross-country training programme. The fitting of this equipment demonstrates our ongoing commitment to minimising risk. The club has an active cadet scheme, some graduates of which have gone on to become airline pilots, and we hope that this initiative will reassure parents of younger pilots as well as benefiting members, visitors and other airfield users'*.

HCGP Update and a request

We now have a commitment from the BGA comps committee to allow HCGP tasks for regional competition for 2014. Naviter (SeeYou) are helping with the development of the scoring system in conjunction with Jim White. I'm behind Jim in developing my code which is used to check the output of his.

The upshot of all this is that the tasks should be available for rated competitions and fun use next summer. There seems to be growing support for the task at clubs other than Booker. Bidford have stated they will run a comp based on them with or without approval !

Anyone who thinks they can lend a hand let us know. I would like there to be an Android and iPhone version of the task setting program so that we can all have it on our phones out at the launchpoint for resetting tasks without a mad dash back to the club house. (Or maybe a cheap windows laptop on the bus?)

Tim Scott

Father Christmas is loading his sled.....

.....will there be Booker gifts in his sacks? If you're stuck for gift ideas, why not give them a glider flight? It beats socks and scented candles for excitement by a long way and will give you an excuse to come to the airfield while the lucky recipient takes to the air.

Jane Moore

Booker at the NEC

On the first weekend of December, while others may have been starting on their festive preparations, the Sales and Marketing team were at the NEC in Birmingham, at the Flying Show, jointly organised by the British Microlight Aircraft Association and Flyer magazine. There were plenty of improbably looking flying machines on display, and a sensible section promoting gliding. The BGA had brought along their sim, which did brisk trade, and HusBos had a Discus. We set up our usual stand alongside Camphill, Aston Down and Buckminster, and were kept busy explaining how a bit of gliding experience would enhance the skills of power pilots. Of particular interest was the idea of practising spinning in a glider, since the PPL course does not cover this.



Birmingham might seem to be outside our 'catchment' area, but visitors had come from far and wide, including places local to Booker (Henley, Wallingford, White Waltham for example), so it was worth the trek.



The BGA promote gliding with this shot of a pilot waving to the crowd from the cockpit of his 'Der Teufel'. The pilot is of course our own aerosmeister Graham!

Many thanks to Chris Collett, who drove up on Friday to set everything up, and then went back for the show on Saturday and Sunday, also to Hugh MacDonald and Hedda Coture. Hugh commented, 'I enjoyed the event. It's interesting talking with pilots who have a PPL and even more so with the general public about flying and their misconceptions.'

Jane Moore



Ladder Corner December 2013

Well I guess it's definitely the end of the season now unless we get some more inspirational ridge days. I thought I would print the latest ladder output for you, but will also put copies on the notice board in the club house.

Only the top 6 flights for each pilot count when calculating points on the ladder. Here is the open ladder and congratulations to again to Will Ellis who heads it.

Totals

	Will Ellis	4844	4061	3892	3537	3442	2718	22494
1								
2	Denis Campbell	4224	2863	2641	2252	2155	2005	16140
3	Jim White	3933	2581	2501	2494	2224	1930	15663
4	Mike Gatfield	2929	2284	2141	1861	1722	1671	12608
5	Geoffrey Lyons	2387	2107	1863	1829	1808	1453	11447
6	Robert Smith	1927	1892	1620	1469	1220	1188	9316
7	John Otty	1393	1365	1244	1113	975	609	6699
8	Jane Moore	1821	1531	815	723	403	0	5293
9	Stephen Williams	993	989	877	849	805	708	5221
10	Doug Hilton	1489	1187	1172	773	0	0	4621
11	Mike Collett	1945	1350	1290	0	0	0	4585
12	William Parker	1933	1692	934	0	0	0	4559
13	Jeremy Gilbey	1266	1081	861	266	0	0	3474
14	Jon Sugden	1298	781	392	260	0	0	2731
15	Robert Turner	748	634	0	0	0	0	1382
16	Alan Johnstone	1163	0	0	0	0	0	1163
17	Richard Crockett	643	0	0	0	0	0	643

The distance ladder is reproduced below. It should be noted that if these distances had been handicapped Will would also have headed this ladder.

Pilot	distance flown km	flights	Avg kms
1 Jim White	5723.2	25	228.9
2 Will Ellis	4742.0	18	263.4
3 Denis Campbell	4105.1	15	273.7
4 Geoffrey Lyons	3436.6	19	180.9
5 Mike Gatfield	2477.4	11	225.2
6 Robert Smith	1783.5	9	198.2
7 John Otty	1267.1	7	181.0
8 Stephen Williams	1258.7	9	139.9
9 Jane Moore	780.2	5	156.0
10 Mike Collett	738.7	3	246.2
11 William Parker	721.8	3	240.6
12 Jeremy Gilbey	631.1	4	157.8
13 Doug Hilton	618.8	4	154.7
14 Jon Sugden	481.8	4	120.4
15 Alan Johnstone	388.4	1	388.4
16 Jake Brattle	377.4	3	125.8
17 Robert Turner	243.8	2	121.9
18 Richard Crockett	136.2	1	136.2

And we mustn't forget the UK Wooden ladder where Will Ellis put up a great performance in his KA 6E.

1 Will Ellis	Booker GC	4844	4061	3892	3537	3442	2718	22494
2 Adrian Emck	Lasham	4338	3638	3206	2995	2799	2777	19753
3 Krzysztof Kreis	Oxford GC	2448	2048	1731	1720	1685	1643	11275
4 Paul Gentil	Cotswold GC	2426	2297	2166	1663	1393	1220	11165

To date (4th Dec 2013), based on the ladder figures, a recorded 1,242,233.9 kms were flown in the UK over 5168 flights with an average distance of 240.4 kms

Last year (2012) 810,183 km were flown in the UK and in 2011: 921,171.1 km.

At Booker we flew 29,911.8 kms over 143 flights with an average distance of 209.2 kms this year compared with 24,151 Km last year and 37,803 km in 2011.

This is not an accurate representation of our flights as because of the handicap system we have been using this year some flights have been recorded on the OLC rather than the BGA ladder.

To date I have been unable to print off the results for the OLC ladder but they can be found at <http://www.onlinecontest.org/olc-2.0/gliding/champion.html?st=olc&rt=olc&sp=2013&c=C0&sc=&cc=30888,1108&filter>

Dennis Campbell was our highest scored with Jim second followed by Geof Lyons, Bob Smith and Will Ellis.

Hopefully next year we will be able to put all our results on the same ladder.

Jeremy Gilbey

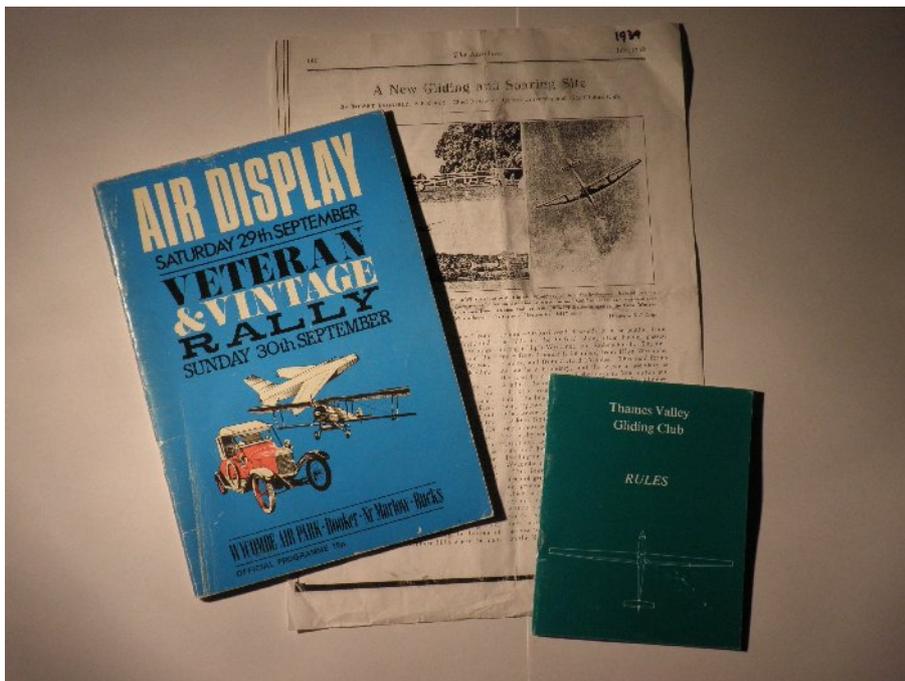
Jerry's early days collection

As just about everybody must know Jerry Leech is one of the longest serving members of Booker Gliding Club, having been a member since it was Thames Valley Flying Club, and having recently given up active flying. Clearing out his gliding files he came across a collection of newsletters, airshow programmes, newspaper articles about gliding, competition rules from the 1970's and much more. Such as a 1979 club newsletter, edited by Jerry, which takes a typically robust line with the readership – 'Perhaps' he wrote 'We should re-name the newsletter 'Opinion' and use it to inflict opinions on any willing reader, instead of the limited audience in our immediate vicinity in the clubhouse.' He is placing these materials on the clubhouse table in a file for all to read. It's interesting to see how much has changed and how much hasn't.



For instance there's a newspaper article by Robert Cronfeld that identifies a gliding site (a licensed airfield) that once existed at the foot of the M40 cutting just north of Lewknor.

There's a delightful article in praise of gliding by Amy Johnson. And although Wycombe Air Park has hosted Air Expo in recent years it pales into insignificance with airshows that took place at Booker in the early seventies. In 1973 one of these shows featured 40 different aircraft types including Concorde, Lightning, Vulcan, Spitfire, Lancaster, Swordfish and Meteor. In addition there was a motor rally on the airfield with 779 entries including Mr. D.V. Steynor riding a 1929 James



Motorcycle Super Sports. Quite an event. A 1970s competition handbook reminds us that in those days our racing predecessors jostled through a start gate just 1 km wide at the Booker Regionals. It's interesting to note too that in advice to competition task planners the mean speeds achieved by Nationals pilots in their Kestrels, Jantars and ASW17s was expected to be 60 kph. Altogether it's a good read and many thanks to Jerry. One thing though –if you come across the words 'incipient spin', just don't even ask.

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

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