



**Jim's new
weather
lecture:
16 Feb**

The Booker Newsletter

Using 112 on your mobile phone in an emergency. See Page 5

AGM – 23 February. It's your club! Be there if you possibly can.

*From the Chairman
From the CFI
From the DCFI
Jim White's Wx forecasting lecture
Dates for your diary
Easter Egg Comp
Using 112 on your mobile for emergencies*

I'm sure everyone will want to join us in congratulating Richard on his appointment as CFI. His first CFI letter is on the next page. Doug gives us a useful reminder about maximizing the learning value of every flight and Jim White will be sharing his weather forecasting secrets with us on Saturday 16th. This issue also has a great tip from Glen Alison.

William

From the Chairman

Dear Fellow Booker Members,

The 2013 gliding season is approaching rapidly and, if the last few seasons are anything to go by, it will arrive soon. You might have noticed that, whilst the standard of glider fleet maintenance has improved, the battle to have the right fleet gliders available in a timely fashion has begun to elude the present arrangements. For the motor glider we have been dependant, up to now, on the good offices of Dave Byass. Dave's work commitments combined with the flooding of his house recently have slowed things up a bit, but we have now been given the go ahead from the BGA to have more of our inspectors certified for Motor Gliders. This will enable us to bring forward the ARC and the annual on WT so that it has less down time.



Similarly, we have been relying upon Robin Willgoss for the gliding fleet but it is clear now that more resources need to be applied. Rob Turner will be working with qualified inspectors within the club to ensure that we fill the gap caused by the sale of the BBC owned K21 and the delayed emergence of KLA.

Last week we announced the appointment of Richard Crockett to the position of CFI. Booker is very different from most gliding clubs and it is this very difference that we seek to preserve. We are a club with no rules, which means that each of us is expected to apply principles of

good airmanship and common sense to our flying. This means that our CFI does not have to spend time acting as a policeman but becomes more of a champion of flying development. The committee have been impressed by the energy and enthusiasm that Richard has brought and we are pleased to be able to develop a CFI from within the club in tune with our culture. It is a big challenge for anyone, but we know that Booker members will give Richard help and support in just the same way as when Mike Collett began.

We all wish Mike lots of continued success in his commercial flying career and extend a huge vote of thanks for his immense contribution to the continued success of the club. Whilst Mike is away a lot, we are looking forward to him showing us what a Ventus2 can do, on his days off, now that he does not have the rest of us to worry about.

It has been good to see the turnout for the recent Bronze Lectures and also the recent Goal Setting session run by Tim Scott and Denis Campbell. It gave all of us present some good pointers on the benefits of setting meaningful goals. We are planning to ask Tim to follow up with a session on Sports Psychology, which is something Tim has studied and put to good use.

Please don't forget that the AGM is on the 23rd of this month. We would like to see all of you there and to hear your input. As we have done the last few years, refreshments will be provided afterwards and it will be an opportunity for further discussion.

See you there and see you at the launch point.

Geoff

From the CFI

I'd like to start this, my first letter 'From the CFI', by saying how deeply honoured I am to have been asked to be your new Chief Flying Instructor.

I am extremely proud that the committee has placed its faith in me to help take Booker forwards into the future. I intend to strive to continue Mike Collett's excellent work. Mike has been a most helpful tutor to me over the past few years and I would personally like to thank him for all that he has done. It was Mike that first introduced me to Booker and for that I thank him enormously. He has guided this club through some extremely difficult and testing times and words cannot express how proud I am that he has passed the role onto me.

Of course, the role of the CFI is only a small part in the leadership of Booker Gliding Club. We are extremely lucky to have a committee who work tirelessly to ensure that our club grows and develops and has a secure future. Booker is one of the UK's premier gliding clubs and we should all be very proud to be part of such an institution.

Like many others, I am very excited about 2013. We have some very exciting events coming up, in particular our expeditions to Talgarth, Le Blanc and Aboyne. Also not forgetting Tim Scott's excellent Handicapped Grand Prix, which we shall be running every weekend during the summer months. Booker is a famous cross county club and I hope this new initiative will see even more of you enjoying new cross country experiences and developing your skills as soaring pilots.

Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement and let's all look forward to a great year ahead.

Richard

From the DCFI

Even though the days are getting longer the prospect of better soaring weather still seems a far and distant vision. The national news reports only seem to focus on widespread flooding and the weather forecasts are for yet more rain, snow and gale force winds but in spite of all this, it is great to see so many of you coming up to the airfield and flying whenever you can – please keep it up. I hope by next month's newsletter that there will be some notable flights to look back on as February often brings exceptional soaring conditions.

Don't miss out on the chance to attend the last few Bronze C lectures on Saturday mornings, whilst they are aimed at members planning to do their Bronze C this coming season, they provide a useful reminder to some of us who did it a while back - definitely well worth attending and with the prospect of flying after the lectures have finished.

I recently flew with an experienced pilot who wanted a 'check ride' as he hadn't flown for a couple of weeks – commendable on his part and good practice all round. As we were strapping in, he made the comment "*that it is only going to be a toboggan ride*" based on his assessment of the weather at the time. This was my cue to give him a launch failure low down (not out of cussedness!) but as a way of him getting as much out of the flight as possible and ensuring he would be able to handle the situation which may happen at any time. I am happy to report that he handled the 'failure' very well and his earlier training all fell into place – on our subsequent flight to 2,000 feet he then made every effort to work each and every bit of scrappy and weak lift to maximise the flight duration – you may ask why am I recounting this? I am using example of these flights to highlight the fact that we can use every flight (dual or solo) to further develop our skills and make ourselves better pilots and not be complacent with our performance. Ultimately it may make the difference to how long we soar for (or whether we get back or not), the successful conclusion of a flight – all of which should lead to us enjoying what we do more because at the end of the day we do this for pleasure.

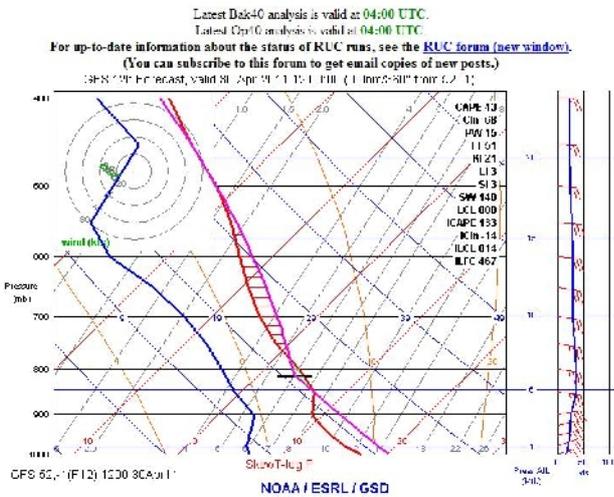
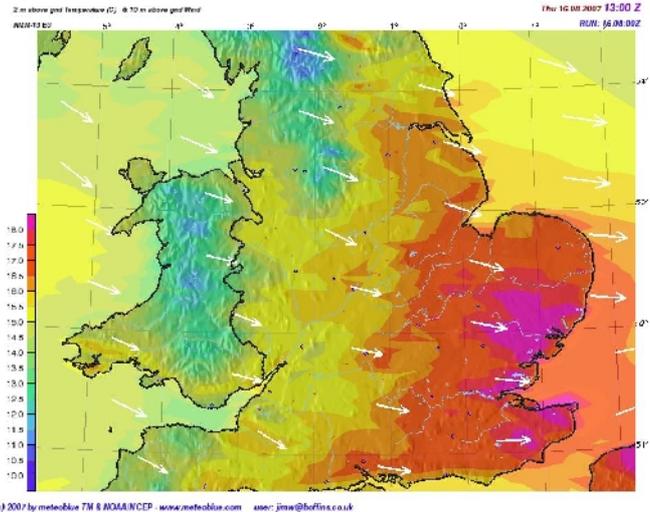
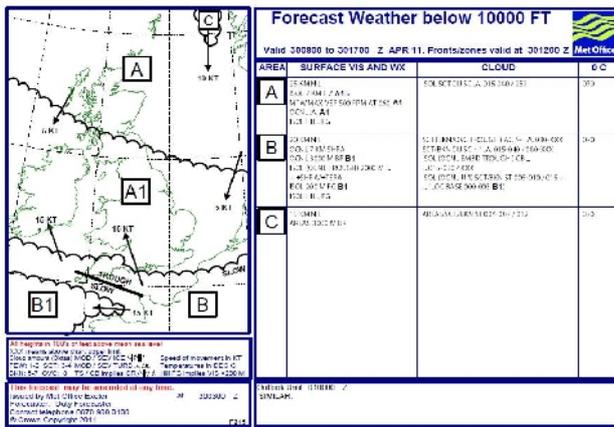
One final note (again !!), the airfield remains very wet and the ground is extremely soft (there are a number of particularly boggy areas near the 24 launch point that should be avoided) – thank you all for your efforts in trying to keep the surface as pot hole and rut free as possible by not turning gliders on the spot and washing the gliders and tugs before they get put away, please keep up the sterling work.

See you at the launch point.
Safe flying.
Doug

Jim White on weather forecasting

Come to Jim White's new Weather Lecture – **Saturday 16th February at 10.00 am**

If you would like to understand any of the indispensable forecasting tools (see below) come to Jim's lecture. He'll be covering Tephigrams, Met Office 215s, Rasp and Metars and much more. There's considerable skill involved in reading the information they provide and building a picture of the weather and expected soaring conditions and Jim will explain how it's done.



Low cost motorgliding still available!

Don't forget that until 31st March the motor glider (WT) will be available at only £70 per Hobbs hour (A saving of £20 per hour).

We now have four instructors for WT (Mike Collett, Richard Crockett, Mike Richardson, Steve Williams) so it is easy for you to arrange instruction.

Graham Morfey

Dates for your Diary

Bronze Courses: 8th-12th April & 16th-20th September

Task Weeks / Silver Courses: 20th-24th May & 26th-30th August

Get Your Solo Courses: 22nd-26th April & 22nd-26th August

Expeditions: Talgarth 16th-24th March & Le Blanc 1st-16th June

New Weather Lecture: **Saturday 16th Feb.** 10.00 am Jim White on Reading the Weather Runes for XC flying.

Booker on Facebook

Remember Booker is now on Facebook . Have a look at:

www.facebook.com/bookerglidingclub.

Post your news and photos there –it all helps to promote the club and its activities.



Easter Egg Comp Reminder

This year the renowned Booker Easter Egg Aerobatics comp will be held, weather permitting, on Saturday 30th March. Weather not permitting it could be moved forward to the Sunday or Bank Holiday Monday. If you would like to do some aerobatics training turn up on a Saturday and have a word with Graham, Alun Jenkins or Emily Todd

Emergency help from your mobile phone on 112

Glen Alison sent the Newsletter this useful description of how to use a mobile phone in an emergency. There's a neat video which shows how the 112 number works and explains why it will get through when other calls fail. You can see it at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPZv_8dABfU

In a nutshell, **112** is a universal emergency services number that will work throughout the EU, USA, Canada and Australia. It works because it will roam for *any* network available and over-rides network busy conditions. If you came across an unconscious person with a password protected phone it will by-pass that too. 112 will work on pay as you go phones that have run out of credit. With some of the latest phones it will work even if there is no sim card installed. The video shows how to text on 112 for which you have to register. Sounds like a really useful emergency back up.

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
Registered office address: Wycombe Air Park, Booker, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3DP
VAT number: 350 4182 83

©Booker Gliding Club 2013