

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

February
2021

Keep up to
date with the
Booker
Whatsapp
group

The club is closed during the lockdown



Members meeting: 10am Saturday 20th February

CONTENTS

<i>page 2</i>	<i>CFI's update</i>
<i>page 2</i>	<i>New Year, new lockdown – but plenty going on</i>
<i>page 3</i>	<i>Booker Red Kite Regionals – 10th – 18th July – enter now</i>
<i>page 4</i>	<i>Cross-country with Condor</i>
<i>page 5</i>	<i>The Chairman's view</i>
<i>page 6</i>	<i>Expeditions 2021</i>
<i>page 6</i>	<i>Update your flarm</i>
<i>page 7</i>	<i>Electronic conspicuity – funding available</i>
<i>page 8</i>	<i>Droning on</i>
<i>page 10</i>	<i>Cartoon!!</i>
<i>page 11</i>	<i>Robert Harris – 1936 - 2021</i>
<i>page 11</i>	<i>Dates for your diary</i>



CFI's update

It's always a great shame to sit down to write my newsletter article with the knowledge that the club hasn't done any flying since I last put pen to paper. It's for sure been a tough winter in so many respects, however, that hasn't dwindled our enthusiasm for gliding.



Although the hangar doors have remained firmly shut, we've been super busy producing and delivering some fantastic online content with everything from racing on Condor flight simulator, right through to a series of lectures explaining the finer points of the BGA progress card.

We're so lucky at Booker to have large number of enthusiastic members, keen to deliver lectures and learn new skills and I find it incredibly refreshing to see so many of you joining in every day.

As it stands, we have some kind of online activity every single day of the week, usually starting with the daily weather and news briefing in the morning, and then either a lecture or simulator flying in the evening.

There are so many clubs up and down the country who have simply closed their doors and are waiting for flying to return and I'm so happy to say that Booker is one of the few clubs in the UK to be delivering the kind of online activities that we are.

That activity is not down to me, it's down to you, the members. I therefore end this month by thanking you all for your tremendous and on-going support and to reiterate my point that I cannot wait to see you all at the launch point as soon as we're allowed.

Keep safe and see you soon.

Richard Crockett



New Year, new lockdown – but plenty going on

We are currently unable to fly, but that doesn't mean we have to forget about gliding. Now is an ideal time to brush up on knowledge and gain new skills. Take a look at all that's available – and it's all **free**:

- ➔ **Every morning** at 0830 (weekdays) and 0930 (weekends) CFI Richard gives an on-line briefing which is the place to go find out about upcoming briefings, talks and webinars
- ➔ We are running a series of briefings on a range of topics, all announced at Richard's daily briefing and on our Whatsapp group – if you are not a member of the group then contact Richard cfi@bookergliding.co.uk for the link. **Recordings of past briefings** are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/y36wtr2y>

- The BGA has a programme of **webinars** which you can register for here: <https://members.glidering.co.uk/webinars/>
- The BGA **Flight Radio Telephony Operator Licence** (FRTOL – or Radio Licence) course will be running again in February and March 2021, for pilots who fly cross country. The course is aimed at people without a FRTOL, but pilots who already have a licence but are uncertain about using the radio will also benefit from the training. More details here: <https://members.glidering.co.uk/2020/09/21/bga-flight-radio-telephony-operator-license-frtol-training/>
- The **Thermal Podcast** is a great source for interest and learning, with tales of interesting flights, interviews with pilots, and much more. Take a look here: <https://thethermalpodcast.libsyn.com/>
- For 'hands on' flying, why not join the **Condor** group who have sessions twice a week, very useful if you want to brush up your thermalling technique, learn cross country tactics, fly over exciting terrain.....look out for the news on Whatsapp. See below for more details.



Booker Red Kite Regionals - 10th – 18th July 2021



Booker's comps are designed to be fun – and safe. To ensure the best competitor experience, all tasks will be easy-to-fly Handicapped Distance Tasks - the fair competition format that gives smaller gliders an equal chance of getting round. We also benefit from having as our Met Man a talented glider pilot

and professional meteorologist with a track record in finding the best part of the country, and best timing, for a task. No need for a crew, everyone helps out.

The list is open, and filling up. Enter here today!

<http://www.bookerglidering.co.uk/activities/bookerregionalsentryform.html>





The Chairman's view

I had hoped that, by now, I would be summarising a successful winter's flying and hailing the early start of the soaring season. Alas that is not the case. This is all the more galling since, looking out of my study window in Great Missenden, I can see a stonking street going from all the way from High Wycombe to Aylesbury and possibly beyond. Hey Ho!



Disappointing though this is we must not succumb to doom and gloom. A handful of members have already been vaccinated, infection rates look as if they are reducing and there is good reason to hope we will be back in the air, if not in March then certainly in April. In the meantime our thoughts must be with those who have lost loved ones and those who are still sorely pressed at the NHS front line.

Despite everything the club will come through the other side of it all and be able to look at a most positive future. This has only been possible through careful financial management and by our patient and dedicated staff of Richard, Shelagh and John Sawney doing extraordinary things. Together with the contribution of a few members there has been a cornucopia of activities aimed at ensuring we keep informed, entertained and, most importantly, ready to take to the air as soon as conditions allow.

The issue of returning to flying, most likely at the start of the soaring season, was a major topic in a recent virtual meeting of the clubs in our region with BGA Chairman Andy Perkins and BGA CEO Pete Stratten.

There was universal concern that, after a full year of uncertainty and disruption, all of us will take a while to reach competent levels of currency.



Richard is going to great lengths to develop Zoom sessions aimed at keeping us informed and refreshing the theories of everything we do, both on the ground and in the air, and I urge every member, regardless of longevity and experience, to attend as many of these as possible. One thing is for sure - the kit will be as ready as it is possible to be thanks to the brilliant efforts of Richard, John Sawney and a band of expert helpers.

After the first lockdown Booker Gliding Club was one of the most active clubs in the country and, touch wood, we did it safely. We can do the same this time and the staff and instructors will work tirelessly to make sure we do.

We will be holding a Members' meeting (on Zoom) on Saturday 20th February at 10am to provide updates on airfield issues. All welcome.

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Expeditions 2021

I'm sorry to say that we have decided to cancel both the Denbigh and Swiss expeditions for this year.

For Denbigh it is likely that the current COVID-19 restrictions will still be in place, however, even if they are not we would not be in a position to take the club to a complex site at a time when our primary focus will be on getting members current and training courses underway.

As to Switzerland, there remains a high level of uncertainty with regard to licensing, medicals and travelling after the UK's departure from the EU. We therefore feel it would be unreasonable to proceed with a club expedition which maybe only a few could enjoy. We also feel that some COVID-19 restrictions may remain in place which could make travel difficult.

The Booker Regionals remains - the list is open, as does the October Aboyne expedition.

We are looking at the possibility of a UK-based summer expedition and will send details on this when it becomes clear what COVID-19 restrictions permit.



Richard Crockett CFI

Update your flarm

Every year you need to update your flarm to ensure that it will continue to work. The table below lists the firmware versions and the dates when they will stop working.

<i>version</i>	<i>end date</i>
6.81 or earlier	31 st January 2021
6.82	31 st May 2021
6.83 or 7.00	31 st October 2021
7.01	28 th February 2022
7.02 (latest version)	30 th June 2022

Pete Wyld

Electronic conspicuity – not a replacement for looking out!

The Department for Transport (DfT) has made funding available to encourage the adoption of Electronic Conspicuity (EC) within the UK's General Aviation (GA) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) communities. The CAA is distributing these funds via a rebate scheme.



The scheme will open to applications from 5th October 2020 until 31st March 2021 (or until the funding is used). Those meeting the requirements can claim a 50% rebate of the purchase cost of an EC device to a maximum of £250 (including VAT), per applicant. The CAA estimates that up to 10,000 rebates will be available.

What are the requirements to apply?

- Carry-on or aircraft-fitted devices only, not ground system components
- Single rebate of 50% - up to £250 (including VAT)
- Equipment must be purchased from 1st October 2020 to 28th February 2021
- Proof of purchase receipt required
- Applicant must be a registered member of the BGA or hold one of the following UK issued pilot licences (UK or EASA part FCL):
 - Private Pilot's Licence (PPL)
 - Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL)
 - National PPL (NPPL)
 - Sailplane Pilot's Licence (SPL)
 - Balloon Pilot's Licence (BPL)
 - Light Aircraft Pilot's Licence (LAPL)

What equipment is in scope of this rebate scheme?

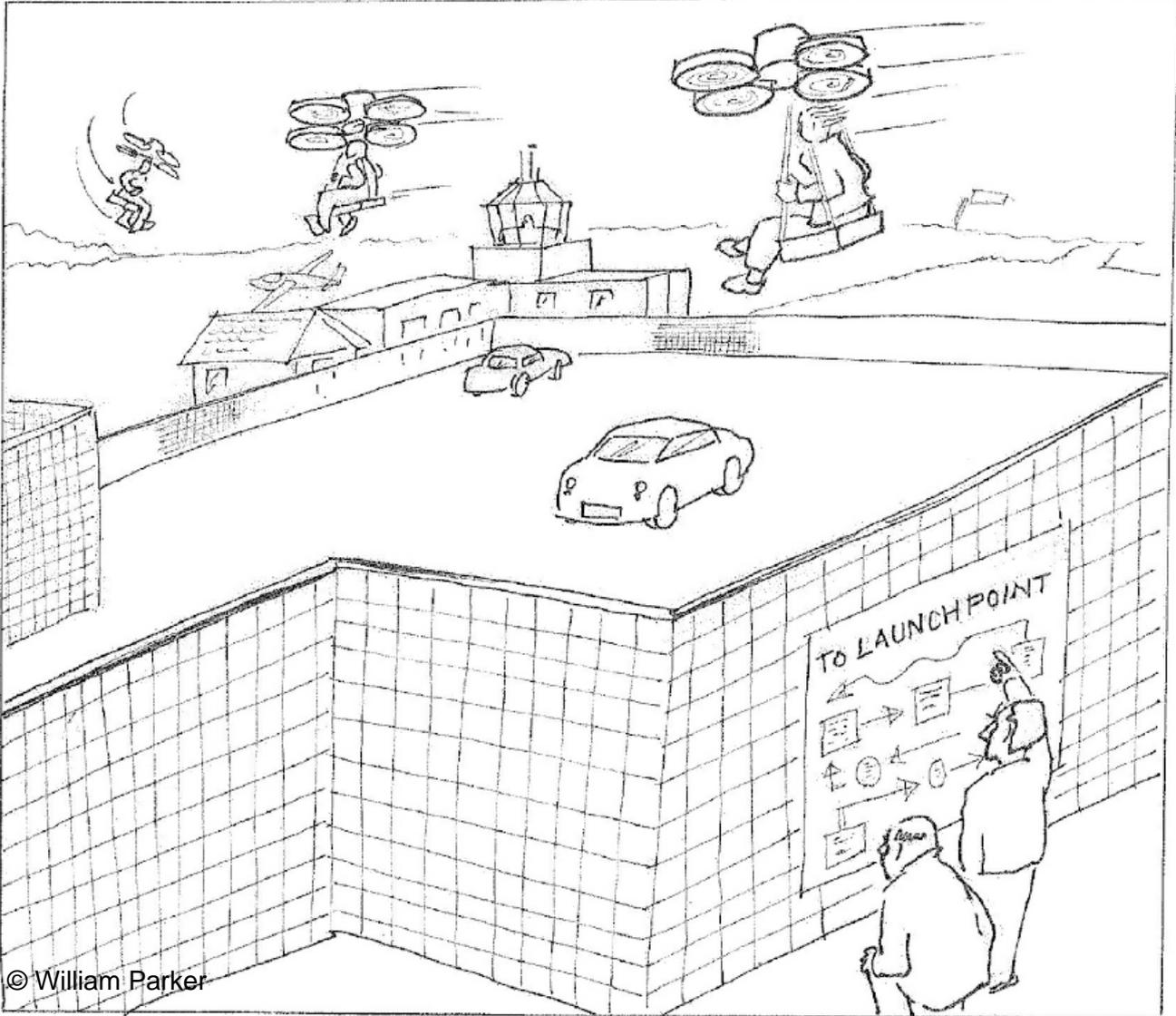
The main equipment currently available includes:

- ADS-B Out capable transponder inclusive of GNSS position source (Mode S ES Enabled).
- ADS-B Out capable transponder without GNSS position source (Mode S ES)
- Certified GNSS source for Mode S ES transponders (Including a GNSS position sources in line with the recently published AIC2019Y141, example being Trig TN72)
- FLARM
- Power FLARM
- Pilot Aware Rosetta
- Sky Echo 2

Factors to consider before buying

EC devices do not replace 'see and avoid', the foundation for VFR flying but they can improve situational awareness. Pilots using EC devices should be aware of what they can, and cannot, do. Devices are not always interoperable, this means that users of different types of device:

- may not be electronically visible to each other
- may have different standards of reliability and accuracy
- may use different parts of the radio spectrum for transmitting signals



Club finds new way to take Trial Lessons to launchpoint



*** All views expressed within the newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club or committee ***

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. If you would like to submit an article for a future edition please send it to Jane Moore at jxmoore@gmail.com

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