

Booker Gliding Club Newsletter



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Geoff kicks off the year stressing the importance of setting goals and how to go about it. Mike has compiled a great list of achievements which we can all be proud of. There are new arrangements for getting chutes packed and an intro to the annual expedition to Shobdon in March from Jane Moore. Aerobatic pilots will warm to our final article about Ladislav Marmol one of the great characters in British Gliding.

William Parker

From the Chairman

Dear Fellow Booker members,

Christmas is over for another year and the New Year approaches as I write this. At least the snow has gone for a while and the grass is visible again.

Traditionally this is the time of year when the long dark nights and the cold wet days start to pall and we begin to dream of long hot summer days and some enjoyable gliding. In my experience, for many, those dreams remain as such and they don't get translated into action. A spell of good weather arrives and they are not prepared, their glider or trailer is not prepared and worse of all

they are not fit and current enough to fly safely at full concentration for several hours. The result is under achievement at best and the forces of mediocrity engulf them. Now is the time to start getting current again ready for the often surprisingly good days that can occur in February and March

To get real enjoyment out of your gliding this is the time to translate those dreams into plans. The good guys start by visualising their end goal e.g. first cross country, first 500, competition win, etc. Then they analyse what they would have needed to have done to achieve that and work their way backwards noting what by when. That process will generate the framework of a plan that invariably creates direction and priorities that will galvanise them into action. Remember; If you fail to plan, you plan to fail!





Mont Blanc, basking in the afternoon sunshine, Serres 2009. Photo Geoff Tabbner

Clearly, to continue to progress and improve as a glider pilot, as in any other aspect of life, we need to have goals. For some of you, who may not have been gliding for very long, you may not be sure what they should be. A good goal is a SMART goal; i.e. it has some Stretch, it is Measurable, it is Achievable, Realistic and is within a specified Timeframe. To help choose a suitable goal it might be worth finding a mentor among the more experienced club members. Tim Scott our very own ex National 15m Champion and current British Gliding team member has suggested that a few of us get together to provide mentoring and coaching for those of you keen to progress. We think it's a great idea and we will tell you more about that as we get it going.

Whatever you choose to do in gliding this year, the club is here to help you. But it's your club and it's as strong as the member's input. The Club is in good shape but it needs your help to grow stronger.

Let's make it a great year for your individual achievements and for Booker Gliding Club as a whole.

Happy New Year and safe happy gliding in 2010.

See you at the launch point.

Geoff

Geoff Tabbner

From the CFI

I'd like to start the New Year by reflecting on the achievements of the past year in true melodramatic style. As you can see from the list following this piece we've had a pretty good year with a good amount of new solos and Bronze badges etc (apologies if I've missed anyone). This indicates an exciting year ahead with a great bunch of new pilots coming through the club.

It's important in my opinion that at this time of year, when we're all dreaming up New Year resolutions is to try and have a goal to aim at for the coming season. This can be anything from going solo, to



getting a Silver badge or even to obtaining your 750km diploma. If you need help with setting a goal or how to best achieve it, do not hesitate to ask me or one of the other instructors; we will be happy to help.

Now that the shortest day is behind us, the new season will be upon us sooner than you might think. Certainly short cross county flights seem to be achievable by late February so it's definitely worth coming out of hibernation sooner rather than later to get current again and make the most of the gliding season. Most importantly if you're going cross country try to spend a bit of time in the motorglider to re-familiarise yourself with the fields at a different time of year, it will be money well spent.

The annual pilgrimage to Shobdon is coming up and it's worth ensuring your name's on the list in the office if you're interested; this will enable us to work out what gliders to take to make the most of the trip. Also, rumour has it that there may be a couple of long weekends being planned to the Long Mynd; watch this space!
Happy New Year and Happy Landings,

Mike

Congratulations to all these achievers in 2009:

First solos

David Clarke
Simon Halfpenny
Craig Cairns
Henry Scutt
Andy Weir
Adam Clarke
Gary Stephens
David Hamilton
Raph Au
David Humphreys
Siena Whiteside
Andy Kensit
Sanjay Goel
Tom Woolf
Stuart Lacey
Sarah Fearnley
Rocky Cheung
John Lambie
Nick Jennings

Silver distance

Jon Portwin
Yan Clave
Mark Wolf
Robert Turner
Mike Gatfield
Rob Kehr
Michael Gardener
Simon Phelps

Bronze

Jon Portwin
Mike Gatfield
Mark Wolf
Henry Scutt
Raph Au

David Hamilton
Kristov Szent-Ivani
Alex Chalmers

Silver height

Chris Collett
Yan Clave
Mark Wolf
Robert Turner
Simon Phelps

Silver/Gold duration

Jon Portwin
Yan Clave
Simon Phelps
Mike Gatfield

Gold height

Chris Collett

750km

Matt Cook
Jon Gatfield

Standard Aerobatic Badge

Jane Moore
Rob Kehr

Gold distance/Diamond goal

Ben Crock

Diamond distance

Shack Roberts
Anne Roberts

New Instructors

Steve Williams (Full/MGIR)
Jane Moore (Assistant)
Bob Smith (Assistant)
Richard Harris (BI)
Henry Ross (BI)
Roger Harris (BI)
Oli Llewellyn (BI)

Mike Collett

Booker GC AGM – Saturday 6th March

The club AGM will take place on the evening of Saturday 6th March at a time and place yet to be confirmed. This is your opportunity to hear how the club is doing, plans for the future and to have your say. Please get the date into your diary and be there if you possibly can.

Parachute repacking

Following some concerns about this part of our operation we have conducted a review of this service and appointed a new packer. His name is **Tim Moran** and details of his experience and qualifications are set out below;

“Since 1988 I have been engaged by many of the UK’s foremost gliding clubs and their members; including; The Gliding Centre (Husbands Bosworth); London Gliding Club (Dunstable); Essex and Suffolk Gliding Club (Wormingford); Black Mountains Gliding Club (Talgarth); Herefordshire Gliding Club (Shobdon); Bristol and Gloucester Gliding Club (Nymphsfield); Windrushers Gliding Club (Bicester) Cairngorm Gliding Club; Scottish Gliding Centre (Portmoak); the Scottish Gliding Union and the British Gliding Association. I am fully qualified by the British Parachute Association and my expertise and experience in round emergency parachute systems spans 25 years. I am a parachute instructor, skydiving coach and have provide consultancy services to H.M. Armed Forces. I look forward to being of service to Booker Gliding Club.”

Frequency

We discussed with Tim the frequency for repacking. The BGA ‘Laws and Rules’ have previously stated every three months but Tim informs us that advice has been changed to ‘manufacturer’s recommendations’ which is in effect every six months. The club ‘chutes will be repacked on this cycle and we offer the service to members for theirs. Dates and method of booking and paying will be published by the Office.

Costs

The cost per repack will be £30.00. This represents a saving on the price charged by the previous service provider (whose prices were due to increase radically in January) and includes a small contribution for the use of the club facility. This contribution will go to a fund for the replacement and repair of the club chutes.

In the past several club 'chutes have gone missing. The cost of replacing a 'chute is now around £1600 so they are a valuable asset over which we all need to keep a close watch. If you have borrowed one and not returned it, you are asked to do so now. In an effort to keep a closer control of the club 'chutes a detailed record will be kept by Tim of serial numbers and repack dates.

Geoff Tabbner

The club needs your help in the workshop

In October 2009, Dave Byass put out a call for volunteers to help in the workshop. There is a lot of work to be done to inspect and where necessary repair the club gliders for BGA inspections and ARCs, also we have suffered a lot of damage to club gliders this winter and the maintenance programme has suffered as a result (you will notice a dearth of single-seaters at the moment). We have a limited number of inspectors who are club members but they cannot do all the work themselves. If you can possibly help out please contact Dave Byass or Robin Willgoss so that we can find a job for you. The nature of the situation means that we don't know far in advance exactly when there will be an inspector present, but tell us the days you have available and we will try to find a suitable task. Here is an opportunity to learn a lot about how gliders work, how they are fixed and to help your club, too. A reminder – if you wish to use the workshop to work on your own glider next year, then you need to have previously carried out some work for the Club in there.

Robin may be contacted via the office, Dave on email: dave.snike@btinternet.com

New lecture series—reminder of the dates

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

Get current for the summer – come to Shobdon - 20-28 March

Make the most of the summer season by getting your flying up to speed with a visit to Herefordshire Gliding Club at Shobdon www.shobdongliding.co.uk. We will be running an expedition from 20 to 28 March, taking one or more club gliders depending on demand, private owners also welcome. The airfield is ideally suited for thermal and ridge soaring, and if the wind is in the right direction there is often wave from the Welsh mountains. This year Roy Wilson from Deeside Gliding Club will be joining us and offering wave briefings and lead and follow tasks to help us make the most of the conditions.



Shobdon is less than 3 hours from Booker, so you can come for a couple of days or the whole week with equal ease. There is plenty of good quality accommodation, both B&B and self catering, have a look at www.exploremortimercountry.com.

If you are interested, get your name on the list in the office. For more information ask Steve Williams or Jane Moore.

Gliding Desk Calendars

Available now in the office, brighten up your workspace and show your colleagues what gliding is about. Buy now while stocks last.

Jane Moore

Bronze lectures 2010 – reminder of dates

All at 10.00hrs

- 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*

Aerobatics courses

Improve your handling skills and understanding of what a glider will do

Graham Saw and Alun Jenkins are running courses on the first Saturday of every month throughout the winter, and to show off what you have learned, there will be the legendary Easter Egg Cup competition, details to follow.

The 'Ladi' Marmol Story

Newsletter readers may remember a short piece in the October edition about Ladislav Marmol and his aerobatic performance at an 'Air Pageant' at Gatwick in 1949. Graham Saw, our senior aerobatics instructor, found an article about 'Ladi' Marmol in a 1998 copy of Aeroplane Monthly telling the story of his amazingly eventful life from which we have extracted these highlights.

'Ladi' Marmol led an extraordinarily eventful life in which he clocked up a staggering 25,000 flying hours and completed over 20 log books. He was a pioneer in postwar agricultural aviation and the leading exponent of glider aerobatics in the UK in the forties and fifties. But that's only part of Ladi's story.

Ladi was born in Moravia, part of Czechoslovakia, in 1920 and soloed in gliders at the age of 14. When Czechoslovakia was incorporated into the Third Reich in 1938 Ladi's dreams of a flying career were scuppered and he found himself in a German labour camp. When war broke out he escaped to Vichy France where he was interned. From there he fled to Belgium but was recaptured and press-ganged into the French Foreign Legion. On the way to North Africa he jumped ship again, was caught once more and ended up working in a French salt mine. Yet another escape found him trekking over the Pyrenees and into the hands of Franco's police who locked him up in the notorious Muanda Delebro concentration camp. Although speaking no English, Ladi managed to adopt the identity of a fictitious Canadian called 'Bill Gray' and, with the help of the British Embassy in Madrid, to blag his way into 'repatriation' to the UK where in 1943 he joined the free Czech army and was eventually selected for pilot training. Unfortunately for him the end of the war came, pilot training ended and Ladi was demobbed.



Ladi in his Lunak G-ALSI

Undeterred, Ladi set up a flourishing import export business operating between Prague and Southend using flying club Austers! In 1947 he acquired two Czech Zlin Z-24 Krajanek sailplanes for aerobatic use. In November '47 he set out to beat the world glider endurance record set in Germany in 1933 at 36 hours and 5 minutes. On his third attempt in April 1949, running the ridge at Dunstable, he set the UK record at 33 hours and 5 minutes. This actual Krajanek was restored by Mike Birch and is still based at Booker. Soon afterwards the FAI excluded glider endurance flights from record claims, fearing fatigue-induced accidents.

The author of the original Aeroplane monthly article, a friend of Ladi's, noted that, *'One unofficial record of Ladi's which also seems likely to go unchallenged is his slope soaring up and down the Dunstable ridge while flying inverted throughout. LGC tug pilots were also startled from time to time to find him upside down while on tow, and he is also remembered for his loops below the powerlines which used to cross one corner of the airfield.'*

The rakish side of Ladi's life re-surfaced in 1948 when he was arrested in Prague, charged with spying and faced a 25 year jail sentence. However with another Houdini-like escape involving bribed guards, a smuggled crossing into the American sector and a border shoot-out, Ladi was soon back in the UK for his duration record attempts.

At this time he purchased the Czech L107 Lunak G-ALSI (the first prototype) in which he appeared at events such as the 1949 Air Pageant performing slow and hesitation rolls and spectacular tail slides (don't try this at home).

The following year he teamed up with Freddie Laker in an aviation business called Air Ads which undertook banner towing and at night flew Miles Aerovans fitted with neon advertising signs on lattice frameworks along each side of the fuselage.

This venture grew and branched out into agricultural aviation. At one time or another the company owned an astonishing line up of aircraft including Cessna 188 AgWaggon, Supercubs, Pawnees, a DHC-2 Beaver, Pilatus P6 Porters, Turbo Porters, a Rockwell Thrush S2R Commander and a Czech Let Z-37 Čmeláček.

Throughout the 1950s and 60s Ladi's company flew on agricultural contracts in Belgian Congo, Argentina, Brazil and the Sudan. Although he hired other pilots Ladi always undertook the major share of the flying programmes. Two of his pilots were Norman Smith (ex Booker CFI) and Denis Neville (ex Booker instructor).

He continued active flying until his 67th year when he retired. At the end of his life Ladi returned to Czechoslovakia where his amazing life story began and where he died in 1997 bringing to a close a life full of adventure and achievements in aviation.

Based on an article by John Fricker that appeared in Aeroplane Monthly in April 1998

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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-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 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 (william.parker5@btinternet.com).

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