



**Goal Setting
for 2013, 2pm
Sat 26th Jan.**

The Booker Newsletter

**Thinking of competing in 2013?
—see page 5**

*From the Chairman
From the DCFI
From the launchpoint
Dates for your diary
Thinking of competing in 2013?
Easter Egg Comp dates –it’s Easter!
The new edition of Laws and Rules
Support the Air Ambulance*

As befits the time of year this edition is focused on setting goals for 2013 and making plans for the year ahead. Doug and Richard report on the last (surprisingly active) month, there’s a full programme of Bronze Lectures and an editor’s piece about competing in 2013, plus a generous offer of a talk on Booker’s history in support of the Air Ambulance. Happy New Year to all our members and our much-nagged but greatly appreciated contributors
William

From the Chairman

Dear fellow Booker members,

A Happy New Year to you all! I hope that 2013 brings you some fantastic gliding and I wish you all lots of luck and safe flying in achieving your goals.

I know that many of you will have already thought about what you want to get out of your gliding in the coming season and beyond. But, have you set long, medium and short term goals and do you have a plan to achieve them? In defining the goals, why have you chosen them, do you have a strong enough reason why, do you have self-belief, are you going to take personal responsibility to see them through, have you identified what help you need and who can help you, have you prioritised the plan and begun to take action?

If all of that sounds a bit intense, it’s because having real fun takes a bit of effort. Gliding, like many sports, is something that rewards effort. You get out of it what you put into it. For some of us that involves making the effort to continuously improve, and so, we are planning a **Goal Setting Workshop** for all club members, who would like to participate, whatever their stage



of development,. This will be in the clubhouse at **14.00 on Saturday the 26th January**, for two hours. The session promises to be fun and will be facilitated by two of our members who have each been a National Champion and a member of the British team; Tim Scott and Denis Campbell. Thankfully, they each have a sense of humour too!

Tim and Denis will each talk about what it took to get to that standard and what it took to win. We will then workshop personal goal setting to help each of us be as good as we can be, whatever our goals; and of course, to help Booker Gliding Club keep our reputation for developing safe, competent, winning glider pilots who really enjoy their flying.

Another date for your diaries is the **Annual General Meeting**. This will be held in the Booker Memorial Hall on **Saturday the 23rd of February at 18.30**. We will provide drinks and snacks afterwards so that everyone can get together. Please plan to come along to the meeting, your committee will be reporting on, and discussing, many aspects of the club's activities and your input is really important.

See you at the launch point (and both the above events)

Geoff

From the DCFI

So soon we are into another new and hopefully fulfilling season with all the Christmas and New Year celebrations behind us along with the fact that the day light hours are increasing, although it would take a brave person to forecast just what the weather will bring this season. Let's hope it will be a good one. Whilst 'hope' may be applied to what the weather will do as there is nothing we can do to influence it, *hope is not a strategy* that you should apply to your flying preparation to get the most out of your flying.

Your preparation can take many forms ranging from ensuring your equipment is serviceable, you know (or have remembered) how to use loggers, PDA's and features on the varios, how to get NOTAM's and MET to being fully current and in practice with your flying, field selection, landings etc. Now is a great time to get all the ancillary aspects in place such that you are ready to get the best out of a soaring day and don't miss out on a chance to complete your first 50k or 300k. For those of you with PDA's check that you have up to date airspace and turn point data files loaded, batteries for gliders and loggers are charged and serviceable, you have valid charts, pee bags, cleaning kit for the glider and some considered goals and objectives for your flying for 2013. Lastly make sure you get the most of each flight e.g. work on your thermalling technique, cloud selection, speeds to fly, lookout. Not an exhaustive list by any means but something for you to ponder and consider and don't forget the best thing is to fly, fly and fly.

The winter series of Bronze lectures has started and the first one on Theory of Flight was very well attended. There are further lectures covering Meteorology, Human Factors, Navigation, Radio technique, Air Law & Airmanship, Circuits & local airspace over the next few Saturdays – ideal for aspiring Bronze C pilots and still valuable lectures regardless of what level your flying is from ab initio to pundit. Check with the office or the Gliding Club Events Diary (www.bookergliding.co.uk/members/BGC3459.html) for details. After the lecture don't forget to come out to the launch point and put theory into practice.

Dates of the popular and successful 'Get your Bronze and Silver' courses have been published along with dates for task weeks and the clubs expeditions to Talgarth and Le

Blanc. Spaces are filling up fast so don't forget to get your name down for these at the office and not miss out on some great opportunities.

One final note, the airfield (as with most of the UK) is still very wet and the ground is extremely soft – thank you all for your efforts in trying to keep the surface as pot hole and rut free as possible 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

From the launchpoint

Whilst some of our neighboring clubs have had to cease their flying activities due to flooded fields flying has continued at Booker.

Despite the freezing conditions at the start of the month and an extremely wet field it's been really fantastic to see people braving numb fingers and wet feet to come out and fly.

Many of those who have been flying have been rewarded with spectacular views, silky smooth conditions and several have managed to extend their flights to almost an hour thanks to the Booker wave. Others have been taking advantage of the reduced fee in the motor glider which has been doing plenty of flying. The reduced fee provides a fantastic opportunity for those wishing to polish up on navigation, field landings or even just have a longer flight than the usual up round and down.

New Years Day saw us flying off the hard runway. The K21 was kept busy with a mixture of soaring and aerobatic sorties and the motor glider was proving a popular alternative for those who didn't enjoy the cold!

With December's restrictive weather conditions the workshop has been a hive of activity. A wealth of volunteers (in particular Graham Saw, John Hubberstey, Vic Day & Pete Wyld) have been assisting Robin with the KLA and simulator projects. I'm pleased to report that KLA looking most excellent in its new colour scheme and progress is steaming ahead with the simulator.

All help is gratefully received, not just in the workshop but across the club so just because the weather isn't good enough for flying please come up, there's plenty to do! A huge thank you to all those who have been volunteering so far, the club really couldn't function without you.

A Happy New Year to you all,

Richard

Low cost motorgliding reminder

Don't forget that from 1st December to 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.

The winter months provide a wonderful opportunity to make the best use of the motor glider.

Today, as I am writing it is clear and there is no wind, it would be a perfect day to get up in the air without worrying about losing that "perfect soaring" day.

The motor glider provides something for everybody, here are some ideas:

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

Bronze briefings

These briefings, held on Saturdays throughout January and February, are particularly designed for those preparing for the Bronze paper but are suitable for pilots at any level including pre solo. They are all at 10am in the clubhouse. All welcome. Future dates are:

12 Jan - Meteorology	Jane Moore
19 Jan - Human Factors	William Parker
26 Jan - Navigation	Steve Williams
2 Feb - Radio	Sally Longstaff
9 Feb - Air Law and Airmanship	Mike Gatfield

Additional briefing for anyone needing a refresher:

23 Feb - Local Airspace and Airfield Ops Paul Clarke

Richard Crockett

Booker is on Facebook

Booker's new Facebook page is proving to be a popular forum for the exchange of photos and news. Have a look at:

www.facebook.com/bookerglidingclub.

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



Thinking of competing in 2013?

Glider pilots are inherently competitive. Whether you are an early solo pilot keen to catch up with the glider above you in a thermal, or an XC pilot determined to arrive on the other side of that big blue hole higher than the other guy, or comparing your statistics for one flight over another and hoping you have improved the length of your glides, your speed and your climb rate, it's the urge to fly further and faster that drives our progress. And perhaps the greatest competitor we have in gliding is ourselves. We all want to improve. Yet we may well reach a point where however much we study the principles, however much extra time we find for flying, our performance begins to plateau. When you reach that point it is definitely time to think about flying in a competition.



Comp flying will move your XC performance up a gear. You will achieve flights that you would not have thought possible. There are several good reasons for this. The fact that you are dedicated to flying for the 9 days of the competition, that someone will come and get you if you land out (more on that later), that the task is set for you and the competition route ahead is often marked by thermalling gliders, all help to clear away uncertainties and free you to fly your best.

So how do you go about getting into competition flying? Here are two things to bear in mind.

Prior Preparation is essential and that starts now by setting competition entry as one of



your goals for 2013 and identifying which of the Regionals you will go for. Obviously you are going to need a glider with a serviceable trailer and the necessary flight computer, nav and logger plus other kit such a camelback and a pee system. That's not a complete list by any means but the point is this: if you leave your preparation until the last minute you will be unlikely to enjoy your first comp or do well. So get all

the kit organised and practice with it a much as possible early in the season. The second thing to bear in mind is **Expectations**. Unless you are a natural ace you will be unlikely to win or place in your first competition. Take the long view and fly your first comp for the experience. Try hard of course, but set an achievable goal, such as coming in the top half of the competitors –which even a novice can do if they avoid making basic mistakes, such as logger failure and unfamiliarity with the rules –which comes back to Prior Preparation.

The Rules require special mention because you cannot expect to succeed in any competition unless you know the rules. That doesn't mean you have to fully understand the intricacies of the scoring system such as windcapping but the basic rules about starting, the roles of X and Y, turn points, penalties and finishing are essential learning. Remember there

are two sets of rules for BGA rated competitions. There are the BGA rules which cover the main conduct of the race and there are Local Rules, issued by the organising club which cover local details such as start zones, gridding, finish lines and so forth. Again, trying to learn the rules for the first time, the day before the competition, is asking for anguish. The Competition Rules for 2013 are already available on the BGA website, so download and digest them asap.

Earlier I mentioned crewing and having someone to collect you if you land out. All the clubs now recognise that it is often difficult to find someone who can take 9 days off just to help you at a competition. Most of them encourage their non-competing members to come and support the comp and to stand-by for landouts. If you can organise some fellow Booker members to come and crew for a few days, then by all means do so, but the availability of crew is not the essential criterion for entry it once was, because Regional comp organisers usually commit to organising a retrieve for crewless landouts.

So if you are still with this, what competition should you be aiming for? There are two types of competition in the BGA scheme of things. The Nationals which are un-handicapped but defined by classes such as Open, 15metre and Club class, -- and Regionals which are handicapped and if there are sufficient entries are divided into two classes, 'long wings' and 'short wings' with the dividing line usually at a handicap of 98. These two classes may be referred to as Red and Blue, Club and Sport or other such designation.

If you are contemplating competing for the first time you should be aiming to take part in a Regionals. In fact you cannot compete in a Nationals unless you have already taken part in a Regionals. The Regionals are less demanding than the Nationals, less formal and more fun. If you are under 25 you can take part in the Junior Nationals which are renowned for extreme informality.

One other option which represents a very useful toe-in-the-water entrance to the world of



gliding competitions is to enter the Inter Club League. Booker hasn't participated in this for a number of years but if there was sufficient interest we could easily do so. The basic format is three days of simplified racing on each of three bank holidays. Each club puts up three pilots – a novice, an intermediate and a pundit. Two (or maybe three) clubs compete at each meeting. It is a club versus club comp so they don't have to be the same pilots for each meeting.

Maybe the best place to start your plan to compete in 2013 is to talk it over with our experienced competition pilots. Tim Scott, Will Ellis, Mike Collett, Richard Crockett, Geoff Tabbner, Denis Campbell and Jim White are all Nationals Pilots and can help you decide the best way to approach it. In addition there are many Booker pilots with useful competition experience at Regionals level. Juniors should have a word with Mike Gatfield.

Somewhat naturally, before having taken part in any sort of competition people tend to think of themselves as 'not competition pilots'. The way to overcome that is to enter one! So if you really want to get into the world of comps, which has to be the most fun you can have with (*cliché goes here*) the time to start thinking about it and making early preparations is NOW.

William P

Surprise –Easter Egg Competition to be held at Easter

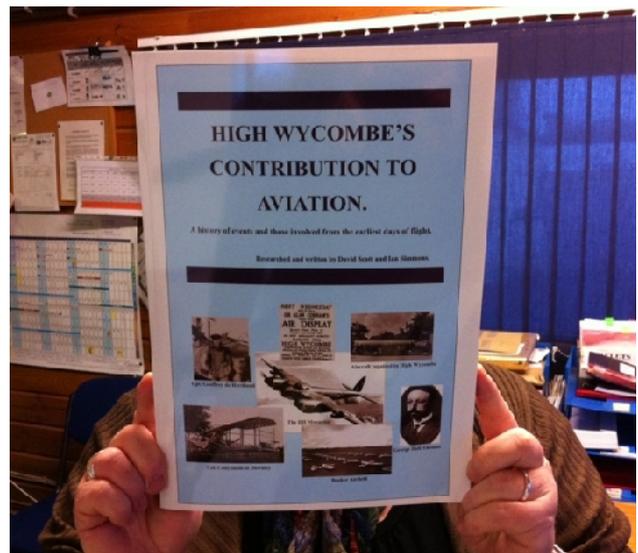
This year the renowned Booker Easter Egg Aerobatics comp will actually be held at Easter for a change. The aim will be to hold the competition, weather permitting on Saturday 30th March. Weather not permitting it could be moved forward to the Sunday or Bank Holiday Monday. You don't have to have attended Graham's aerobatic courses to compete but it helps! The courses run each Saturday between now and Easter. They are actually fully subscribed but sometimes there are drop-outs and as the days lengthen there may be more time for others to give their aeros skills a go. So 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

Get the latest edition of Laws and Rules

Edition 18 of BGA Laws and Rules has been published. This contains significant changes from the previous edition, reflecting the 2012 changes to the Air Navigation Order, as well as developments relating to future EASA requirements and a number of associated BGA changes to instructor revalidation requirements and glider pilot certification. The new edition has been completely reformatted with the aim of making information easier to find and to highlight information that the BGA feels is particularly important. It is strongly recommended that all pilots familiarise themselves with this significantly changed Edition 18 in its entirety. Further changes are predicted, as EASA licensing and other requirements continue to be developed. This edition is, therefore, currently only available for download from the BGA web site at www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/lawsandrules.htm

Learn about our history – support the Air Ambulance

Dave Scott co-wrote *High Wycombe's Contribution to Aviation* (as displayed by our poster girl of the month!), and would be willing to come up to the club by arrangement to give a 45 min lecture . He takes no fee, but welcomes donations to the Air Ambulance. If you would like to attend Dave's talk and support this very relevant and worthy cause, please let Shelagh know and she will arrange a convenient time and date.



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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