



**AGM 8<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH**  
Be there if  
you can.  
See P 3

# The Booker Newsletter

**BOOKER HANDICAPPED DISTANCE  
TASK COMPETITION STARTS 19<sup>TH</sup>  
APRIL –SEE PAGE 4**

<p><i>From the Chairman</i>  <i>From the CFI</i>  <i>Annual General Meeting</i>  <i>Facilities Fees</i>  <i>Dates for your diary [includes new lecture]</i>  <i>Booker Handicapped Distance Task Comp</i>  <i>Ladder Corner: changes for 2014</i>  <i>Philip Wills Scholarships</i></p>	<p><i>Highlights for this month include details of the 2014 Handicapped Distance Task Competition, an update from Geoff on negotiations with the council, an additional lecture in the Bronze series (Jim talking about met for XC and comps –all pilots welcome to attend). And Jeremy explaining some changes to the way the ladder works for 2014. Happy New Year!</i>  <i>William</i></p>
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## From the Chairman

Dear Fellow Booker members,

Well folks, we are here again, full of anticipation and promise for the coming season. I normally write about how important it is to have all your kit prepared well in advance and to put some serious effort into getting current and practicing a lot. But, you have heard all that from me before and you don't want to hear it again, I am sure. The thoughts of warm sunny days ahead and great cross country soaring serve as powerful motivators for most of us to get going. I can't wait!



You might want to hear from me about how the club is doing, and, of course, we will give you an update on that at the forthcoming AGM. Please pencil in the 8<sup>th</sup> March for that. Formal notification will be coming out shortly. In the meantime, a small but select team comprising; Glyn Read, Denis Campbell, Graham Morfey and yours truly, are continuing to work on the negotiations with Wycombe District Council to secure the new lease. They have acknowledged our right to renewal under the Landlord and Tenant Act and we expect to be getting down to the detail with them very soon now. One of our key objectives is to secure a better deal for the club. The club's rights got somewhat overlooked by the previous airfield management and we have been working hard to rectify that. We will keep you posted.

As you know, Booker Gliding Club is a 'Community Amateur Sports Club' managed and run by a large number of volunteers, both on the committee and elsewhere who, together with our small team of employed staff, keep the show on the road. I am often asked, by individual members, what they can do to help. There are a myriad of things to get involved with. Speak to any committee member and they will help you find an area that your talents can be put to

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good use in. We need you and we are very grateful for all the work done by our volunteers. It is what keeps Booker at the forefront.

Ironically, one of the simplest answers to the question, "What can I do to help", is to go flying! It couldn't be much simpler could it? The volume generated by members and their friends flying frequently is one of the key variables that makes a big difference to the clubs vitality. So, as I am not going to keep reminding you to get current and practice a lot, I will quietly suggest that if you fly more often you will have more fun and the club will prosper!

Have a great 2014 everyone.

See you at the launch point.

Geoff

## From the CFI

I think the most pleasant thing to say about December and January is they've been mixed months for weather! We have, however; between the torrential rain, had some really rather pleasant flying days and the first soaring flights of the year have already occurred.



It is at this time of year that we should make the most of the good weather as you never know when the next nice day is going to happen, but it's also at this time of year that we should be most vigilant.

Gliding in the winter is a labor intensive task. The cold air means that canopies must if not spotlessly clean, the wheel boxes and fuselage bottoms get covered in mud, the low sun can impair our vision and clothing (especially socks) get soaking wet. It's a wonder we even bother!

All I can say though, is I'm glad that you do bother. It's fantastic to see you braving the cold and wet to come gliding and it's even more fantastic to see you taking superb care of the gliders that you're flying.

Rest assured though, the rain will soon cease, the temperatures will rise, the mud will firm up and gliders will start to rise thanks to thermals. The soaring season is on its way and let's hope it's even better than the last one!

A Very Happy New Year to you all,

Richard

## AGM –Saturday 8 March

The club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 8 March probably at Booker Memorial Hall, HP12 4QS (venue to be confirmed). Please attend if you can. The Committee needs the support of the members to review the big decisions and to hear their opinions. The AGM is your opportunity to have your say, hear how the club is doing and to discuss what will be happening in 2014.

## Facility Fees

This is a reminder that Facility Fees are now due so if you have not already paid, please see Hilary or Shelagh in the next few days.

<b>Glider in or out of trailer</b>	<b>£335</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Trailer (empty)</b>	<b>£175</b>
<b>SLMG</b>	<b>£1090</b>

## Dates for your Diary

### The 2014 Bronze Series

This year's Bronze talks are already underway, kicked off on 4 January by Steve Williams on Navigation. We have a very comprehensive selection of talks to look forward to, with a wide range of speakers including airline pilots and a university lecturer as well as instructors. All are welcome, whatever your level.

**The talks are all at 10am, apart from 1 March** which will probably be in the evening, time to be confirmed.

- 11 January - Principles of Flight - Symeon Economou**
- 18 January - Human Factors - William Parker**
- 25 January - Meteorology - Jane Moore**
- 1 February –Cross Country and Competition Met – Jim White [extra lecture]**
- 8 February - Flight Planning and Performance - Bob Smith**
- 22 February - Radio Telephony - Ashley Birkbeck**
- 1 March - Aircraft General Knowledge, Airframes and Systems - Duncan Sharp**
- 8 March - Air Law and ATC Procedures - Wayne Aspland**
- 15 March - Operational Procedures - Mike Gatfield**

### Expeditions:

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

## **Handicapped Distance Task Competition at Booker 19<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

Come and join us for re 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Booker Handicapped Distance Task competition (formerly the HCGP).

Each day starts with a full met and task briefing at 10 am unless otherwise announced. The competition will be run on an informal basis, however there will be day prizes for winners and notable events!

The Duo Discus (315) will be available during the week for those who wish to progress their cross country skills.

There will be an end of competition BBQ/Party in the blister hangar to which all are welcome.

The entry fee is £45 for the week or £10 per day. Entrants require a minimum of a Silver C (unless flying in 315)

Members with a Bronze and XC Endorsement may enter, however flying will be subject to approval from a senior instructor on a day to day basis.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE**

### **Child protection policy reminder**

All members should be aware that the club has a specific child protection policy which applies when any child visits the club to fly or to accompany parents or responsible adults. You can read this policy in the cub house. Most of it is of course just common sense but in this litigious age, it is important that we all understand the club rules in this area.



## Ladder Corner January 2014

As we think about preparation for the season ahead we can always use these winter days, when we can't fly to get our equipment up to date and make sure we are current in its use.

Do you remember how to use your navigation software? Set up in simulation mode and try running some of your old flights on it to tune your understanding of the facilities available. Or you can download an igc file from last year's ladder on [www.bgaladder.co.uk](http://www.bgaladder.co.uk), either one of your own or a particular interesting one you have noticed done by another pilot.

Does everything work as it should or is it time to update or repair?

For the ladder you will need your logger to be current too. Check the calibration date on it, maybe it is time to send it away for recalibration - it would be a shame to miss that potential badge claim or chance of registering that momentous flight for the sake of an out of date logger.

There are some changes on the ladder this year. Have a look at this:

### Task Icons

The Ladder has become considerably more competitive over the past few seasons and concerns have been expressed regarding the validity of a relatively small proportion of flights in respect of pre-flight declarations.

The logger upload program now compares the electronic declaration with the ladder declaration and reports results in the form of icons, as shown below.

	Declaration Valid
	Self-Validated Declaration
	Declaration does not match *
	Club Task - No declaration required
	No declaration found *
	No logger file found *
	Non-IGC logger file
	Undeclared task
	Height Gain only - No declaration required

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Where no valid declaration is found for tasks marked \*, it may be possible to self-validate the declaration by using the flight edit function (click the edit icon  near the end of flight details row). See the edit page for more information.

Until the end of the 2013 season, these icons will **only** appear in your My Flights page. They will not be publicly visible on any other page and there is **no need** to justify any non-matching declarations.

Please note that all flights posted from the beginning of the **2014** season will be accompanied by these icons which **will be publicly visible** in the Daily Scores page.

This may be problematic for those whose loggers are not connected directly to their flight planning hardware i.e. where you are using an Oudie and log your flight on a flarm which is not connected to it. In such a case you may notice a 'declaration not valid' message in 'see you' when you look at your statistics under the declared task heading. So you will have to do a self-validated declaration as described above.

Is everyone happy with the current club tasks? Do they work well for you? They can be programmed into your logger and flown without pre declaration in either direction. You can check them by going to my flights on the bga ladder page and logging in with booker as your club. Drop me an email if you forget your password.

Let me know if you have any changes you would like to be considered.

Look forward to seeing you at the club

Jeremy Gilbey [jeremy@gilbey.eu](mailto:jeremy@gilbey.eu)

## From the BGA

Philip Wills Memorial Fund Scholarships. The Trustees of the PVMF have generously agreed to make up to 20 scholarships available in 2014. The scholarships, which will each be up to £500 in value, are specifically aimed at helping post-solo development in younger pilots, up to age 30. Applications, which must be endorsed by club CFIs, will open shortly and must be received by 15th March. Full details and application forms will be posted on the BGA and the Junior Gliding web sites in the next few days and Emails will be sent to everybody registered to receive general BGA updates when the information and forms are available. (If you have not registered to receive these Emails, you can register at <http://www.gliding.co.uk/subscriptions>).

## 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@yahogroups.com](mailto:bookergc-forum-subscribe@yahogroups.com) and *include your membership number when applying.*

**Booker GC Expeditions** – Open to all members to participate. Send an email to: [bookergc-Expeditions-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:bookergc-Expeditions-subscribe@yahogroups.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@yahogroups.com](mailto:bookergc_xc-subscribe@yahogroups.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@yahogroups.com](mailto:BookerGC_Instructors-subscribe@yahogroups.com) and *include your membership number when applying.*

The **Booker GC website** at [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://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.*

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**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](mailto:williamparker275@gmail.com)). Please note new email address

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