



Denis Campbell wins the Red Kite Regionals

The Booker Newsletter

Booker's growing online communications. See Page 2

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The month Richard thanks all the people who helped to make the Regionals a success but doesn't mention his own key role in making it all happen –so many thanks to you too Richard! Bob Smith outlines the ways we can all communicate online, the marketing team call for volunteers for the Wycombe Festival and one of our most successful XC pilots ever –Dave Caunt –now retired, tells us how he watched the Regionals. It's a great season –let's make the most of it!

William

From the CFI

I didn't ever think I'd be glad of a rainy day but the last few weeks have been so full on its great to have an afternoon to catch up!

The main event of the past month was of course the Booker Regionals. I've really nothing to say other than WOW.

It's been several years since Booker has run a competition but I'm pleased to say we're back. The grid most days was 20 strong and contained 3 visitors, all of which were extremely complimentary and have promised to bring several of their friends for next year.



Of course none of this could have ever happened without the assistance of so many of you, all of which I hope are listed below:

Adrian Hegner. Bob Sinden. Bob Smith. Chris Collett. Graham Morfey. Henry Ross. Jane Moore. Jeremy Gilbey. Jim White. John Herman. John Hubberstey. John Otty. Nick Jennings. Robert Turner. Roger Neal. Symeon Economou. George Hunter. Roger Harris. Shelagh and Chris

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And many thanks go to Tim Scott for Directing, Nils Wedi for Met and Bob Davey for supervising the tugs. Also to Jon Sugden who organised the cadets and to all the cadets for their energetic help on the grid.

However, the biggest thank you must go to William Parker. William took my vision for a 2015 Regionals and made it happen. Furthermore he took my idea and made it a thousand times better than I ever could and it's to him we as a club owe a huge gratitude.

William put the above team together, all of which brought so much to the project and made it the incredible success that it was. A huge, huge, thank you to each and every one of you.

In other news the launch point has been a busy place! So far we are 400 launches ahead of last season and the diary is full every day. Things are getting so busy that we often require the assistance of 2 or 3 instructors most week days. In order to meet demands several club instructors have stepped forward so just as above, a huge thank you to all of you.

Before I sign off, many of you will have received a letter from me regarding our Autumn Expedition to Aboyne. If you're thinking of coming please register as soon as possible. Spaces both on the expedition and also in the accommodation at Birkellun are filling fast. Like all our expeditions we have interest from other gliding clubs and any remaining free spaces will be released to them mid August.

Safe Flying and see you at the Launch Point,

Richard

Members' Achievements

George Hunter Silver Badge and first regionals competition

An update from the webmaster on some of our online activities.



Tweeting Pilots.

I thought that it would be interesting to investigate the use of Twitter to share pilot experiences during the Booker Regionals. I'm not a user of social media myself, but I took the plunge and set up a twitter account of my own to try it out. A few of us tweeted, and I integrated a "Twitter List" into the Regionals News page. The technology all seemed to work and a few pilots tweeted. The system is great for short messages or captioned photos.

I'm considering extending this with a new list in a more prominent location on the website and more club members in the feed. This is probably only worthwhile if members are interested in tweeting.

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Ideally most of your tweets on the account should be gliding related, but it probably doesn't matter if a few of them are not. "Social" media is about club members sharing experiences. Photos of Steak and Weiss Bier, or a lenticular from a B747 window, may also be of interest.

If you are interested in giving it a go, please setup a twitter account and/or let me know your user ID and I will add you to The List. If you email me I will send you some info about how to use twitter and how to stay secure and embarrassment free.

Booker Club BLOG.

There are already plenty of "Authors" on the BookerGC Club Members BLOG, but if you want to join them please email me for access. There are no restrictions on who can have access (though you must be a club, or course, member). You will be sent some guidelines for posts.

Photo Galleries.

Some time ago I set up a general Booker Gliding "Group Pool" on Flickr. There are currently 20 members and 220 images. There is a link on the members page of the website and I have copied it below, anyone can join the pool but, please, please, do not just upload an entire roll of images to this pool, showcase your best and most interesting pics.

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/1621704@N21/pool/>

If you do set up, or already have your own on-line gallery of gliding photographs, please provide the details so that I can add a link from the Booker Website.

There are some great new gliding images from Chris Collett, Graham Morfey, Nick Hoare and Stephen Greenham, links to these are currently on the Booker Regionals News page. They will be setup via a redesigned gallery page – one day soon!

Facebook.

The Booker Gliding Facebook page is setup so that other Facebook users can link their posts and updates to the Booker Gliding Facebook page. Please help us to keep the page current and informative by linking your gliding related news.



Website development.

If anyone is interested in adopting or developing any part, or all, of the club website please feel free to get in touch. I would also be grateful for any professional advice -no obligation- regarding "websites of the future", as there is a looming need for a project to update the site and make it more mobile friendly (I think the buzzword is Responsive). Of course, if you are aware of any member with these skills there may also be a reward for turning them in, just let me know who they are!

Bob Smith - bob@soarable.com

Power pilots experience pure flight

On Thursday 9th July we welcomed a group of about 20 power pilots from White Waltham who had heard about gliding when CFI Richard went to give them a talk and they decided to give it a go.



After an initial chat the visitors divided into three groups - cross country flying in the Duo Discus, aerobatics in the K21 and general flying with the occasional spin in a K13. The reaction was overwhelmingly positive, the visitors all seemed to have a really good time - "best fun you can have with your clothes on" - and were impressed by what gliders could do. It was a long day, the final flights being some time after 1800hrs, but it was well worth the effort to showcase gliding to the wider GA community. We look forward to repeat visits from the participants.

Great Polos and T-shirts –great price!

There are a few (about half a dozen of each) Red Kite Regionals Polos and T-Shirts still available mostly L and XL This is a great way to advertise the club. The Polos cost £10 and the T-Shirts £5 each. Bargain prices for quality kit! Get yours from the office –but be quick there are only a few left.



Booker back on the racing circuit

For the first time in 7 years Booker has organised and run a fully BGA rated Regionals competition. With 20 entries and three or four gliders flying *hor concours* the regionals grid averaged 15 gliders and many more on the good weekend days. Three visitors from Southdown (Parham), Lasham and Windrushers (Bicester) entered the competition eager to try the Handicapped Distance Task format pioneered in France and perfected by Tim Scott and Jim White at Booker. There were 6 contest days in fine but sometimes challenging conditions as hot blue weather turned to strong winds and showers. Denis Campbell won the competition, Jim White was runner-up and Ayala Truelove came third . Judging from the feedback from pilots attending the competition forum the event was a great success and the organisers are looking forward to The Booker Regionals 2016 and have every confidence that Booker will be well placed to bid for the 15 metre Nationals in 2017.



Key to the success of the Regionals 2015 were the tireless efforts of the members of the Regionals Organising



Group. Richard's 'From the CFI' lists all the members of that group. The tasks they undertook in the months leading up to the competition made a huge difference to the general amenity of the club and showed all our competitors and visitors that Booker is a professionally run operation. These tasks included a massive mowing operation in the trailer park, the refurbishment and fitting of meters on the water ballast tank, designing



and printing smart Red Kite Regionals branded signs and banners, producing similarly branded polos and T-shirts, negotiating the use of the 'TA Centre' for briefing (see picture above), clearing the gateway to the TA centre including the removal of a tree-stump!, strimming the overgrown area near the Blister hangar, sanding and painting the club's stock of stacking chairs, organising the end of comp barbecue and perhaps most important of all creating the Booker Regionals website. As the chairman of the organising group, I'd like to thank all those volunteers who gave up their time to help make Booker look the business for the club's return to Regionals racing.

William

Wycombe Community Festival – Saturday 25th July

Wycombe Community Festival is taking place this year on Saturday 25th July, on the Rye, and we will be there with the Junior to entice the local population to try gliding as well as raising our profile with WDC. It's a great event, with lots of other sports clubs offering tasters of their activities, plus live music, a carnival procession, and plenty of food stalls of all kinds.

We will be there from 1200 when the show opens until 1700.

I say 'we'. What I mean is that I will need a little help! I can't rig the Junior on my own. I already have someone lined up to de-rig the glider the evening before, so I will need three people to help rig on the Rye and set up the stand, and a similar number (doesn't have to be the same people) to be there for some or all of the day to chat to visitors and supervise small children sitting in the glider, and then we need to take it all down and bring it back to Booker.

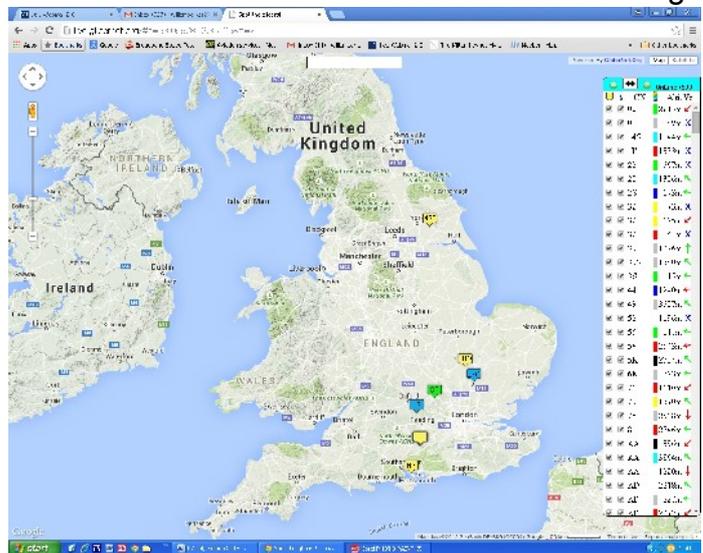
Volunteers please! We've done this show 3 times before and it has always been very enjoyable as well as profitable.

Jane Moore

Armchair Gliding and the Red Kite Regionals

Due to the advance of technology the chance to watch gliding whilst sat in the comfort of one's home is at last a reality. Whilst I wouldn't be able to see the cumulus or feel the surge of rising air beneath me, it should, allow me to watch what was going on whenever I felt the urge to look.

How is this possible? You might ask. Well a few months ago, I can't remember how, I was introduced to liveglidernet.org. This web site displayed the position of Flarm equipment by monitoring them and displaying them on either a map or satellite view of the earth (There is a version in 3D on Google Earth which I have not tried yet). The increased use of this equipment within the gliding world means it is now possible to watch any glider so fitted and follow it in real time.



With the Red Kite Regionals I thought I'd be able to watch on any day and see the competitors whilst on task and follow the progress of many of my former comrades in arms. This turned out to not quite be the case as the only competition numbers visible to me were TIM, 949 and 319. I could still see the others as part of the purchased registration made them discernable from each other but not who was who so to speak. If I could make a plea here it would be that owners registered their equipment with glidernet.

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The other problem was when to start watching. The news on the web site was very sparse. It would have been useful to have had such info as “first launch not before...hrs” and “club class will start launching at...”

The first day I was able to watch was the 30 June Task 4. Again the news said “.. blue sky possible small cu .. racing day.. cat’s cradle to the north. With no idea of a start time I kept checking in but only just caught them at around 16:00 when they were heading North to Towcester.

I found it quite absorbing watching the different gliders at the turn. (As each glider with a different handicap had a different radius). But the most interesting was watching TIM take 22 mins between Chalgrove and the ridge taking 2 climbs to get high enough to final glide. [Tim Scott’s glider Z3 is registered on liveglidernet.org as TIM –Ed] I could only presume that it looked unimpressive over the Chilterns.

I managed to catch a couple more days during the comp but again missed the start. On the last day it was only later when checking the results I became aware that it had been a competition day.

I think the future for liveglidernet.org is good and it can surely be used in some form to make the general public aware of what the sport really means. It will certainly give me more pleasure in the future.

Dave Caunt

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

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<http://bookergc.blogspot.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/bookerglidingclub>

*** 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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