



The Booker Newsletter

Anti-Stadium March, 16th July 2 pm, The Rye, High Wycombe. "Be there or be... where?" Page 4

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| <p>Contents <i>From the Chairman</i> <i>From the CFI</i> <i>New Members</i> <i>Aboyne</i> <i>Whispering Wardrobes</i> <i>Send it packing</i> <i>Reflection on Serres</i> <i>Health and Safety</i></p> | <p><i>A slightly slimmer than usual edition this month largely due to a crash of the computer variety. But that's resolved and this month starts with a reminder from Geoff about the August Task Week; there's a very special picture from Graham Saw and some great feedback from the Serres expedition. All we need now is this current rainy spell (and the stadium) to get lost.</i> <i>William</i></p> |
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Fellow Booker members,

We're half way through the year and the club has really done well so far with expeditions to Talgarth and an outstanding trip to Serres which introduced several Booker pilots to big mountain Alpine flying for the first time. Many thanks to Mike Collett and Doug Hilton who flew tirelessly throughout our visit. We also ran the first ever Booker Rules Competition which has attracted a lot of attention at a time of reducing entries in the Regionals. Congratulations go to Jim for that. But we are still only half way through the season and I hope we'll be doing much more exciting flying before it ends. There's a task week coming up from 13th August until the 21st August for all members to hone their skills in cross country flying and to race- for the competition minded. Our annual trip to Aboyne takes place from 2nd until the 21st October and now is the time to be making plans and to get your name down for it.



In this newsletter you'll see there's an advert for someone to take on the Health & Safety role at the club. There's many a joke at the expense of Health & Safety but it's a serious business for us, most of it is common sense, and we need a member with basic admin abilities to take care of it for the club. Please speak to me or any member of the committee if you think you might be able to help. Finally, GASP the anti-stadium folks are planning a March for Saturday 16th July to protest against the project. Please be there to add your weight to helping see off this unwanted pipe dream.

See you at the launch point
 Geoff

From the CFI

June saw lots of exciting flying being carried out by Booker members both at home and abroad. The club's first official trip to Serres was an eventful affair with the club gliders amassing 105 hours in the two weeks of flying. Unfortunately, there was one prang but thankfully for those concerned the pilot was only slightly battered and bruised.



Yet again, unfortunately, gliding has been getting bad press of late, with the Red Arrows yet again having to delay a display, this time at Goodwood. I suspect this has nothing to do with any of us but it is certainly worth a mention and gives me the opportunity to re-emphasise that it is your job to check the Notams before flying, not the club's. Please have a look online as there are many pieces of software such as Notam Map or Notam Info to name a few.

I don't think I need to remind you all that we are now in the peak of the UK season and you should make every opportunity to get up here and make the most of the weather and the kit that we have at our disposal. If you need any help with setting yourself goals and how best to achieve them have a chat with an instructor or myself and I will be very happy to help.

Congratulations go to the following:

Graham Morfey - Silver Duration
Peter Richards - First Solo
Will Hilton - Basic Instructor Rating
Oli Polden - Bronze Leg
Stuart Whitehouse - First Solo
Matt Hocker - First Solo
Stuart Whitehouse - Both Bronze legs

Happy Landings
Mike

Welcome to new members

We welcome two new members – Eric Keetch has become a full member after starting on a course last year, and John Dredge has re-joined.

Aboyne Diamonds in the sky

If you are looking for badges of any colour, wanting to try cross country in wave, or just fancy seeing Scotland from a different angle, then come to Aboyne this October. Every year we are the guests of Deeside Gliding Club for our autumn expedition. We take the Duo and a K21 and, depending on demand, a single seater or two. For accommodation we have booked a week in Birkelunn, a 6 bedroom Norwegian log house with a grass roof which has over the years been the venue for some stupendous dinner parties, depending on the culinary skills of the club members involved.

Regulars at Aboyne may know that this year Birkelunn had been booked for Week 2. However the place has become available for week 1. [So Booker will be staying at Birkelunn in week 1, Sunday 2nd until Friday 7th October inclusive \(check-out on Saturday Morning\).](#)

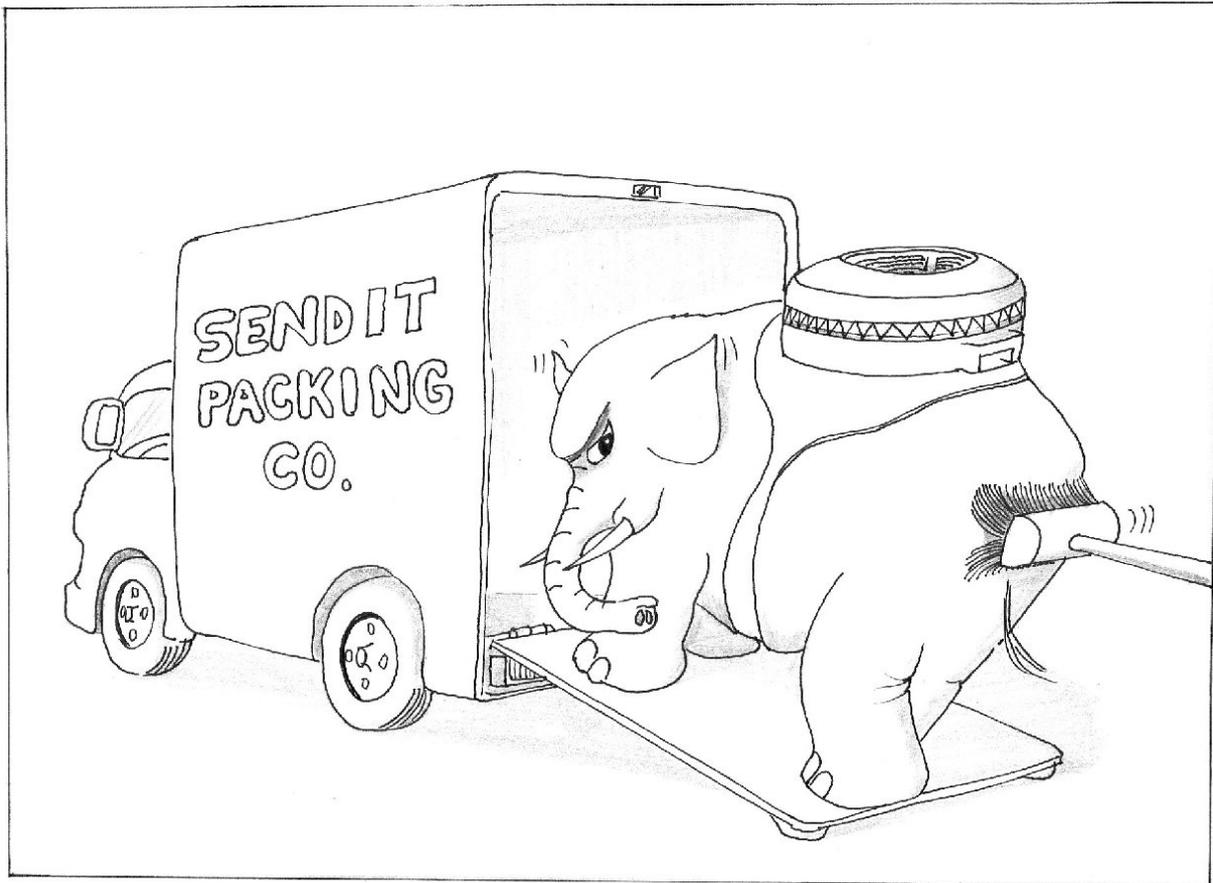
All are welcome, any level from pre-solo to pundit. Whatever your experience you will enhance your flying skills as well as getting to know your fellow club members. Sign up now, the list is in the office. Dates from 2nd October.

Jane Moore

Whispering Wardrobes Weekend



Booker GC was delighted to welcome Derek Piggott, the doyen of British Gliding, to the Whispering Wardrobes vintage rally held on the weekend of 2nd of July. Here he is about to take a launch in Graham Saw's exquisite Petrel.



Big Anti Stadium March – 2pm July 16, The Rye

GASP, the coalition of interest groups opposed to the Stadium at Booker are organizing a March from the Rye through High Wycome to make public feelings known prior to an important council meeting on the subject on the 18th July. Our own Gary Nutall is the chairman of GASP and has been doing a fantastic job taking apart the stadium proposal piece by piece. We and other airfield residents have a huge interest in seeing the stadium project dumped. Please try to be there on the 16th to support Gary, GASP and the future for gliding at Booker. See you there!

Serres – Lasting Impressions

Anybody visiting the Booker Blog or Jon Gat's Serres Bimple Blog will be pretty much up to speed on the thrills and spills on the club's excellent expedition to Serres in the French Alps. The format of the expedition with two club two-seaters, and most members visiting to fly cross country in them with Mike and Doug, proved very popular and took many Booker pilots on some spectacular flights far into the mountains. To catch the flavour of the trip we asked some who visited to give us a thumbnail sketch of the trip and Doug Hilton has kindly assembled these shots which were taken by Pete Wyld, Jim Pengelly and by him.

I'm an expedition junkie so I've been to a number of places to learn about different types of flying, and having been to Cerdanya in the Spanish Pyrenees a number of times I thought I knew something about mountain flying. Think again! Serres offers a huge intellectual challenge, working out the effect of wind and sun on the terrain. Flying towards a massive sheer drop expecting to get some ridge lift and finding 8 kts down because it's in the down wave from the next ridge upwind, for example. And the up wave being right up against the lump of rock creating it rather than nicely out in the middle of the valley, how does that work? The scenery was stunning, whether viewed from ridge height or from 18000ft.

After flying we made full use of the bar at the end of the runway, where free pommes frites appeared as if by magic. And evening meals depended on who was cooking that night – bring your own plate to the chalet in question. Fresh trout was a highlight – thanks John.

It was a fantastic holiday, and Mike and Doug worked very hard to make sure that we made the most of our time in the air. The trip back could have gone more smoothly, but that's another story.

Jane

You're only supposed to *polish* the bloody rocks.

Michael Caine





The longest day came early for me - up at first sparrow's burp to take a glider to the south of France, 16 hours later I was there enjoying a well earned beer followed by John Herman's chicken and pasta surprise.

The real longest day saw a surprising sight, me strapping on a Duo Discus and heading for the hills with Mike Collett to keep me out of trouble.

We had an excellent 5h30m flight covering in excess of 300 kms along the local ridges and the Parcour, at one point hitting lift of over 10kts and at another managing 100kms at an average of 120kph without turning (along the Parcour).

That has to have been the best day out I've had in years, thanks Mike!

Pete Wyld



"This was my second visit to Serres and after my course with the French instructor Robin last year I was chuffed to have retraced our steps and flown some intermediate mountain cross countries solo this year. I won't mention my three outlandings, save to thank Jane, Chris, Jim, Adrian, Ben F, and Andy P again."

Ben Crook



Health & Safety

'The club is looking for someone willing to take on the role of Club Safety Officer. Anyone wishing to take on this position will be given full support by the committee. In the first instance, please contact any member of the committee.'

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 (william.parker5@btinternet.com).

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