

Booker  
Regionals  
13-21 July

Field landings – page 5



Weather Sites and Apps – page 7

## **CONTENTS**

page 2	<i>Inter Club League 2019</i>
page 3	<i>Early XC performance – the BGA 100k diploma, and an alternative</i>
page 4	<i>Chairman's view</i>
page 5	<i>Members' achievements</i>
page 5	<i>Handy hints for field landings</i>
page 6	<i>Going Ape at Booker</i>
page 7	<i>AeroExpo at Booker</i>
page 7	<i>Weather Websites and Apps</i>
page 8	<i>Check that rope</i>
page 9	<i>Vintage Glider Club International Rally 2019</i>
page 9	<i>What about Klippeneck?</i>
page 9	<i>Dates for your 2019 diary</i>



Our team took part in the first round of the 2019 British Gliding Association Inter-Club League (ICL) at Lasham 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> June. The weather meant a scrub on the Saturday but there was a contest day on Sunday, with tasks of 113.4km, 214.8km and 312.8km.

We sent a team of six for the three classes:

Novice: Luke Bishop and Stuart Whitehouse

Intermediate: George Darby

Pundit: George Hunter, Nils Wedi and Tim Scott

Lasham took a more relaxed view of the rules and fielded their entire grid, so our boys were seriously out-numbered, but they did very well.



The grid

The real winners were the people that took part; regardless of how fast you fly the ICL is a great way to get in to cross country flying. Luke and Stuart, with only a 50k previously, got round their task in tricky conditions, something much harder to achieve in a regionals. They achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, which was an excellent result. George D nearly made it back, he landed near Thatcham, which gave Luke and Stuart an opportunity to learn about retrieves.

In the Pundit class Tim came a close second to Steve (big



Luke and Stuart with Bob and Bob

expensive glider) Jones, and Nils and George H had a great time mixing it with some of the other top UK pilots.

The ICL second round will be at **Booker on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> July** (it's an event where you probably don't need to take any time off work). It's a really good, relaxed way to get into cross country and comp flying, with lots of help on hand. It is not all about winning, though if we get two flyable days we stand a great chance of getting to the 2019 ICL FINAL. **Interested in taking part, or helping out? For more details, please see the club notice board or contact Bob Sinden or Bob Smith. ps If you are on the grid, you are in the comp!**

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## Early cross-country progress

### BGA 100k diploma

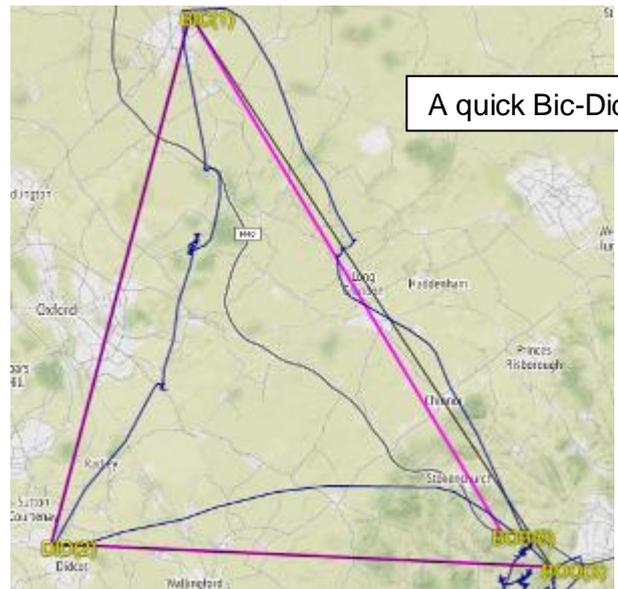
The BGA 100k Diploma offers the early XC pilot something to aim for after completing Silver distance. It is not compulsory to claim this diploma and many pilots may wait until they have completed a 300k task to claim Gold, or just go competition flying. The diploma does provide some recognition of the skills learnt and soaring ability, and aiming for one is a good way to learn the technicalities and rules for claiming the bigger badges, or for competing in gliding competitions.

The full 100k Diploma rules are in BGA Laws and Rules. It consists of 2 parts:

1. completion of a 100k declared closed circuit flight.
2. completion of a similar flight to that above, but at a minimum handicapped\* speed of 65kph.

Once you are happy that you can average 65kph over this short distance on a typical day, then you would have the confidence to declare a 300k flight knowing that you should easily be able to complete it in less than five hours.

The diploma is recorded in your BGA gliding certificate and you get a mention in S&G. The disadvantage for many is that claiming each diploma separately requires two lots of paperwork and two payments to the BGA, so it may be best to claim both on one flight!



### An alternative to the diploma

Nowadays, a large number of cross-country pilots post their flights to on-line systems so that others can see what they have achieved. These are like glider pilot blog posts. The most popular of these are the [BGA Ladder](#), and the On Line Contest, or OLC (register [here](#)). It would be great if club members marked their **first 100k and first 200k flights** by posting the details and logger IGC files to one, or both, of these sites. If you do this then please be sure to let the Office, Newsletter editor or CFI know about it so that we can record and publicise your achievement.

June 2019

Although your early flights may seem slow compared to others, we all started somewhere and loading your flights is a great way to encourage initial cross-country development and understanding.

This option is also **free** and does not require any paperwork.

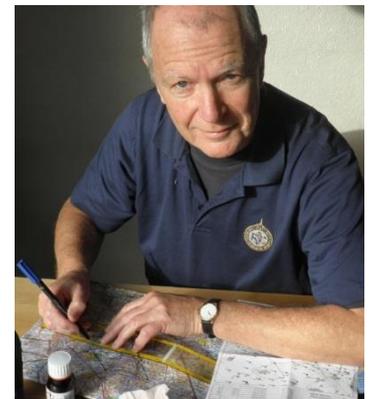
You can view flights for Booker pilots by clicking on the **OLC 2019** and **2019 Ladder** links on the [Booker website members page](#).

*\*Tip, if you want to know your handicapped speed, enter the flight to the BGA Ladder, it will tell you.*

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## Chairman's view

If you can hear knocking in the background it is our fellow citizens building another Noah's Ark. During the week running up to the Air Expo show at Booker it rained solidly for 36 hours and then intermittently for four days after that. With the inconvenience caused by Air Expo, the unpredictable daytime closures, and the endless rain, members have been understandably hacked off with the lack of flying. Fortunately, a sizeable part of the membership has been away in Klippeneck during this period, enjoying the (slightly) sunnier skies of Southern Germany.



With luck the UK weather will get back to summertime soon but more to the point we have an imminent meeting with AAA management at which we hope to resolve some of the issues that have been interfering with our gliding operations - most importantly the restricted take-offs and landings during the daytime closures.

Elsewhere this month Booker fielded a team for the Interclub League for the first time in many years. Team captains Bob Smith and Bob Sinden did a great job organising the competition with our rival club at Lasham. We were 'pipped to the post' by Lasham who fielded an enormous team. All credit to our team members who did extremely well in rather difficult conditions - well done to our novices Luke Bishop and Stuart Whitehouse, intermediate George Darby and pundits George Hunter, Nils Wedi and Tim Scott. And there is going to be a re-match, this time at Booker, so let's hope that home advantage gives us an edge over the Lashamites and sufficient margin in points to win overall! It's all still to be played for.

I'm very pleased to report that Jim Roland and Richard have managed to secure a replacement Pawnee. G-SATN is an ex-GSA tug which hasn't been flown for a while so it will take some time to do the necessary inspections which means it probably won't be at the launchpoint until later in the season. But we will have the aircraft through the winter when we really need it and we might even acquire it, but that depends on how our tug strategy evolves. In the meantime, we have short term access to Supercub G-OOMF and a Supermonk to fill gaps in our tug availability - and especially for the Regionals.

The Booker Red Kite Regionals take place from 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July. Weather permitting, this will be a week of great fun flying (all easy-to-handle Handicapped Distance Tasks) with beers,

barbecues and a curry night in the evenings. There is still time to enter. All you need is a Silver C and a competition licence - available online from the BGA.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members who support the club in these somewhat challenging times. I believe that if we can resolve some of these immediate aggravations, proceed with the 25-year lease that is on the table and move to the northside in the next 18 months to 2 years, we will have a revitalised club with a great future. Many things will become possible if we can stick to this path.

See you up there.

William

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## Members' achievements

### Luke Bishop and Stuart Whitehouse – first 100k and first comp task

Luke and Stuart represented Booker as Novices in the first round of the InterClub League at Lasham – see report above. They did brilliantly, and gained confidence in XC flying as well as learning about turnpoints, nav devices.....and retrieves. Well done both.

Stuart



Luke

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## Handy hints for field landings

There are those who think that if you don't land out on a cross country then you're not trying hard enough. That's a bit tough, and of course it's much better to land back where you started, but the fact is that every now and then you will be arriving in a farmer's field. The BGA has produced a handy set of videos to help you with decision making, and guidance on what to say when the farmer turns up. Well worth taking a look:

<https://members.glidering.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/field-landing/>



When the farmer turns up unexpectedly, pretend not to notice the glider

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## Booker hosts Go Ape for an ‘adventure fuelled day’

On a slightly showery Tuesday, 12 members of the Go Ape tribe came from all across the UK to have a trial lesson and a chance to experience gliding. Aply led by George, the team of Glen, Stuart, Steve and Graham ensured that everyone had a great flight in spite of the odd shower and airfield closure period. It was a little ironic that the best weather seemed to be during the closure windows. That aside, everyone who flew said what a fantastic experience it had been and how much they had enjoyed the day and plans are already being made to repeat again next year.



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## AeroExpo at Booker

From 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June the airfield was once again taken over by exhibition equipment and interesting aircraft. The club displayed the kit that wasn't in Germany or trailers behind the 'restaurant' in our rather damp hangar – it rained buckets on the first day of the show – and we had a stand further down the hangar. Outside ASW22 '461' formed part of the static display.

We had interesting conversations with aviators of various persuasions who were interested in enhancing their skills by learning some gliding, including a weight-shift microlighter who wanted to learn more about thermals, and a young man who already had helicopter and power licences, as well as those with no experience who were intrigued by silent flight.

Many thanks to John Lambie, Symeon Economou, Bob Sinden, Henry Ross and Chris Collett for staffing the stand, and to Chris Rowland for standing out in the cold with his glider.



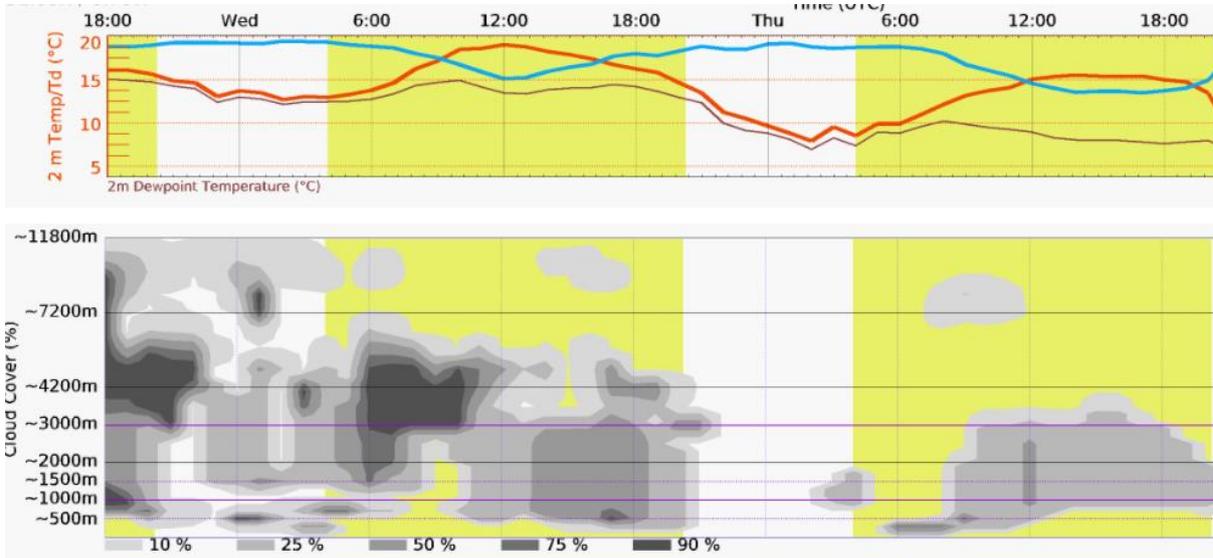
## Weather Websites and Apps

This month we show a couple more weather sites that are useful for local forecasting. From next month we hope to feature some of the sites that provide wider cross-country forecasts.

### **MeteoBlue AIR - website, plus app with limited data**

This is a popular weather forecasting site providing free weather forecasts. Like many sites today MeteoBlue also has a 'paid for' gliding soaring forecast. The good news for local fliers is that you can get some of the soaring forecast data for free. The MeteoBlue [AIR](#)

[Meteogram](#) is a particularly useful tool for looking at forecast cloud cover (top cover and cumulus), changes to freezing level and even solar energy and sensible heat – the amount of heat that might be available to start generating thermals. This site and app are currently being upgraded, but the free AIR Meteogram is currently only on the website.



*Meteoblue Meteogram showing cloud cover forecast at different heights for two days (three days on the website)*

### Dunstable Gliding weather forecast – website

Andy Roch from Dunstable produces a soaring forecast nearly every morning on the [Dunstable Weather Page](#). Although this forecast is not always appropriate for Booker, it can be a useful indicator of whether there is likely to be good soaring weather to the northeast of Booker. Forecasts more than eight hours ahead on this site are often inaccurate.

Bob Smith

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## Check that rope

There's more to checking a rope than peering at the weak links, who can spot the other problem with this one?





The Norfolk Gliding Club is this year celebrating its 60th anniversary and hosting the prestigious International Vintage Glider Rally, and it looks as like a fun event to visit.

The 8-day event will take place at Tibenham from Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August and is expected to attract around 100 vintage gliders from around the world along with a further two or three hundred 'crew'. The club reports that the event will be covered by local and national news channels as well as social media channels.

[More details are available here.](#)

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## What about Klippeneck?

The club's summer expedition to Southern Germany is currently underway and regular reports have been posted on the blog and Facebook. We will have more details in the next issue of the newsletter.

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## Dates for your 2019 diary

8 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> June:	Klippeneck expedition
29 <sup>th</sup> June:	<i>Armed Forces Day – Booker flying at Bicester</i>
13 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> July:	Booker Regionals
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Inter Club League at Booker
14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> September:	Whispering Wardrobes Vintage weekend
12 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> October:	Aboyne expedition

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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. We also use WhatsApp. Details are below.

**Booker XC WhatsApp group** – Targeted towards those pilots who fly cross-country. Provides the opportunity to share task ideas, co-ordinate rigging etc. Ask an instructor to add you.

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

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

**Booker GC Instructors** – This is for Booker instructors only to email each other easily. Mainly used for swapping duty days. Send an email to: [bookergc\\_instructors-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:bookergc_instructors-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and *include your name and 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 ID and password. To obtain these, go to the members' page and click on the 'email Administrator' link. Don't forget to *include your name and membership number.*

### For the latest news about what's happening check out

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

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\*\*\* All views expressed within the newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club or committee \*\*\*

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. If you would like to submit an article for a future edition please send it to Jane Moore at [jxmoore@gmail.com](mailto:jxmoore@gmail.com)

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