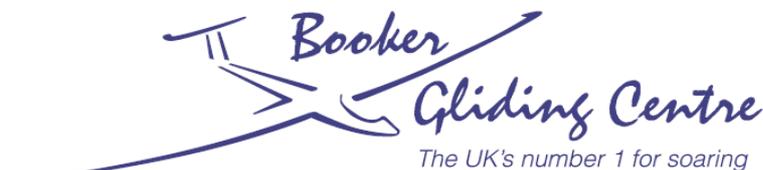


Booker Gliding Club Newsletter



Normal operations
move to Thame
for Aero Expo
June 26th-27th

Pull the wrong lever and.... see page 8

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Social Evenings Programme

The Booker Regionals are in full swing with 4 competition days from the first seven. The most important news this month concerns the move to Thame during Aero Expo, not forgetting that the Expo gives us an exceptional opportunity to promote the club –so if you are not coming to Thame please consider giving at least half a day over that weekend to staffing the Booker stand. We also have a reminder about the club's weather forecasting expertise –available on the XC forum. Plus some timely reminders from Roy Scott about cockpit familiarisation.

William Parker

From the Chairman

Fellow Booker Members,

As I write this we have just completed day four of our Booker Regionals competition in some really enjoyable weather. A quick thank you to all involved in the preparation, planning and execution, particularly to our very own Paul Brice for taking on the Competition Director role so well. The timing seems to have worked for most people so perhaps we can keep this slot in the calendar as an ideal warm up for the rest of the competition season.

It is a little disappointing to see a relatively small field competing when so many have gone to so much trouble, but the size of the field makes for a very pleasant atmosphere and tasks set to suit a wide variety of abilities and experience. What it might lack in quantity it certainly gains in quality. I think all will agree, when the competition is over on Sunday, that it has been lots of fun.



Talking of fun, the season has been a lively one with the activity levels up on last year aided by some favourable weather. Whilst we continue to attract some excellent new members we would benefit from increasing the membership numbers now. How do we do that, you might ask? Well, the answer does not seem to be advertising or price related it seems to have more to do with a feeling of being wanted and valued as a member and feeling part of a sport and a club that generates friendships for life. I believe you have all worked to make Booker a friendly place to glide with a minimum of rules and lots of encouragement. We now need to share that with a few more people.

Trial and error and lots of hard work by the sales and marketing team has shown that the most effective and way we have of attracting potential new members is by exhibiting a glider at local shows, events and centres. Unfortunately we have all been leaving this good work to the same few people all the time. I am sure there are some among you who would be proud and pleased to represent the club and the sport of gliding at some of these events. It needs three to four volunteers to commit to each running one show each per year and for those 'event leaders' to persuade a couple of others to help set the show up and chat about gliding to members of the public. If you care about your club and you want to feel valued and appreciated your time has come! Please speak to me or Jane Moore. Do not ask what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club!

Apart from doing things to help your club the other way of feeling wanted and appreciated is spending time with other members and getting to know them better. The social team are organising barbeques and other events to help with that but when it comes to new members I can't help but feel that the booking system is not the way to get someone involved and committed to gliding. I am also convinced that those who do not spend time learning the ropes around gliding and the club in general, miss out on many aspects of learning about airmanship and glider care. We see this manifested in the examples we have had recently of glider damage and worse still unreported glider damage. We have concluded that students should be there for at least half a day helping to get the kit out or put it away as required and helping out at the launch point.

Well, no sooner than the regionals are over, a few of us are off to the Alps. The objective of this small expedition is to introduce Mike Collett and a few folk who are new to mountain flying to the joys and fears of flying in the big mountains. If this proves to be successful we plan to set it up as a full club expedition venue next season when all who want a taste of soaring among the peaks and glaciers will be welcome. One or two folk have asked why, when the Duo is going, we have not made it an open event first time round. It is simply that we don't have the capacity of instructors and P1s familiar with the area and its characteristics at this stage but we plan to have for next season. We will be using the Duo to give Mike and the team a properly structured introduction as we have noticed that those who did not get one in the past have scared themselves and not been back since.

We are also looking for suggestions for other expedition venues. Does anyone fancy wave flying from a frozen lake in Norway? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pClCuWVv6s>

Are there other venues in the UK or Europe that could be fun to glide at? Should we mount an expedition to the Southern Hemisphere during the winter? Let's have your ideas.

See you at the launch point.

Geoff

From the CFI

It saddens me to say that we've had another case of unreported damage, this time on the bottom of a Junior. The damage was either from a rough take off or landing, either way it should have been reported. The worrying issue is there are members who seem to think this is acceptable. I strongly urge all of us to make this kind of behaviour unacceptable. However, in the meantime I strongly recommend that you ensure that you give the gliders a very good walk round before flying them to ensure they are in an airworthy state and as a check that it hasn't been previously damaged. If you see some damage being done please ensure you report it for all our sakes.



On a more positive note we've had a fabulous month for weather and so we've been doing plenty of flying which has seen Richard Crook go solo and Martin Blanchard get his well overdue Silver distance. I'm sure in the coming month we'll see plenty more. Plus don't forget the Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evening groups are now in full swing so why not make the most of them! They cover everything from large corporate groups, trial lessons, aerobatics, bronze flying, field landings and of course pre solo training. So why not come up and give it a go. There is no need to book, although if you can, a quick call to the office is always welcome so the group knows how many people to expect.

A word of caution to all of you aspiring cross country pilots - the next month or so is awkward for field landings, with crop starting to get high. Spend a bit of time while driving around or local soaring looking at what's going on in the fields. This will give you valuable knowledge when the pressure may be high! Also have a look at www.field-landings.co.uk for an in depth view of crop heights and types.

Thought for the month: NEVER ASSUME ANYTHING IN AVIATION!! (This seems appropriate given the recent incidents).

Happy Landings

Mike

Achievements in May

Martin Blanchard : Silver distance 13th May
5 hour duration on 21st May

Richard Crook: 1st solo 24th May

Jack Fox: Re-soloed 26th May

Simon McCracken Bronze Exam
2 bronze legs
Silver duration –5 hours
Silver height

Congratulations to all these members and their instructors.

Gliding to carry on during AeroExpo 2010 - the alternative to AeroExpo – June 26th/27th

Booker Gliding Club will continue operating over the weekend of 26th/27th June at Thame airfield when AeroExpo stops operations at Booker.

We have operated at Thame airfield for the last 3 years now and have enjoyed some really great flying from there and always had a very friendly reception from the members of the Upward Bound Trust. As before we will be taking Tugs and K21s to enable training flights or mutual flying by pilots at a different site.



Club single seaters can also be taken over depending on the level of interest.

Private owners are also very welcome – 2009 saw a number of members bring their gliders over, a grid being set up and some memorable flights were made from the site (fastest 500, several first 300ks).

Details will be posted in the club house nearer the time but please let the office know if you are coming over and which day(s) so that we can plan the weekend to best effect.



Can you help to promote the club?

A day at the fair

John Lewis is having a re-run of its Summer Fete on Sunday 13 June and once again we will be there with a glider and our usual display materials to promote gliding to our neighbours. The fete is held on the recreation ground at Buckmaster Rd just off Holmers Farm Way, 5 mins from the airfield. At the first event 2 years ago we had a great time, if you have a few hours to spare we would welcome your help on the stand.

AeroExpo comes (again) to WAP

Once again WAP is playing host to AeroExpo, a large general aviation event with the hangars converted to exhibition halls, a fly in and static displays of all sorts of aircraft. We will have a stand in our hangar, and a glider in the static display. The event runs for 3 days from 25 to 27 June and we will need people to set up the display on Thursday and to help on the stands over the weekend. If you can manage half a day (or more), please get in touch. A full briefing will be given so don't worry about not knowing what to say or do - really the best thing is to be enthusiastic about your chosen sport.

If you can help with either of these events, please contact Jane Moore j.moore@virgin.net.

Promoting gliding

How many times have you had one of those conversations that starts off with 'oh you mean hang gliding' and moves on to 'well I suppose you need a lot of wind' and 'can you do it in the rain' and 'what do you do when you want to land'? Gliding is a fairly invisible sport and our mission is to bring it to the attention of the public so that they too can join the club and find out what a fantastic and varied sport it is. The best way to do this is to park a glider somewhere unusual and engage passers-by in conversation. If you have any ideas for where we can mount displays - and even better if you are prepared to organise it - get in touch with Jane Moore or let the office know.

Book your autumn holiday now

It may be only the start of the soaring season, but don't forget to save a bit of your leave for our annual trip to Aboyne for some wave flying. This year's expedition runs from 3 October for 3 weeks and is suitable for all levels including pre-solo. If you would like to find out more about wave flying in general or Aboyne in particular, ask any instructor.

The Cross Country Forum – weather advice

If you are interested in Cross Country flying at any level, it is well worthwhile joining the club's Cross Country Forum. It's always quite a challenge for the cross country pilot who flies occasionally, perhaps on weekdays, when no club task is set, to decide which way to go and what sort of distance is possible. Although we do not have a daily club forecast in the same way as Lasham and Dunstable, we have something which is in some ways more useful. That is, a shared email debate between some of our top weather-wise pilots such as Jim



White, Dave Caunt and of course Nils Wedi. Nils is a weather scientist at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in Reading. The models used at the ECMWF provide amazing insights into what the weather will be doing through the course of a day and how conditions will vary from place to place. The result is a lively online discussion about the forecast for the day more or less throughout the soaring season. The advice is simply put, in terms of expected conditions and suggested task length and direction. Of course you can always scale your task to your level of skill and experience.

This group of gliding forecasters is an exceptional asset for Booker and a great help to anyone wanting to move their cross country flying up a notch. You can join in by sending an email to: bookergc_xc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com including your membership number when you apply.

Booker Easter Egg Cup –the results

The Very Late Melted Easter Egg Cup was held at Booker on Saturday 15th May, after previously being cancelled due to poor weather over the Easter weekend. There were 13 entrants in our friendly aerobatics competition, which included 3 pilots from Bicester who had come along to provide some friendly competition. Thanks much go to Colin Short, from Lasham, who kindly agreed to be our Chief Judge for the event and Graham Saw for acting as the safety pilot relentlessly throughout the day.

The results

Place	Competitor	Final Score
1	Maz Macari	80.75
2	Will Hilton	77.5
3	Rachel Brewin	77.2
4	Rob Kehr	76.75
5	Robin Wilgoss	76.5
6	Henry Stutt	76.25
7	Colin Short	76.25
8	Chris Collett	72.0
9	Robin *	68.75
10	David Humphries	67.5
11	Andy Grubb	67.2
12	Doug Hilton	61.25
13	Jon Gatfield	60.31

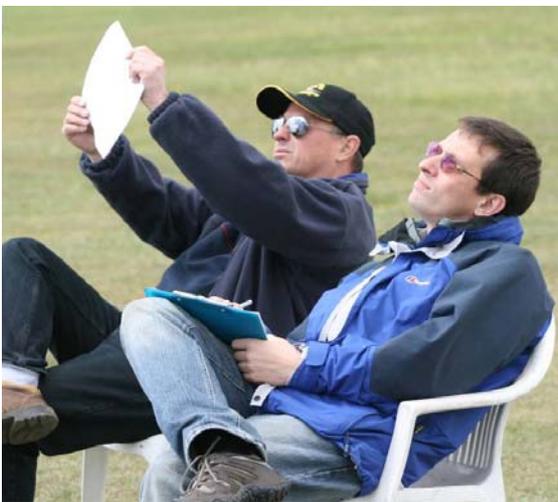
*No surname. Sorry about that Robin. If you send your name in we'll correct this next month.

It was a hotly contested event. The ultimate winner (Maz Macari, from Bicester) was flying H/C as a member of the British Glider Aerobatics team, off to the World Championships in Finland later in the year; he was awarded with the large Easter egg, but was unable to win the much coveted trophy. A special prize was awarded to Andy Grubb (from Bicester) for his attempts at the sequence, although not being solo. Barely a single percent separated the top 5 or 6 pilots but the top three places went to Will Hilton, Rachel Brewin (from Bicester) and Rob Kehr. Congratulations to Will for winning the second year in a row - and this time he was solo in the aircraft.

We ended the day with a BBQ by the bus, attended by many club members as well as the aerobatics group. All in all a good end to what had been a very enjoyable day.

Emily Todd

The Easter Egg Competition in pictures



**Top: Colin Short, Graham Saw and Emily Todd
Centre L. The chief judge in action.
Centre R. Emily presents the trophy to winner Will Hilton
Below: The post competition barbecue**

Be Prepared!

Roy Scott sent in this salutary tale in response to the suggestion that members might like to send in safety-related experiences so that others might learn.

“On takeoff with a cross wind in a flapped glider I selected positive flap a little too early. The result, a rapid lift-off with the downwind wing dropping whilst still connected to the tug. This would have resulted in a cartwheel had I not immediately released and then, with hands and feet going in all directions, managed to arrive back on terra firma with a thump. Fortunately with wings level. The only damage was a bruised rib (mine) from not having the bottom straps tight enough which allowed them to rise up.”

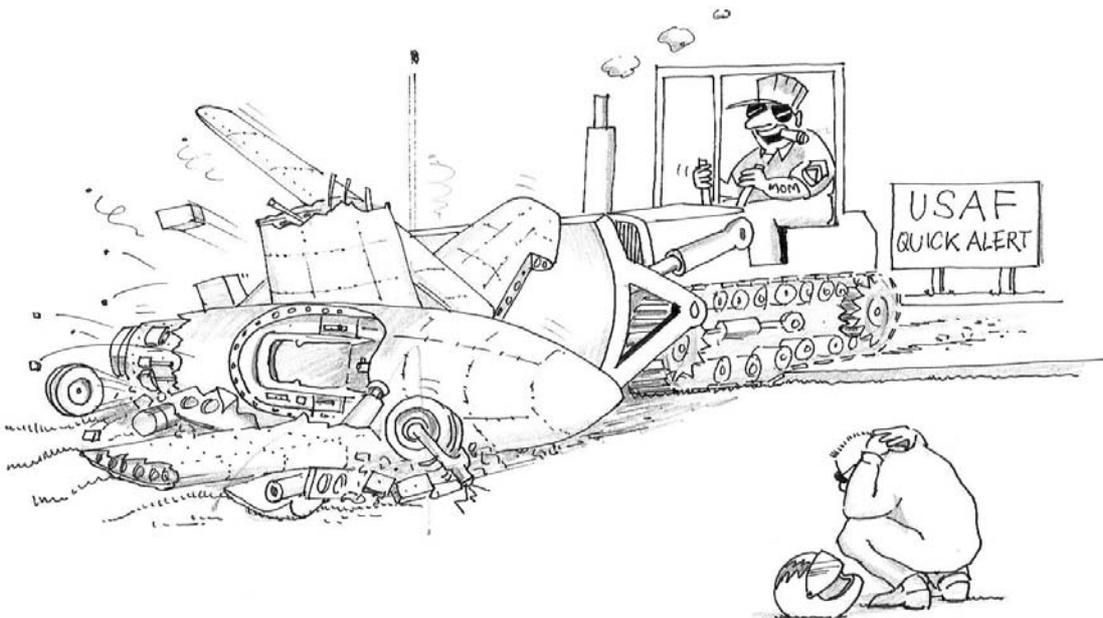
Two lessons:

1 Strap in very tightly.

2. Know where all the controls are and be able to operate them instantly in an emergency without having to look for them.

This last comment especially applies to those who fly several different types of glider.

When was the last time, whilst waiting at the launch point with the canopy closed, you practised the sequence of actions required should it be necessary to 'leave' the glider whilst airborne? I have recently read an old article which emphasises the above comments in a humorous way. A Service pilot was being checked out on a single seat aircraft. No similar type of dual aeroplane in service. Having been briefed he successfully started up, took off and climbed to a height where he decided to make use of the aircraft pressurisation. The operating lever was adjacent to the canopy jettison knob. Result, canopy leaves aircraft, hits tailplane causing control difficulties and the RT becomes unuseable due to the noise level. A large runway is in sight and he duly lands on a USAF Quick Alert airfield. A bulldozer arrives and the damaged aircraft is pushed clear of the runway and written off! Obviously not his day and solely due to operating the wrong lever!



Don't forget Social Evenings at the club –First Saturday of every month through the season

Weather permitting there will be a barbecue either by the bus or near the clubhouse. If the weather is rubbish we'll have a take-away in the clubhouse. If you'd like to join in please be there for 6.00 so that we can put together an order for food, wine and beers. The whole thing will be financed with a whip-round.



Calling-in from a landout when the office is closed

Please make a note of this number:

Booker Bus Mobile

07530 439065

If you land out when the office is closed this is the number for the mobile that's kept on the bus on XC soaring days. There's no guarantee anyone will answer but there's always a chance!

Correction

Eagle-eyed members may have spotted the glaring mistake in the intro to last month's newsletter. Jeremy Gilbey flew at Serres with Klaus Ohlmann and not as stated with the late Klaus Holiinghaus.

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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