



Days to Booker Regionals 108

The Booker Newsletter

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AGM Report: CFI's annual review for 2014/15 See page 2

<p><i>From the Chairman</i> <i>From the CFI AGM Report</i> <i>Members' Achievements</i> <i>New Lecture –Preparing an XC Flight</i> <i>Six years of leadership at Booker</i> <i>Regionals Update</i> <i>Free Lectures by the Institute of Physics</i> <i>Barrier Key Renewal</i> <i>Folding an Aeronautical Chart</i></p>	<p><i>This month the Newsletter is appearing a week later than usual to allow us to include Richard's report to the AGM. Jim has a new lecture to announce, there's a look back over six years of Geoff and Denis' leadership and an update on the Booker Regionals. Plus some lectures that might explain why aeroplanes actually fly and the correct way to fold your chart.</i> <i>William</i></p>
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From the Chairman

It is now 6 years since I joined the committee as Deputy Chairman, and it has been a privilege to stand in as Chairman for the last year. It is great to see how the Club has developed and flourished in recent years. Having completed my year as Chairman as agreed, I feel that I have now achieved all that I can in the circumstances therefore I will be standing down as Chairman and from the Committee. I have been an active member of Booker for over 43 years and I look forward to many more happy gliding experiences as a club member. Wishing you safe and exciting flying.



Denis

AGM - CFI's Review 2014/15

Last year's severe winter flooding gave a very poor start to the 2014 season and put us right on the back foot from day one. It wasn't until April that we really got going and even then progress was slow.

We even ran two task weeks during last season which thanks to the hard work of William Parker, Jim White and Tim Scott were well subscribed to. Sadly both weeks were subject to poor weather and minimal flying was completed. I suppose that's the gamble you take with gliding in the UK.

Despite the poor weather I am however pleased to report that we finished the year having completed a total of 3,836 launches, a mere 4.9% fewer than the previous season.



We however thankfully had a significant number of achievements during the season. Notably these were;

- 15 first solos
- 19 Bronze Badges (and increase of 52% on the previous season)
- 3 Silver Badges
- 2 Gold Badges

Like last year the number of gliders on site has risen and we have yet again seen a grown in our membership.

Last year we also had our first expedition to Klippeneck in southern Germany. The expedition turned out to be one of our most successful expeditions ever run with soaring on 14 out of 14 days.

Trial lesson flying and course flying also grew by 5.5% last year and for this I must thank our instructors. Towards the end of the summer season we often found ourselves inundated with people wishing to fly and we could not have managed without the volunteer assistance of the instructing team.

The newly introduced longest day event also seems to have proved popular. Last year we completed over 70 launches in a day, something which hasn't been seen at Booker for many years. The 2015 event promises to be bigger and better. Amongst several other exciting activities for one day only we hope to re-introduce winch launching back to Booker for the first time in almost 50 years.

Last year I reported on our significant progress with EASA. Many of you will have heard rumours about the demise of EASA but I must stress to you now that it hasn't gone away. The delay until 2018 is due to administration issues but come April 2018 all glider pilots must

March 2015

have a licence. We are continuing to process applications and as of this morning we have thus far processed 46 licences.

Our workshops have been flat out over the past 12 months. In particular our glider workshop has been busier than ever. Robin has yet again been ably assisted by Vic Day, John Hubberstey and Mike Sinclair to turn around the club kit as fast as possible and I hope that you would all agree, we have some very good looking and well maintained gliders.

Graham Saw has been working tirelessly recovering the wings of our motor glider. Graham has donated his time for free and has been working 5 days a week for the past few months to complete the project. The wings are almost complete and look spectacular. We all owe Graham a huge gratitude and I hope that you will all join me in thanking him for the work he has done.

This club would simply fail if it were not for members such as those that I have just mentioned, many who give up their time for free to help us. We are a members club and rely on our members to keep us going. A huge thank you to all those who put in hours of your own time to so many different projects in and around the club. We wouldn't exist without you.

Before I finish I wish to mention the coming season.

Thus far the year has got off to a much better start than last and we are already 24% ahead on last year launches. The launch rate is at its highest since 2010 and I hope to keep it that way!

The 2015 Klippeneck expedition is now the most successful expedition Booker has ever run and we also have the return of the Booker Regionals.

The 2015 Regionals will be a full grid of 25 gliders and therefore is due to be our most successful competition for years.

We are once again returning to Shobdon in a few weeks time in a split, Talgarth and Shobdon expedition. Again this expedition is fully subscribed with 25 pilots attending.

The BGA have once again decided to run courses back at Booker and the first will be mid next month. The BGA have also decided to make me a regional examiner which means that some of my time will be spent away examining at other sites. It is anticipated that next year we should have at least one full instructors course back at Booker.

The Air League and two separate universities have also approached us wishing to run significant courses this summer. I will release further details once contracts have been agreed and signed but rest assured, the launch point this year will be a busy place!!

Have an enjoyable soaring season

Richard

Members' Achievements

First 100k by a Booker member this year –Jim White

New Lecture - 21st March

Jim will be presenting the first topic of the 2015 XC Performance Programme, "Preparing a XC Flight", on 21st March in the briefing room at 10.00. Anyone interested in using the programme is welcome. This topic covers the selection of a task, reading notams, marking up your charts, and preparing yourself and your glider to fly. Bring a chart and pens.

Six years of successful leadership at Booker GC

Six years ago the club faced what was possibly the most challenging period in its history. Not only were the effects of the banking crash and recession reducing disposable income for activities like gliding, but there were a number of direct threats to the future of the club. Geoff and Denis became Chairman and Vice Chairman at that time and together fought many battles on behalf of the club, sharing the leadership role. The principal threat was the attempt by Wasps RFC to build an 18,000 seat stadium on the airfield site with numerous other facilities and, of course, housing. It would have put an end to Booker Gliding Club at Wycombe Air Park. Many members played key roles in the fight to see off the stadium but Geoff and Denis led negotiations for the club and four years later the stadium plan was thrown out by Wycombe District Council.

Other threats soon loomed –the attempt by the then airfield management to close runway 35 following their closure of 17. There was the introduction of the immensely complicated EASA transition process, staff reorganisation and the re-location of the club to Thame for 6 weeks during the London Olympics. Perhaps one of their most important achievements has been to reintroduce a much more participatory club spirit at Booker. All ably handled by Denis and Geoff. They both also flew regularly, encouraged others, joined in with our expeditions and somehow managed to retained a sense of humour. When Denis succeeded Geoff as Chairman in 2014 the battles proved far from over. A new plan for developing the airfield emerged and Denis, with the support of committee members and others with key skills in the area, has been leading negotiations for a new lease for the club in a fiendishly complicated arena with lawyers, airfield management and the development arm of WDC all involved. Between them Geoff and Denis have provided us with probably our longest period of continuous leadership ever, at a time when continuity has been essential. The club owes them both a debt of gratitude for their unstinting service. Many thanks to Geoff and Denis for six years of successful leadership.

William

Free Lectures by The Institute of Physics:

Rob Grant has kindly forwarded details of this interesting lecture. It takes place at two venues one in London the other in Reading.

Will it Fly? A Guided Tour of Aircraft Stability

How do engineers know whether an aircraft will be stable or not, before it flies? Martin Kellett will explain this.

You can see more details at this website:

http://www.iop.org/activity/branches/south_east/lse/calendar/index.html#/?i=1

Here are the dates and venues:

Mon, 30 Mar 2015

19:30 William Penney Theatre, Recreational Society, West Gate, AWE, Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR

repeated:

Wed, 1 Apr 2015

18:00 Institute of Physics (Franklin Theatre), 80 Portland Place, London, W1B 1NT

[Pre-registration for Portland Place is advisable as lectures are well-attended. Lectures are aimed at the general public so tend to be light on Mathematics.]

The Booker Regionals 2015 Update

- Please put Saturday and Sunday 20th/21st June in your diary for the **The Regionals Trial Weekend and Club Clean Up**. That weekend we'll be hoping to fly HDT tasks as a practice for the Comp, to trial the scoring system and also to have a big clear-up in key areas of the club. Please come and lend a hand if you can.
- Many thanks to those members of the Regionals Organising Group who have already done so much of the groundwork for the Regionals. Dates for another Organising Group meeting are proving a bit difficult but the intention is to hold the next meeting by mid-April at the latest. Watch this space.
- Check out the competition website! We have 17 confirmed entries including 3 visiting pilots. We're confident that with a few more entries from Booker members and a couple more visitors we will achieve our goal of 25 competitors.
- Note: to compete in the Regionals you need to have:
 - A Silver C
 - A 2015 Aeronautical chart
 - An FAI sporting Licence (obtainable from the BGA online shop)
 - Glider insurance



Barrier key renewal



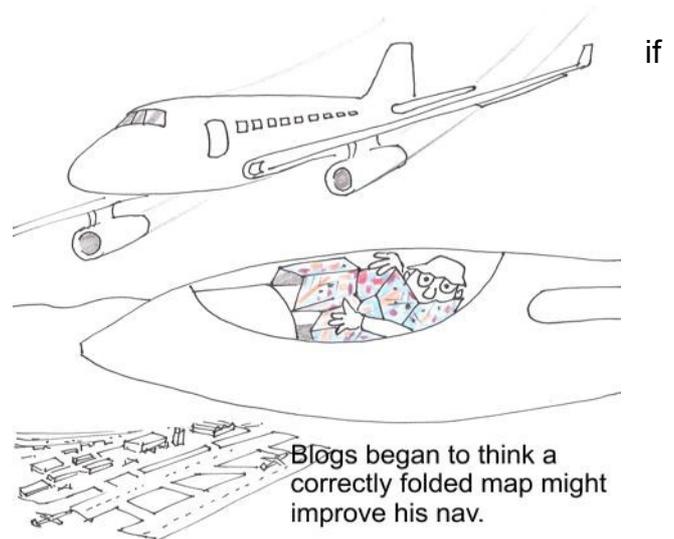
For the moment the barrier at the entrance to the trailer park is permanently raised. However you will need your barrier key to drive air-side to the hangars and to operate the main security barriers outside working hours. All barrier keys need to be renewed before the end of March. To do this please either take your key to the AFC office in the base of the tower and they will update it, or if you are not at the airfield phone them on 01494 529261 and give them the number on the card. It can take a few days to register so it is best to do it before it expires.

The right way to fold your map (reprint from 2012)

There are many approaches to folding maps to make them manageable in the confines of a glider cockpit. Many of these involve cutting off large chunks of the map and the key and the map is repeatedly folded to focus on a task area it soon begins to look like last Sunday's newspaper.

Luckily there is a correct way to fold an aviation map so that the end result is:

- Small enough to fit on your lap
- Big enough to show most tasks
- Quick and easy to re-fold along one set of (ie.the same) creases
- Remains compact and flat



With this method the map (or more correctly –the chart) can be folded to put any location at the centre of the visible area.

The instructions are in a PDF available for download at:

<http://www.flyingshack.com/documents/FoldingahalfmilUKaeronauticalchart.pdf>

William

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 (williamparker275@gmail.com). Please note new email address

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