



**Task
Week
19th-27th May**

The Booker Newsletter

**Join an Evening Group: Tuesdays,
Wednesdays and Fridays –See Page 4**

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Nothing sweet about those April showers from a gliding point of view, nevertheless we have had a few soarable days and a pair of excellent badge achievements and an outstanding party for Mike Collett. The Thame project has reached the tracked vehicles stage and the list is open for Serres with a couple of vacancies yet to be filled. Volunteers are needed to support the marketing team who are taking a glider to glorious Goodwood. Please let Jane or Chris Collett know if you can help. Best wishes to Mike from all the members of the club.
William

From The Chairman

Dear Fellow Booker Members

What contrasts we have seen in the weather over the last few weeks. From tea shirt and shorts in lovely warm sun at Talgarth to six inches of snow the following week. From a rock hard airfield at Booker to endless days of rain and water logged grass. Still, at least there is plenty of time to make sure we are ready to go as soon as we get a decent spell. Keep your eyes on the forecasts and don't let lethargy set in!

The airfield has been nicely rolled, the tugs are ready, thanks to the tug maintenance team, the gliders are ready, thanks to Robin Wilgoss, even the motor glider is ready, thanks to Dave Byass, so let's make sure we are. It was great to see so many of you at Mike Colletts's farewell party. Thank you all for coming and a special thank you to those of you who gave so generously to help Mike with the mountain of cost that is still ahead of him as he starts the final lap to becoming an airline pilot. Many thanks to Sally Longstaff and her willing helpers for putting on such a good spread and to Shelagh and Hilary for helping with the organisation.

You will all be pleased to hear that we have a new airfield manager who is keen to help get the place more ship shape after years of neglect by his predecessor. Dave Phillips was previously managing Newtownards in Belfast. I flew in there in the RV6 last year and I was very impressed by the hospitality and the neatness and friendliness. So, if that is anything to go by, we can look forward to Booker becoming warm and friendly again.



The preparations for the Thame expedition during the Olympics are proceeding well. Many thanks to all concerned, Graham Morfey, Doug Hilton, Denis Campbell, Roger Neal and many others. But a special mention to John Herman and Pete Wyld for sterling work in moving earth and laying drains as part of our commitment to the Upward Bound Trust in exchange for lending us their airfield.

Please join me in wishing John and Christine Herman a speedy recovery from their recent operations.

I wish you all lots of happy safe gliding as soon as the sun arrives!

See you at the launch point.

Geoff

From the CFI

After a month of relentless rain it's difficult to think of what flying we've been doing recently. However, a quick glance at the Ladder shows we did manage to get some great cross-country flights in at the beginning of last month. I'm also pleased to say that Sam Gervais managed to get something out of what was a very wet Bronze course and managed to complete his Bronze flying test and ground exam. Simon Vardigans also managed to complete his cross-country endorsement.



Despite the poor weather the duty crew have been carrying out a large amount of work on our side of the airfield. This has included a decent amount of rolling and grass cutting. To avoid undoing their good work especially when the airfield so soft please avoid turning gliders on the spot. Use the buggies to swing the glider back onto line, in a sweeping circle, as necessary.

You may have noticed on the bus we now have a new daily inspection folder for each of our gliders. The instructions are in the front and are hopefully self-explanatory, however, please don't hesitate to ask if you do have any queries. I'm also reliably informed that the motorglider is nearing the end of its hibernation period and will be back online soon. Please try and make good use of it; I'm sure the motorglider instructors within the club are keen to do some and it is a great way to refresh your field landing skills.

As you're probably aware I'm now away continuing my airline training. However, the club has asked for me to continue in my roll as CFI, which I will continue to do to the best of my ability whilst ensuring I complete this phase of my training successfully. I will ensure that I'm at the club as much as I can spare and if you need to get in touch with me please email the club office who will forward it on to me – please be aware that I will reply as soon as I can but this is likely to take a bit longer than usual. However, we are very lucky to have Doug, who will be taking a more active role in the day to day operations at the club, ably assisted by Richard who is joining us again for a third season.

Finally I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone that helped, contributed and attended my little party, I was deeply humbled that so many people attended to help get rid of me!

Safe flying and keep vigilant,

Mike

From the DCFI

The weather has been unbelievably fickle with a balmy March and snowy start to April followed by the wettest drought on record. From a soaring perspective, April started with some incredible weather and impressive flights with the clubs Duo Discus doing a superb 500km and several other fast cross country flights over the following days. Graham Saw's Easter Egg Cup was a tremendous success with all his winter programme of Aerobatic pilots showing us exactly what they could do.

And then something happened to the weather mid April and it seems to have rained continuously ever since. This shouldn't be a reason to be downhearted though as we still have a tremendous season ahead. Jim Whites XC Performance group have been treated to some excellent lectures. For those that want to 'race' in a more competitive environment, Tim Scott has been putting a lot of effort into developing a Grand Prix style of tasks where everyone can fly a similar task (with some handicapping) and hopefully gain experience and speed by taking part – remember the aim is to beat Tim. The Motor Glider will be serviceable very soon and you should take advantage of the chance to hone up your field landing and navigation skills (check with the Office for availability).

Lastly, I have attended a couple of briefings in respect of the Olympics and Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations which will be implementing airspace restrictions at various times. Now more than ever is the time to ensure you check NOTAM's before flying and know where the airspace is and fly appropriately – please ask if you need assistance.

We have a great season ahead of us – stay current and fly lots.

Safe flying

Doug

Task Week –19th May to 27th May

Check ahead for time off work, get that final fettle done, charge your batteries and keep your fingers crossed for good weather for the coming Task Week. It will be a chance to make up for the recent dismal weather, to fly together and improve our XC skills for a kick-off for the summer soaring season.

Dates for your diary

- Silver/soaring course - 23-27 July (at Thame)
- Task weeks - 19-27 May (at Booker) and 28 July-5 August (at Thame)
- Serres list deadline –**11th May**
- Booker on show at Goodwood 28th June – 1st July

Members' achievements

Sam Gervais

Bronze Badge

Simon Vardigans

XC Endorsement

Thame Haddenham- preparations continue

Whilst a lot of attention is being placed on the London Olympics 2012 and our planning on moving to Haddenham for that period, we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that we still have the majority of the season available to fly from Booker and should take every opportunity to do so.

The official countdown to the Olympics events shows only 84 days to go but due to the airspace restrictions we have only 71 days available to prepare our move there.



Behind the scenes there has been plenty of activity preparing for our move. John Herman and Pete Wyld (aided by a some other members) spent a few days over at Haddenham doing some groundworks to clear the way for our trailers to park and provide easier access to and from the Hangar. A temporary club house and loos are arranged as is a mobile fuel bowser and the myriad of other bits and pieces necessary to make our move and flying there a success.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all there.

Closer to the event, we will be holding briefings at Booker on operating there and how to get the most out of our time there and most importantly how to avoid becoming a 'target' for an RAF Typhoon. Please watch the notice board and newsletters for more information.

As part of our efforts to contain the costs of the move, we are looking to borrow a caravan and a generator for the period. These would be for club staff/tug pilot to stay in during the period – please contact the office if you are able to help in any way.

Doug Hilton

Make the most of those long summer evenings

Now that the clocks have gone forward the evenings are lengthening and this is the ideal time to brush up on your flying skills and learn new ones. Come along to one of the evening groups and have some fun in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. It's also an opportunity to get to know some of your fellow club members better.

Contact the group leaders or just turn up, any time from 1730 until dark:

Tuesday - Graham Saw

Wednesday - Chris Rowland

Friday - Symeon Economou

Serres 2012 –Spaces available

The clubs expedition to Serres in 2011 was a tremendous success (check the Booker Blog - June 2011) with an enormous amount of flying in some most fantastic scenery and soaring conditions allied with great food and socialising.



The gliders typically flew 5 to 7 hours each day and the expedition pilots were able to safely learn and develop their skills at mountain soaring in a combination of ridge, thermal and wave flight up to FL195. Daily briefings from Klaus Ohlmann – revered expert in mountain flying and holder of over 40 international records are just a part of the experience.

We are going again this year and whilst the initial list was filled up very quickly for the 2012 expedition (mostly with folks coming back for a second year) we now have the capacity for more people (as a couple of early takers can no longer make it).

We need to move quickly to ensure we book the relevant accommodation, so if you are interested please contact

the Office before Friday 11th May so you can be included.

It's a great opportunity – don't miss out.

Doug Hilton

Booker goes to Goodwood

The Goodwood Festival of Speed attracts 180,000 visitors from across the country, all with disposable income and an interest in adventurous sports, and this year Booker will be showing them what gliding is about. The Festival runs from 28 June to 1 July and we will be taking a glider plus our usual exhibition materials in order to spread the word and to sell courses to budding glider pilots of all kinds from complete beginners to power pilots looking for more excitement.



We will of course need club members to help with this - no previous experience required, just enthusiasm for your sport and a pair of comfortable shoes! For more information on the show see <http://www.goodwood.co.uk/festival-of-speed/aviation-exhibition/aviation-exhibition.aspx>. To offer help see Jane Moore or Chris Collett or leave a message at the office.

An evening with a difference

Entertain your friends, family or colleagues by arranging a Trial Lesson group. The price per person for an evening group of visitors is only £58, and if you bring a picnic, or follow up with a meal in a local pub, it makes for an evening to remember. Plus it helps the club with income generation, and may even encourage someone to take up gliding. Ask at the office for more details.

Ladder Corner

May 2012



As we have an increasing number of members flying cross country this year. I thought that it would be a good idea to remind you as to the importance of entering flights on the BGA ladder: www.bgaladder.co.uk.

There are 3 reasons to enter your flights on the ladder.

For the gliding movement

For your own satisfaction

For the benefit of the club and fellow pilots

Let's start with the benefit **to the gliding movement**. The BGA Chairman Patrick Naegeli stated that in 2010 around 1 million miles were flown by UK glider pilots. This information comes from the BGA ladder and forms a powerful argument for anybody representing gliding and fighting for our rights to the sky as to the high level of activity of glider pilots and the vitality of our sport.

You may also have seen in the latest edition of S & G (April/ May 2012 p07) that the flight information from the ladder provided an invaluable data base from which Paul Jessop produced a graph demonstrating where we regularly fly above FL100. We now continue to have transponder exemption above FL100 in 6 areas in the UK for another 3 years.

For your own satisfaction. Putting flights on the ladder allows you to keep an easy record of your flights, gives them a value based on BGA guidelines as to shape of task and distance. Simply a triangle gets more points than an out and return and the better the shape of the triangle the more points. If you put your trace on then you get a bonus and can then also download your trace as an igc file which can be viewed in seeyou (this can be downloaded for free onto your home computer for analysis www.naviter.com conditions apply) or a google file which can be viewed on google maps.

For the benefit of the club and fellow pilots. This is the best bit: you can download files put on by other pilots; so if as often happens to me, I have fallen out of the sky somewhere, I can see that another pilot flying the same task has got through that hiatus by a different route. I think that we can all learn a considerable amount by considered flight analysis and

comparison, and the ladder allows us to do that. I would urge the experienced pilots to put up their traces to encourage and inspire the rest of the fleet. I believe that there are also friendly rivalries going on amongst some of our pilots that can be measured by the ladder. So if you are not familiar with the ladder please have a look now at www.bgaladder.co.uk. Look around the site (the info button, the calculator page, and the faq's and look at some of our club entries for last season) and then if you want to be able to enter your flights this season click on 'my flights' to register as a Booker pilot.

Jeremy Gilbey

jeremygilbey@mail.com

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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