



Red Kite
Regionals
15-23 July

The Booker Newsletter

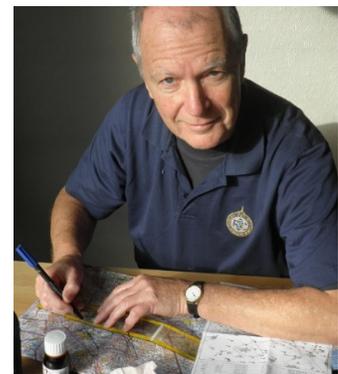
**Aero Expo – can you help?
Page 5**

From the Chairman
From the CFI
Members' achievements
Easter Egg Cup – results
Mystery Man
Aero Expo – can you help?
Ladder Corner
Going Ape - pics
Is your Flarm up to date?
A visitor from the past

In this edition we have an update on arrangements for the relocation of flying during Aero Expo – plus a request for help with the club's exhibition. There is also a reminder about the BGA ladder, info about updating Flarm, a mystery man, and some monkeys. All this and more....
Happy reading.
Jane

From the Chairman

The Instructor Training Week was just about to kick off when the last Newsletter went to press. And what a week it was! The weather was kind, permitting many different check flights and training sessions to take place. The Training Week approach proved to be a resounding success. It has several advantages for the club – it gets all instructors up to speed with current techniques before the season get going, it fosters a spirit of collaboration between our instructors and it means that there will be fewer demands for two-seater instructor training flights on busy summer weekends. Many thanks to Richard for organising this very successful innovation.



The BGC committee welcomes Simon Vardigans as a committee member.

I am sure that all members will have noticed the re-arrangement of the briefing room and the club house seating area. This is a huge improvement and thanks to Doug Hilton, Steve Williams, Graham Saw, Don Puttock, Nick Hoare, Adam Ropka and Bob Davey who all helped. There are now plans afoot to refurbish the tea bar area and to repaint the front of the clubhouse.

May 2017



Thanks too to Doug for organising our Go-Ape exchange (we have a go at their adventure training and they come flying with us). The first of these activity days took place last week.

The basic idea is that by having a go at something slightly scary for the first time we can more readily understand the nervous first-timer's frame of mind. Having personally sampled the 'Tarzan Swing' I can vouch for the effectiveness of this!

Please note that from 1st to 3rd June the club will be temporarily relocating to Thame for the three days of Aero Expo. It's great fun to fly from a different site so don't let the move put you off. If you want to take your glider over there please remove it from the trailer park on or before Wednesday 31st May. It will not be possible to move gliders

after that. During Aero Expo the club will also have an adjoining exhibition in our glider hangar, if you would like to volunteer to help out at that please let Richard or Jane know. More details available in the club house.

The next big event for the club will be the Klippeneck expedition from 10th to 25th June. There will be a full programme of flying at Booker throughout the expedition. And then our Red Kite Regionals, 15th - 23rd July. Although we recently had 10 days of wet weather, things are looking up and summer is now back on the agenda. This is reflected in the excellent level of launches so far this year. Don't forget that the best way you can support your club is to come and fly!

See you up there!

William

From the CFI

The past few weeks have been rather busy!

The main feature of the month was the Instructors Training Week. The week saw all the instructors coming together to train, re-validate and upgrade, as well as socialise and generally have a good time. This was the first time we had run a formalised training week and thanks to its successes it is something we hope to do again next year.

Come the end of the week we ended up with 1 new Regional Examiner, 3 new Full Category instructors and 6 new Basic instructors. Therefore, we now have, 18 Full Category Instructors, 6 Assistant Category Instructors and 13 Basic Instructors.

The month also saw some favourable soaring weather which has put us in an excellent position with our launch figures. To be precise, the figures are at the highest in over 10 years which is a tremendous achievement! That being said, I'm currently writing having moved my key board to avoid the water drips coming through the window above me. C'est la vie!

Many of you will be aware that once again Wycombe Air Park will be hosting AeroExpo from 1st - 3rd June. As in previous years Booker Gliding Club will be relocating to the



May 2017

nearby Upward Bound Trust, based at Haddenham Airfield for a mini expedition whilst the event is on.

As AeroExpo takes a number of days to set up our last flying day here will be on Tuesday 30th May with the club 2 seaters being aero towed over to Haddenham on the morning of Wednesday 31st. We should be up and running by lunchtime.

We hope to take the single seaters with us but these will travel to Haddenham by road. If anyone is able to assist us with this would you please let the office know?

Due to car parking, the trailer park will be inaccessible during the event and therefore if you wish to take your trailer with you, please do so no later than Wednesday 31st May. For those wishing to take their trailers on Saturday 27th or Sunday 28th May we will make sure that you can get access to the airfield. Please check with the office first as we may need to give you a set of keys.

We plan to have a normal operation at Haddenham with the majority of our tugs and gliders available. Courses and Trial Lessons will run as normal, albeit at Haddenham. I finish this month with a couple of additions to our operation. Firstly, some of you will have seen the new briefing material which is being used in the club house. The last month or so has been a trial period and I'm pleased to say it has been a success. With this in mind, we are going to be running a morning briefing, every day, at 9am. This briefing will be given by the duty instructor and contain information on the weather, NOTAMs, airfield operations and if the weather is favourable, a task. It is not essential that you attend the briefing and if you miss it you can find all the information at the following link: www.bookermembers.co.uk/briefing - check it out!

Lastly, we have a new bit of paperwork, a **Safety Occurrence Report (SOR)**, which can be found both in the club house and in the log sheet box on the bus. These SOR forms should be used to report any safety issues on the airfield. Forms may be completed anonymously and should be taken to the clubhouse and placed in the new letter box next to the office door once completed. Data may be excluded from the form so that all parties involved may remain anonymous. Please only fill in the boxes which you wish to, and that are relevant to the occurrence. Completed forms will only be seen by the CFI, DCFIs or safety officers. Once reviewed, the data from the forms will be used to identify any significant or recurring issues.

The reasoning for these new forms is so that we may compile a list of safety related issues around the airfield to see if we can see any recurring themes, significant areas of risk or areas that require additional attention. The forms are not to introduce any kind of blame culture, they are simply to try and make us that little bit safer. Please use them. If you have any questions regarding either the forms, AeroExpo, or indeed anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Safe flying
Richard

Mystery Man

On Wednesday 10th May the club played host to a film crew taking scenes for a major TV series to be aired later this year. They had spent the morning at White Waltham taking ground shots and in the afternoon arrived at Booker for some aerial work. Richard Martyn kindly lent his immaculate K6 for the duration, and a heavily disguised club member did the flying. Definitely looks like a baddie!



Aero Expo – can you help?

As the Chairman and CFI have noted, Aero Expo is returning to Wycombe Air Park for three days - Thursday 1st to Saturday 3rd June. Although this causes considerable upheaval it also gives us an excellent opportunity to promote gliding and the club to pilots and aviation enthusiasts. Our half of the hangar will not this time be transformed into an exhibition hall so we intend to display a selection of gliders old and new, along with some of our marketing banners, and including an information stand. We will also operate our sim at the clubhouse.

We will need help on Wednesday 31st May to set up the display in the hangar, including rigging some of the gliders used. During the three days of the event we will need members to help out by staffing the information stand in the hangar, and by flying the sim. No special qualifications are required, just enthusiasm for your chosen sport – and comfortable shoes.

If you are able to help for a half or whole day, please let me know.

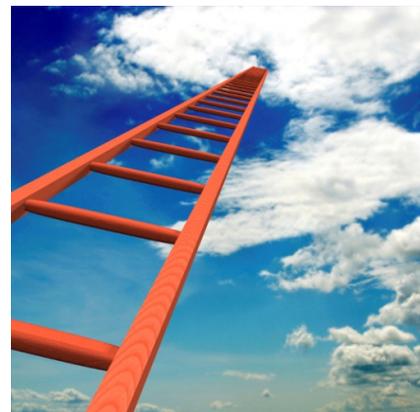
Jane Moore

Ladder Corner

With all the club single seaters available and new gliders on-site I hope that we will be seeing an increase in cross country flying this year. If you do fly please remember to enter your flights on the BGA ladder:
<https://www.bgaladder.co.uk/>.

This helps the gliding movement as the more flights we are seen to fly, the better it helps to preserve our airspace.

It's great for the club and fellow pilots and for you as a useful learning tool. You can download files from other pilots; so if, as often happens to me, you have fallen out of the sky somewhere, you can see that another pilot flying the same task has got through that hiatus by a different route or starting at a different time. I think that we can all learn a considerable amount by considered flight analysis and comparison. There is also a friendly rivalry going on amongst some of the pilots which can be measured by the ladder.



Remember you may enter **any task** you do on the ladder, whether undeclared or declared. Declarations must be made before launching, either electronically into a logger, or in writing and given to an authorised person (I would suggest a senior instructor on duty ½ cat or full). You can also put your trace on the ladder. This option comes up after you have submitted your task and gets you more points. BUT air space infringements will invalidate a task and putting up a trace makes it very public!

The designated Club Tasks do not need to be pre-launch declared. These tasks may be flown in either direction and will always be scored as if pre-declared. They may be flown in addition to, or instead of, a pilot's main task. These tasks are useful for use as fall-back tasks, or following early abandonment, or early completion of another declared task. They can also be used as a primary task if airborne without a pre-launch declaration.

The declared tasks for Booker this year are:

BOB-BIC-DID-BOO 100k FAI triangle (The Milk Run)

BOB-MEM-BOO 100k o/r

SOS-FMA-AVE-BOO 200k FAI triangle

(FMA is Four Marks station on the Watercress Line - south of Basingstoke)

BOB-ANE-BUC-BOO 200k triangle

BOB-FRO-EVE-BOO 300k FAI triangle

BOB-BUL-COB-BOO 300k triangle



Have a look at them on Seeyou (you can download a copy onto your computer at home), Google or the task briefing on the BGA ladder site via the calculator page. Remember to load them on your PDA or GPS Oudie etc. Tim Scott has also put a selection of shorter tasks up on the board in the club house which you might like to consider making a note of.

Variable Sector Format Flights

There is a tab for variable sector format on the flight calculator page; this allows the competition structure that Tim Scott and Jim White have developed to be scored on the ladder. I am sure on good weather days there will be a club task of this type to fly which helps to reduce the advantage of the hot ships.

On the BGA ladder, apart for selecting this tab you enter flights in the usual way on the calculator page and just put your handicap barrel size in the box. There are some additional stipulations:

- This type of task may be selected provided it is part of an organised event, such as a GP-style competition, or a task week, or as a set club task that involved more than one pilot.
- During submission you will be asked to provide event details, such as location, name of event, number of gliders participating, handicap spread. These details will appear on the flight details popup.

Thanks to Tim and Jim for their great work in design, development and getting the BGA to put the new type of task in the comp handbook and I am looking forward to them in the Booker Regionals in July.

Please contact me for any further information on the ladder

[Jeremy Gilbey – Ladder Steward](#)

Jeremy@gilbey.eu

Going Ape

Here are a few pics of some of our senior instructors making monkeys of themselves on a recent 'team-building' day out.



Is your Flarm up to date?

Many owners do not realise that FLARMs now need to be updated with the latest firmware at least once a year on a rolling 365 day basis or the unit will stop functioning. Depending on the type, it may not be obvious that the unit is no longer functional. See <https://flarm.com/support/firmware-updates/> for more information. In addition, be aware that the overall effectiveness of FLARM is reduced when operated with a poor aerial installation resulting in limited range. Guidance on this and other FLARM issues is on the FLARM website at <http://flarm.com/support/tools-software/>.

A visitor from the past



Long standing members may remember Margaret (Peggy) Baroux who flew at Booker in the mid-1970s but left gliding when child-rearing took over. She visited the club on Friday 28th April after a chance conversation that morning with a neighbour who was about to accompany her husband to Booker for a Trial Lesson.

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 name and 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 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 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 and *include your name and 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 name and membership number.*

For the latest news about what's happening check out

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

*** 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

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