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# The Booker Newsletter

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Sunny days are here again and this edition focuses on cross country flying, with news of epic flights, feedback from the Beginning Cross Country Course and information about the BGA ladder. We also have some safety tips - keeping fit to fly on hot days and keeping your trailer the right way up. And this month's Pilot Profile features a member just starting his xc adventure.

There is also news of expeditions and events, a welcome to the new intake of cadets, and.....a date for the Easter Egg Cup!

Happy reading.  
Jane

## Summer is here!

After months of endless rain, May arrived with sunshine and blue skies, and our pilots have been making the most of it with some notable cross country tasks. In particular, during the Elite event which took over the airfield in mid May, the club's single seater operation moved to Haddenham (as guests of our good friends the Upward Bound Trust). Nils Wedi (EN), Geoff Lyons (949) and Denis Campbell (370) achieved a 500k flight to Presteigne in Wales on 10<sup>th</sup> May, and then Nils went back to Haddenham on 13<sup>th</sup> May and did another 300k. Nils appears to be on



top form and is currently leading the club ladder – for those of you who don't know what the BGA ladder is, see page 6.

The **Beginning Cross Country Course** in April caught the tail end of the winter but the six participants made the most of the opportunity to learn from some of the club's best xc pilots. The course was led by Jim White and Richard, with help from Steve Williams in the Falke and Bob Smith. As well as classroom sessions there were practical flying exercises, and Jim took students on short xc tasks in the Duo. They should be putting their new skills into practice in the coming months, maybe even competing in the **Regionals (21<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July)**.

All you need to enter is a Silver badge and a competition licence, available online here: <https://legacy.glidering.co.uk/bgashop/applications/faillicence/faiapplication.php>

The entry list is open, you can enter here:

<http://www.bookerglidering.co.uk/activities/bookerregionalsentryform.html>. The comp is a lot of fun and, because it uses the Handicapped Distance Task format, allows lower performance gliders to compete against the hot ships – and get back for a beer rather than spending the evening sitting in a field.



## Hot days and fitness to fly



At the beginning of summer it is worth remembering the importance of water, sunscreen and a hat. Even running around at the launchpoint on a hot day will dehydrate you, it is essential that you drink lots of water. Sunscreen goes without saying, everyone knows the danger of UV these days. When it comes to flying, early solo pilots and those starting on xc flying should invest in a Camelbak or similar drinking system, bottles of water rolling around the cockpit are not a good idea. And then there's the glamorous gliding hat, not a fashion statement but a vital piece of equipment for keeping your brain cool and functioning. Fly safe!

## Did you get back?

After your epic xc task you will no doubt be wrapped up in reliving your flight for the benefit of the others in the trailer park, washing off the bugs and heading for a well-earned cup of tea (or stronger). It would be very helpful if you also checked with the log keeper that you have been logged down so that the launchpoint team do not have to check your trailer or look for your car to ensure that you are safely back.

## Expeditions – don't miss out!

Quite a lot of members will soon be setting off for Klippeneck for two weeks of fun at a fantastic gliding site. For those staying behind, the club will be operating from Haddenham during AeroExpo and the days running up to it. Flying from a different site is an excellent way to improve your skills – flying a circuit at an unfamiliar site is good prep for doing it round a farmer's field. If you haven't yet been on an expedition, come along and widen your horizons.

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Looking further ahead, the list for the Aboyne trip in October is open, so if you are looking for height claims, want to learn about wave, or just have fun exploring, get your leave request in and put your name on the list in the clubhouse.

## Members' achievements

Congratulations to:

**Russell Woakes** – conversion to LS7

## Easter Egg Cup – date announced!

This famous Aerobatics comp will now be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. There will be three classes – Standard, Tricky and Joker. Safety pilots will be available. Teams from Long Mynd and Lasham are expected so hopeful contestants should start practising now! We have to keep the trophy in the club.



## Events

The Elite event presented an opportunity to attract customers from amongst the Maserati-browsing visitors to the show. Thanks to Chris Collett we had a brand new set of marketing materials for our stand, and the clubhouse was also decked out to impress.



The next event in the calendar is AeroExpo (14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> June) which this year will have a section focusing on gliding, giving us a great opportunity to promote our club on our own airfield. The club operation will be at Haddenham again but if you can spare a few hours to help out at the show it

would be very welcome – let the office know.

The sim has been on its travels again. On 9<sup>th</sup> May the Army hired it as part of their Army Sports Control Board (ASCB) centenary sports week – apparently the ASCB was formed in

1918 as a War Office committee to 'control Army Sport' – and they wanted to feature gliding along with many other forms of sporting activity. One of their gliding instructors saw a photo of our sim in S&G and got in touch. David Humphreys and John Lambie travelled down to Aldershot to ensure that all ran smoothly – many thanks to both.

## Welcome to our new cadets

Last month five new cadets joined our scheme: Charlie Bamber, Basel Hammond, Laurence Jones, Tomass Kundzins, and Rosie Morton. Towards the end of April we had a cadet meeting that encouraged all of the cadets, old and new, to come along to meet each other and introduce the new cadets to the club. William, Ed and Henry, now in charge of the running of the cadet scheme, introduced the new ways in which the cadet scheme would be changing and what roles cadets would have when on duty.

Cadets will now earn different kinds of credits depending on what work they do and what that work is worth. This means that you may not always see them helping out on the launch point but instead they may be helping Shelagh or Chris in the office or helping and learning in the glider or tug workshop - however they're always happy to come and lend a hand when needed! Most of the new cadets have already completed a few duty days, some will be starting after June because of exams. Each cadet will now have a progress card of necessary skills like attaching a rope to the tug or driving the buggies so if you see a cadet with nothing to do then you could always have a look at their card and if there's anything they haven't done yet, show them.

During our meeting it was a horrible rainy day (no surprises there!) so we made the most of it and had a walk around to the hangar to look at the gliders and then had some joy rides in the flight simulator... some very 'interesting' aerobatic manoeuvres were attempted.

Everyone at the launch point - please help in making our new (and current) cadets feel as welcome as possible, they're here to help and learn as much as they can about airfield operations and flying so any advice and guidance would be greatly appreciated!



*Maddi Roberts – Senior Cadet*

## Pilot profile

This month in our regular series of club member profiles we interview an aspiring cross-country pilot

### Luke Bishop

#### What got you interested in gliding?

I went to a lot of airshows when I was a child, and then I joined the ATC in Hastings at age 13 and got into gliding – I fell in love with it and got the bug. I soloed in a motorglider at 16 and then ran out of money. 10 years later, in 2016, I happened to be passing Booker on the way back from a trip, so I popped in, the people I met seemed to be a nice normal bunch so I signed up for a Flexi course. I'm now a full member.



#### What's the buzz?

It feels like a pure and free form of flying, unrestricted and informal.

#### What stage are you at?

Solo, finishing off my Bronze – I just have to pass the meteorology part of the written test. I've flown the Pegasus and ASW19.

#### What are your goals?

I really want to get into cross country. I had a great time on the XC course in April, Jim had some brilliant searching and running tips that I never would have thought of on my own and it was also a good chance to share experiences and knowledge with the other participants and the instructors. I'd also like to go on an expedition – flying from Thame during Expo was a learning experience, I can see why flying from different sites is good for improving and developing.

#### Do any moments stick in your mind?

I remember my first 2 hour flight – it was a perfect day, and it was the first time it was my choice to land rather than not being able to stay up any longer. And my first solo of course

#### What do you do when you're not flying?

I travel quite a lot, both for work and for pleasure. Recently I've been in Colorado, Paris, Morocco, Tunisia and India.

#### Do you have any advice for our readers?

Fly as regularly as you can - even if it's not a particularly strong day – and don't underestimate how rusty you can become if you're out of the cockpit for a few weeks.

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## Ladder Corner

Some lucky pilots who have been able to combine days off and good weather have already had some nice flights. When you do get fly please enter any cross-country flights you do on the BGA national ladder <https://www.bgaladder.co.uk/>.

It is more important than ever this year with the current threats to airspace. It is very easy to do, and it helps those working very hard in the gliding and GA movement to protect the airspace by showing how much we actually use it. At the moment it seems to be a use it or lose it situation!



It's also great for the club and fellow pilots and for you as a useful learning tool. You can download files from other pilots so, if 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 (more next time). 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 AssCat or Full).

You can also put your trace on the ladder. This option comes up after you have submitted your task. BUT air space infringements will invalidate a task and putting up a trace makes it very public!

The designated **Club Tasks** do not need 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 BGA ladder site via the calculator page. Remember to load them on your PDA or GPS.

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 (Handicapped Distance Tasks)**

There is a tab for variable sector format flights which we do a lot from this club on the flight calculator page this allows the competition structure that Tim and Jim have worked so hard to develop to be scored on the 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 additions 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 your great work in design, development and getting the BGA to put the new type in the comp handbook.

Looking forward to flying together this year.

*Jeremy Gilbey*

[Jeremy@gilbey.eu](mailto:Jeremy@gilbey.eu)

Ladder steward

## **Radio frequencies – 8.33kHz update**

The CAA's latest list of ground stations which have new 8.33kHz frequencies may be found here: [http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/aip/EG\\_SUP\\_2018\\_019\\_en.pdf](http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/aip/EG_SUP_2018_019_en.pdf). Check before flying in case there have been any additions.

## **Keeping your trailer the right way up**

The soaring season not only brings exciting XC opportunities, it also brings the possibility that you will find yourself hitching up and setting off to fetch a friend from a field. Towing a trailer is pretty easy if you pay attention to speeds and corners, but this useful little video shows just how important the weight distribution is. Too much weight at the back end and you could end up like this unhappy caravaner.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbdF5AZmINc>

## Q: How many people do you need for a retrieve?

**A:** Two people to take photographs, two cadets to learn how to do it properly, two people to point out what to do, a Supervisor to ensure nothing is being missed, a small woman with a bad wrist to lift the tail of the glider and move it.



## Dates for your diary

- 9<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> June: Summer expedition to Klippeneck
- 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June: Aero Expo
- 21<sup>st</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July: Booker Regionals
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept Vintage weekend
- 13<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> October: Aboyne expedition
- 8<sup>th</sup> September: Easter Egg Cup aerobatics comp



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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. 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)



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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@yahooogroups.com](mailto:bookergc-expeditions-subscribe@yahooogroups.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@yahooogroups.com](mailto:bookergc_xc-subscribe@yahooogroups.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@yahooogroups.com](mailto:bookergc_instructors-subscribe@yahooogroups.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 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>

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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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