

**Booker Gliding Club**

# Newsletter

May 2020

Booker  
Regionals  
entry list  
still open!

We're back in the air!



The club is temporarily based at Chiltern Park

## **CONTENTS**

<i>page 2</i>	<i>Return to the skies</i>
<i>page 2</i>	<i>The Chairman's view</i>
<i>page 3</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
<i>page 3</i>	<i>Condor gliding sim – Booker lockdown multiplayer</i>
<i>page 6</i>	<i>The Treasurer and coronavirus</i>
<i>page 6</i>	<i>Northside update</i>
<i>page 7</i>	<i>Airspace update</i>
<i>page 7</i>	<i>Three men went to mow.....</i>
<i>page 8</i>	<i>Current club status</i>
<i>page 8</i>	<i>Dates for your 2020 diary (subject to change)</i>

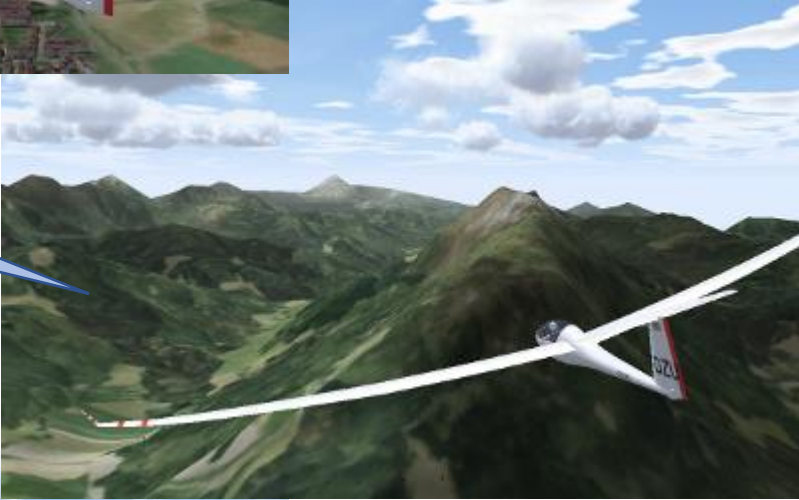






Scores updated as 949 finishes

DZU takes the difficult ridge home



SG9 hugs the ridge to the first TP

**Do I need to be a solo pilot?**

The good news is that you can start this sort of glider racing well before you go solo in a real glider. Unfortunately, you cannot go from zero experience to racing participant in five minutes, it helps if you know the basics of how to fly a glider. The program includes tutorials that will remind you how to fly a glider, and there are a number of tips for how to make life easy if you are learning, such as magic thermals and increasing the tow rope length for easy aerotows. It is also relatively easy for a more experienced remote pilot to “virtually” sit in the cockpit with you and offer advice, or alternatively, for you to sit in on a competition flight as a spectator.

**How do I get started?**

You need to buy and download the software. You don't need a fancy PC to take part, it's still fun flying with other pilots without the fancy graphics – you can turn them down. Having said

that, if you have a 15-year-old PC and very slow broadband it may not work too well for you. Ideally, rather than struggling with mouse and keyboard, you should buy a USB joystick to add a degree of realism. The joystick plugs in to your USB and is automatically recognised by Condor.

### **How do I join in with other pilots?**

We have been flying short tasks (with simultaneous Zoom) on Monday and Thursday around 8pm, although this may run down as we start flying for real. To join a task you go to a web page that lists the available Condor servers, you click a button to join the task and hey presto, the task and weather are downloaded to your PC and Condor starts for you - there are some techie tips in [this document](#). Of course, if you are flying with others you need to know when they will be there. We hope that, as in many other clubs, this winter we will run multiplayer tasks to a regular timetable and will advertise via the newsletter when they start.

International contests run year-round and you don't need a comp licence to enter, but of course you do need to know when these take place. Many of the [international competitions](#) now have better organisation and websites than our real life gliding comps and some are live streamed on YouTube.

### **Sounds fun, but will I learn anything?**

Absolutely. Whilst there are few formal (BGA) training notes for simulators, most pilots would be able to come up with scenarios that could be learned and repeated - practice makes perfect. One example is that some pilots are flying with their Oudie connected for navigation and airspace, so they may have done twenty or more flights refamiliarising themselves, or learning the same kit that they will use in their gliders. Of course, there are limitations - perhaps in the future gliding instructors will also be spending time correcting the bad habits their students have learnt on a simulator.

### **Can it help if I cannot yet go gliding again?**

If you are unable to fly during the current lockdown, consider using a simulator to learn something new, like ridge flying, understand more about thermal centring or to refresh some aspect of gliding such as approach control. Clearly it is not the same as doing it for real, but you may find that with someone else watching your flying on-line, and the ability to repeat immediately, you may get a much better understanding of some subjects.

If you are interested in a demonstration, discussing what is possible, or joining the multiplayer sessions at any time in the future, then please get in touch with any of the following: Bob Smith, Henry Ross, Paul Clarke.

### **After lockdown**

We hope to have an on-line Grand Prix season next winter when the real XC season ends – on days when it is not flyable outside of course.

Bob Smith





## The Treasurer and coronavirus

What does the Treasurer get up to when we're all in lockdown, apart from hooning along the South Downs ridge virtually in Condor? Well I've been doing some C19 planning and execution. It's also what I've been spending most of my time at work doing for the last two months, so it is familiar to me. A gliding club's finances are very seasonal. We lose a lot of money in the winter and then make a profit in the summer and by the end of the financial year in September we just about break even in a good year. So, after a very wet few months up to March where flying revenue was very limited, we were confronted with no flying revenue at all during the lockdown. By the time you read this we should be flying solo again, but a significant part of our activity is flying for training courses and trial lessons which involve two people in a glider with limited opportunity to socially distance and we will clearly not have any revenue from this in the short term. I hope that we will be able to restart dual flying before the end of the summer and get back up to full operational activity levels as soon as customers are comfortable to come and fly dual.

So how do we balance the books? Fortunately, the government has sprung into action remarkably quickly and the committee has done the same. We have sadly had to let two staff members go and we have furloughed all of the others under the government's job retention scheme and I have applied for and received the grant for this. I have also applied for and received rates relief, worth £5,000, and a Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant of £25,000. This will keep us going for the moment and the committee and I will keep working on the health of the club as we return to flying.

John Otty - Treasurer



## Northside update

The Council has assured us that it is pressing ahead with detailed design of the Northside take off strip, but inevitably the Covid-19 emergency has slowed things. An important outstanding matter is a noise report for the intended power circuit to the south of the airfield - until general aviation resumes the measurements needed for this can't be taken, and as a result the planning application for the project cannot be submitted. In the meantime the Council's project manager is exploring whether it is possible to carry out some of the preparatory ground works in advance to try and reduce the delay.

The Council has also been in discussion with Sir Francis Dashwood in connection with the use of the field at the northern edge of the aerodrome, and we are told that those negotiations are progressing well.

The Council hasn't provided an updated timetable for this project, and with the current uncertainties probably can't, but it's good to see that work on it continues as it best can.

Robert Turner





**The flying operation is temporarily based at Chiltern Park while Wycombe Air Park is closed**

**The office remains closed**

**We will resume normal operations as soon as possible.**

If you would like to join the Booker GC Whatsapp Group, please contact CFI Richard Crockett [cfi@bookergliding.co.uk](mailto:cfi@bookergliding.co.uk).

If you have any comments or questions about the club's current situation, you can contact Chairman Symeon Economou [chairman@bookergliding.co.uk](mailto:chairman@bookergliding.co.uk)

.....

## Dates for your diary (subject to change)

### 2020

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 18 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> April:         | Instructor Training Week - postponed       |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> / 26 <sup>th</sup> April:         | Easter Egg Cup aerobatics comp - postponed |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May:           | Flying Start course - postponed            |
| <del>11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June:</del> | <del>Aero Expe</del> cancelled             |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> June:           | Summer expedition – postponed to 2021      |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> July:          | Booker Regionals and Flying Festival       |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> / 26 <sup>th</sup> July:          | Inter Club Leagues – Booker leg            |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> / 30 <sup>th</sup> August:        | Whispering Wardrobes vintage weekend       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> October:         | Elite London – new date                    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> October:       | Aboyne expedition                          |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> November:                         | Awards Evening                             |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> December:                         | Members' Christmas party                   |





---

## Club Communications

We use a Yahoo email group, which we encourage all members to subscribe to, in order to provide a quick way to communicate with the membership. We also use WhatsApp. 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@yahogroups.com](mailto:bookergc-forum-subscribe@yahogroups.com) and *include your name and membership number when applying.*

**Booker GC Expeditions** – This group has been replaced by Whatsapp groups set up in the run up to each expedition.

**Booker GC X-C** – This has been replaced by a Whatsapp group administered by the CFI, John Otty, Tim Scott, Jim White, Bob Smith, Jane Moore

**Booker GC Instructors** – This has been replaced by a Whatsapp group administered by the CFI.

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 ID 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](mailto:jxmoore@gmail.com)

---

**Published by Booker Gliding Club  
WYCOMBE AIR PARK, MARLOW, BUCKS SL7 3DP  
Office Tel: 01494 442501**

Booker Gliding Club Ltd is a company registered in England with company number 1492733  
Registered office address: Wycombe Air Park, Booker, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3DP  
VAT number: 350 4182 83

© Booker Gliding Club 2020