



Days to
Booker
Regionals
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The Booker Newsletter

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SIMULATOR
NOW
OPERATIONAL
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**A new cross-country training course for
2015. See page 3**

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Expedition
Simulator up and running
BGA news*

With thoughts turning to next season, this edition features Jim's plans for a new approach to XC training and coaching, Denis highlights the shape of the fleet for next year and Richard makes some key points about the importance (and value) of keeping gliders clean in winter. There are details of the Talgart/Shobdon Expedition in March/April and pictures of our new simulator, which is now operational. Thanks as ever to all the contributors.

William

From the Chairman

Congratulations to Richard and Sarah on the arrival of a lovely daughter, Tabitha Alice, weighing in at 9 lb 8 oz, we wish all three of them well (and a good night's sleep)

As part of our ongoing upgrade of the fleet we have sold one of our ageing K13s and we plan to refurbish CFA so we will have an excellent training fleet consisting of 2 K21s, 2 K13s and the Duo.

Graham Morfey has stood down as treasurer after many years of dedication to the role, we are very grateful for all his hard work and diligence. Thank you to John Otty and Mark Wolfe who have taken over his responsibilities.



We are now settling in to our busy winter routine of instructors and aerobatic courses and our lecture programme. We have had some good flying weather recently and are trialling flexible opening hours to make the best of it through the winter, see below for information. This will help members continue with their training or keep current. Wishing you safe and exciting flying
Denis

From the CFI

I start this month by thanking all of you who have sent their best wishes to Sarah and I. We're quite overwhelmed at the number of messages and cards that we've received!

For those who don't already know our daughter Tabatha Alice Crockett was born at 0618 on the 9th November weighing in at a whopping 9lbs 5ozs. I'm pleased to report that despite a 30 hour labour mum and daughter are doing really well.



In normal news we are now officially in winter. Saying that the launch numbers have remained surprisingly high with 400+ extra launches compared to the same period (September - October) in 2013.

Now we are established into our winter flying would all those flying club aircraft please remember to give them a good clean at the end of the day. Last winter the improved cleaning saved the club a significant sum when in our annual maintenance bill and drastically reduced the time gliders spent in the workshop.

I need not remind you about the movement and positioning of gliders on soft wet grass as we seem to mention it every year, rather I'll just say; please be considerate both when moving gliders around and also getting in and out (especially with muddy boots on!).

Last weekend saw the start of our instructor courses. For 2015 we'll have around 10 new instructors (the most we've trained in recent years). Many thanks to those of you giving up your time to participate. It's worth remembering that 99% of the instructors at Booker are all volunteers who have all put a significant amount of time and money into getting their various ratings.

I finish this month by reminding you what fun the winter can be to fly in. Have a check of the Booker Blog for last weekend to see some spectacular pictures taken by Mike Richardson and Jane Moore.

I'll be back at the airfield in two weeks but for now I'm off for nappy changing duties!

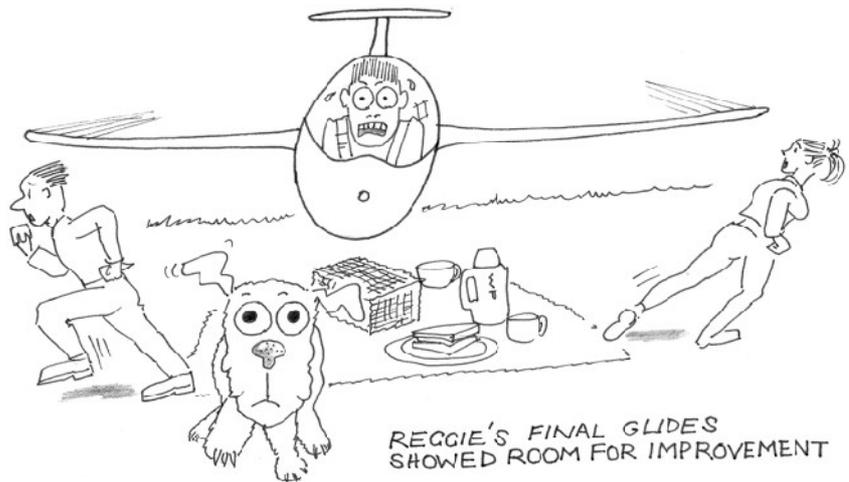
Safe flying and see you when I'm back.

Richard

Cross Country Soaring Programme for 2015

Many pilots find the greatest satisfaction to be found in successful cross country soaring flights. For those with a competitive streak this is further enhanced in competition. Booker has long been synonymous with cross country flying but this will not be sustained unless we help new pilots to expand their skills and gliding horizons.

I have run cross country and competition courses in years gone by but, although perceived as helpful, these have been hampered by the availability of good soaring weather on the days we got together. In 2015 I shall be running a Cross Country Coaching programme with a slightly different format. There will be several coaches and six topics but no formal lectures:



- 1) **Planning a cross country flight.** Where to go and how far, preparing charts and computers, wing loading, flying the task on the ground, airspace and notams, how to make a control, what to expect en-route, what to do before the start etc.
- 2) **Starting technique.** What to do before the start, where and when to start, start height, using others, sticking together, building energy before the start. Changing focus on starting. Where to make the first climb.
- 3) **Climbing technique.** Finding climbs, patterns in the clouds, sources and triggers, entering efficiently, centring, recentring, what to do if you lose the thermal, when to stay, when to leave, which way to leave, leaving efficiently.
- 4) **Running technique.** Choice of direction, lining up energy, speed to fly, dolphin technique, pulls into energy lines, wave effects, judging distances, choosing and using a soaring band, choosing when to climb.
- 5) **Making turns.** Into wind and downwind turns, ensuring control, how not to land out at the turn, focus. AAT technique, straight lines in sector and sharp turns, when to make final turn for home.
- 6) **Final Glides.** Getting on glide, speed to fly, flying the energy, watching the numbers, what to do when it goes wrong, finishing, thinking about and executing a safe landing pattern, clearing the landing area.

Each topic will be supported with briefing notes or a presentation, exercises, and hand outs. Exercises can be performed in the briefing room, in the simulator, in a K21, and in the Duo. If pilots want to access the whole programme then they will probably use all of them. Pilots will be able to dip in and out of the programme engaging with topics and coaches as and when they want. All you will have to do is pull the coach, equipment, and weather together on the same day! A couple of flights in the Duo, some simulator time, and a contribution to the cadet fund would run out at around £250 for the full course. If you would like to be involved in this programme next season, either as coach or pilot, please let me or Richard know.

Jim

Dates for your Diary

- Talgarth and Shobdon Expedition March 28 - April 8
- Booker Regionals 27 June -5 July 2015

Talgarth and Shobdon –book now!

We have had some unseasonably soarable days so far this November, but there is no denying that the days are getting shorter, and we all need something to look forward to. A spring holiday maybe? Booker's next expedition? In 2015 the club will be organising a dual site expedition - 28 March to 3 April at Talgarth, and then 4-8 April at Shobdon. Both sites offer ridge and wave flying with spectacular views, and flying there will blow away the winter cobwebs and get you on top form for the season. There is plenty of reasonably priced accommodation and good food in the local areas - plus other activities on no-fly days. You can book for either site or both, but be sure to book early as there will be a limit on numbers.

Booker Sim Operational

Our simulator is now operational, providing us with a brilliant new tool for training. The design and construction team have built a simulator with superb authenticity (try a low level spin-- the ground rush will get you gulping). The sim is excellent for ab-initio flying, just about all the main exercises in the BGA syllabus such as effects of controls, stalls, spins, spiral dives, aeros, aerotowing and with an Oudie in the front, it's excellent for cross country training.



Instructors who would like to teach in the sim should get in and give it a go. There's an instruction leaflet that tells you how to operate the sim but for first flights get Richard, Pete W or Jim to talk you through the set-up process.



There's no doubt that the simulator will be a terrific asset for Booker both for flying when the weather keeps us grounded and for concentrating on, and repeating, exercises in a way that's not always possible in the air.



The simulator. Top, a very realistic environment. Centre, authentic K13 cockpit, controls and instruments. Below, the familiar K13 panel

BGA news

9th October. The CAA has informed us today that the EASA Committee has voted in favour of the proposed changes to legislation previously described which will have the effect of deferring until 2018 the need to convert to Part-FCL licensing and the need to implement ATO requirements. More information is in the news item below.

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The main effects of this vote include the deferment of the need to hold a LAPL(S) or SPL in order to fly EASA sailplanes after 8th April 2015 and deferment of the need to establish an Approved Training Organisation by the same date. Fuller information is in a BGA Newsflash

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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 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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