



Who has flown furthest this season?
See page 5

The Booker Newsletter

Winter Office Opening hours: from now the office (not the clubhouse) will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays – see Mike's report on page 2.

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This month Geoff looks ahead to challenges like the rent review that's coming up. Jane reports of the Henley Show and Jeremy Gilbey takes a look at the Club Ladder, particularly showing us who has flown furthest this year and how this year compares with the preceding two years. Please note these are not the club launch stats, they only apply to flights put on the BGA ladder. And the season isn't quite over, so he'll be getting back to us with the final ladder results in the December issue. Full report from Aboyne next month!

Thanks to all contributors.

William

Fellow Booker members,

I am pleased to say we are making good progress. If the Indian summer continues, we may well be closer to budget that we had thought, For the most part, in my monthly piece, I usually confine my comments to the gliding operations and the club activities. I have tended to avoid the difficult topics and looked for just the good news stuff. But that approach is not treating you, the members, with the respect that you deserve. In any organisation that I have been a member of, I have always wanted to know what is going on. So, here is a bit of an update.



When your present committee took office, nearly three years ago, no one would have guessed the challenges that lay ahead of us. In fact, had we known, we might well not have volunteered! Why do we do it? Because we all believe that Booker Gliding Club has something special and that we should not just turn our backs and let others push us out of existence. We believe that gliding, as a sport, and Booker's part in it, is worth fighting for. We also know that nothing worthwhile was ever easy. I have been blessed with a committee of great strength supported by some fantastically talented members who have astonished me in terms of what we can achieve working together.

You might wonder what the future holds for us now that the Stadium proposals have been dropped. The committee is continuing to work with the Wycombe District Council to discuss the club's tenure. The council recognises the contribution that we make to the community and would like to find a way for us to continue after 2014. Sadly, since British Airways sold Airways Aero Associations to an ex-employee property developer, Arora, he is the holder of

the head lease and has publicly declared his wish to develop the airfield as a hub for jet traffic.

The newly elected Council however, has not heard of these plans from Arora and, given the recent public outcry over the airfield, would be unlikely to approve such development. In the meantime, Arora is making what we believe to be unreasonable rent increase demands of all the tenants on the airfield. We will continue to negotiate the outcome of this 'rent review' conscious that, to agree to the present demands would make it very difficult for us.

Irrespective of the rent review outcome we continue to incur increasing costs. The committee and the staff have worked hard to achieve cost reductions, across the operations, but, with inflation running at 4.5% and spares for tugs and gliders being purchased at exchange rates much different from a decade ago, price increases are inevitable. In order to help the membership last year, we held membership fees at the same level, but you will not be surprised to hear that your committee will have no choice but to increase charges this year. We will keep any increases to the minimum of course. Major components of our costs are essentially fixed; rent, insurance and fleet maintenance, for example. The two determinants of cost to individual members are the number of members and the activity levels. More fee paying members and higher levels of activity reduce the fixed costs per member. So, if you want to know how to help, introducing encouraging and retaining members is vital and lots of gliding activity for all will keep us financially sound. Simple!

In other words the key to our success is to do lots of gliding. Now, that's not bad news is it! If you want to get involved and help in some way please get in touch. I wish all of you lots of great gliding in these last few weeks of the season and for those going to Aboyne, I hope you have a terrific time.

See you at the launch point.

Geoff

From the CFI

September provided us with some superb unseasonable weather, which meant we had a superb end of the month with plenty of activity out at the launch point. As you are probably aware we are now in October which means the club operations have reduced down to 5 days a week with the Monday and Tuesday being closed. However, if the weather is good and you have a Silver C you can fly under self certifying privileges. Full details are on the notice board and if you are in any doubt just ask.



We are now descending into the winter which has a number of ramifications but one in particular is the mud so, can we please make sure we get into the habit of washing the gliders down after a day's flying. I appreciate that it's a bit tiresome but it really does need doing. I shouldn't need to remind the tug pilots, but this certainly applies to the tugs as well.

On a sour note we've had a run of crime on the airfield so please ensure you're making every effort to lock your trailers up and also when locking the hangars and bus please make sure they are locked up as securely as possible. The police are on the case and are doing a

good job, as one member found when he turned up at 4:30am to pick a glider to drag up to Aboyne and suddenly found himself pounced upon by the police who were lying in wait! (see page 4)

Finally please keep an eye on the notice board for all the upcoming events that are in the pipeline such as Bronze lectures and aerobatics course to name a few. If you have any suggestions of lecture topics or would like to volunteer to do one, please let me know.

Safe flying and keep current,

Mike

Recent Members' Achievements

Craig Mitchell

First Solo

New Members

Victor Day

Full member

Jack Fox

Full member

Craig Mitchell

Country member

Congratulations to Craig, who lives in Dubai, and his instructors. Welcome to all three new members.

Booker at the show

On Saturday 11 September the smoothly oiled machine that is the Booker Marketing Team swung into action with a stand at the Henley County Show. Having done this kind of event on a number of occasions we know that it is the best way to sell gliding, and we were pleased to have a steady stream of interested visitors to our display. The children were keen to try out the Junior, while we chatted with the parents about what the club has to offer. Most people lived locally and already knew about the airfield, and we sold an Intro course to a GASP supporter. We hope that the conversations with others will translate into future sales. Many thanks to those club members who gave up time to help with this event.

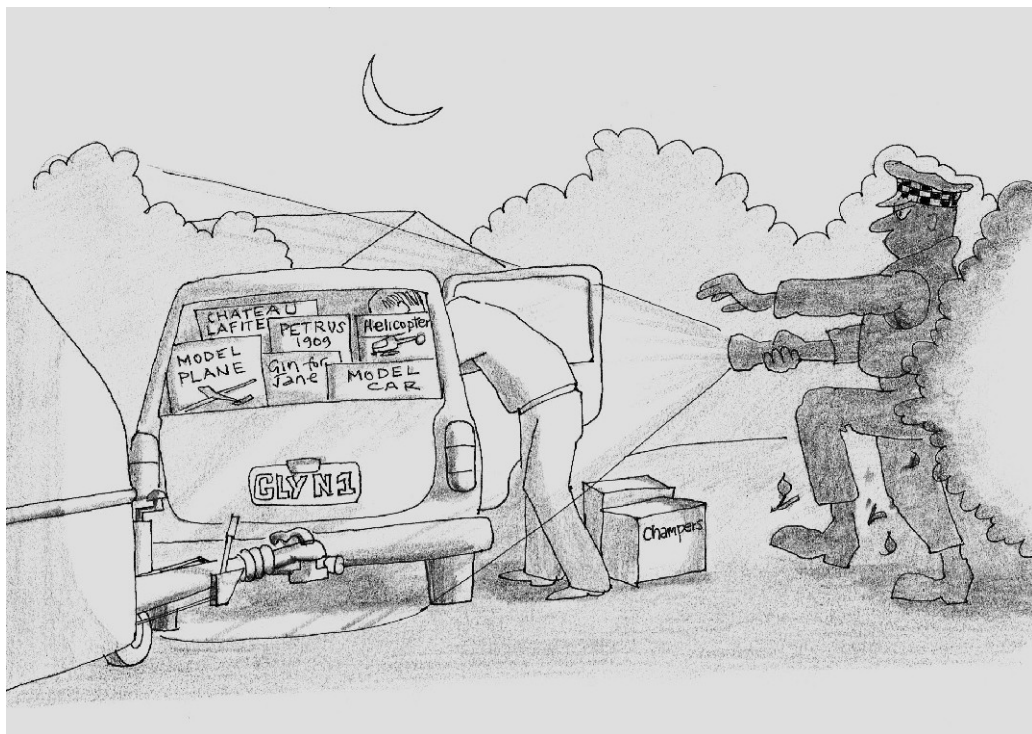


Jane Moore

Prize winners and a nonagerian



Top left: Claire Hewitt won her flight in a Henley magazine competition. Top right: Vanessa Faulkner won hers at a Borlase School competition. Below: Frances celebrated her 90th birthday with a glider flight.



Man caught red-handed in pre-dawn swoop at BGC

Cleanliness and Godliness

Just some quick encouragement to *members* to aspire to domestic godliness by keeping the clubhouse tidy. Shelagh and Hilary already have plenty on their plates and it is not fair to even think that they will take on the additional work. Some members did sterling work during the summer and the clubroom area was cleaned down.

We no longer employ a cleaner so depend on each of you to tidy up after yourself. This includes washing up and keeping the floor areas clean – especially the kitchen AND the toilet. Crumbs left lying about attract rodents – not the sort who keep on breaking into the bus but furry ones who can then infest the clubhouse!! Keeping the toilet clean is a no brainer!

John Hubberstey

Ladder Corner - October 2011

It's not over yet!

There is still the Indian summer to come for those staying at Booker! And for those going to Aboyne; some great potential for height and cross-country flights.

Whatever you do don't forget to put your flights on the ladder, this helps the gliding movement as a whole to stake our place in the skies.

Please put any competition flights up as well - it all adds to the total Kms flown. Even if it was a while ago it will still be recorded though there is a points penalty of 10% for late entry.

I thought it would be interesting to look at the total kms flown by our club members this year to date in comparison with the last two year

Year	Distance	No of Flights	Average Km
2011	37,091.0	177	209.6
2010	49,352.8	221	223.3
2009	69,002.6	307	224.8

At the risk of embarrassing those involved here are the top distance performers to date this year:

Name	Distance	No of Flight	Average km
Jim White	5,413.5	25	216.5
Dennis Campbell	3,877.1	13	298.5
Jon Gatfield	3,009.9	12	250.8
Shack Roberts	2,428.5	8	303.6
Dave Caunt	2,172.8	11	197.5

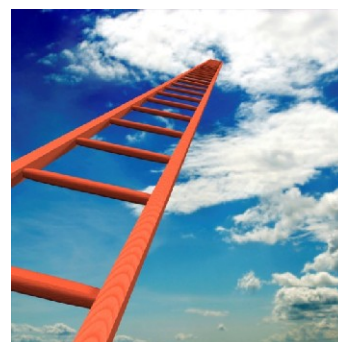
And just for comparison Jim was also the top performer last year when he managed 7,855.1 K over 32 flights with an average flight distance of 245.5.

Last year Dennis managed the top average distance at 376.1 km and Shack achieved the top average distance this year at 303.6.

For the total statistics fanatics I'm sure many other exciting facts can be gleaned from the ladder, but perhaps best to wait till the flying season is well and truly over!

Here's hoping it's not over yet and there is still some more soaring to come!

Jeremy Gilbey



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).

Published by Booker Gliding Club
WYCOMBE AIR PARK, MARLOW, BUCKS SL7 3DP
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Booker Gliding Club Ltd, t/a Booker Gliding Centre
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

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