

Booker Gliding Club

# Newsletter

September  
2020

AGM 2020  
3<sup>rd</sup> October  
1800hrs  
Zoom

Easter Egg Cup Aeros Comp – 26<sup>th</sup> Sept



Whispering Wardrobes Vintage Rally – 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> Sept

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## Farewell to Chiltern Park

Back in May, when recreational flying restarted and WAP was still closed, Richard rang Dennis Pearson at Chiltern Airsports and asked if about 10 gliders could come over and fly for a week. Three months later we were still there, lots more gliders and lots of fun. Dennis could not have been more helpful, and it was a great experience flying from a different site with so much going on – gyrocopters, microlights, wingwalking. We ran a very successful comp in place



of our Regionals, and there were some notable

achievements too – Howard Joseph and Paul Field did their first 500k and James Giles converted to the Pegase.

As our operation gradually returned to WAP our

'expedition' to Chiltern Park drew to a close and on 4<sup>th</sup> September we held a small (Covid-compliant) event to thank Dennis for his hospitality, with a fantastic bbq provided by Nils and Jim. GH and an K21 appeared overhead and Richard and Graham did a bit of aerobatic practice before Richard took Dennis for his first glider flight.

We wish Dennis well in his efforts to retain **Chiltern Park** as an airfield – he has recently been successful in getting it recognised as an **Asset of Community Value** – it is certainly very well supported locally.

Richard and Dennis



Nils celebrating Oktoberfest a bit early



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## Everything you wanted to know about booking but were afraid to ask

### Why can't I just ring the office?

There are a number of reasons why we have developed an online booking system, the most important being that the office is not currently staffed every day. It also drags the club into the 21st century by allowing you to choose your time in the same way as you would if you were booking a gym session or a plane ticket. And you can do your booking at midnight if you feel like it.

### The slot timetable

The total number of launches per day – gliding, power and helicopters – is currently limited while the new air-ground system beds down. The schedule for gliding allows for launches every 10 minutes. The club has decided that the slots in the middle part of the day are primarily for single seaters going cross country, with training flights in the morning and afternoon. Once the cross-country season is over this will be reviewed.

### Getting a single seater slot

To obtain a single seater slot you should 'attend' the 0830 Zoom briefing and ask for your preferred time. Allocation will be first come first served. This applies to cross country pilots and to those wanting single seat local soaring, also to those needing a check flight.

### Trial lessons and courses

People who buy Trial Lessons and Intro courses are sent a link so that they can book their flight. Similarly, those on longer courses are able to book the first day of their course. Instructors can see the booking timetable and plan what is needed each day.

### Club members

Members – including those who have started long courses - wishing to book training sessions can do so via a [link](#) on the club website. You may book a morning or an afternoon on the understanding that you will do two or three flights. You may have a maximum of three future booked sessions – this is so no-one books every Saturday morning and stops anyone else getting a look in.

You may also ask at the 0830 Zoom briefing if there is any same-day availability, the system is set up to leave spare capacity each day.

Some days will be blocked for bookings to allow for events. Currently available dates go to the end of October. The winter schedule has yet to be decided.

### How do I tell whether the club will be flying?

As a glider pilot you should be learning about how to read weather forecasts, but on marginal days it may not be obvious, especially if you are travelling some distance. Rather than phoning the office to ask, we now have the 0830 Zoom briefing which you should attend. There is a very [basic summary](#) of the weather outlook on the bookings website intended for first time visitors.

### **Cancellations and no shows**

If you cannot take up your booking, please cancel it so that someone else can use it. We do not currently have a rule about fines for club member no-shows but we will consider it if the system is abused.

### **And finally....**

Many thanks to Bob Smith for the acres of time he has spent developing the system.



## **Wycombe Air Park ops**

### **Medical requirements**

Members must be in good health and should strictly follow the UK Government guidance on identifying the symptoms of COVID-19. Any member with virus symptoms must stay at home and follow medical guidance.

### **Covid measures**

The clubhouse is open but restricted to a maximum of four people at one time. Masks should be worn. The bus also counts as an indoor area requiring masks. While flying dual, wear a mask unless it interferes with flight safety. Comply with distancing rules and handwashing. Check in with the NHS app.

Information on COVID-19 symptoms, distancing guidelines and PPE can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

### **Wycombe Air Park**

We fly 7 days a week. See previous article for details of the booking system.

There is no longer full Air Traffic Control at WAP and an Air-Ground system is currently being tested. Please be patient while this beds in. **All flying operations will be on 126.555 and gliders must make 'downwind' and 'finals' calls to Wycombe Radio.** If you are unsure about the new procedures, please ask the Duty Instructor for a briefing before flying.

### **WhatsApp groups**

**Most communications to club members, including Zoom session details, are currently delivered through the Booker Gliding Club group.** Any member is welcome to join the group, just ask the CFI (contact details below).

There is now also a **Booker Banter** group for general chitchat. If you would like to join this group, ask Jeremy Gilbey [jeremy@gilbey.eu](mailto:jeremy@gilbey.eu)

### **Further Information**

Ask the CFI at [cfi@bookergliding.co.uk](mailto:cfi@bookergliding.co.uk), or 07970 465918.

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)



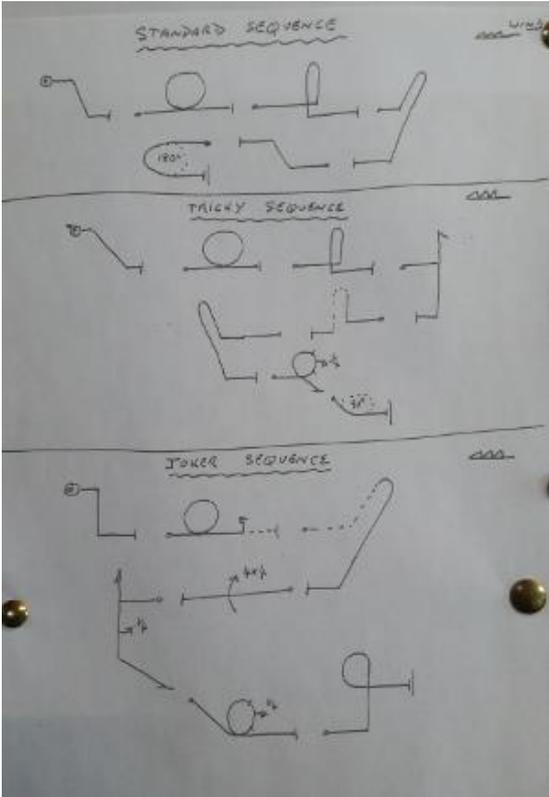






# Easter in September – the Aerobatics competition

In keeping with tradition, the **17<sup>th</sup> International Easter Egg Cup Aerobatics Competition** was not at Easter, this year it was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September. There were 3 classes: Standard, Tricky and Joker (only for the unwary), and contestants could attempt whichever they wanted, the only requirement was to hand a fiver to Graham. There were nine contestants, ranging from recently solo pilots who had never even done a loop before to pilots who had actually practised.

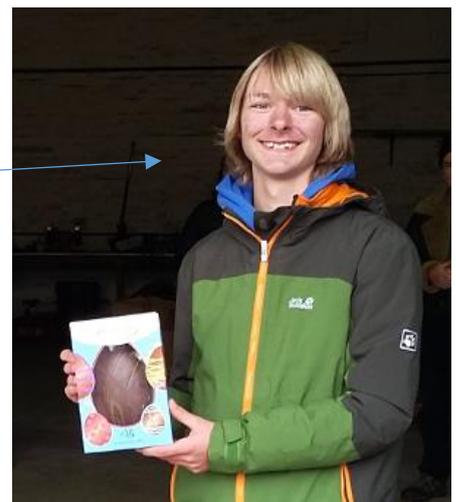


Judge Charles Baker

It was freezing cold with a gusty north-westerly, not the best conditions, but all the flights were executed safely.



The trophy went to visitor **Willie Jones**, with 14-year-old **Leo Sentinella** in second place and **Jane Moore** in third.



Association judge **Charles**

Many thanks to British Aerobatics **Baker**, who sat out in the cold all day watching a K21 flailing around the sky, to tug pilot **James Roland** for wrestling with the conditions – and notching up his 3,000<sup>th</sup> hour of towing – and of course to **Graham Saw** for finding Easter Eggs in September and for organising the whole thing.



## Satisfied customers

We have had plenty of visitors since we re-started trial lessons and courses, and they all seem to be having a good time. Here are a couple of happy people:

### Extract from email

I just wanted to say huge thanks to you all and especially Luke. We had such a fantastic day yesterday. My husband loved the gliding! Huge thanks.

### Facebook review



A screenshot of a Facebook review from Brian Race, dated 1 day ago. The review text reads: "Fantastic day of gliding thank you to my pilot and all the staff who where friendly and helpful. Didn't expect to take the controls for so long it was a great experience and it was 5 out of 5 plus for me 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌😊😊". The review includes a profile picture of Brian Race, a red checkmark icon, and a comment icon.



## Talking on the radio

Radio use cannot be avoided these days, even if only for flying a circuit at Booker. And anyone flying cross country needs to be comfortable using radio, in order to be able to concentrate on flying. If using your radio makes you feel like the image on the right, then help is at hand. The BGA is offering an online Flight Radio Telephony Operator Licence (FRTOL) course, details here: <https://www.ruskin.me.uk/bga-frtol-course>



The course will run in February and March 2021, if you register now you will be emailed nearer the date with more details, and you will be ready for the start of the season.

Here's what a previous graduate, Luke Bishop, says about getting his FRTOL:

*I would really recommend doing it to anyone unsure as it does wonders for your RT confidence if nothing else. I was one of those people who used to get sweaty palms before keying up, I consider myself cured now!*



And Hakan Gokalp, currently resident in Germany, made good use of the lockdown by studying with our very own Paul Field:

*I passed my FRTOL exam in English here in Germany (you can take the exams in German or English here) having attended Paul's zoom calls earlier. It's really worth taking the time and attending the course.*





\*\*\* 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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