



Days to Booker Regionals 289

George's Fund Raising Ride –See page 3

The Booker Newsletter

Booker GC to hold BGA rated Regionals Competition 27th June to 15th July 2015

*From the Chairman
From the CFI
Members' Achievements
Dates for your Diary
Aboyne Expedition
Cadets Aim High
Give Aerobatics a Go
Booker HDT Comp*

*This month the big news is the plan for Booker to hold a Regionals in June next year. Richard reports on the amazing number of courses running at the moment –good news for the club's future membership. There's a last minute reminder about the Aboyne Expedition, details of George Hunter's fund raising ride, a first hand account of getting into aerobatics and a look back at the Final day of the HDT competition. As ever, many thanks to all our contributors
William*

From the Chairman

The Club expedition will soon be setting off to Aboyne for our annual mixture of amazing wave flying over the Cairngorms and convivial socialising. Booker has been making the trip since the mid-seventies, an indication of how enjoyable it has been for our members over the years.

The enthusiasm for our Handicapped distance comp continues and a date has been set to run a Regionals using the unique system set up by Tim and Jim. There are opportunities for those who would like to get involved with running this competition.

We can look back on an exceptional summer with many significant achievements individual and Club. We now have GH back in service, many thanks to all those involved in what was a very complicated and protracted repair. ECZ will soon be setting off to be refinished and will be making a welcome return back to the fleet.

We have appointed a surveyor to negotiate our lease renewal. Matters are complicated due to the relationship between AAA and WDC however you may have seen the link which Jane posted about the Government wishing to safeguard GA airfields. This will be significant for the future of our airfield and we shall shortly be asking for your assistance to lobby on behalf of the Club.

I know of no other aviation activity which provides the wide variety of fantastic flying which we can access through gliding. It is important that we take every opportunity to ensure that gliding at Booker continues to flourish.

Wishing you safe and exciting flying
Denis



From the CFI

As I write this we've just completed our 105th launch of the week, sent our fourth person solo and are half way through our 3rd back to back full 5 day course, oh and its only Wednesday!

As you've probably noticed the launch point has been an hive of activity. To be perfectly honest I've never seen the club so busy! The weekday diary for the next two weeks is full and the weekend diary is full until mid next month. The S&M team have been selling courses like they're going out of fashion and for the next few weeks we have at least two new course members starting every Monday.



I can't emphasise enough just how pleasing it is to see the club doing so well but none of it could be done without you the members. There have been so many of you helping us out each day with launching, log keeping, buggy driving, instructing, oh and keeping Andrew and I fed and watered! Thank you so so much for all your assistance.

Prior to all this fantastic weather we had our second competition of the year. Sadly the weather God's didn't play ball but once again thank you to all those who came to support it. In particular thanks to Simon and Marnie who yet again provided us with a superb end of competition BBQ, Pete Wyld for scoring, Wayne & Tim for directing and Nils for attempting to supply us with good weather!

As I'm sure you're already aware Booker shall once again be holding a full regional competition in 2015. The dates and details will soon be displayed in the club house but please come along to support. Booker used to be famous for its competitions and more importantly its competition pilots and their results. Now is our time to get back on the competition map and show just what an amazing gliding club we are. I personally am hugely excited about this and I really hope you will be too.

In regards to expeditions, both Aboyne and Kilppeneck are filling up. Both lists already have 30 names each so be quick should you wish to attend either as they will soon be full!

Next year our Spring expedition will be a split expedition. We're starting our time as usual at Talgarth and then moving to Shobdon at the end of the week. Again this expedition is expected to be extremely popular to keep your eyes open for posters (shortly to be displayed) in the club house.

I end my letter this month with a picture taken by a fellow club member just before flying a K13. The picture shows a pen knife lying dangerously close to the controls. Take this as a reminder to you all to clear not only your own pockets before flying but also your students / passengers pockets too!

See you at the launch point!

Richard



Luckily this loose object was spotted

Members' achievements

Paul Harrison: 1st Solo

Timour Khayrov (tuggie); 1st Solo

Marcus Kornaros: 1st Solo

Jeremy Perl: 1st Solo

Zeljko Livancic :Type Conversion ASW19 and Silver Duration

Congratulations to these members and their instructors.

Dates for your Diary

- Aboyne Expedition 4 -19 October
- Booker Regionals 27 June -15 July 2015

Flying in straight lines –Aboyne beckons!



The Met Office says summer is officially over now that we're in September, but that doesn't mean an end to having fun - the annual club expedition to Aboyne will soon be underway. For two weeks from Saturday 4th October we will be guests of Deeside Gliding Club where we will be enjoying the delights of wave flying - climbing without having to go round in circles, with fantastic views of mountains, clouds, rainbows and the coast. We will be taking the Duo Discus, K21 and Pegasus. The accommodation arranged for the first week in Birkelunn, a comfortable Norwegian log cabin, is now fully booked, but there are plenty of other accommodation options in Aboyne, Ballater, Dinnit and other nearby towns.



315 in wave over Aboyne Airfield

If you are new to Aboyne, and to wave flying, don't worry, there will be plenty of help and briefings on hand. Just remember to pack some warm clothes, preferably layers, with particular attention your feet - loose boots and good socks are a must. Private owners need to book a slot in the trailer park with a form downloaded from the Deeside GC website. If there are no-fly days there is plenty to do - walking, fishing, cycling, golf, castles, distilleries - you won't be bored. There is a list on the noticeboard, and more information on flyers posted above the tea bar. If you would like to chat in more detail about what to expect, ask Richard or me.

Jane

Booker Cadets aim high

Booker has a well-established Cadet scheme, with the aim of attracting young, enthusiastic people to the sport of gliding. Over the years, numerous Booker cadets have gone on to compete at regional and national level, pursue successful aviation careers and even become CFIs!

As many of you will be aware, our cadets have embarked on a fantastic project to raise money to buy their own glider. The glider would be something for all the cadets to aspire to flying, but most importantly it will give them access to a glider, especially on the good days, to progress in their flying and start their cross country careers.

The fundraising was kicked off by George completing a 200km bike ride, his route going via Enstone, Hinton on the Hedges, Buckingham, Milton Keynes, Leighton Buzzard, Tring and then back to Booker through the Chilterns. George set off at 0720 and arrived back at 1730 – an amazing achievement which raised nearly £600. A big thank you to all those who sponsored George and congratulations to George for completing such a physical challenge!



Setting off!

Home safely!

Additional fundraising activities so far have included cake sales, work to members' gliders and a trip to a local school with the Junior. I will shortly be putting forms in the clubhouse for trailer cleaning and glider polishing, so if you would like to give your glider some end of season TLC, please put your name down to contribute – it's all for a good cause!

We need to raise £6,000 and we are already over a quarter of the way there. The aim is to be able to buy the glider in time for next season and hopefully have some of our cadets competing in the 2015 Booker Regionals in it!

Thank you again to all those who have contributed so far. If anyone would like to be involved, or has any fundraising ideas, please get in touch.

Jon Sugden

Aeros give your gliding another dimension

I can vividly remember the first time that Symeon showed me how to spin a K13 and the resulting feeling that I was about to lose my lunch. Symeon no doubt thought that sitting in the back seat moved him out of the line of fire, but given the rotational forces involved, I suspect that may have been wishful thinking on his part!

Some time later, Jane suggested I give Graham and Alun's winter aerobatics course a try, if for no other reason than to improve my flying. Speaking as a complete wuss that you wouldn't find anywhere near a roller coaster, I was dubious to say the least.

Graham and Alun run their course (weather permitting) on the first Saturday of the month from November to February inclusive, and I would strongly recommend that everyone should give it a go. You couldn't wish for a pair of more calm and tolerant instructors with the ability to see something positive even when you make a complete mess of a figure.

I am convinced that aerobatics does indeed improve one's general flying, although I can unfortunately attest to the fact that it doesn't seem to help one's ability to make it to the cross country starting line. That's another story though....

Give the course a go. Even if you decide it's not for you, you'll come away with a much greater understanding of a glider's performance envelope, and be able to say that you've flown a loop in an aircraft.

The downside? Well, it can be incredibly frustrating in the same sort of way that once you've hit a perfect golf shot you can't fathom out why you don't get the same result every time you take a club out of the bag.

Personally speaking, I know I'm unlikely ever to be really skilled at aerobatics, certainly not to Graham's level at least*. But do you know what? That really doesn't matter. What matters is that it's damn good fun and very good practice.

And no, you still won't find me anywhere near a roller coaster....

Dave Humphreys

** David is too modest. Earlier this year he entered the Aeros Comp at Saltby and came 3rd in his class.*

The Booker HDT Competition - The Final Day

There having been two good contest days at the beginning of the week, the weekdays offered low cloud, high winds and showers. Nevertheless there were several dashes into the murk. However, come Sunday –the Final Day – the gods of the seaweed had mercy and the grid was launched with a 3,000 ft cloudbase on a 168 km task to Clyffe Pypard and Hurstbourne Tarrant and back via BO1. At briefing a cry went up ‘where on earth is Clyffe Pypard? (incidentally revealing the pilots flying with pre-2014 BGA databases!). Answer: near Lyneham.

On the first leg there were readily available 2-3 knot thermals with occasional 5-6 knots. Afterwards, Tim said the key to going fast was to identify and divert to the clouds with the strong thermals. He took several 90° diversions to do just that. From Wantage onwards a band of thin top cover came over and the convection noticeably weakened. This band dissipated fairly rapidly, favouring the later starters who arrived when the convection was turning up again. So, for most of us, from Clyffe Pypard to Hurstbourne Tarrant the going was relatively slow but the lift was sufficient to bumble along between 2 and 3 thousand feet..

In the north westerly wind, a happy alignment of the ridge at Rivar Hill with the handicap barrels lying down wind of the ridge meant that any strong thermal bumping off the ridge drifted gliders into the barrels and from there, with a stonking climb over Newbury, there was a fast run home. As the HDT task type predicts, the gliders that started together landed within minutes of each other.

It was a great demonstration of the fun to be had on a relatively short Handicapped Distance Task on a reasonable day. Many pilots clocked up speeds of over 80kph and some flew the task at well over 90kph.

The day ended with prize giving and a superb barbecue prepared by Simon and Marnie McCracken.

The overall result for the competition was:

1st Richard Crockett

2nd Team Duo Discus (Jim White)

3rd Steve Williams

Richard generously donated his winner’s bottle of champagne to our scorer Pete Wyld who set up and managed the scoring system and was there for every day of the competition. Thanks go to Pete, to Tim, Wayne and Richard for directing and task setting and to Nils ‘Bionic man’ Wedi who gave us email forecasts for the first few days and came along in person towards the end, to the cadets who helped out, and of course to Marnie and Simon.

William

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

Published by Booker Gliding Club
WYCOMBE AIR PARK, MARLOW, BUCKS SL7 3DP
Office Tel: 01494 442501/529263
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

©Booker Gliding Club 2014