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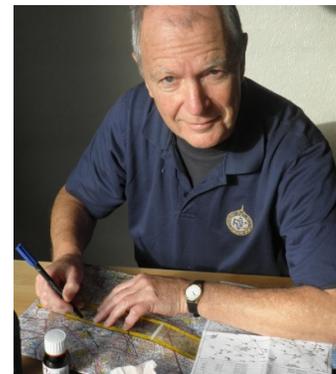
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What can it possibly be?*

A 'vintage' edition this month with some lovely pics of the prototype Slingsby Kite which is currently based at Booker, plus news of the Whispering Wardrobes weekend. We also have plenty of achievements to report, news of the marketing team's efforts, and a very successful visit by the Air League - and a photo puzzle to end with.
Happy reading.

Jane

From the Chairman

After so many months of apparent slow progress towards a positive outcome with Wycombe District Council for Northside re-location, the designation of the Dashwood field (between the airfield boundary and the motorway) in WDC's Local Plan as a shooting school came as an unwelcome surprise to all the membership. As a result there have been many submissions by the club and individual members seeking clarifications on all aspects of the plan. Despite the setback, the committee and the lease team do not believe that the Northside re-location plan is entirely off the table. A meeting with the council Estates team to finally clarify the position on the Dashwood field is set to take place early in September. But the club is not simply sitting back and waiting for the council's next move. We are taking steps to be in a position to take legal action to enforce our rights under the terms of our existing lease. In simple terms, it is coming down to: either we get the Northside with all of the Dashwood field, or the airfield continues to be operated as it is and both the council industrial development on the south side and the shooting school could be blocked – possibly for up to 15 years. The club is working with the BGA to that end. With regard to the WDC Local Plan – the timetable is for a redrafting of the plan this autumn and a second publication and consultation is set to take place in the spring of 2017.



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I am sorry I cannot be more specific than this but you will appreciate that it is a mighty complex issue with many safety, operational practicalities, airfield management, financial and of course local political considerations. In the meantime I can assure you that the lease sub-committee is pursuing the matter tenaciously with the overriding aim of securing the *long term future* of the gliding club at Booker.

Looking at the flying programme for the next 6 or 7 months there are two highlights – the Autumn expedition to Aboyne, the best site in the UK for high altitude wave flying and for XC flights in wave, and our planned visit to Llanbedr in the spring. There may also be a spring visit to Aboyne if sufficient members sign up. So please plan those hols and get your names down!

Next – a plea to all instructors. We have gone back to a weekend rota system based on a forward plan put together by the office. You have an opportunity to block out days you can't make before the rota is published, but after that it is your responsibility to either turn up or arrange a swap on the instructor forum. Please do all you can to make sure we have a full team on the day.

Earlier this year we set out to make some improvements to the fabric of the club and I am delighted to say we have made some progress with smartening up the club facade - many thanks to John H and Callum's dad; the state of the grass in the trailer park – thanks to Robert Turner and Mervyn the mower; and also the condition of the peri-track which is holding up better than we could possibly have expected – thanks to the huge team that turned out for that and especially to Jim who arranged the heavy plant.

The end of May and the first half of June were weeks of awful weather and that squeezed the club launch rate but since then we have had some excellent flying weather including our very successful 6 contest days at the Booker Regionals.

Congratulations to Tim Scott for his performance in the 15m Nationals at Lasham, earning him a place in the British team for the 2017 European Championships. Let's hope the current spell of fine weather continues and we get plenty of soaring opportunities in September.

See you up there!

William

Members' achievements

Paul Field – Silver distance

Ruth Jackson – conversion to Junior

Chris Whelan – conversion to Pegasus

Henry Ross – gained Assistant Instructor rating

Nick Jennings – gained Basic Instructor rating

Paul Clarke – gained SLMG NPPL

Chris Rowland – solo on motorglider (2nd solo after 49 years)

White Waltham Members Day



On 3 September we went by invitation to White Waltham for the West London Aero Club's Members' Day. This is a charity day, for members and invited guests, to raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. We took our sim which attracted a lot of interest from pilots who usually fly with the assistance of Avgas, all were intrigued by the idea of '750km on an empty tank'.

Other attractions included a flour bombing competition, a helicopter dropping packets of crisps onto a crowd of excited children, and air displays including seven Tiger Moths battling with the turbulent weather, as well as ground-based attractions like the silver band, bouncy castle and so on.

Many thanks to Chris Collett, Chris Arnold, Rob Turner and William Parker – and especially to Bob Smith for hauling the sim there and back.

Jane Moore



Air League visit

It was all hands on deck one Thursday in mid-July for a visit from Andy Perkins of the Air League with a group from British Airways work experience programme. With a slick ground operation and fast turnrounds we accomplished 64 flights - 56 aerotows and the rest in the Falke. The group had a great time, lots of grins, as the pics demonstrate.



Captain Andy in the left hand seat of the T21

The oldest glider in the world comes to Booker

This is the prototype Slingsby type T6 Kite, first flown in 1935. The later production Kites had a curved rudder, windscreen (in case you flew more than 20 knots) and spoilers.

It is the oldest airworthy glider in the UK and probably the world. It has not flown for 40 years and lay in a damp trailer, where it fell to bits. Peter Underwood and his son David bought it and restored it over a 9-year period. Peter has been an aircraft engineer and highly respected BGA senior inspector all his life and David is an aviation nut and thatcher, so a perfect team!



Poetry in wood



Before covering

Although Lasham and other vintage groups were keen to get their hands on this glider, Peter, David and grandson Paul brought it to Booker for weighing and finishing off the C of A and on 23rd August let me test fly it. As expected from their workmanship, it flew beautifully! Later, Richard Crockett was privileged to fly this glider and concurred how well it flew. It is one of the few vintage gliders that flies better than it looks, which says a lot! We are indebted to Peter and David for allowing this piece of history to remain at Booker for a while, and grace our skies.

Graham Saw



First launch



Landing

Whispering Wardrobes – 10th and 11th September

The Vintage Glider Club is holding a rally at Booker, with lots of beautiful, colourful flying machines on display and taking to the air.



For more information have a word with Graham Saw or Nick Newton.



New for old



Richard Martyn with his beautiful new K6, a replacement for his previous one which sadly had to 'retire' recently.

Expeditions - Aboyne 2016

Soaring doesn't stop in September, come to Scotland and discover wave.

The expedition is suitable for all levels from beginner to hotshot and is an excellent way of building skills and experience, as well as getting to know other club members.

Aboyne airfield, home to Deeside Gliding Club, has two hard runways and one grass, and there are plenty of cable-break and land out options nearby.



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Secure your place now with a £60 deposit. The dates are:

- week 1: 1 – 9 Oct
- week 2: 10 – 16 Oct

See notice board for more information.

Type 'Booker Aboyne' into YouTube for a snapshot of a recent expedition.

What can it possibly be?

Wind up alien? Rural piggy bank? Crop circle generator?



Photo by Denis Campbell

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@yahogroups.com and *include your name and membership number when applying.*

Booker GC Expeditions – Open to all members to participate. Send an email to: bookergc-expeditions-subscribe@yahogroups.com and *include your name and membership number when applying.*

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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 name and membership number when applying.*

Booker GC Instructors – This is for Booker instructors only to email each other easily. Mainly used for swapping duty days. Send an email to: bookergc_instructors-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and *include your name and 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 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

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