



**Aboyne
5th -19th
October
Come and fly
the wave!**

The Booker Newsletter

Vintage Group rally at Lasham. Plus results from Booker's first HCGP comp week. See page 4.

<p><i>From the Chairman</i> <i>From the CFI</i> <i>Dates for your Diary</i> <i>A Gentle Reminder</i> <i>Members' Achievements</i> <i>Winners of the HCGP week</i> <i>Vintage Rally at Lasham</i> <i>Airspace threat at Parham</i></p>	<p><i>Our best season for ages keeps going. Even the treasurer is smiling (at least he was the last time I saw him). Richard Martyn gives us a behind the scenes view of the recent Vintage Rally at Lasham and we have an early warning from the Chairman of Southdown GC about a threat to their (and our) airspace. Meanwhile keep taking those launches while the sun shines.</i> <i>William</i></p>
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From the chairman

This is turning out to be one of the best seasons for soaring, and for the club, for many years, and the good weather could be with us well into September. We don't yet know exactly how we are doing but we think that launches are up by 50% on last year which is great news. There's been a noticeable upswing in cross country flying. That's partly because of the good weather, partly because we have an intrepid group of younger members who are taking the



plunge into XC, and partly because Tim's hard work to produce a viable XC scoring system for HCGP has produced a brilliant success with many experienced pilots going further and faster than they have for many years. The HCGP approach is a true virtuous circle. It gets more people flying cross country and going faster –that in turn enables them to fly further on longer distance tasks. It has also revived interest in racing at Booker and several 'non-comp' members are looking at the possibility of flying Regionals and Nationals next year. So the club is on the up and up. The Sport England grant is another boost for Booker. The contractual details are dragging on a bit but we hope to announce the start of the project very soon. A crucial element in the plans for the blister hangar is the simulator that Graham Saw, Pete Wyld, Robin Wilgoss and others have been working on. We can all look forward to unveiling one more important attraction at Booker for people coming to learn to fly with us.

Thanks to our team of inspectors and the guys at BAS, our fleet is now at a high level of serviceability. That includes the installation of a new engine in MM.

Looking ahead, we have our annual Aboyne expedition coming up. There are still a few places available, so if you want to come get your name down in the office.

Hope to see you all at the launchpoint, making the most of the 'Indian' summer!

Geoff

From the CFI

Thanks to the excellent summer weather we've had an extremely busy month at the launch point!

The final week of the month saw many of you taking part in the Handicapped Grand Prix. I've been completely bowled over by the success of the competition and it's been so encouraging to see so many of you on the grid each day determined to get those few extra points (mentioning no names Jane.....).



I think we would all agree how fantastic it is to finally have a task format that not only is easy to understand but also allows pilots and gliders of all levels to fly and race together. This new format also allows us to know the winner within seconds of landing rather than having to use clever computer wizardry and complex handicap formulas to sort the results later in the day.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without Tim Scott's sheer determination to get Booker racing again. It was Tim that spent the winter to produce the program that formulates the tasks and varying barrel sizes and for this we owe him a huge vote of thanks.

As well as Tim I'd thank all those who made the competition week possible. Several of you gave up a lot of time and put a lot of effort into making it such a success and in no particular order thanks go to:

Jim White – Tasks & Met
Pete Wyld - Scoring
Nils Wedi - Met
Steve Williams – 1st weekend director
Guy Trees – Launch point
Simon & Marnie – BBQ

Sadly the season is now drawing to a close and we will have to wait until next year for our next competition week. However, we still have Aboyne to look forwards too! The experience of flying in Aboyne is truly breathtaking and one not to be missed. There are still several places available so contact the office to book yourself in and we'll see you up there. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Jane Moore.

I'll see you in the Scottish Highlands!

Richard

A gentle reminder.....

To maintain safe separation between landing gliders and aircraft / helicopters using the taxiway between the apron and runway 24, gliders are required to make their first point of touchdown no closer than 100 meters from the taxiway. Gliders are also asked to cross the taxiway no lower than 50ft in order to maintain this safe separation.

Richard

Dates for your Diary

Aboyne Expedition: 5th October – 19th October

There are a few places left for Aboyne, so sign up now for what can be one of the defining experiences in gliding.

Members' Achievements

1 st Solo	David Lowe Calvin Lau
Conversion to K18	Michael Otty
Conversion to K21	Richard Eaton Gus Carrick Callum Collins
Conversion to Peg	Phil Binnee Eric McLeod
Conversion to Jnr	Nikolas Von Merveldt Gus Carrick Callum Collins
Silver Completed	Stuart Whitehouse Simon Vardigans
Richard Eaton	1 st Bronze hour

A great haul of achievements for this month reflecting the good flying weather and the hard work of the achievers and their instructors. Congratulations all round!

Booker's first HPGP comp week

The recent Handicap Grand Prix week was a great success with grids of 16+ gliders on some days and many thousands of kilometres flown. The overall result after Day 5 was:

1st: Jim White (flying 315 with others or his own ASW27) - 54 points

2nd: Bob Smith (LS4) - 38 points

3rd: Wayne Aspland (LS8) - 22 points



The comp came to a close with a great barbecue party in front of the Blister Hangar. Many thanks to Simon, Marnie and their numerous helpers for organizing the food and the cooking.

Bronze Course –September 16-20th

There is a Bronze course running 16-20 Sept offering members discounted launches and motor glider time, plus a dedicated instructor for the week, to help towards achieving Bronze. (Excellent value at £399). Ask the office for more details of the offer.

Reflections on the 41st vgc rally at lasham

Booker Gliding Club was well represented at the 41st VGC Rally held at Lasham between 3rd-10th August. The team comprised an elite camper Nick Newton (Hutter), basic campers Graham Saw (Lunak and Petrel), John Dredge (Krajanek and T21), occasional basic camper Jeremy Gilbey (T21), and commuters Richard Martyn (K6CR) and Rob Kehr (Super Javelot). Mike Sinclair provided moral support. The whole week's flying was very well organised, with over 70 gliders and 100 pilots registered. Participants came from as far afield as Australia



and America, although the bulk of them were based in Europe, with the Germans and Dutch predominating. Each day began with a 10am briefing at which prizes and fines were distributed, with good or outstanding flights being recognised and shortcomings revealed. Conditions throughout the week were good, with only one day being lost to bad weather. The T21 saw plenty of use, with John Dredge and Jeremy Gilbey very much to the fore. The writer's experience of the T21 was all

too brief, with the glider's ability to lose height becoming all too apparent, resulting in an interesting and well judged landing in the opposite direction from the take-off and fortuitously so low as to escape the eagle eye of the Lasham instructors, hence no fine! Rob Kehr's Super Javelot, the only glider of its type flying in the UK, attracted a lot of interest and he was able to demonstrate its soaring abilities by recording flights of 2hr 40minutes and 5hr 20minutes on successive days. On the first day he mentioned that the lift was so good that even a plank would be soarable. Unfortunately the writer was not flying a plank! The event of the week was the opening of the Gliding Heritage Centre Phase 1 which is a hangar for storage and display of vintage gliders. It has been financed largely by a bequest from the late Chris Wills, founder of the International VCG, and which would be well worth a visit. The opening and closing ceremonies were likewise equally impressive. Nick Newton, who is the President of the VGC, worked tirelessly throughout the week to ensure that everything ran smoothly and in consequence spent rather more of his time on the ground than in the air. All the Booker gliders mentioned above are featured in the VGC Yearbook which has been produced to celebrate 40 years preserving and flying historic gliders. For anyone interested in vintage gliders it is well worth buying and as an added incentive, apart from the introduction by Nick, there is an excellent article by Graham Saw, which deals not only with his involvement with the vintage gliding movement but also the formation of the Booker Vintage Group. The next international meeting will be held in Denmark and the year after in Holland at Terlet, where the Booker Vintage Group's pink Tutor first saw the light of day.

Richard Martyn

Airspace threat at Parham

The Chairman of Southdown GC has sent this warning to members about a threat to their airspace emanating from Farnborough. Please read this and when they ask for support be ready to respond.



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Dear Member,

As your Chairman, I feel that it is appropriate that I make you aware of a threat that is developing and which has the potential, unless challenged, to impact our operation at Parham.

Farnborough Airport, which is some distance from Parham and alongside which we have operated successfully for many years, now have a charter to impose a large area of controlled airspace around their airfield. The exact details of the proposed airspace are still unclear but I have good reason to believe that this could severely impact our cross-country pilots as they depart Parham towards Lasham and, more importantly, often make their journey home impossible. There is even a belief that the airspace overhead Parham could be impacted, which would obviously have severe consequences for us all.

Currently the BGA has a team working on this, and within our club, myself and others have attended meetings in an effort to develop a coherent strategy to make sure that our long standing freedoms are protected. Other General Aviation bodies are taking similar action.

I write to you today to make you aware that it is likely I will be asking for your help shortly. A public consultation window will open in the next month or two and I will be recommending that you be ready to respond to this. As with Mode 'S' transponders, it is clear that a large public response can have an impact on the final decision that is made. In this case, with our club probably being the most seriously affected, it would be unwise to expect significant support from the wider aviation community.

You need do nothing at this time. I will be in contact shortly, when the public consultation window becomes clearer.

Best Regards

Tom Beck, Chairman, Southdown Gliding Club.

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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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