

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

August
2023



August barbeque – 19th August



Task weekend – 26th-28th August

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A British summer

The hot easterlies of June were replaced by the incessant rain of July, so there has not been much cross-country flying recently, but we have kept busy with training, and flown three more groups of school students, generously sponsored by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. The students all had a good time, and hopefully will remember the experience and the possibilities offered by gliding in particular and aviation in general.



We have one more school group coming along in September, so that will be over 70 young people given the opportunity to fly.

We have also hosted a large group of model fliers who were able to apply their knowledge of aerodynamics to flying the real thing.

Meanwhile, our course instructor David McGrath has been making use of wet weather days to work on the **sim**, which needed a bit of TLC. With help from course member Richard Hill it will soon be up and running and available for use. **Ground school** is also a good way to make use of no-fly days – David is happy to give briefings on any tricky points which you would like clarifying. It's often difficult to go into detail at the launchpoint, so the chance of a briefing with tea/coffee on hand is not to be missed.



Member achievements

Some of our members have been taking part in competitions. **John Otty** and **Jim White** at Lasham Regionals, and **Ashley Birkbeck** and **Jan McCoshim** at Dunstable Regionals. Ashley and Jan both had day wins in their respective classes and Jan came 3rd overall in her class.

You can see tasks and results on <https://www.soaringspot.com/>

Booker at the Booker Common Fete



We were invited to the Booker Common Fete on 8th July, which had the advantage of being about 5 minutes away, over the other side of the M40. We had intended to take a glider, but were glad we hadn't when the forecast thunderstorms dumped a lot of rain on us. Our banner display attracted a lot of attention though – and our many visitors voiced their support for the gliding club at Wycombe Air Park.

Watch out for more info on Whatsapp →

Barbeque
Saturday
19th
August

Task weekend 26th - 28th August

Paul Brice has offered to run a **task weekend** over the August bank holiday. For those new to gliding, a task is a trip round the countryside, going round predetermined landmarks known as turnpoints and – with luck – getting back to Booker. The idea is to hone skills like thermalling efficiently and picking a path through the sky by identifying where the next climb or two will be, as well as navigating, avoiding airspace and so on. Tasks will be set for all levels, and there should be a seat in the Duo for those not yet solo, or cleared to go cross country. It is an excellent opportunity to gain experience, as well as having fun. If interested, post on the Whatsapp group to let Paul know.

Soaring doesn't stop in September

At Booker we like going on expeditions to other clubs, and our decades-long habit in October is to hitch up and go to **Deeside Gliding Club**, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire. The airfield is perfectly sited to take advantage of mountain wave in all wind directions except easterly. Wave soaring is one of gliding's most unforgettable experiences, imagine climbing in silk-smooth wave with a cloud cliff to one side and lenticulars stacked up like dinner plates above, and Scotland spread out below you like a map.

If you are pursuing badges, or would like to try cross-country flights over the Cairngorms, Aboyne is the place to be. Thermal and ridge soaring are also possible. The expedition is suitable for all levels from pre-solo to hotshot and is an excellent way of building skills and experience, as well as getting to know other club members.

The expedition this year is from 7th to 21st October, you can come for as long as you like. We will take the Duo for check flights and those not yet solo, and single seaters depending on demand. If this is your first time, we will give you a briefing on what to expect. All our gliders are fully equipped with oxygen for those high wave climbs so there is nothing to bring except warm clothes. The area is a popular holiday destination so there are plenty of self-catering and hotel options available.

Here is a [short video](#) from our 2009 expedition – the people are a bit older now but the mountains are the same!

If you would like to come, ask for the link to the expedition group on the main Whatsapp group.

*Richard will be giving an online briefing on **Wednesday 6th September at 1900.***



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Here are some pics to whet your appetite. The airfield has two hard runways 27/09 and two grass, and there are plenty of launch failure and land out options nearby.





Local landmarks – Loch Kinord and Loch Davan



It's amazing what there is to see up there!



Local hill Morvern at the end of the rainbow



Sunshine above the clouds

Sign up today! Join via the link posted on Whatsapp.

Boost your training and help your club

Do you want to progress quickly with your glider pilot training and book the best flight of the day? If you have been to the club a few times and would like to plan your day, you can now add your name to our duty rota ahead of your visit. In return for helping at the launchpoint, if you wish to fly you will be top of the flying list for any instructional or early solo flights on that day. This means you have a say in when you fly – right away or when it is soarable!

Clearly this is meant as an incentive to encourage members to help at the launchpoint. Having this sort of help makes an enormous difference to the number of flights the instructor(s) can do, which in turn speeds up your own training as well as helping others.

Please contact Bob Smith via WhatsApp for a link and simple instructions, the info will also be posted on the club WhatsApp from time to time.

Fish and chip Fridays – other days available!

After a busy day of flying, why not relax with a beer and some fish and chips? It's easy to organise after a busy day of flying, and we can mix it in with some whiteboard briefings for trainees, or just sit around and swap stories of 'how I done it', while the food is delivered. The default menu is large cod, medium chips and one cold drink from the fridge (beer, 0% beer, red or white wine, diet coke, other soft drinks as requested) for £12. Extra drinks £1 each. The fish from Smarts in Cressex is good, we can also try Oysters in Marlow. We plan to organise this a few more times this season, probably every couple of weeks. Next session will be advertised on WhatsApp, perhaps during the Task Weekend.

Sailplane Pilot Licence conversion

From the BGA

Following publication of a Statutory Instrument to amend retained EU regulation regarding sailplane pilot licensing, pilots who do not hold a Sailplane Pilot Licence (SPL)* must convert their BGA pilot qualification to a UK Part-SFCL Sailplane Pilot Licence (SPL) to legally fly as Pilot in Command of Part 21 sailplanes (including self-launching sailplanes and TMGs) after *30th September 2025*.

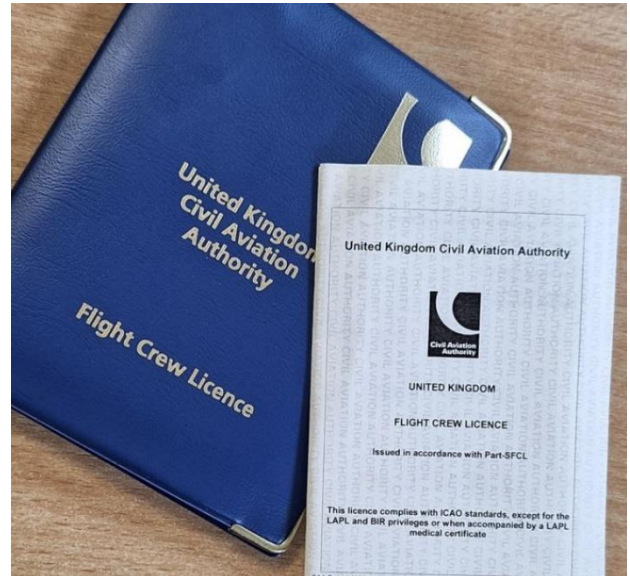
Over 2000 SPLs have been issued to date. Because of the number of applications yet to be made, those that leave converting until the last minute are likely to experience delays in getting their licence issued by the CAA. Clearly that could result in potential disruption to planned autumn flying.

Some pilots have noted the potential impact of the CAA's General Aviation Pilot Licensing & Training Simplification project. The CAA has confirmed that the SFCL regulation will not be overturned – the SPL will be retained in its current form. The licence simplification project is

looking at ways to make it easier for future pilots to gain and maintain an SPL. The core SPL will not be changed, nor will the process to convert from a BGA pilot qualification. Pilots who are currently eligible to convert should do so on the assurance that the licence they receive will not be changed radically for the foreseeable future.

BGA advice is that pilots should convert early to avoid delays to licence issue. If pilots are too busy to apply now, this coming autumn and winter will be a great opportunity to beat any future rush. The BGA office team look forward to receiving and processing your application.

[You can read more about converting your BGA pilot qualification to a UK-SFCL Sailplane Pilot Licence here.](#)



*Please note that a UK issued EASA Part-FCL SPL or LAPL(S) is deemed to be a UK Part-SFCL SPL.

Dates for your diary

2023

August barbeque: 19th August
Task weekend: 26th – 28th August
Autumn expedition: 7th – 21st October – Aboyne

Club Communications

We use WhatsApp groups, as below:

Booker Gliding Club – general club information and notifications including details of online daily briefings

Booker Instructors – information and swap requests for instructors

Booker Expeditions – set up in the run up to each expedition.

If you wish to be included in any of these groups, contact the CFI.

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Booker XC – for tasks, cross country discussion and feedback – contact Jane Moore or ask for a link on the main Whatsapp group

Booker Chat - for general chitchat – contact Jane Moore

Condor Flyers – for those wanting to join in Condor group sessions – contact Bob Smith or Henry Ross or ask for a link on the main Whatsapp group.

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 ID 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

<https://www.facebook.com/bookerglidingclub>

The Booker blog is no longer maintained but has a wealth of pics and stories from previous years

<http://bookergc.blogspot.com/>

*** 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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