

**Booker Gliding Club**

# Newsletter

August  
2025



**Come and fly in Scottish wave – page 4**



**Sort out your medical now – page 3**

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## Member achievements

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**Phil Bellamy** – that's him on the front cover – *converted to the ASW19* and stayed up for nearly 2 hours. He has also passed his *navigation and field landings tests* and therefore completed his *Bronze Cross-Country Endorsement*. **Silke Furbatto** has also completed her Bronze Cross Country endorsement by passing her *navigation and field landings tests*.



**Rembrandt Niessen**, who used to fly in the Netherlands some long time ago, has *re-soloed*. He has also taken to club life and can be seen taking on such tasks as jet-washing trailers.

**Dixie Arnold**, on a PPL conversion course, has done his first solo, plus a bit of soaring, enjoying his time in the air without the bother of an engine.



**Alex Phillips** has been keeping quiet about his successes at the **Saltby Open Aerobatics Championship**. He came *first in the Intermediate Class* and won the *Open Cup* for highest number of points overall. He has also passed his assessment for a *Display Authorisation* so he will be flying at Shuttleworth. This is also an achievement for **Graham Saw** who has been coaching Alex.

**Tim Scott** won **Lasham Regionals** in a field of 38 pilots. He hasn't had much practice in his new JS3, there'll be no catching him once he really gets used to it.

**Dunk Read** converted to Graham Saw's Lunak aerobatic glider – note the matching hat.





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## Medicals – dull but necessary

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We all know by now that the Sailplane Pilot Licence comes into being on 1 October 2025 and everyone with a Bronze is of course on top of this and busy submitting their application to the BGA. After 1 October, **student pilots flying solo** under the supervision of an instructor who have not yet obtained their SPL will need a CAA **Pilot Medical Declaration** (PMD), or a Class 2 or LAPL medical certificate.

*Solo pilots and pre-solo trainees – in fact everyone - should get a PMD now rather than leave it to the last minute.* You will need to create an account with the CAA's portal called Cellma. There are special arrangements for those under 15. The BGA's [webpage](#) contains full details of the process, including a link to Cellma.

**Don't delay, do it today. Or tomorrow. Soon anyway, don't leave it to the last minute.**

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## Task week 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August

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**Paul Brice** had been getting a reputation as a rain god, since our task weekends so far have not been blessed with sunshine, but the **Task Week** changed all that, with some excellent weather and only a couple of no-fly days. Paul started each day with a comprehensive briefing on weather, NOTAMs and task options, and set tasks for all levels. There were cross-country tasks of varying lengths, local mini-tasks, and intensive soaring practice for the inexperienced. Pre-solo and Junior pilots took part, as well as those with more experience. Mostly people got round, there was one field landing and one encounter with the ever-welcoming security guard at Chalgrove, who had to be convinced by the police and CAA that 319's pilot was not a terrorist before the glider could be retrieved.

Many thanks to **Paul** for organising the week, to the **instructors** who flew the two seaters, the **tug pilots** who got

everyone off the ground efficiently, and of course the **regular team** who kept the show on the road for those not taking part in the task week.



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## Wake up to wave

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The season doesn't end in September, join the club's annual expedition to *Aboyne, home to Deeside Gliding Club* and seize the opportunity to:

- learn about wave
- fly over spectacular mountain scenery
- practise flying a circuit at a different site
- take off and land on tarmac
- get a height badge
- have a holiday to remember with your fellow club members



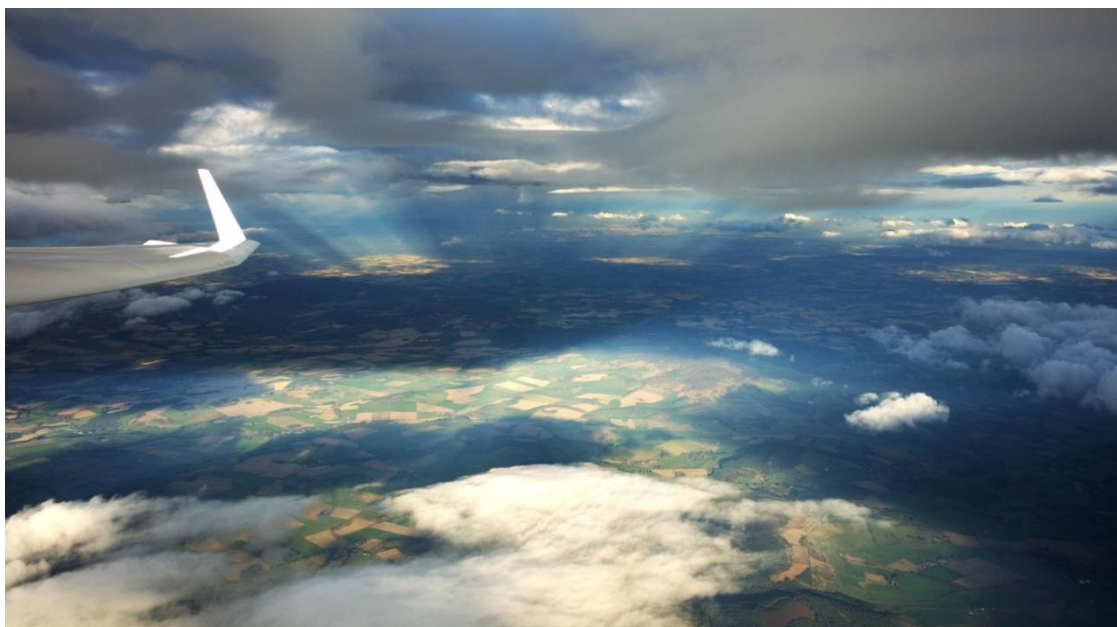
The expedition is from **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**. All levels are welcome including pre-solo, and for the first week we will have the Duo Discus 315 for check flights and training. Week 2 will be for licensed pilots only, or you could arrange two-seater flying with Deeside GC.

Deeside is a popular tourist destination so there is plenty of accommodation available, self-catering, guest houses etc.

To cover the costs of arranging the expedition there is a fee of £80, which is non-refundable once you have confirmed that you are coming.

There will be a briefing in due course about the site, wave flying, what you need to take with you and so on.

If you would like to find out more, ask to join the Aboyne 2025 Whatsapp group.



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## Kirby Kite takes to the skies again

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The multi-talented Graham Saw has for some months been cluttering up the workshop with a Kirby Kite from the Shuttleworth Collection. He has now finished restoring it and it finally took to the skies again a few weeks ago. It's a beautiful piece of work, not the performance of those fancy white things, but very much prettier – and a tribute to Graham's skills.



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## From the BGA

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### Avoiding regulated airspace and notified activity

Infringements of regulated airspace, eg controlled, restricted or prohibited airspace without the authority to do so, are potentially dangerous and disruptive, and ultimately result in the curtailment of the freedoms to fly that all pilots need and enjoy. Similar issues apply where pilots fail to take into consideration notified activity such as aerobatic competitions.

The BGA strongly recommends **careful pre-flight planning** including careful checking of NOTAMs, use of a GPS moving map with current airspace files, and **setting the device's attention-seeking vertical and horizontal warnings to provide ample time to react** and avoid controlled airspace.

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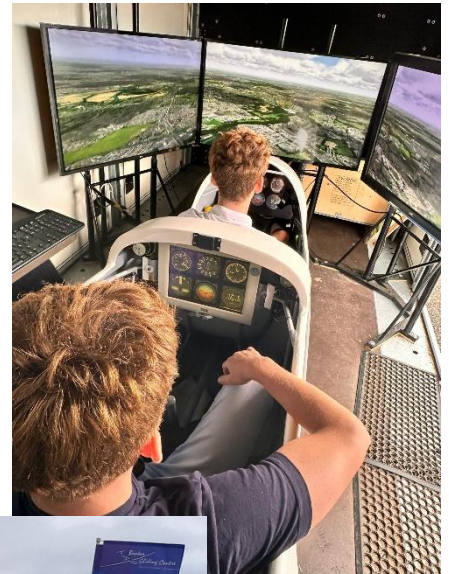
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## Recruitment opportunity

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At the end of July the airfield was taken over by a British Airways Flight Ops Families Day, obviously we had to take the opportunity to promote the club. We displayed the Duo Discus with lots of banners, and had the sim working all day – longer queues than for the A320 sim opposite. We hope this will sow seeds in the minds of our visitors and that they will come back and give gliding a go.

*Many thanks to all the members who gave up their time to help set everything up and work on the stand and the sim – too numerous to mention all of them.*



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## Dates for your diary

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### 2025 programme

The full programme of events additional to our normal flying operation can now be found on the [events diary](#) on the website.

For day-to-day ops, check the [duty rota](#).

Over the summer we are operating 7 days a week. Adam supervises Tuesday – Friday, weekends are covered by the member instructor rota, and Mondays are for licensed pilots only – although instruction will be available if an instructor offers to cover the day

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## 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.

**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.

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The **Booker GC website** at [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://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/>

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

Booker Gliding Club Ltd registered in England, number 1492733  
Registered office: Wycombe Air Park, Booker, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3DP  
VAT number: 350 4182 83  
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