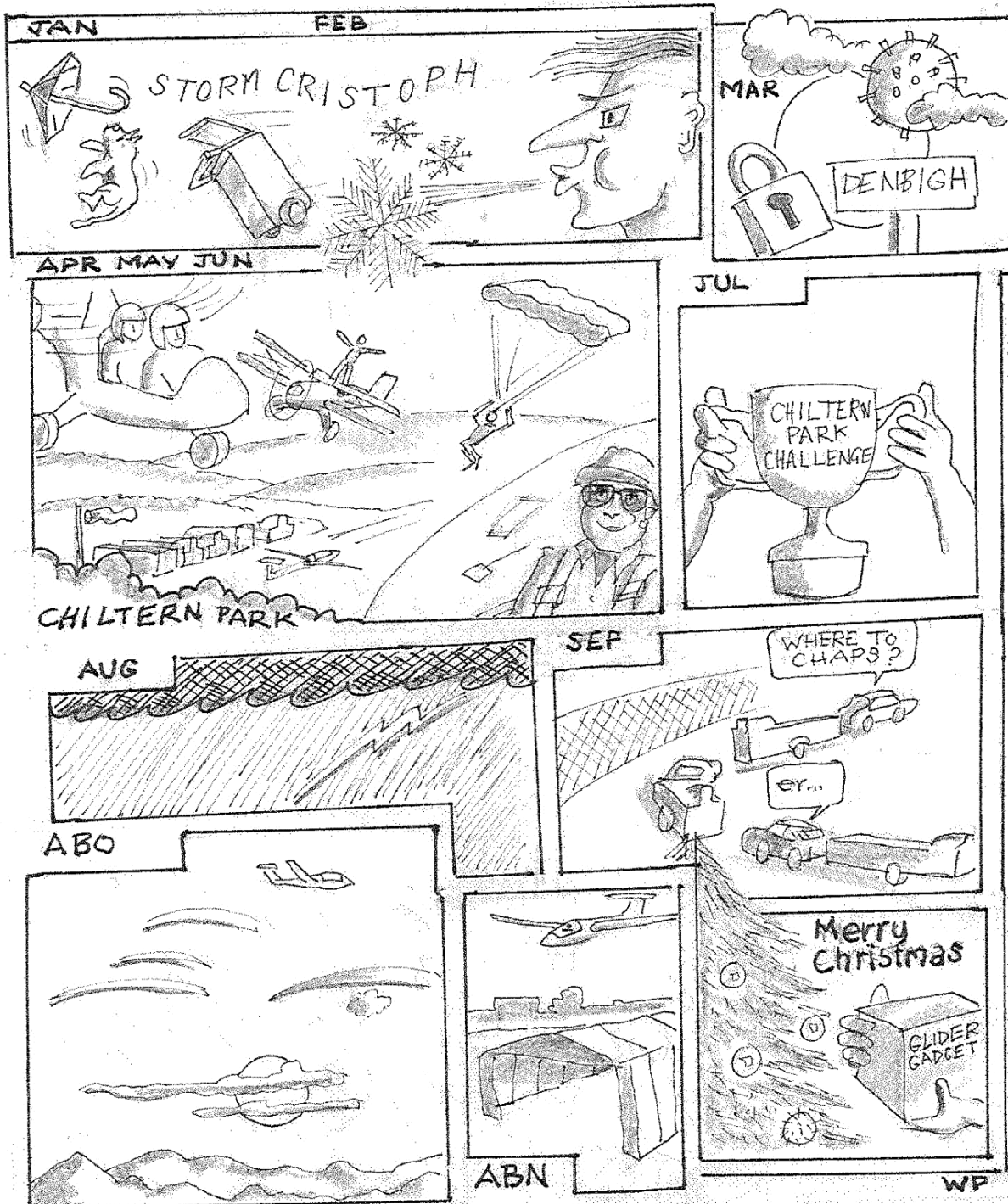


# Newsletter

2021

A look back at another eventful year



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## In this issue.....

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... we take a look back at 2021. It's been yet another year of challenges for the club, here we focus on all the good things that have been happening – achievements, expeditions, comps, events – which demonstrate what a great club Booker is. Let's keep it that way!

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## Members' achievements

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Congratulations to:



### Nils Wedi - Winner of the BGA Open Ladder for Booker



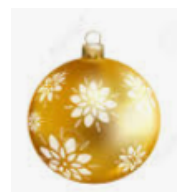
Nils came top of the **Open Ladder** with 14888 points, and came **3<sup>rd</sup>** in the **Distance Ladder** with a total of 4045km flown in 17 flights. He came **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the **OLC** (On-Line Contest) for Booker with a score of 6909 points in 34 flights. He won the Chiltern Park Challenge too.....read on.....

### Howard Joseph – Winner of the BGA Distance Ladder for Booker and the Online Contest for Booker

Howard took every opportunity to fly and won the **Distance Ladder** with 23 flights totalling 5848km. He also won the **OLC** for Booker with 36 flights for a score of 8517 points.



**Leo Sentinella – Winner of the Dan Smith Memorial Trophy for aerobatics** with a score of 80.5% - just shows what coaching from Graham Saw can achieve.



**FIRST SOLOS**



**Simon Jones** achieved his first solo after joining us for a 5 Day course – our first solo trained entirely at Chiltern Park.



**Howard Gethin** saw us flying overhead his home near Chiltern Park, came over for a visit, joined up, and went solo.



**Bruce Zaayman**, who is more accustomed to paragliders, added another skill with a glider solo.



Dean with instructor John

**Dean Miller** arrived for his first flight having watched all the briefing videos and since then has been coming to fly whenever he can.

14-year-old cadet **Dan Summerfield** found the time spent on his pc sim helped when it came to flying a real aircraft. He achieved his first solo on his 15<sup>th</sup> flight.





**Ed Vincent** joined us for a 5 Day course and achieved his first solo – something to remember us by now he has moved to Derby to work for Rolls Royce.

## SOLOS AT A NEW SITE

Flying at a new site presents challenges to any pilot, so congratulations go to:

**Callum Harris, Andy Duncan, Steve Gaze, John Blake, Richard Martyn** and **Lee Stimmel** who all went solo at Chiltern Park. Lee also converted to aerotow from winch.

**Simon Jones** went solo at Aboyne.



## RE-SOLOS

Now back in the UK after a while overseas, **Hakan Gokalp** re-soloed at Aboyne. Meanwhile at Kenley, **David Hamilton** and **James Roland** re-soloed on the winch, in James's case after 48 years.

## TYPE CONVERSIONS

**Leo Sentinella** converted to the Pegase and ASW19, **James Giles** and **Simon Jones** converted to the ASW19, and **Lee Stimmel** and **Howard Gethin** converted to the Pegase. **David Hamilton** converted to K6 on the winch at Kenley.

**Symeon Economou** had the rare opportunity to fly Graham Saw's beautiful Petrel – and didn't let us forget it! - and **Jane Moore** flew Rob Kehr's delightful Super Javelot.

**John Otty** added to his gliding accomplishments by converting to the Pawnee.

## BADGES

**Leo Sentinella** completed his **Bronze** badge and **James Giles** flew over to Turweston for his **Silver** distance



James

## INSTRUCTOR RATINGS

**Rob Hines** renewed his **Basic Instructor** rating.



Rob



**Jim White** and **Jon Sugden** put in the hours to achieve their Flight Instructor (Sailplane) – FI(S) - ratings

Jim



Jon

## ...AND IN THE POWER WORLD

Former CFI Mike Collett (now of [Ultimate Aerobatics](#)) did his first solo in a Hurricane, former cadet Will Hilton (who now flies for Virgin) did his first solo in a Harvard, and Willy Hackett (aka Group Captain Peter Hackett) converted to the amazing Lysander.



Mike



Will



Willy



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## Staff changes

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On 22<sup>nd</sup> December we said goodbye to **Shelagh Clowry** who for 16 years has worked in the office, keeping us all in line, and in particular has seen us through the last two difficult years. We are very grateful for all her hard work over the years and we wish her well in her retirement.



Stepping into Shelagh's shoes we welcome **Jenni Hursey**. Please be patient while she gets used to us and the weird ways of the gliding world.



We also said goodbye to summer instructor **Sam Coole** who flew with plenty of members at Chiltern Park and then introduced some to winning at his home club, Surrey Hills (Kenley).

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## Chiltern Park – March to September

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In March, just when we thought we could get back in the air after the latest lockdown, events outside our control at our home base, Wycombe Air Park, led to us being denied permission to fly there, so we found ourselves back at Chiltern Park as guests of Dennis Pearson. This time round we settled in and made ourselves comfortable. In order to reduce the time and expense involved in re-fuelling at White Waltham, we bought a fuel bowser which was transformed by **Graham Saw** and **Pete Wyld** (who drove 430 miles to Yorkshire to fetch it)



Well worth all that headache-inducing paint grinding.



We also got the buggies over....



.....and Robin Willgoss lent us a 'garage' which was erected with scant regard for health and safety but gave us a more comfortable launch point.





## Chiltern Challenge Cup: 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July

Every year we hold a cross country gliding competition open to any competent glider pilot – and no need for a hot ship as the tasks are handicapped for the performance of the glider, which levels the field a bit. This year it was a 5-day competition (a bit too tricky running a comp round the weekend parachutists) - the Chiltern Challenge Cup, using modified rules developed by Director Jim White, and it was a great success, even with indifferent weather, with plenty of members enjoying a variety of well-set tasks. The club's Duo Discus and single seaters were shared by club members, enabling them to find out about comp flying skills.

There were three scoring days, with the final result:

First place:  
**Nils Wedi** the Met Man

Second place:  
**Denis Campbell**  
**Howard Joseph**  
**John Otty**

Third place:  
**Ashley Birkbeck**



John, Jim, Denis, Howard and Richard

December 2021

There were the usual adventures with land-outs – some pilots became very familiar with Firs Farm and Priors Farm but were swiftly retrieved by the tug, others were further away and had a slightly slower road retrieve. The week ended with the traditional barbeque.



Zeljko ready to go



Got to get those traces to the Scorer!



William in a Brill field



Ashley using his season ticket at Firs Farm



Steve coming home

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## Whispering Wardrobe Vintage Glider Rally - August

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August heralded the Annual meeting of Wardrobes, organised by Graham Saw, which produced a fine flock of colourful aircraft mixed in with the everyday white fibreglass of the launchpoint. Here is a sample of what was on show.

### Slingsby T-34 Sky

Owned by a syndicate at Lasham.



### EoN Olympia 463

Based at Ringmer

### Fournier RF3 motorglider

Owned by a  
syndicate at  
Parham.





**Schleicher ASK14**  
Requiring a consultation over the engine!

**Slingsby T-50  
Skylark 4**

Based at Weston on the Green.



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## Awards evening and party – August

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On 21<sup>st</sup> August we had a real-life re-enactment of the 2020 Awards Evening (previously on zoom), with an amazing BBQ cooked up by Nils Wedi and his son Benjamin, assisted by John Otty. The main trophy, a beautiful work of art created by Graham Saw, was the Geoff

Tabbner award for the most inspirational instructor, presented to CFI Richard Crockett. Anne Tabbner had hoped to be there to present the trophy, but had to stay away for covid isolation reasons. However, Ben Flewett very kindly took her place, and Rachel Flewett streamed the event so that Anne could 'be there'.

And it stopped raining at just the right time!



Chefs Benjamin, Nils and John

Nils cooking up a storm



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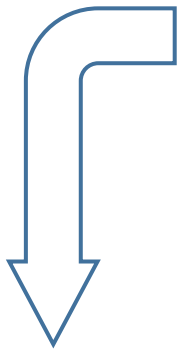
## Off to Abingdon - September

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At the end of September the lease on Chiltern Park ended so we found ourselves on the move again. After a lot of work and many fruitless enquiries we established an introduction to Abingdon airfield, now designated a 'training area' and home to Dalton Barracks, where two regiments of the Royal Logistics Corps are based.

On 19<sup>th</sup> September we dismantled our 'camp' and flew the training gliders to Abingdon, with the private owners moving back to Booker. Abingdon airfield is huge, so walking the possible operational areas and filling in holes was quite exhausting. While we finalised the details of the various agreements to allow us to fly there we conducted some test flights and erected a temporary hangar – a fantastic achievement by a large number of members.

There has been a temporary hitch with RAF Benson being uncommunicative on their safety concerns, but we are flying again and working on a resolution.



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## Aboyne - October

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The club's annual expedition to Aboyne (Deeside Gliding Club) was blessed with good weather and a large number of members made it up to Scotland to experience the best of wave soaring. As well as those with years of experience, a number of first timers, including pre-solo pilots, came along to continue their training in a new environment. It was a great couple of weeks, best demonstrated with some fabulous photos









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## Kenley - October

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While the wave-hunters were in Scotland, a number of members took the opportunity to go to Surrey Hills GC (Kenley) and try winching with Sam Coole, our summer instructor. A couple of members who had not winched for decades re-soloed. The views were a bit different from what we are used to. All good practice though.



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## Condor glider simulator – multi-player sessions

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The Condor group has re-convened and has been busy flying virtual tasks from many sites around the world. During the flight you can see the other participants flying around you and real time scores can be viewed as you go around the task. Your strategy during the flight will closely match what you would do if you were flying it for real.



If you are interested in joining in, contact Bob Smith or Henry Ross.

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## Making the most of winter

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Along with the club's series of briefings, announced on the Whatsapp group and recorded here: <http://www.bookergliding.co.uk/members/BGC3459.html>

And if you do not have an RT licence, now is the time. The BGA is running a course designed for the needs of glider pilots, so register now: <https://members.gliding.co.uk/2021/11/30/bga-online-r-t-course-starts-1st-february-2022-register-now/>



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## Farewells

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During the year we were sad to lose three former members, whom we remember here.

### **Robert Harris - 1936 – February 2021**



Former member Robert Harris died with Covid in February. In his time at the club, Robert owned an LS4, and a share in a Discus, and enjoyed expeditions to Le Blanc in central France. He also took part in competitions and was an instructor. In later years he used to help out at Regionals by managing the start line. Outside gliding he was an expert sailor.

### **Terry Clements - 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1938 - 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021**



Terry, who joined the club in recent years, passed away very suddenly with a heart attack. He thoroughly enjoyed his gliding, in particular his flights in Aboyne. He will be remembered for his charm, and all his anecdotes about his interesting life.

### **Dave Smith - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1935 - 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021**



Dave was a long-standing member of the club and co-owned Pegase 997. He came to gliding after interests in climbing and sailing. In later years he took up study, eventually gaining a PhD from Reading University. He enjoyed historical research and wrote many booklets on a variety of topics. He was working a memoir of his gliding career at the time of his death.

## Winter hours

### Office

The office is staffed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The email address is [office@bookergliding.co.uk](mailto:office@bookergliding.co.uk)

### Flying

Throughout the winter, flying will be non-bookable for members only, on demand, arranged at the daily briefing or on Whatsapp. Trial lessons and courses will be re-started in January or February.

## Festive opening times

No flying on **Christmas Day**. Other days as announced at the daily briefing, weather dependent.

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## Dates for your diary (subject to change)

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### 2022

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> March:   | Spring expedition to Lleweni Parc |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> June:   | Summer expedition                 |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> July:   | Booker Regionals                  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> October: | Aboyne expedition                 |



## 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.

**Booker XC** – for tasks, cross country discussion and feedback

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

**Booker Banter** - for general chitchat – contact Jeremy Gilbey

**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](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**

<http://bookergc.blogspot.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/bookerglidingclub>

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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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