

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

December
2022

2022

A look back at another eventful year



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL
OUR LOYAL MEMBERS, STAFF AND FRIENDS



In this issue.....

... we take a look back at 2022. One more year of challenges for the club, so we will focus on all the good things that have been happening – achievements, expeditions, events – which demonstrate what a great club Booker is. Let's keep it that way!

Members' achievements

Congratulations to:

Nils Wedi – Diamond Height



Nils usually specialises in cross-country (he's very good at it) but he needed an extra Diamond. He missed out by about 2ft at Aboyne in October 2021, but at Lleweni Parc he took advantage of an excellent wave day to gain his **Diamond height**. Nils has relocated to Bonn but we hope he will be back, especially once he has completed the mountain of paperwork keeping his LS4 and its newly fitted jet on the ground.



SOLOS AT A NEW SITE

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

Simon Jones and **Dean Miller** who flew solo at Booker having done their first solos at Chiltern Park



Dean



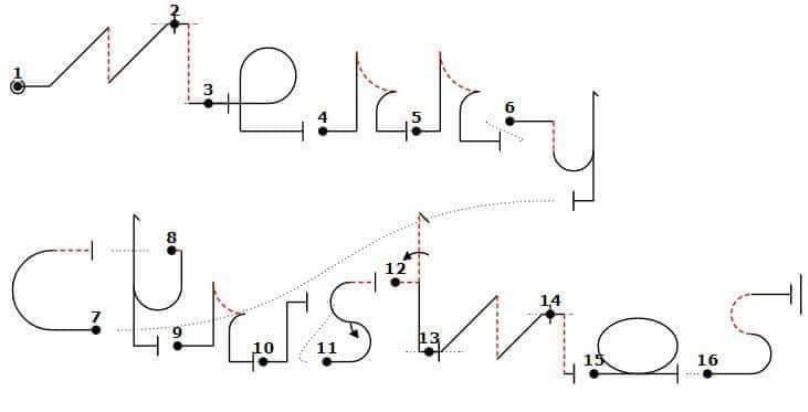
Simon

TYPE CONVERSIONS

Simon Jones converted to the Pegase. He has also been flying K23s at another club.

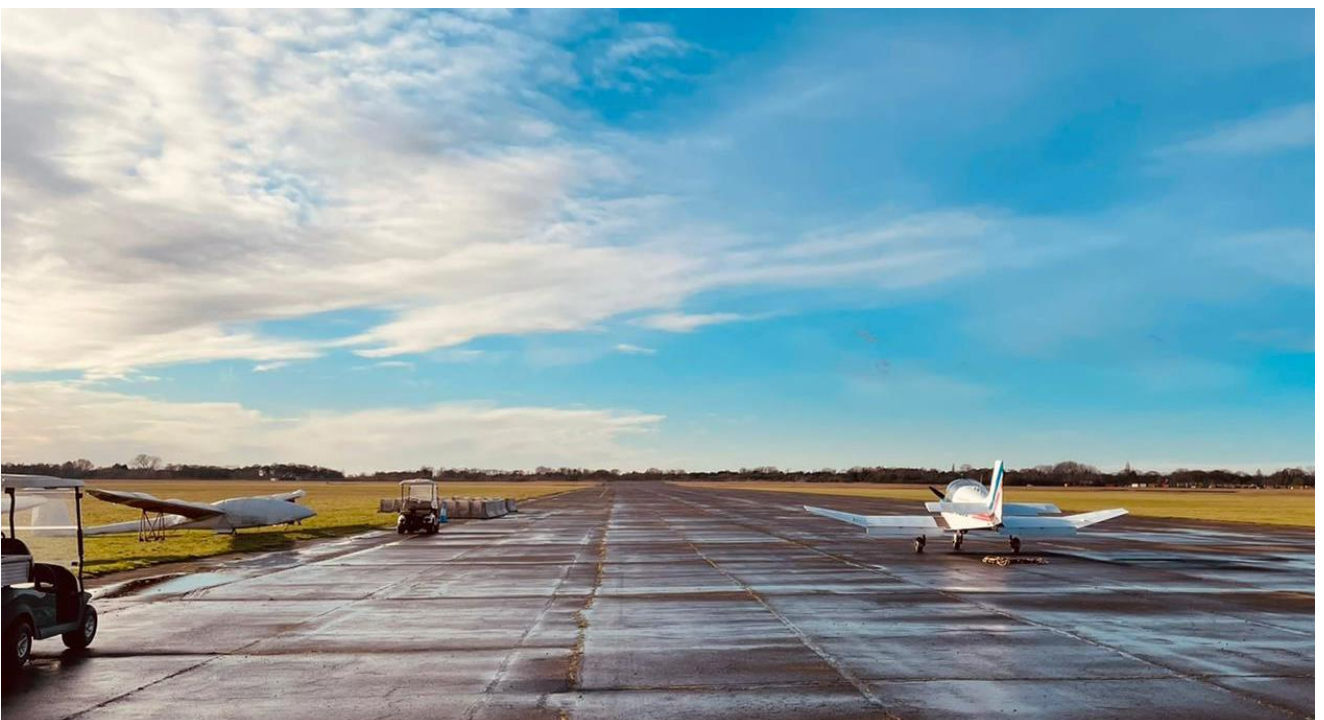
BADGES

Dean Miller has developed a taste for aerobatics and has achieved his **Standard Aerobatics Badge** with the help of Graham Saw's winter aerobatics courses.



Abingdon

After leaving Chiltern Park we set up camp at Abingdon. The last few flights there, before the RAF spoil our fun, were in January.



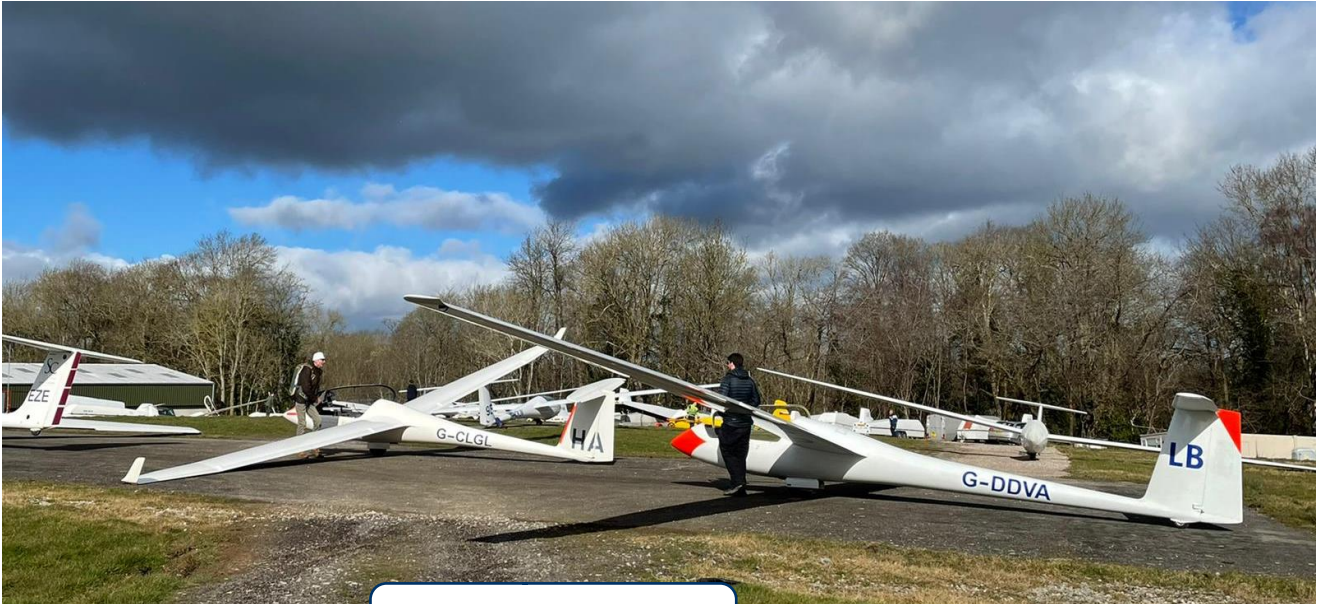


Oxford



Lleweni Parc, Denbigh – 5th to 20th March

Our **Spring expedition** attracted a large number of members who enjoyed some excellent weather. Everyone was soon well and truly current after a winter layoff as the frequent gusty southerly produced some interesting conditions for take-off and landing. Whether flying along the ridge, in thermals or in wave, the views were terrific – as you can see.....



Getting ready at 24 launchpoint

KSM wave-hunting

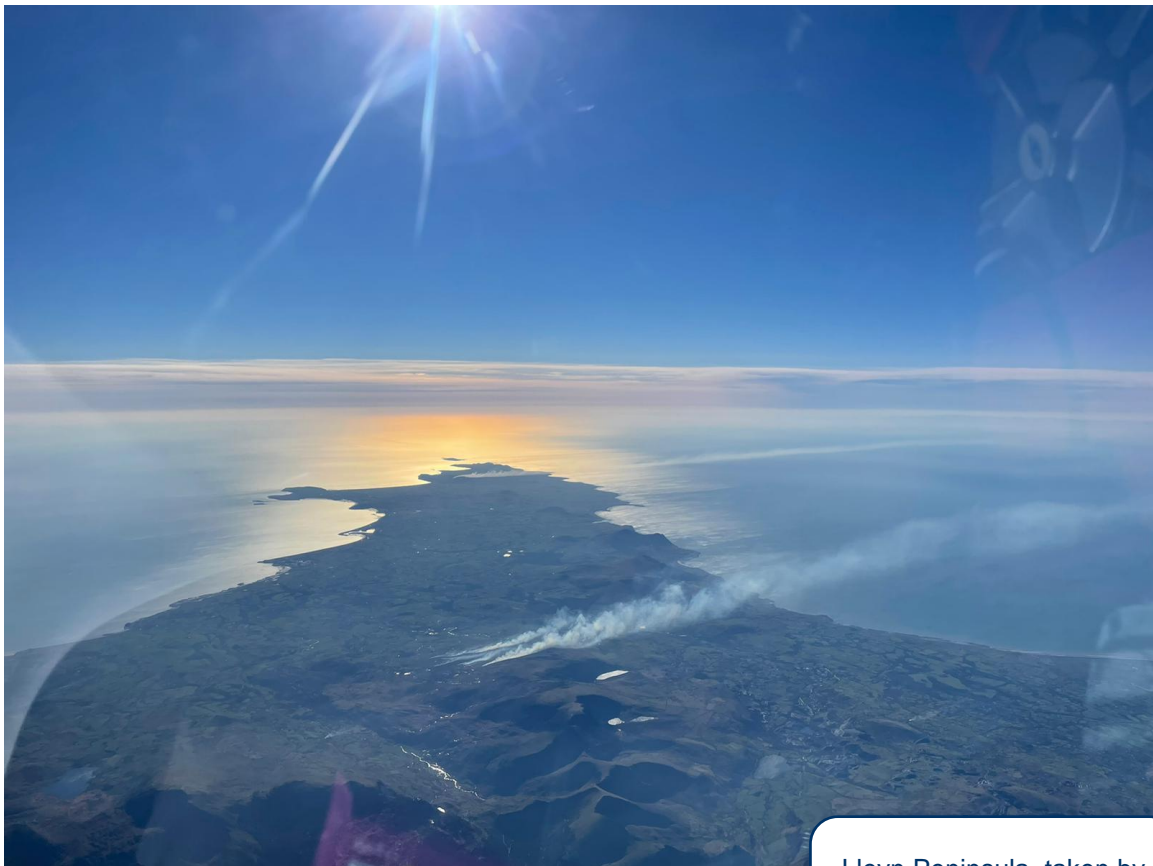




Llyn Cowlyd,
Snowdonia



The Great Orme and
Llandudno



Lley Peninsula, taken by Nils Wedi during his Diamond height flight



Some of the gang, out on the town

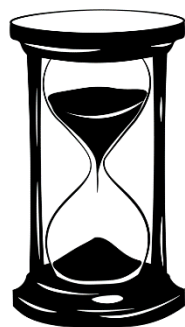
Simulator upgrade

The simulator was brought back into use by a team comprising Graham Saw, Robin Willgoss, Pete Wyld, Henry Ross and Bob Smith, spurred on by James Giles, who organised an outing for it to Langtree School in Woodcote, where a large number of students tried their hand at flying. Work is ongoing to upgrade the computer and systems.

Summertime.....

The summer was mainly taken up with the struggle to get flying again at Wycombe Air Park. We celebrated the Solstice with a **Midsummer picnic** outside the clubhouse.

Round about this time the planning shenanigans for the development on Area A were resolved, as part of which Stage 50 agreed to sponsor the club to ensure the continuation of gliding at Wycombe Air Park, which was excellent news. Richard leapt into action with a briefing on flying at Booker in its new configuration, bearing in mind that lots of people were not very current. And then we waited to be given the go-ahead to fly.....



Tim's adventures in Lithuania – 2nd to 16th July

As a member of the British Team, **Tim Scott** took part in the **21st FAI European Gliding Championships** in Pociūnai, Lithuania, flying in the 15m class. He kept us entertained with a running commentary on his exploits – tasks set near a war zone, poor weather, awful fields – there were days when everyone landed out, and the menders were kept busy refitting undercarriage doors. Results [here](#).

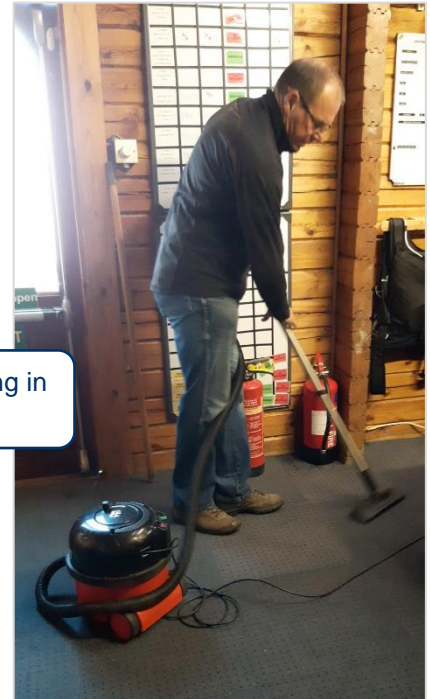
Flying again!

We finally re-started flying on 10th September, at very short notice, and it was great to get back in the air and see familiar sights. **Nils** got a bit carried away a few days later and landed out near Didcot. Nice field though.

During our long absence the place had got a bit shabby, so we had a series of working parties to tidy things up a bit - all the weeds and rubbish outside the hangars, and the area outside the clubhouse, the cobwebs inside of the clubhouse, and finally the blister hangar, which contained an extraordinary selection of junk, up to and including a kitchen sink.



An assortment of metals ready for the dump



Ace vacuuming in progress

Richard went off to the CAA

Just before the club expedition to Aboyne, **Richard Crockett** left for a proper job at the CAA. He had been at Booker for nearly 13 years, starting as a course instructor, then deputy CFI, and for the past 9 years as CFI.

We had a party to wish him well – though he isn't going away, he is staying on as member CFI. The party was also a great opportunity to celebrate being back together again.



Aboyne expedition – 8th to 22nd October

It was great to be back in Aboyne, where the first week saw excellent weather and fantastic wave enabling climbs and cross-country flights. Those new to the site found much to discover – the magic of wave plus some sporty circuit conditions - all part of the fun. Week 2

was a bit wet, but there were still opportunities for flying, and the gliders were put to good use. Many thanks to **Dave Byass**, **Steve Williams** and **Paul Field** for keeping us safe.



Nils the Met Man keeping the plate spinning



James and Paul setting off for the final flight of the expedition



Cairngorm moonscape

315 descending



Alternative pursuits –
Dunnottar Castle, south of
Stonehaven



Winter entertainments

Over the winter **Graham Saw** is running **Aerobatics courses** for anyone wishing to brush up their handling skills and/or build confidence. **Dean Miller** has already gained his Standard Aerobatic badge with Graham's coaching, and **Leo Sentinella** is spending his aerobatics bursary on twirling around the sky.



Rob Kehr's beautiful **Wassmer 22 Super Javelot** has flown again after an extensive rebuild. Graham test flew it, and then Rob donned his beret to get in the Gallic groove.



During the December week of snow and sub-zero temperatures we were the only people flying (helicopters don't count), and very pretty it was too.

On the final freezing Saturday in December there was a **Midwinter Social Evening** in the clubhouse, with lashings of delicious warming food cooked up by **Fiona**. It was good to see so many members filling the clubhouse.



Making the most of winter

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, starting on 10th January 2023, so register now [here](#).

Winter hours

Office

The office is staffed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The email address is office@bookergliding.co.uk

Flying

Throughout the winter, Trial lessons and courses will be flown on Saturdays and Sundays. Flying on weekdays will be for members only, on demand, arranged on Whatsapp.

Festive opening times

No flying on Christmas Day. Other days as announced on Whatsapp, weather dependent.

Dates for your diary (subject to change)

2023

11th – 26th March: Spring expedition to Lleweni Parc
7th – 22nd 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 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

<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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