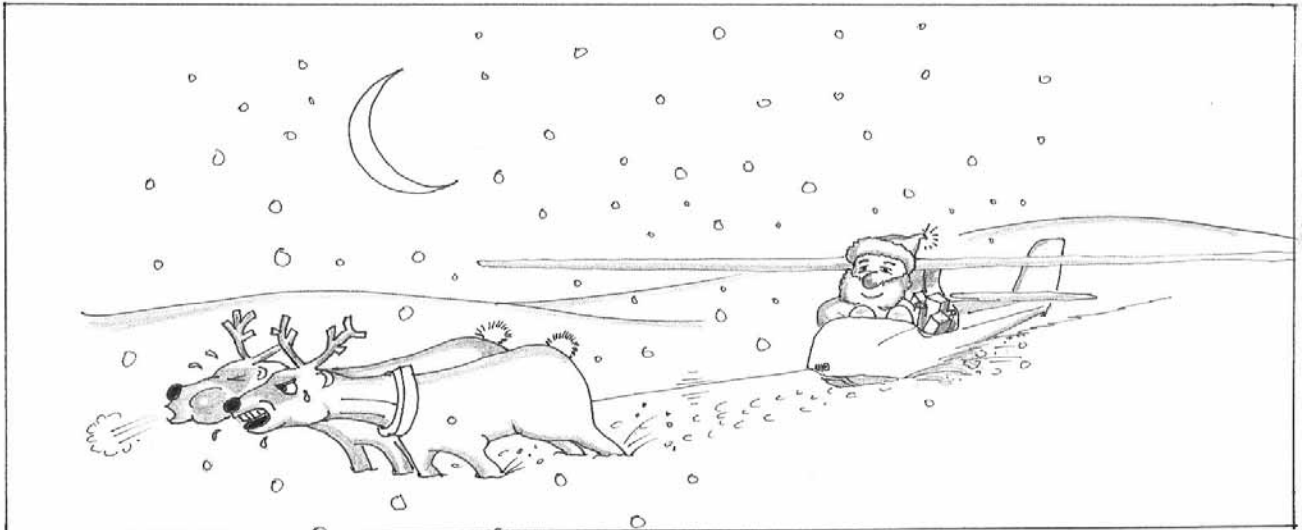




The Booker Newsletter



"Who said something with wings would make it easier?"

Happy Christmas and a Thermic New Year

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This month Geoff makes a point about getting prepared and making plans for the 2011 soaring season, Mike reminds us about the forthcoming lectures and Graham explains the pricing approach for the coming year (not much changing despite cost pressures, thank goodness).

Jane gives an upbeat account of the Marketing Team's promotional efforts and the Reverend Maxigat takes up that popular subject for Christmas conversation –peeing in gliders. Copious thanks to all contributors in 2010.

Happy Christmas

William

From the Chairman

Dear fellow Booker members,

Here we are with Christmas approaching rapidly once more and the cold dark nights make it hard to imagine soaring in sunny skies. There is always that period when last summer's flights start to fade and next spring seems far away. Well it won't be long now. My log book shows several soaring flights and one or two cross countries in February. So now is the time to start that all important preparation. The trick is to be ready, but above all to be current. We have the fleet waiting for you and Mike



Collett and the instructor team to help you brush up on your skills. So, make the effort to get out and fly and your season will be up and running before you know it.

2010 was a good year, despite the challenges we faced. The committee and the staff have received tremendous support from so many members in so many ways that to attempt to list them all would run the risk of missing someone out. On behalf of us all I would like to thank all of you who have made a contribution to the club over the past year. It really does demonstrate that we have a fantastic membership across a wide range of talent and disciplines from engineering and maintenance to legal and commercial and that working together we can achieve anything we set our mind to.

Booker members achieved a lot during the season, a host of superb flights from Nick Newton's flight to Bicester in his beautiful open cockpit vintage glider to Denis Campbell's well executed 750; from 17 first solos to Tim Scott competing in the world championships. Most importantly we flew safely. 2011 promises to be a great year; the gliders are in good shape, the tugs will be there to launch you quickly and we have some exciting and different events planned from the Black Mountains to the Alps.

It only remains for me to wish each and every one of you a very happy Christmas and a New Year filled with lots of safe gliding fun.

See you at the launch point,
Geoff

From the CFI

The festive period is well and truly upon us, whether this is a good thing or a bad thing is open to debate. November saw lots of flying and despite our reduced operations mid week we exceeded the number of launches we achieved for November last year. Also last month saw a number of members visiting Southdown GC to experience cross country ridge soaring at its best. It just goes to show that the season doesn't have to end in October.



In the coming months we have a number of events to help through the winter these include the aerobatic courses on the first Saturday of the month. There will be Bronze lectures running on Saturday mornings throughout January. These should not be missed and are open to all levels of experience. Also remember to put your name on our expedition lists which will be put up on notice board on the 4th December to avoid out on any disappointment.

Now onto more serious matters I've been contacted yet again by LATCC Swanwick (Essentially National Air Traffic) with regards to yet another AirProx at RAF Benson with a Merlin helicopter and a glider on the 5th August at approximately 12:45 BST. This may well be a glider from another site however given our close proximity to Benson we tend to get the flak. If you know anything about this please contact me in confidence. The concerning issue here is the number of AirProxes coming out Benson which is one of our nearest neighbours. My advice would be to give them a call on 120.9 if there is any chance that you might get low in the proximity of the airfield or you think you might need to enter their ATZ. I'm happy to talk through the basic protocols of calling them if any one is unsure. The controllers would rather you talked to them even if you did not use the correct phraseology in doing so.

My congratulations to the pilots who managed to do their first solos or re-solo in November:

Happy Christmas
Mike

Fees and Subscriptions for 2011

Your committee have carefully considered the fees to be charged by the club in 2011. We are well aware that these are difficult times for all members and have taken this into account whilst ensuring that the club remains solvent during the forthcoming years. We have therefore decided to freeze virtually all fees.

The full membership subscription will stay at £615 and all other subscriptions will also be frozen with the exception of the Associate subscription. Unfortunately, it is now apparent that this is subject to VAT and the increase of £13 (making the total £78) will go to the government and not to the club.



Trailer facility fees will remain the same (£295 and £970 for SLMG).

Fuel costs will rise from 1st January with the increase in VAT, but the plan is to absorb this increase and hold the surcharge at £2.50 and therefore there will be no increase in launch costs.

Unfortunately we cannot do anything about the price of fuel and if it alters, up or down then the fuel surcharge will follow. Of course, you can do something by pulling off at 1,800ft instead of 2,000ft and you will save £2 on each launch.

The Club relies on several sources of income of which one of the most significant is from flying. Last year this source did not live up to expectations. Each launch contributes to the club's funds and so do flights in club gliders. We have a more comprehensive fleet of club gliders than most clubs and they are all ready for your use. At Booker we have three club tugs with two in reserve which ensures that everybody gets launched quickly even on that "perfect" day. You can help the club and your flying by taking off now. If you have your own glider, now is the time to use the club gliders to get up to scratch and be ready for the season. Shep assures me that the first cross country is before the end of February! If you are pre solo or pre bronze, this is the perfect time to get ahead. A clear quiet winter's day is just the time to perfect those circuits or "field" landings. So, look at the forecast, don the thermals, fill the Thermos with soup and come flying.

Graham Morfey, Treasurer

Promoting Booker

The Sales & Marketing Team recently went to Dunstable to meet our counterparts from LGC, HusBos and Southdown to exchange ideas about marketing gliding in general and our clubs in particular. It was a wide-ranging and useful discussion (and the sandwiches were good too) and we came away with lots of ideas, in particular for promotional ideas which have the added benefit of engaging the local community. Watch this space. We also discussed events for 2011, including AeroExpo which will be at Sywell (handy for HusBos); we could co-operate with the other clubs and thus benefit from 1000s of aviation-minded visitors without the hassle we have had at Booker in the last five years. The S&M team is also keeping an eye out for other opportunities closer to home.

Christmas goodies

Solve your gift buying problems, ask at the office for a selection of gliding accessories. Greetings cards and other festive items on a gliding theme also available.

Booker hits the streets

The Sales and Marketing Team has in recent weeks also been working on the No Stadium campaign, which is working to fend off the Council's plans so that we can continue to fly and have fun.

Members can hardly fail to have noticed the large banner now hanging on the clubhouse veranda, and the Junior trailer is also adorned with horizontal versions of the same 'Buzz Off' motif. Anyone who would like to practise their trailer driving skills, please feel free to do so, preferably through the centre of High Wycombe - lots of roundabouts to negotiate, best taken very slowly. Don't forget to put your number plate on the back and check the lights.

We also have a supply of posters and leaflets which are appearing all over the place. Why not put one or more on your car windows, spread the word? For the last two Saturdays teams of warmly clad members have been pounding the local streets putting leaflets through letter boxes (those ones with the brush draught excluders are the worst!). Along with the Buzz Off leaflet we distributed a Special Offer to our neighbours, a Trial Flight for £65 (usual price £98), with £10 going to the Fighting Fund. The leaflet is also available to download from the campaign website www.nostadiumatbooker.org.uk.

The website is kept up to date with news of developments in the stadium saga, including the proposed demonstration before the full Council meeting on Monday 13 December, 1730hrs, outside the council offices in Victoria Road. This is being organised by GASP, the coalition of local protest groups (Groups Against the Stadium Proposals) which is developing a website at www.gasp-no.org. If you would like to go, let us know. GASP is preparing leaflets and banners, or you could take our own Buzz Off ones.

Jane Moore

Achievements in November

1st Solo

Simon Vardigans

John White*

Resoloed

Jonathan Sugden

Mark Sempers

** Possible confusion here John as we had you down for soloing in October. If so, apologies, anyway it can't do any harm to have your name in lights twice in a row.*

New Member

Welcome **Nick Markert**, who was on an Intensive course and joins us as a full member

Congratulations to all these pilots and their instructors

Radio (130.) 4's Thought for the day: Peebags

Presented by the very reverend Vicar Maxigat



Ah, such a simple device, so complex an operation at times. I will not sully this newsletter with mucky talk about the effect of intense cold on the exercise when wave flying, but merely offer a few humble suggestions. There are of course those who are happy to drill a hole in the hull in order to dispense the corrosive fluid onto and around the landing gear – but my preferred modus operandi makes use of the plastic food bag. Now, I hope we all feel guilty about dispensing these on our beautiful countryside but goodness me it can hamper concentration if one doesn't tackle the problem. For those that struggle to relax and let nature take its course my advice is to practice beforehand: a locked garage door and simulated cockpit should do the trick. This is preferable to the high G manoeuvres and erratic flying associated with in-flight practicing.

One critical pre-pee task is to check the bag. Inflating it to check for leaks avoids that senile look of a dark patch around the groin when you climb out after your flight. I can confirm that landowners do look pityingly on you if you've not been successful at either staying aloft or peeing successfully. Do resist the temptation to seal the bag with a knot before ejecting it. I'm not aware it has happened yet, but when finally the odds run out and a member of the public is struck by a food bag of urine travelling at terminal velocity I suspect the ensuing publicity will not be complimentary.

Lastly, take care when ejecting the bag not to wrap it over the leading edge. I have watched a well known glider agent try flying at/over VNE, attempt tailslides, and finally open the canopy in flight, reach out under it and pluck the bag off the wing. I don't know what it was like from inside the cockpit but from alongside the entertainment was priceless.

For Sale at Booker

Schempp-Hirth Discus B

Comp. no 314



The Club is offering 314 for sale to a syndicate of Club members at Booker, as discussed at the EGM.

Equipped with Cambridge vario and L Nav: A/H: Dittel radio:

T&S: Winter Vario: ASI: ALT: GarminII:

Cobra trailer

£29,000

For further details contact:

Denis Campbell 07831667863 or

Mike Collett via the office

Booker Gliding Club Workshop



We are very pleased to announce that after a difficult winter last year we are now in a position that we can provide full maintenance facilities for club members at great rates:

Annual: £265

ARC: £85

To book your glider in please contact the OFFICE

Tel: 01494 442501

office@bookergc.nildram.co.uk

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 (william.parker5@btinternet.com).

Published by Booker Gliding Club
WYCOMBE AIR PARK, MARLOW, BUCKS SL7 3DP
Office Tel: 01494 442501/529263
Booker Gliding Club Ltd, t/a Booker Gliding Centre
is a company registered in England with company number 1492733
Registered office address: Wycombe Air Park, Booker, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3DP
VAT number: 350 4182 83

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