

Booker Gliding Club

# Newsletter

January  
2023



## Winter flying



## New website for BGC

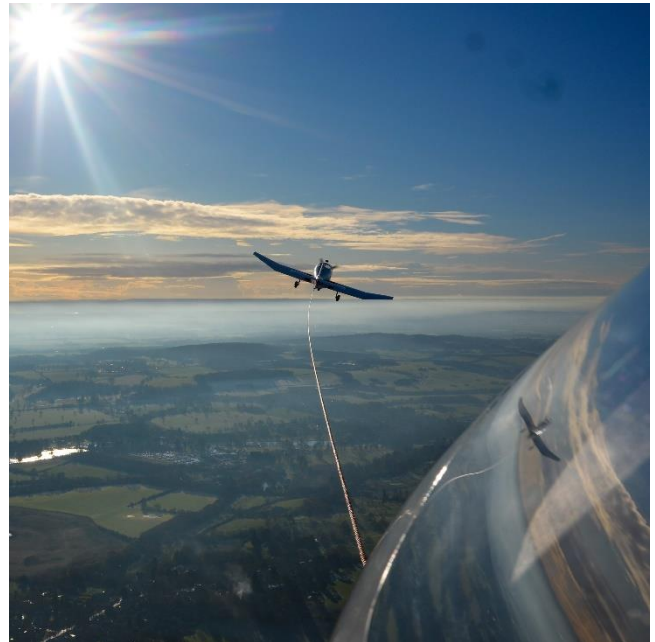
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## The benefits of winter flying

The week of ice and snow in mid-December provided some very picturesque flying for the hardy – and a burst pipe in the clubhouse, kindly fixed by Rob Kehr. Then the rain came and the holiday period and the first half of January were very wet and windy. And finally the sun shone and the frost returned and the flying was glorious – the days are getting longer and there is noticeable warmth in the sun.

Now is the time for blowing away the winter cobwebs and getting current. Wrap up warm and come along to the airfield. **Take a flight or two with an instructor** to brush up on exercises, practise flying with a moving map, try a launch failure – or just enjoy the view. It's also good to catch up with fellow members you may not have seen for a while.



*Trial lessons are only booked at weekends, two slots per day, and the first weekend of each month is reserved for members, so there is plenty of opportunity for flying. Weekday flying is organised if the weather is good and there is demand – look out for announcements on the general Whatsapp group.*





Where's that tug?

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## Member achievements

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**Simon Jones** hasn't let bad weather get in the way of his progress, he's passed his **Bronze Theory Test**

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## New members

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We welcome Alex Phillips, a member of Edgehill GC, who has added Booker to his portfolio so that he can train with ace aerobatics pilot Graham Saw. We also welcome Gary Fletcher and Chey Anich who have joined us for a Flexi course and are making rapid progress.

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## We have a new website!

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Our old site has done very well for us for some long time but it was time for a refresh. Thanks to a huge amount of work by Bob Smith and Stuart Whitehouse, assisted by Dean Miller and Chris Collett, we now have a new look. It's at the same address - [www.bookeragliding.co.uk](http://www.bookeragliding.co.uk) - however, it is now more secure and https instead of http. Most pages have new addresses, so if you have saved any as favourites you will need to update them as your favourite pages reappear. Google will take a short while to catch up with the changes. The members pages are still being re-worked and will be updated soon.

Please bear in mind that it is a **work in progress** and there is still development to be done. If you have suggestions for improvement or would like to contribute content, please let Bob know.



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## Seasonal thoughts – look after yourself, and the kit

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Winter flying is very rewarding, but you need to make sure that you are prepared for a day out in the cold – it sneaks up on you. Make sure you have enough clothes, and dry feet, and also food and drink for 'central heating'. If you are cold you will not be thinking properly and should not be flying.

Factors to consider when flying include wet wings that need drying before launching, low sun in the afternoon when landing on 24, misting and dirty canopies – they need to be spotless, with no fingermarks - we all need to take extra care while enjoying some great winter flying opportunities.

On cold days the last thing you feel like doing before pushing the gliders into the hangar is cleaning them, but mud and ice in wheels and brakes will cause them to jam and corrode. This will spoil your day the next time you want to fly, and cost us money in additional maintenance costs. Take a little time to clean out as much as you can - best not to use water though, as it will freeze, and if it gets into cracks it will expand and cause more damage. That hot cup of tea or a pint of beer will taste all the better for your efforts.

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## Your committee

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Your club is run by a committee of members volunteering their time to keep the show on the road, supported by many members who also contribute their skills and time. There is always room for more, so if you see something that needs doing, or have ideas for improvements, let us know! Here is the current committee.



**John  
Otty**  
Treasurer / Chairman



**Tim  
Scott**  
Acting Chairman



**John  
Hubberstey**  
Company Secretary



**William  
Parker**  
Minutes Secretary



**Robert  
Turner**  
Tugs and Lease



**Jane  
Moore**  
Marketing and Office



**Richard  
Crockett**  
Flight Ops / CFI



**Paul  
Field**  
Flight Safety



**Dean  
Miller**



**Luke  
Bishop**

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## Clubhouse tea bar

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The tea bar is under new management. It offers as much tea and coffee as you like, in return for £1 in the till every month. Bring your own mug, and ***either wash it up and put it away in the cupboard or take it home with you.*** Milk can be bought from the farm shop using money from the till. There may be biscuits.

Provision will be reviewed in due course. And we are considering another **SOCIAL** in February, date to be announced.

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## Lleweni Parc, Denbigh

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Our spring expedition is coming soon – 11<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March, and there will be a briefing beforehand on the site and on ridge and wave flying, date to be announced.



This is what it looks like!

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## Social media

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The club has for some time had a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bookerglidingclub> which can be viewed by anyone, no need for a Facebook account.



We also have an Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/bookerglidingclub/>. Those with their own accounts might like to follow us, and if you have some good pics, send them to Richard or Bob Smith or Jane Moore to be posted.

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## Dates for your diary

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### 2023

**Spring expedition:** 11<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March – Lleweni Parc, Denbigh

**Annual General Meeting:** April – to be confirmed

**Autumn expedition:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October – Aboyne



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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 Banter** - 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](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

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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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