

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

January
2024



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Dave Caunt

We are saddened to announce the death of *Dave Caunt* on Friday 19th January 2024. Dave was a member of Booker for many years, an instructor and tug pilot, and an inspirational cross-country pilot in his Nimbus 918. His favourite 500k from Booker was Bullington-Gainsborough. He would usually start his flights by releasing at 600ft, to make sure he could climb away from low down, and we would watch him grinding away until he had gained enough height to set off. Usually he got back, there was one memorable retrieve where the glider had to be heaved over a high fence as there was no gate to the field. At one time, with his wife Sally, he ran 'The Pad' (the building at the bottom of the main car park), serving breakfasts before setting off on a long-distance flight, and then coming back to run the bar for as long as necessary. There's a great story here: <http://tinyurl.com/2zs6e2cf> (page 11) of an extraordinary 753k flight which is well worth reading – imagine getting back to Stokenchurch from Lake Vynrwy in Wales at 3.50pm and then turning round to go back to Long Mynd! One of the many comments by club members sums Dave up: *A remarkable passion for gliding coupled with grit and determination in his flying and a great person and club member.*



There will be a service at Chiltern Crematorium (Amersham) on Monday 5th February at 2.30pm should anyone wish to pay their respects.



Spring expedition - Denbigh



We are off to Wales again to blow away the winter cobwebs, the dates are *9th to 24th March*. All are welcome, even pre-solo, as we will have the Duo with Doug Hilton in the back seat. *Lleweni Parc, home to Denbigh Gliding*, offers 30km of ridge, easy access to wave generated by Snowdonia, and of course thermal soaring. The airfield with its 850m tarmac runway is less than 4 hours drive from Booker, and there are plenty of options for accommodation in the surrounding area.

If you would like to come, join the Whatsapp group posted on the main club group.

Richard Crockett will give a briefing beforehand, look out for the date - to be announced.

Task weekends

Throughout the summer, weather permitting, we will have some informal task weekends, run by *Paul Brice*. These will be an excellent opportunity to polish skills and learn new ones, whether you are an aspiring (but not quite there yet) cross-country pilot or a seasoned pundit – there will be tasks and exercises for all levels.

Provisional dates are:

13th – 14th April
11th – 12th May
8th – 9th June
10th – 11th August

Look out for more announcements in due course.



Curry night – Saturday 10th February

Come along and chase away the winter blues, share food and drink and catch up with other club members.

We will provide a vegetarian Indian feast cooked by ace chef Fiona (members may remember the food she produced for our winter social in December 2022), including:

Malai kofte with smoked tomato sauce

Biryani

Tadka dal

Coconut thoran

Warm, freshly made chapati

Hot samosas

Papadums, chutneys and kachumber salad

Dessert - sticky toffee apple and ginger pudding with warm toffee sauce and cream (gluten free)

Plus one free wine/beer/soft drink/fruit juice. It will take place in the clubhouse after flying and food will be ready around 6pm.

A bargain at £12 – if you would like to come, please pay via the Collection Pot link posted on the club Whatsapp group (closes 6th Feb), or cash to Jane in advance, so that we know how many to cater for.

Keeping it fun in winter

Tips from the BGA:

There's some great flying to be had in the winter, however, the seasonal changes bring their own challenges. Misting canopies can occur, particularly in the morning and late afternoon, and the low sun in the southwest in the late afternoon can present takeoff and landing difficulties. Thinking about and then doing something about these issues as part of Threat and Error Management will avoid problems.

[There's some useful guidance in this Winter Flying safety sense leaflet.](#)



Test your glider recognition skills

A rare sight - George Darby rigging his glider at the launchpoint early in January, but here is a quiz:

- do you know who the glider manufacturer is, what country it was built in, and what was unique about the glider from the same manufacturer that flew in the 1974 World Gliding Championships?



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Answers on page 7

Making the right connections

No more wondering which charger to plug batteries into, Bob Smith has overhauled them all and built a new charging station, with colour coding on chargers and batteries. Lead acid batteries (the heavy ones) plug into the orange chargers on the original shelf unit, and lithium batteries (the lighter ones) plug into the blue chargers on the new station.



This piece of work is an excellent example of a member noticing that something needed doing – and doing that something. Thanks, Bob.

Dates for your 2024 diary

10 th February:	Curry night, after sunset, in the Clubhouse
9 th – 24 th March:	Spring expedition – Lleweni Parc, Denbigh
13 th – 14 th April:	Task weekend – tbc
11 th – 12 th May:	Task weekend – tbc
<i>17th – 18th May:</i>	<i>Elite show – no gliding at Booker, maybe a mini expedition</i>
8 th – 9 th June:	Task weekend – tbc
10 th – 11 th August:	Task weekend - tbc
12 th – 27 th October:	Autumn expedition – Deeside GC, Aboyne (note change from previous date)

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.

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

<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/>

*** 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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Answers to the Quiz:

The glider is a Pik, manufactured in Finland, and the unusual version in the 1974 World Championships was painted entirely in yellow.