

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

July 2021

Don't miss
the daily
briefing
0830hrs

Awards evening - 21st August



Whispering Wardrobe Rally - 10th - 13th August

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Chiltern Challenge Cup: 12th – 16th 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 non-BGA-rated 5-day competition - 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.

The first day was a bit of a washout, with only Nils the Met Man taking a sample launch, but the pace picked up on Day 2 and in the end there were three scoring days, with the final result:

First place:
Nils Wedi

Second place:
Denis Campbell
Howard Joseph
John Otty

Third place:
Ashley Birkbeck



John, Jim, Denis, Howard and Richard

Full details here: https://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/booker2021/results

July 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.

Many thanks to:

Jim White – Director

Nils Wedi – Met

Pete Wyld – Scorer

Dave Byass, James Gibson, Phil Cumming, Rob Turner - tugging

Bob Smith – doing all the behind-the-scenes admin

Chris Collett – designing some stylish polo shirts

Richard Crockett – keeping it safe

.....and not forgetting all the rope-hookers and wing-runners and buggy-drivers and log-keepers who helped to keep the show on the road.

My first comp flying with you guys/gals 😊 thoroughly enjoyed it, so much fun. I know many of the older members, but I met and enjoyed the company of the newer members, all of which made us feel welcome and made for a very friendly comp, can't wait for the next one 😊

Mark Lavender –
happy competitor

Here are a few pics from the week.....



Richard finally gets to fly his glider



Steve ready to go



Got to get those traces to the Scorer!



William in a Brill field



Ashley using his season ticket at Firs Farm



The tug on its way home to Booker

Welcome to our newest member

This month we welcome yet another Junior: **Dan Summerfield** who is already settling in. He can fly surprisingly well too, despite never getting in a glider before, the result of 300 hours spent on a sim.

Members' achievements



Howard

Jon FI(S)

Jon Sugden has renewed his instructor rating and is now an FI(S).

Howard Gethin and **Bruce Zaayman** have achieved their first solo



Bruce with Steve



Lee Stimmel has progressed from his first Chiltern Park solo, reported last month, and converted to the Pegase, staying up for a **Bronze 2-hour flight** on his first launch – although the rules have changed and he only needed one hour – see below.

Lee with Richard and 318

BGA Bronze and XC endorsement – rule change



The BGA says: *Following a review, the soaring requirement part of the Cross-Country endorsement has been updated to **remove the requirement for a two-hour soaring flight** after release. The requirement for a one-hour soaring flight after release remains.*

Taking a trailer out of the UK

It appears that going on a trip across the Channel will be a bit more affordable than previously thought. The situation briefed to the BGA by Government in a meeting on 6th May 2021 is that *where a privately owned glider is moved across the UK border in a trailer towed by a private vehicle and the intent is to return the glider across the UK border (for example visiting the EU for a holiday, competition, etc), the export and subsequent import should be declared orally on disembarkation as a 'declaration by conduct'. 'Declaration by conduct' is a term recognised by UK border staff.*

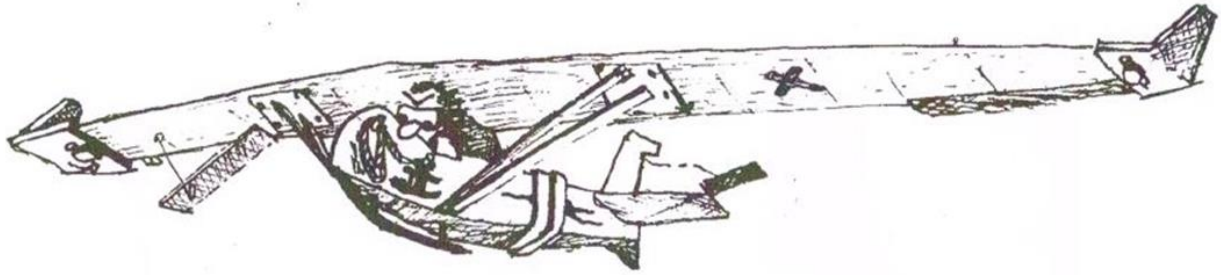
We are grateful to the BGA for their work on this, and to members who lobbied their MPs on the issue.

Pilot licensing – don't panic!

If you have been rushing to complete your licence application by 8th December, take a breath. The BGA says: *During a recent routine liaison meeting this week, the CAA advised in confidence that they intend to seek an extension of the SFCL licence conversion period to 8th December 2023 to facilitate what is described as a 'licence transformation review'. On 2nd July CAA announced formally that **an extension to 8th December 2023** will take place. No further detail is available.*

This doesn't mean you should give up your application, a licence is still a very useful document, especially if you want to go gliding outside the UK, but you have a little more time now.





WHISPERING WARDROBE RALLY

10th to 13th August

Anything vintage welcome (gliders, aircraft, bikes, people)



Organised by Graham Saw, this annual event showcases beautiful vintage gliders on the ground and in the air. Bring along your own vintage means of transport or just come along in something modern and join in the fun.

You might even get to dress up!

Starting young

We asked a Booker cadet to recall his early impressions of taking up gliding and this is what he said about shifting from his original interest in power flying when he discovered the possibilities offered by pure flight:

If you don't know me my name is Leo and I'm a cadet and one of the Juniors. I joined the club in August last year after my previous club Bicester closed. I started flying at Bicester when I was 13 and went solo at Booker when I was 14 and I'm now 15, flying the single seaters and hoping to enter the British glider aerobatics championships in September.



When I started gliding I thought I would stick with it until I turned 17 and go fly power instead. But now after experiencing gliding I will stay with it probably for the rest of my life. It's just so much fun being able to spend hours in the air and travelling round the country or the world in a green and most of the time affordable environment.

The gliding environment is not like any other air sport, it's a sociable environment where everyone helps everyone to get in the air. Gliding is a sport because it takes a team of people to get in the air.

Gliding is filled with excitement from the long cross-country flights with ever-changing views to the exhilarating aerobatic flights. Whatever you want to do, whether it is cross-country, aerobatics or just simply floating around, there is something for everyone.

Gliding also doesn't have to happen where there is flat ground. In the UK I have flown at flat ground sites and also at Denbigh in North Wales on the edge of the Snowdonia national park which is a spectacular mountain site offering thermal, ridge and wave lift, the club does an expedition there. The club also does expeditions to Aboyne in Scotland on the edge of the Cairngorms with spectacular wave soaring opportunities and a summer expedition often abroad - in the past the club has gone to Germany which offers fantastic thermal soaring opportunities.

If a young person came up to me and asked if they should give gliding a go I would always say go for it. You would never look back. It is the perfect after school club which sets you up for the rest of your life. It's the only air sport a young person under 16 can get into and it is also the most affordable with most flights costing £20 (for Junior members) - you can't ask for better. So get down to the airfield and try gliding, you'll never look back.



Conversion to Pegase

Awards evening and party – 21st August

On the evening of **21st August** we will be holding a real-life re-enactment of last year's Awards evening, which will include the presentation of the Geoff Tabbner trophy created by the ever-versatile Graham Saw. The food will be provided by Nyama caterers, based across at Chiltern Park, and the event will be held in the hangar across the road. The cost is £20 for lots of lovely grub (charged to your account) and there is still time to join in, along with your +1 if any, just let Jane know.



Booker's answer to the Red Arrows



Richard and Chris on the way back to Booker



Aboyne 2021 – wake up to wave



Soaring doesn't stop in September, come to Scotland and discover wave flying.

The expedition is suitable for all levels from beginner to hotshot and is an excellent way of building skills and experience, as well as getting to know other club members.



Aboyne airfield, home to Deeside Gliding Club, has two hard and two grass runways and there are plenty of launch failure and land out options nearby (airfield on wingtip).



The dates are:

- week 1: 10 – 16 Oct
- week 2: 17 – 23 Oct

Type 'Booker Aboyne' into YouTube for a snapshot of the 2009 expedition.



If you would like to come along, join the Aboyne 2021 WhatsApp group via this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FfEwt6zvya6E7UBVeFfuVU>

Dates for your diary

2021

- 10th – 13th August: Whispering Wardrobes Vintage Glider Rally
21st August: Awards evening and barbeque
Sometime: Easter Egg Cup Aerobatics comp
9th – 24th 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.

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

Booker XC – for tasks, cross country discussion and feedback – NEW GROUP
Join here: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HukdaXAnb83JIVpd2FZ9nw>

Booker Banter - for general chitchat – contact Jeremy Gilbey

Condor Flyers – for those wanting to join in Condor group sessions – use this link:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GkWgpEfSI0D21wGvc3XCry>

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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