

Booker Gliding Club

# Newsletter

July  
2024



Bronze course – page 3



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## Task week 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August

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The August task weekend has expanded and will now be a **Task Week**. August is a good month for cross-country flying as the crops have mostly been harvested but the stubble not yet ploughed – and of course in theory it should be hot and sunny!

**Paul Brice** will be directing the week, with tasks and briefings for all levels each day, for single seaters and two seaters. If you would like to take this opportunity to improve your skills, let Paul know (via WhatsApp). You don't have to fly every day, just dip and out.

### **Aerobatic opportunity**

Paul has previously represented Britain flying powered aerobatics as a member of the British Aerobatics Team, he also flies aerobatics in gliders. He is Contest Director at the British Aerobatics Glider Open event at Saltby (Buckminster Gliding Club) from 12th to 14th July. He says:

*There may be opportunities for pilots who don't have an aerobatic endorsement / British Aerobatics Flight Evaluation but who have appropriate experience to fly with an instructor on the entry level ('Club') sequence - not scored officially but for the experience 'in the box'.*

*The core glider being used will be a K21.*

*Alternatively, you might just want to come and watch; there will be aerobatics across multiple levels.*

*I know it's a bit of a trip - but if you'd like to see the action (or fly with an instructor) please let me know direct.*

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## Summer social – 10<sup>th</sup> August

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Our annual summer social and reunion will take place from **1800 on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024**. This will be on the airfield at the **Air Adventures** café following the same successful formula as last year.

Details of the cost and how to register will be sent out via WhatsApp and email within the next couple of weeks.



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## Member achievements

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**Phil Bellamy** who first tried gliding as a youngster some decades ago has achieved his **first solo**. Seen here with instructor Ollie.

An honourable mention for **Tim Scott**, competing in the recent 15m Nationals at Aston Down, who **won a day** and came **second** on another, with a final place at 5<sup>th</sup>.



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## Bronze course – 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> August

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The BGA's Bronze endorsement is an important milestone in the glider pilot's progress, it is the precursor to the Cross-Country endorsement and many other gliding qualifications. Gaining your Bronze and Cross-Country endorsement enables you to apply for a Sailplane Pilot Licence (SPL) and start flying cross-country.

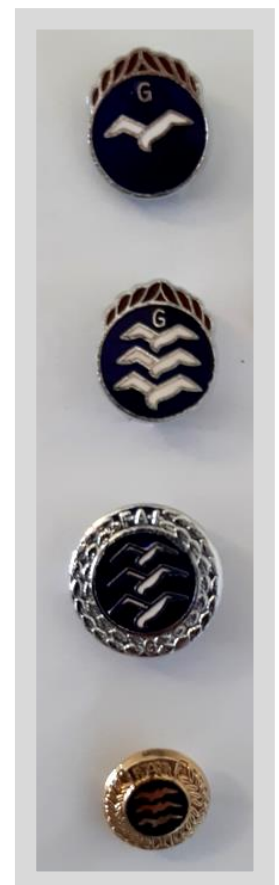
*There are actual badges with which you can impress your non-flying friends. From the top, the 'A' badge for your first solo, then Bronze, Silver and Gold – they get smaller the further you go!*

To qualify for the Bronze endorsement, the requirements are:

- Minimum age 14
- Flying training syllabus completed
- 20 solos and 10 hours gliding
- Pass a multiple-choice theory test
- Complete a General Skills flying test (usually three flights)

During August the club will run a four-day course for those aiming for their Bronze. This will be a mix of flying, briefings and use of the sim. There will be an opportunity to take the Bronze tests on 18<sup>th</sup> August. Those taking part will be expected to be in current flying practice and to have read the [BGA syllabus](#) and also the book [Bronze and Beyond](#) - the most up to date is the 25<sup>th</sup> edition. These [online briefings](#) are also recommended.

If you are interested, please contact **Bob Smith**.



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## Clubhouse facelift

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The picnic benches outside the clubhouse have at last succumbed to nature and we are very grateful to club member **John Hubberstey** for generously donating two new ones. Here's Ollie putting the finishing touches to the construction after John had done most of the hard work. All ready now for post-flight beers or fish and chips.



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## Fleet update

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Thanks to our hardworking workshop team, the Duo Discus (315), both K21s (316 and KCZ), the ASW19 (319) and Pegasus (318) are all serviceable. The K13 (KLA) needs a bit of TLC and will be out of action for a while. We are also grateful to the tug workshop for turning GH round so quickly at its recent 50-hour check.

We have the kit – come and fly!

## School groups

Throughout the summer we host a number of school groups, giving a dozen students a time the opportunity to learn



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about gliding and experience a flight and a chance to try the controls. The groups are generously supported by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. We have already run three groups – Heathside School in Weybridge, Platanos College in Stockwell and Saracens School in Edgware. All the students had a great time.

Here are the Heathside students with headmaster Gareth Lewis.



And here are the students from Saracens School with teacher Jeani Vinueza.



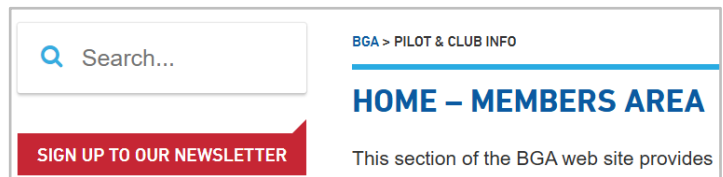
The dates of future groups are all on the instructor rota, help on the ground is always needed on these days to ensure that the flying takes place efficiently, so come along if you can.

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## From the BGA

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The BGA website has a wealth of information for pilots at all levels. You can register for **email updates** on your choice of gliding-related topics. The most recent BGA News email includes the following:



- Bicester Airfield Management has informed the BGA that the airfield will be closed from 8<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August, inclusive. Please check NOTAMs before flight.
- A useful reminder on [aerotowing safety](#), from both ends of the rope.

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## Dates for your 2024 diary

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5 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> August:	Task week
10 <sup>th</sup> August:	Summer social and reunion
15 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> August:	Bronze course
12 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> October:	Autumn expedition – Deeside GC, 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 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.

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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 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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