

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

June 2021

Don't miss
the daily
briefing
0830hrs

Awards evening - new date – 21st August



Evening groups – Tuesdays and Fridays

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Chiltern Park improvements

The tug pilots have until now been enjoying refuelling trips to White Waltham, but this is obviously costly both in terms of fuel used and in lost launches, so we have invested in a fuel bowser and we are now self-sufficient. It will come in handy when we get back to Booker too. Over a few days it was transformed into a thing of beauty by [Graham Saw](#) and [Pete Wyld](#) (who drove 430 miles to Todmorden, near Bradford, to fetch it).



Many thanks to Graham and Pete for their headache-inducing paint grinding.



And then **Graham** – a man of many talents - set about making a ramp so that the bowser can be safely stored in a container. What would we do without him?

We now also have another set of K21 covers, so when 316 comes back with its ARC completed we will have two K21s available. Many thanks to **James Gibson** who got the job of attaching all the bungees.



Welcome to our newest members

This month we welcome two more Juniors to the growing band of young people: **Zak Bouqdour** and **Kai Faulkner**. We currently only have one cadet, the indefatigable Leo, but we are intending to re-open the scheme again soon.

Members' achievements

Simon Jones achieved his **first solo** after joining us for a 5 Day course – our first solo trained entirely at Chiltern Park.

Lee Stimmel, who has joined us from Cambridge GC, has converted from winch to aerotow and done his first Chiltern Park solo.

Jim White has achieved his Flight Instructor (Sailplane) rating and **Rob Hines** has renewed his Basic Instructor rating.

James Giles has converted to the ASW19.



Simon



Jim

In Vintage News, **Symeon** 'did I tell you I've flown the Petrel?' **Economou** had a rare treat thanks to Graham Saw, and **Jane Moore** enjoyed flying Rob Kehr's beautiful Super Javelot.

Chiltern Challenge Cup 2021: 12th - 16th July



Every year we hold a cross country gliding competition that any competent glider pilot can enter. This year it will be a non-BGA-rated 5-day competition - the Chiltern Challenge Cup. It is a week during which priority is given to cross-country gliding, for many club members this is the most rewarding, and fun, aspect of gliding.

NOTE: our website still describes this as a BGA-rated Regionals competition, but hopefully that will be updated soon.

The club's Duo Discus and single seaters will be shared by club members who wish to fly in the comp. If you are interested in flying a club glider, or in the Duo with a Nationals cross-country pilot to learn about cross country racing, please email comps@bookergliding.co.uk.

The weekend before the comp, 10th/ 11th July, will be set up as a practice weekend to fit in with parachuting, not scored as part of the 5-day comp, but with a priority grid launch. There will be no trial lessons or booked training from 10th to 16th July.

Each competition day will be scored and the results published on the [SoaringSpot results](#) page, where you can view a pilot's flight and statistics.

SoaringSpot gliding competition website – viewing flights

For most gliding competitions it is possible to view graphical plots of a pilot's flights. No additional software is required, just view the day results and click on the glider. A list of competitions in progress can be seen on the [SoaringSpot home page](#).

*For example, to see a 500km flight flown at 138 kph in the recent Polish Gliding Championships, view the [results for Task 7](#) and click on the winner's competition number (CN) - **RP** and select Open in SeeYou.*

The flight is displayed in your browser and you can view statistics using the menu in the top left corner.

Here are a few points about the comp this year:

- ➔ Handicapped Distance Tasks will be flown
- ➔ additional zoom briefings each morning by Nils Wedi on meteorology and Jim White (Director) on tasks
- ➔ simplified BGA and local rules are available on [SoaringSpot Downloads](#). These are new rules that are expected to be adopted by the BGA over the coming months, but not before the Booker comp
- ➔ priority grid launch for comp pilots
- ➔ day prizes announced at briefing, trophy for the winner
- ➔ £50 entry fee with discounts for members flying club gliders

If you would like to take part and have not yet entered, please email comps@bookergliding.co.uk. Pilots on the [entry list](#) should check that their details are correct and request changes via bookerscorer@gmail.com.

There will be an informal barbeque at the airfield towards the end of the comp.



Communication during the Chiltern Challenge Cup competition will take place via a WhatsApp group, **Chiltern Cup 2021**. All competitors, officials and interested tug pilots must be registered on this group in order to receive additional briefing information. You can join via this link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HukdaXAnb83JIVpd2FZ9nw>

The group is not confidential and any club member can sign up if they want to understand what is happening during the competition, what the task is and whether gliders are launching.

Gliders owners – check your radio licence

OFCOM/Spectrum are not sending reminders despite what it says on their website. When you have 4 weeks to go, ask them for an *invoice* via the 'Contact Us' link, quoting your *customer number*. With the invoice you will be able to pay using their '[Pay Online](#)' option. It's easy to miss an expired licence and it will delay your next ARC being signed.

Awards evening and party – 21st August

On the evening of 21st August – **save the date!** - 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, and lots of food! Arrangements for the event are firming up - the food will be provided by Nyama caterers, based across at Chiltern Park, and we hope to have use of the parachutists' marquee. More details in due course.



Evening flying



Tuesday evening group: Steve relaxes as Jon Sugden completes some instructor training in the Duo (pic taken from this [video clip](#))

We are continuing a brisk trade in trial lessons and courses, which keep the launchpoint busy and the instructors occupied. The evening groups on Tuesday and Friday are also very popular, with Tuesdays specialising in aerobatics. And the Friday group has followed the lead of the Tuesday group by getting their fish and chips delivered – it's a great way to end the day.



Who soared first?

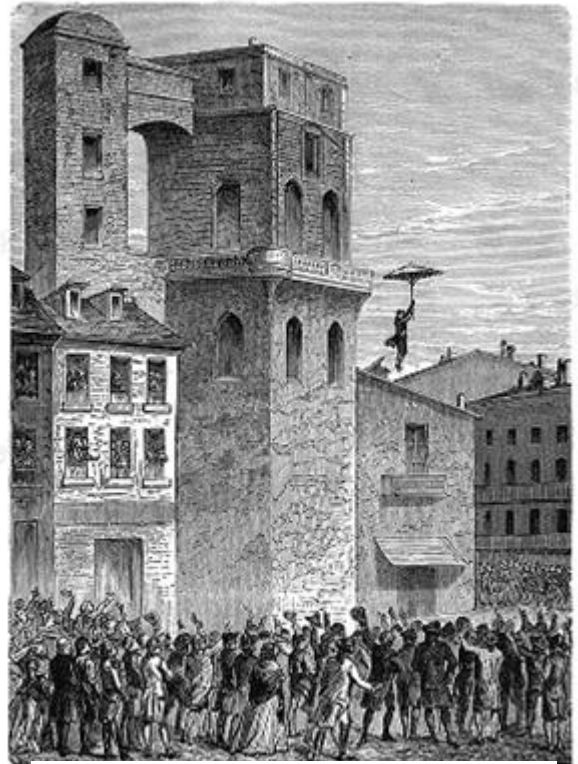
In the 18th and 19th centuries, hot air balloons were popping up all over Europe and the USA, most for military uses such as artillery spotting. While many explored going up in balloons, a few intrepid aviators tried coming down, under parachutes.

One of these pioneers was Monsieur Lenormand who, in 1785, used a rigid framed parachute to leap off the tower of the observatory at Montpellier. He survived.

Two years later a Japanese papermaker, Ukita Kokichi, constructed a bamboo framed wing covered with lacquered paper. He attempted to fly off a bridge over the River Asahi. Although he is thought to have achieved a glide angle of zero, he too survived.

It wasn't until Sir George Cayley came on the scene in 1800 that soaring became a possibility. Cayley was an engineer and defined the four forces in flight that we know today - lift, weight, thrust and drag. He built many models to explore his theories and in 1853 constructed the flying machine for which he is famous.

The first flight of Cayley's glider took place across Brompton Dale in Yorkshire. There are varying accounts of who actually flew the aircraft. Some sources say it was John Appleby, one of Cayley's employees. Others say it was Cayley's 10-year-old grandson!



Lenormand: (don't try this at home)



The Cayley glider replica flown in 1972

The most entertaining version has Sir George ordering his coachman into the cockpit and launching him off across the valley whereupon, on landing, the coachman promptly resigned. 130 years later, enthusiasts built a replica of the Cayley glider to prove its viability. And in 1972 it was successfully flown by Derek Piggott launching across the very valley flown over by Appleby, the grandson or the coachman.

The German aviation pioneer Otto Lilienthal made the next great strides in gliding history.

He built what we can recognise as a hang-glider and made over 2,000 launches with a total flight time of 5 hours, so many of his flights were just a few seconds in duration. In 1893 he achieved his longest flight distance of 820 feet. Lilienthal was really the first glider pilot to be able to soar and manoeuvre in free flight. Tragically, he died in 1896 when he was unable to recover from a stall and the glider crashed.



Otto Lilienthal ready for take-off

In the early 20th century, the Wright brothers built numerous gliders culminating in the Wright Flyer which incorporated their many innovations such as wing camber, stabilising tailplane, control surfaces and of course... *power*.

I think it is fair to say that while Cayley discovered gliding flight, the laurels for discovering soaring go to Otto Lilienthal. At least so I thought until some years ago when I read a letter in S&G which claimed that the honour of achieving the first soaring flight should go to none other than, guess who? Satan! The writer quotes Milton's Paradise Lost:

*"At last his sail-broad wings
He spreads for flight, and in the surging smoke
Uplifted spurns the ground, thence many a league
As in a cloudy chair ascending rides audacious..."*

Clearly the Devil knew how to use a stubble fire and, a few verses on, hitting epic sink, he narrowly gets away from a likely landout. Respect!

William Parker



From Primary to K21 in 70 years

Recent visitors to Chiltern Park were Dennis Spindler and his son Simon. Dennis last flew a glider 70 years ago on a ridge in Germany, a Primary, which he crashed. After crashing, he had to rig a replacement, but there were lots of spares because the Luftwaffe couldn't fly them anymore. One of the pilots' party tricks was to fly the Primary standing up. After a short 70-year break he got back in the saddle with a half day course. Here he is with son Simon (left) and instructor Symeon (right). Combined age in glider 165.



Here's a Primary – slightly poorer performance than a K21



Chiltern Park photo gallery



Nils went to Duxford



Didcot wave



Adrian Emck from Lasham dropped in on his way home



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>

Thoughts for the day

It is possible to fly without motors, but not without knowledge and skill.

- *Wilbur Wright*

The best safety device is the pilot, who, deep down, regardless of the aircraft, retains a sense of fallibility and vulnerability. No system can ever substitute for that.

- *Arnold Reiner, retired airline captain and a former director of flight safety at Pan Am*

A pilot who says he has never been frightened in an airplane is, I'm afraid, lying

- *Louise Thaden, US aviation pioneer*

I was always afraid of dying. Always. It was my fear that made me learn everything I could about my airplane and my emergency equipment, and kept me flying respectful of my machine and always alert in the cockpit.

- *General Chuck Yeager*

You've got to expect things are going to go wrong. And we always need to prepare ourselves for handling the unexpected.

- *Neil Armstrong*

Prepare for the unknown, unexpected and inconceivable ... after 50 years of flying I'm still learning every time I fly.

- *Gene Cernan, US astronaut, to date the last person to walk on the Moon*

An airplane might disappoint any pilot but it'll never surprise a good one

- *Len Morgan, US aviator*

LS7 G-DFXE for sale



I am reluctantly parting with this beautiful 15m glider because of my age and domestic difficulties, having been unable to fly it in the past year. It was in storage for many years, hence the low hours, and is refurbished and ready-to-fly. Good progression from Pegase and ASW19. Ideal for syndicate.

- LS7 S/n 7090 built in 1990
- 347 launches and 912 hours
- ARC until 22 October 2021
- No accident damage

Features:

- Self-connecting controls, easy to rig
- Wing and fin water ballast
- Cockpit re-upholstered with new harness
- 2 LiPo batteries
- Fittings for oxygen bottle
- Schroeder single axle trailer with spare wheel – completely refurbished
- Tow out gear



Instrument panel replaced by Navboys last year, includes:

- LX9050
- V8 vario
- Flarm
- KRT2 radio
- Winter C2400 Airpath compass

Optional extras:

- Softie parachute - 5 years old
£1,000

Offers around £28k

Available to view at Booker

Contact: Vic Day - 07701 088815

victorjamesday@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary

2021

12th – 16th July: Chiltern Park Challenge competition

21st August: Awards evening and barbeque

Sometime later this year:

Whispering Wardrobes Vintage Glider Rally and the 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 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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