

**Booker Gliding Club**

# Newsletter

June  
2023



**Midsummer party – page 4**



**Our new summer instructor – page 2**

## **CONTENTS**

<i>page 2</i>	<i>Welcome to our summer instructor</i>
<i>page 2</i>	<i>Member achievements</i>
<i>page 3</i>	<i>The marketing team gets out and about</i>
<i>page 4</i>	<i>Midsummer party</i>
<i>page 5</i>	<i>The next generation of glider pilots</i>
<i>page 6</i>	<i>Fleet update</i>
<i>page 6</i>	<i>Booking your flights</i>
<i>page 7</i>	<i>Ground crew for the launchpoint</i>
<i>page 7</i>	<i>Dates for your diary</i>

---

## Welcome to our summer instructor

---

We are delighted to welcome David McGrath to Booker's instructor team. David usually flies at Oxford GC, he is a Full Category instructor and has a wealth of experience in gliding and power flying. He joins us for two days a week over the summer. He will keep the rota updated with his availability – the rota can be viewed [here](#).

Weekends and other weekdays will be covered by member instructors.



David in his natural habitat

---

## Member achievements

---



**Dean Miller** took advantage of the June sunshine to convert to the **Pegase**, his first single seater, which he enjoyed hugely – that old excuse of 'couldn't get down'!

**Tim Scott** and **Jim White** are busy with competitions. Tim flew in the 15m Nationals at Lasham from 27<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June, enduring extremely challenging conditions, and Jim is as we go to press at Bidford Regionals. Both are competing in the 18m Nationals at Husbands Bosworth from 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July. You can follow their progress in near real time each day on <https://glideandseek.com/> and see tasks and results on <https://www.soaringspot.com/>

On Soaring Spot you can also follow the fortunes of the British team at the 12<sup>th</sup> FAI Women's World Gliding Championship taking place at Garray, Spain from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July.



## Booker's marketing team gets out and about



We were invited to RAF Northolt for their Families Day on 3 June – we took along a Pegase and our usual banners. We were treated to a display by the RAF Falcons parachute team, a Spitfire flypast, and an opportunity to get up close to an Airbus A400M Atlas. There was also free ice cream, served from a camouflaged van – the long queue was a clue to its location.

Air Britain invited us to their anniversary event on 17/18 June at White Waltham, celebrating 75 years since their founding with a Fly-In. Again we took a Pegase and our banners, and met lots of interesting people resulting in some sales. We left after the first day because of the forecast thunderstorms – which failed to materialise.



Marketing events of this kind are a very useful way to raise the profile of the club and of gliding generally. They are also good fun - all members are welcome to come along and help.

## Midsummer party

Midsummer's Day – 24<sup>th</sup> June – was hot and sunny, providing ideal conditions for the return of T21 'Goofy' to the skies. Several members took advantage of Nick Newton's generosity with some fresh air flying, as well as the delicious ice cream and strawberries he provided.



Intrepid aviators Alex and Graham dressed for the part

The K21 and K13 – also now returned to service - were also kept busy all day with instruction and refresher flying. Doug brought his LS10 up from Southdown for a nostalgic trip round Bicester-Didcot, and John and Nick flew their Duo back home from Dunstable.



Doug with former chairman Roland, who looks the same at 91 as he ever did



August barbeque 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> to be confirmed

## The next generation of glider pilots

Over the summer we will be hosting a number of groups of school students, whose flights are generously subsidised by the Air Pilots Benevolent Fund, part of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. The objective is to give young people who would ordinarily not have the opportunity to have a taste of flight and gain some understanding of gliding.

The first two groups, from Capital City Academy and City of London Academy, thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were a delight to fly with.



THE HONOURABLE COMPANY OF  
**AIR PILOTS**  
incorporating Air Navigators

---

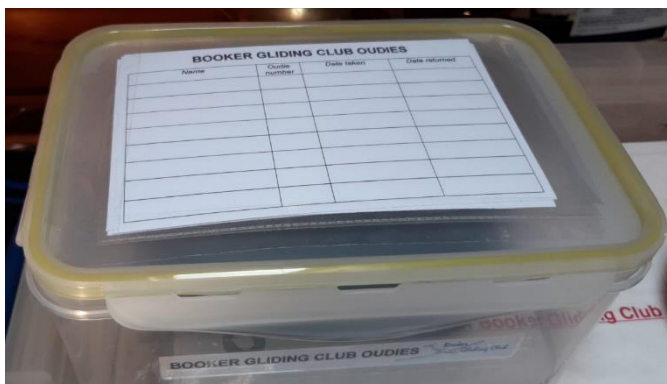
## Fleet update

---

Thanks to hard work by Robin Willgoss, assisted by Graham Saw, our K13 'KLA' has returned to service. Along with Duo Discus '315' and K21 '316' we have three training gliders available.

K21 'KCZ' is currently in Essex undergoing a 3000hr check, which will include having a new radio fitted.

The Pegase '318' and ASW19 '319' are also serviceable.



The club owns three Oudie moving maps which are available for members to borrow; they are kept in the office. Please be sure to fill in the record card when taking one and on return, so that we can keep track of these valuable assets.

An Oudie is useful not only for cross country flying but also for learning the local airspace.

---

## Booking your flights

---

We have an online booking system for people making their first visit to the club, it allows for Trial Lessons at 1100, 1300 and 1500, or an 0930 course (either an Intro or the first day of a longer course) plus a 1500 Trial Lesson. This leaves ample capacity for club member and course member training arranged via Whatsapp. If you don't want to post on the main group you can send a message directly to the duty instructor.

Don't waste the summer, come along and fly!

---

## Ground crew for the launchpoint

---

The recent school group days have seen some members volunteering to help run the launchpoint, supporting the instructors who are doing the flying. It would be great to extend this to weekend days. In many gliding clubs the duty rota includes members to help run the launchpoint. Tasks include keeping the log, managing launches, greeting visitors and ensuring that they are safe, answering questions relating to gliding and training - all vital to the operation, and also the growth of our club.

We intend to try out a process where helpers are voluntarily rostered in on some weekend days. Anyone volunteering would need to put their name on our duty rota in advance. The club member volunteering to help out would be given priority in the queue for any two-seater training – so you get to fly as well. A great way to understand how the club operates, this would also be an ideal opportunity for anyone with their sights set on becoming an instructor to get familiar with all aspects of club operation. More information will go out on the Booker WhatsApp group shortly.

---

## Dates for your diary

---

### 2023

**August barbeque:** 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> August – to be confirmed

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

---

### 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.

June 2023

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/>

---

\*\*\* 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)

---

**Published by Booker Gliding Club**  
**WYCOMBE AIR PARK, MARLOW, BUCKS SL7 3DP**  
**Office Tel: 01494 442501**  
Booker Gliding Club Ltd registered in England, number 1492733  
Registered office: Wycombe Air Park, Booker, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3DP  
VAT number: 350 4182 83  
© Booker Gliding Club 2023