

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

March
2023



Is your glider fit for flight?



Annual General Meeting 15th April 2023

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Annual General Meeting

The long-delayed AGM will be held on:

Saturday 15th April 2023 at 1800

Formal notice will be sent out in due course, including details of the **local venue**, and **nomination papers for committee vacancies**.

The AGM is an opportunity for members to get together to discuss how we can improve our club. It is also a time to consider standing for election to the committee, although this is not the only way to contribute to the workings of the club. There is always something to do, from turning up at the launchpoint to keep the log and launch gliders, through to helping in the workshop with annuals, or even just emptying the bins in the clubhouse. Every little helps.

Member achievements



Leo Sentinella took part in one of the BGA's Winter Series of events for Juniors, held at Denbigh, and achieved a 5 hour flight and a height gain of 1000m for Silver Duration and Silver Height.

Just the distance flight (50k) left to complete his Silver badge.

Leo in an LS4 at Denbigh

New members



We welcome Deiniol Heywood, who waited patiently through the various lockdowns to take his Intro course and has now upgraded to a Flexi course

Emanuel has started a 2 Day course – which comes with 3 months' membership – seen here with his dad Francois.



Gliding scholarships



Applications are open for the scholarships offered by the Air League. These are excellent opportunities, intended to help young people progress in gliding and provide a foundation for their career pathway into aviation or aerospace. There are three options available:

- ➔ Gliding to Solo – a two-week introductory course, residential
- ➔ SLMG conversion – for those with gliding experience who wish to add powered flying to their skills
- ➔ Pilot development – providing support in going solo, aerobatics or cross-country training

Details can be found on the Air League's [website](#)

Is your glider fit for flight?

That first rig after the winter always seems to be hard work, so it pays to be extra careful when rigging and preparing to fly your glider. The BGA publishes a useful [safety briefing](#) giving details of common errors for particular gliders, in particular the different control connections, with clear photos of the right and wrong way to connect them.

And while on the Members' Area of the BGA website, you can register for email updates on topics of your choosing [here](#).

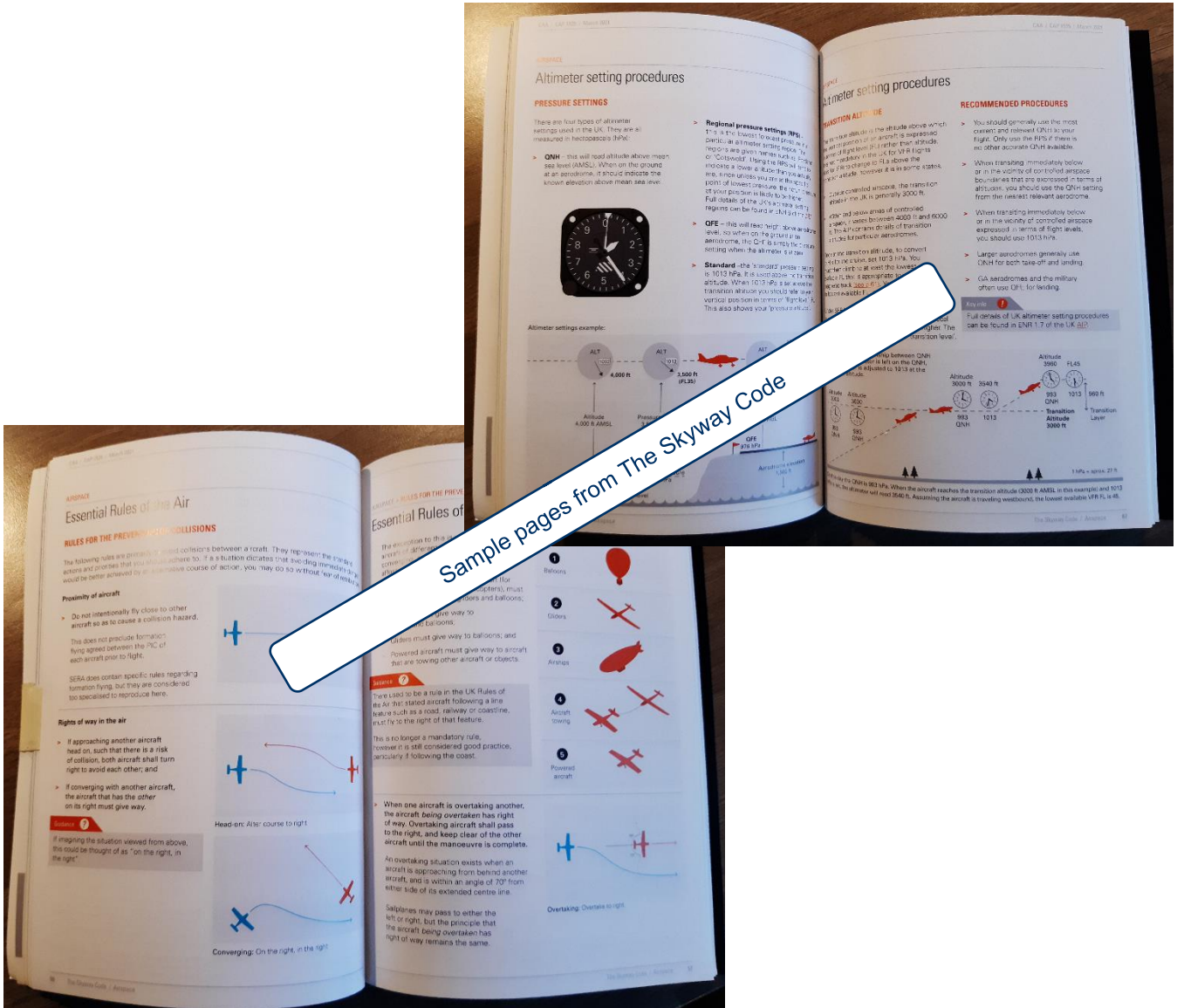


Ed Garner keeping current

Revision – or something new?



Whether you are just starting out, studying for your Bronze paper, or needing a bit of a reminder, the Skyway Code published by the CAA has a whole lot of useful information. It can be downloaded [here](#) or you can buy the book from [afeonline.com](#).



Shelter from the storm

No more freezing at the launchpoint – thanks to a tireless search by Robert Turner for a suitable vehicle, and a trip by Graham Saw to check it over, we should soon be welcoming a new bus. Here’s a sneak preview. It will need reconfiguring inside – help always welcome – so that we can use it for briefings, lunch, and to store ropes and all that other stuff.



Update time

It's that time of year again, the gliding season is almost upon us and it would be a good idea to ensure your Flarm device has the latest firmware in it to ensure that it will work for the coming season.

The latest firmware is version 7.09 (released November 2022) for all Flarm devices which will be valid for 12 months - if you download and install it now, it will stop functioning after 29 February 2024.

Current working versions:

7.05 - expires 30 April 2023 (so not much use really)

7.06 - expires 30 September 2023 (good for this Summer, but not for Aboyne in October!)

7.07 - expires 30 November 2023

7.08 - expires 31 January 2024

7.09 - expires 29 February 2024

Note that there are two major versions, one for Classic Flarms (as fitted to the club gliders and probably most of the private ones) and a different version for Power Flarm (as fitted to the Tug GH and the Power Flarm portable owned by a couple of members)

cf_7_09_0066993ec_exp_1_3_2024.fw - Current Classic Flarm firmware

pf_7_09_0066993ec_exp_1_3_2024.fw - Current Power Flarm firmware

For Flarms with an SD card slot or USB port) download the correct firmware and put it in the root of your card/stick, insert in the device, power it up and wait! (note that if the card/stick is otherwise empty, you will have to wait while the last 20 flights are downloaded as well, so be patient.)

FLARMTool_7.09_0066993ec.exe - Current Flarmtool, with 7.09 firmware Use this if your Classic Flarm does not have a functioning SD card slot.

The firmware, Flarmtool and the release notes are available here:

<https://www.flarm.com/support/firmware-updates/download-firmware/>

MS Windows/Edge will no doubt bitch about the Flarmtool, but it is safe!

As with MOTs and medicals, this information is only correct today - there will no doubt be another version before you get your shorts and T shirts out in public!

Pete Wyld

And while you are about it, you might as well update your nav device (Oudie etc). There is a useful round up of information about airspace on the BGA website [here](#). The 2024 chart comes out on 23 March.



Social media

The club has for some time had a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bookerglidingclub> which can be viewed by anyone, no need for a Facebook account.



We also have an Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/bookerglidingclub/>. Those with their own accounts might like to follow us, and if you have some good pics, send them to Richard or Bob Smith or Jane Moore to be posted.

Dates for your diary

2023

Spring expedition: 11th – 25th March – Lleweni Parc, Denbigh

Annual General Meeting: 15th April

Autumn expedition: 7th – 21st 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 Banter - 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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