

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

March
2024



Spring expedition – page 2



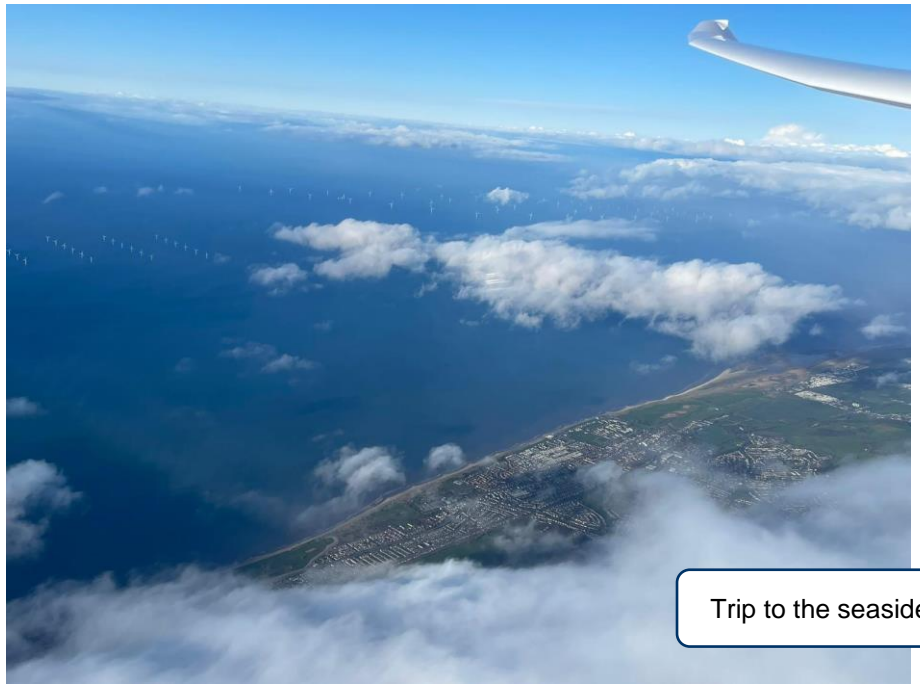
Changes to pilot licensing – page 4

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Spring expedition - Denbigh

This year's spring expedition to Llewenni Parc, home of Denbigh Gliding, was very successful with only three scrub days and plenty of interesting flying. The first week gave us wave but with cloud which was a bit of a hindrance, but then the air dried out and higher climbs were possible without having to scoot back as the gaps closed. Those who came along included Krishna who had not yet flown with us at Booker – so far his gliding experience had been confined to washing a trailer. He had a great time, as did Dean, who finally got to sample the magic of wave flying. Those with more experience also had the opportunity to shake off those winter cobwebs and get current on crosswind landings, as well as thermal soaring. We only managed one trip away from the airfield, to Chester, we were too busy flying.



Trip to the seaside



Foothills of Snowdon

Many thanks to Doug Hilton and Steve Williams for looking after us and keeping it all safe.

Our next expedition will be in October, to Aboyne in Aberdeenshire, another excellent wave soaring site – *club members, look for the announcement on the general Whatsapp group and sign up for wave.*



Doug preparing 315 for the first flight

Task weekends

Are you an aspiring (but not quite there yet) cross-country pilot? Or a seasoned pundit looking for a racing opportunity? This is for you. Throughout the summer, weather permitting, we will have some informal task weekends, run by *Paul Brice*. These will be an excellent opportunity to polish skills and learn new ones – and have fun - with tasks and exercises for all levels.

Dates are:

- 13th – 14th April
- 11th – 12th May
- 8th – 9th June
- 10th – 11th August



There will be a briefing for the first weekend on Sunday 7th April at 1000hrs in the clubhouse.

New frequencies for gliding sites

Thirty gliding clubs have been allocated their own frequencies to aid local situational awareness. [The full list is available here](#), it includes Aston Down, Keevil, Lleweni Parc, Long Mynd, Parham, Ringmer and The Park. The new frequencies are effective from 21 March 2024. Paper and electronic charts will be updated.

Summer instructor

We will shortly be welcoming Ollie Roberts to the team. He is coming from New Zealand and will be doing site familiarisation, training on our operations and converting to a BGA rating during April. We hope to be operating 7 days from May, maybe earlier. Please help to make him feel at home.

Fleet update

Our second K21 (KCZ) will be rigged and back in service from 1st April, but for a short while this will be a swap with 316 which needs its annual. No major work is scheduled for 316, so it should be back on-line soon. We will continue to have the K13, Pegase (318) and the Duo Discus (315) rigged and available in the hangar. The ASW19 (319) can be rigged and is available until 24th April when it will go for its annual.

GH is now back in service after its 100-hour check and some additional work.

Changes to pilot licensing – act now!

The CAA has published its phase 2 consultation on proposed changes to the Sailplane Flight Crew Licensing rules, along with a survey.

The BGA encourages all glider pilots to respond and has supplied response guidance, which can be found [here](#), with links to the consultation and survey.

The consultation closes on 22 May 2024.

It is in all our interests, especially student pilots who are pre-solo, to read the BGA guidance and respond to the CAA consultation. It's not complicated, no specialist knowledge required.

Fundraising made easy



We're now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help your club for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us

at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/booker-qliding-club>.

You can use it for all your online shopping – ebay, Amazon, Booking.com, your favourite supermarket – easyfundraising will take you there.

Curry night – Saturday 10th February

The curry night on 10th February was a great success. Despite suffering from a tooth infection, Fiona Luck produced an absolute feast for nearly 30 people who enjoyed the variety of curries plus desserts. It was a great opportunity to get together and forget about the weather.

Many thanks to Fiona for all her hard work.



UK Junior Gliding Winter Series



The third and final round of the UKJG 2023-24 Winter Series will be at Nympsfield from 12-14th April 2024. It is a great chance to meet other young pilots, as well as experience flying from a different site.

The UKJG organisers note:

There will be daily briefings, as well as tasks set for those wishing to fly cross country. Nympsfield is ideally located at the top of the ridge, so hopefully we can make use of that as well as thermals if the wind is in the right direction.

There is a registration fee of £10 which will go towards your flying fees. We want to ensure that every place is given to someone who is going to turn up. You will only be able to attend this event if you have registered and paid the registration fee.

There will be lots of two seaters, so do not worry if you are not yet solo or cannot bring your own glider. Breakfast and evening catering will be provided.

[There is more information and you can register for the event here.](#)

Funding opportunities for young pilots

A number of organisations offer scholarships and bursaries to help young people progress with their flying training. The following are currently open for applications [click the links]:



[Air League Flying Scholarships](#)



[Launch Point](#)

The following also offer financial support but the date for applications this year has passed. It would be worth checking them out in time for next year.



[Royal Air Squadron](#)



[Honourable Company of Air Pilots](#)

Flarm updates

The latest firmware is version 7.22 (released 32 October 2023) for all Flarm devices which will be valid for at least 12 months - if you download and install it now, it will stop functioning after 28 February 2025.

Current working versions:

7.08 - expires 31 January 2024 – will not be working when the gliding season starts.
7.09 - expires 29 February 2024 - will not be working when the gliding season starts.
7.20 - expires 30 June 2024
7.21 - expires 31 October 2024
7.22 - expires 28 February 2025

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_22_6076cde9d_exp_1_3_2025.fw - Current Classic Flarm firmware

pf_7_22_6076cde9d_exp_1_3_2025.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 - be patient)

If your Classic Flarm does not have a functioning SD card slot, use this current Flarmtool, with 7.22 firmware

FLARMTool_7_22_6076cde9d_exp_1_3_2025.exe

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 complain about the Flarmtool, but it is safe!

As with MOTs and Medicals, this information is only correct today, new versions come along regularly

Pete Wyld
January 2024

Note: As well as prompting private owners to update their equipment, Pete has also spent some time updating the flarms in all the club aircraft.

Dates for your 2024 diary

13 th – 14 th April:	Task weekend
11 th – 12 th May:	Task weekend
<i>17th – 18th May:</i>	<i>Elite show – no gliding at Booker, maybe a mini expedition</i>
8 th – 9 th June:	Task weekend
10 th – 11 th August:	Task weekend
12 th – 27 th October:	Autumn expedition – Deeside GC, 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.

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/>

March 2024

*** 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

**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
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