

Booker Gliding Club

# Newsletter

May  
2023



Getting stuff done – page 4



Gearing up for cross-country – pages 6 to 8

## CONTENTS

page 2	<i>Mini expedition to Aston Down</i>
page 3	<i>Lima Charlie changes hands</i>
page 4	<i>Member achievements</i>
page 4	<i>Getting stuff done</i>
page 5	<i>Shelter from the weather – our new bus</i>
page 6	<i>Save the date – party time</i>
page 6	<i>Task weekends and cross-country coaching</i>
page 7	<i>Preparing for cross-country flying</i>
page 8	<i>Field landings advice</i>
page 8	<i>LH syndicate – shares for sale</i>
page 9	<i>Dates for your diary</i>

## Mini expedition to Aston Down

Lots of rain in the second half of May left the field very wet and soft - on occasion too wet to fly from. We were also hampered by airfield closures – for the coronation, and for the Elite event which took over the whole field. In order to give members the opportunity to fly during Elite, Jim White and Steve Williams led a mini-expedition to Aston Down, home to Cotswold Gliding Club. Several members joined in to fly the Duo (315) and ASW19 (319), or their own gliders, and enjoyed some excellent flying over new territory. Aston Down is about the same size as Abingdon, for those who flew there, but much better mown and altogether more comfortable. They also have a winch for a bit of variety.



Dean and Steve waiting to launch

We had three flying days – the first ended with a bit of rain and some sparky stuff - and then there were two cross country days, made a bit tricky (and chilly) by the brisk northerly breeze, but excellent fun. Dean Miller had a chance to fly a short cross country, and Simon Jones completed his Bronze Navigation test. In the evenings there were of course expeditions to local hostelrys.

Many thanks to Jim White and Steve Williams for organising the trip and keeping us in order.



Sunny Gloucestershire



---

## Lima Charlie changes hands

---



We welcome **Kevin Barnes**, who joins us from Cambridge Gliding Club. Kevin started gliding in 1976 and soloed in a T21 with the GSA at RAF Lindholme (Humber Gliding Club) near Doncaster. His dad and elder brother were both keen pilots so he followed in their footsteps. He completed an instructor's course in 1978, and has Silver, 600 hours gliding and 1500 hours tugging. He stopped gliding in about 1986 to concentrate on commercial flying and family – he had met his wife Julia at Saltby – she has a Bronze but these days is Kevin's crew. Kevin started gliding again a couple of years ago after taking early retirement from Qatar Airways and is looking forward to having a lot of fun flying at Booker.

Kevin has taken over ownership of Discus LC from **William Parker**, who is hanging up his beanie. William had his first taste of gliding as a 16-year-old RAF cadet, No. 622 Gliding School at Christchurch near Bournemouth, learning to fly in T31 Slingsby Tutors launching on a winch. He didn't take it further at that point but after 20 or so years of work, family and travel, in 1987 he returned to gliding with a 5-day course at Booker – and was hooked. He was a keen competition pilot, and also enjoyed expeditions. He served on the committee for several years, including a stint as chairman. He is now intending to turn his hand to sailing. A couple of extracts from a profile of William featured a few years ago in this newsletter are worth repeating.

### Do any moments stick in your mind?

Soaring the length of the Sierra del Cadi at Cerdanya from the Andorra valley to Alp, it's a 22-kilometre-long knife-edge snow-capped ridge between 7,000 and 8,000 feet high. Flying my first 300k along the Loire valley from Le Blanc. Achieving Diamond height on a gin clear blue day at Aboyne. Winning a day or two at the Dunstable Regionals.

### Do you have any advice for our readers?

If you want to get the best from gliding you have to make time for it, especially in the early years. Once you've acquired a degree of competence and experience it opens up a huge number of opportunities not available in any other sport.



---

## Member achievements

---



**Simon Jones** took advantage of the mini-expedition to Aston Down to complete his **Bronze Navigation** test with Steve Williams. Since getting back to Booker he has also completed his **Bronze General Flying Test**.

*Stop press: Nils Wedi, who has relocated to Bonn, won the 35<sup>th</sup> Bad Breisiger Gliding Week – results [here](#)*

**Tim Scott** flew in the 15m class of Hahnweide's 15<sup>th</sup> International Competition, they had four task days and he won the first two, ending up 7<sup>th</sup> overall, behind the French flying as a team. All good practice for the imminent Nationals at Lasham



Nice field, included a crate of beer

---

## Getting stuff done

---

As part of our transition from a club with paid staff to one where members run it, the committee has decided to ask members to take on specific tasks, for example:

- looking after a glider (ensuring it is clean, tyre pumped, cleaning supplies available)
- checking the buggies, ensuring supplies of fuel and oil are available
- ensuring tow ropes are serviceable and that the weak link kit has all the right bits
- mowing the trailer park
- maintaining and cleaning the clubhouse
- updating Oudies, flarms and S80s
- maintaining oxygen kit



Maggie the Mower cornering nicely



If we ask you to take on a task, feel free to enlist a deputy to help you. If not asked in this first round, the best thing you can do is fly, and if not flying to come and help at the launch point – keep the log, retrieve gliders, chat to visitors.

**It's your club, please support it.**

---

## Shelter from the weather

---

Here's our shiny new bus - collected by Graham from Ellesmere Port, scrubbed up by a team of members, refitted by Robert T and Graham and others, decorated by Chris C – please keep it clean and tidy!



There are a few improvements and additions still to make, and no doubt we will think of a few more besides, but for the moment ready to use.

The intention is that it will be kept overnight in the glider hangar - there will be a spot marked on the floor for it. There are notes on operating it, and indeed on driving on the airfield generally on the Club's website, available [here](#).

May 2023

Please do not drive it until you have read these and had guidance from somebody who already has experience of driving it.

Some key points:

- when driving it keep a good lookout and give way to everything
- visibility behind is poor so always drive forward into the hangar and reverse out
- when you reverse, have someone behind to guide you
- Stuart Whitehouse has agreed to take responsibility for bus management, so if you come across any issues or problems with it please report them to Stuart

---

## Save the date – party time

---

Plans are afoot for a social event, probably **24<sup>th</sup> June**, so put the date in your diary. It will be at the Air Adventures café, in the evening. All are welcome – members current and past, families, friends. As well as being a club member get together we hope that this will be an opportunity for new, and even prospective members to get to know us. We would also love to see those who have left Booker over the past few years, to catch up and relive some old adventures.

We will create a WhatsApp group for those interested in attending, if you are not a current member please contact us via [social@bookergliding.co.uk](mailto:social@bookergliding.co.uk) and we will add you to the group.

Details to be confirmed in due course.



# Task weekends and cross-country coaching

On 29/30 April, **Paul Brice** organised a task weekend with tasks for all abilities – a local shuffle, plus longer tasks for the more adventurous. The weather was less than ideal but those that joined in had a good time and gained useful experience. Paul hopes to arrange more events over the summer – all welcome – look out for announcements on the main Whatsapp group.

**Tim Scott** is offering cross-country coaching when he's not away at comps – he is available in June, part of July, and then the rest of the season.

## Preparing for flying cross country

Now that it's stopped raining it's time for cross-country flying – or extended local soaring. With warmer weather it pays to get your kit prepared the night before, so you don't waste time in the morning. One way of getting organised is to sort your kit into bags, so you can just pick it up and go. For example:

**Personal kit** – sun hat, sunscreen, long sleeve shirt, Camelbak for water, food that won't fall apart/melt/roll away, system for relieving yourself, silver survival blanket

**Nav bag** – chart plus pens/ruler to mark it up, nav device with up-to-date turnpoints and airspace, gliding frequency card (see below), downloadable [here](#).

**Glider bag** – batteries, wing tape

**Land-out bag** – pencil and paper, charged phone plus list of members to call, payment card and some cash, book to read, extra food, warm jacket

On the day, check the weather and NOTAMs, set your task, pick up your bags and go.

Before you launch, it is a good idea to tidy up the trailer so that your crew, if you need a retrieve, can just hitch up and go.

And you really need to have a towbar on your car so you can return the favour.

Jim White has compiled a helpful list of items that the average glider pilot should have in their car boot, even if not flying cross country, available [here](#).

Gliding Frequency Reference Card				Notify changes to paul@ruskin.me.uk		V12 14-Mar-23		
TP	Airfield	Freq	TP	Airfield	Freq	TP	Airfield	Freq
ABO	Aboyne	130.105	HAD	Halesland	129.980	RIW	Ridgewell	118.685
ABB	Abingdon	122.100	HAL	Halton	130.425	RUF	Rufforth	129.980
AST	Aston Down	129.980	HCN	Hinderclay Mdns	135.480	SAC	Sackville	135.480
BIC	Bicester	118.390	HIN	Hinton	119.455	SAN	Sandhill Farm	129.980
BID	Bidford	118.685	HTN	Honington	124.105	SBY	Saltby	129.980
BOO	Booker	126.555	HUS	HusBos	127.580	SE2	Seighford	129.980
BR1	Bognor Regis	129.980	KEE	Keevil	129.980	SHO	Shobdon	118.155
BRT	Brentor	130.105	KEN	Kenley	119.760	SHY	Shawbury	133.150
BRN	Burn	129.980	KIR	Kirton in Lindsey	129.980	SLE	Sleep	122.455
BRW	Barrow	129.980	LAS	Lasham	131.030			
BYT	Eyers Field	129.980	LLE	Lleweni Parc	129.980			
CHP	Chipping	118.685	LLR	Llanbedr	118.930			
CLD	Culdrose (4)	134.050	LLS	Llantysilio	118.685			
CLK	Challock	118.685	LRI	Little Rissington	120.775			
CPH	Camphill	129.980	LYV	Lyveden	129.980			
GRA	Cranwell Nth (5)	129.980	MWP	Middle Wallop (1)	118.000			
CRL	Crowland	129.980	MIL	Millfield	130.105			
CSF	Coxford	135.875	MVN	Long Mynd	129.980			
CUR	Currock Hill	130.105	NHL	North Hill	129.980			
DAR	Darley Moor	135.480	NYM	Nympsfield	129.980			
DRL	Darfton	118.685	OGA	Oban	118.055			
DUN	Dunstable	119.905	ODI	Odham (2)	131.300			
EAG	Eaglescott	123.010	PAR	Parham	118.685			
EAS	Easterton	130.105	POC	Pocklington	118.685			
EDG	Edgehill	129.980	POR	Portsmouth	129.980			
ENS	Ernstone	129.980	PRK	The Park	118.685			
FAL	Falgunzeon	129.980	RIN	Rattlesden	129.980			
FES	Feshiebridge	118.685	RDN	Ringmer	129.980			
GRL	Grandsen Lodge	131.280	RIV	Rivar Hill	129.980			


  

TP	Airfield	Freq	TP	Airfield	Freq
SNI	Snitterfield	129.980	SUT	Sutton Bank	118.685
TAL	Talgarth	118.685	TIB	Tibenham	129.980
UPA	Upavon	124.105	UPW	Upwood	129.980
USK	Usk	129.980	WOG	Weston..Green (3)	129.980
WRM	Wormingford	129.980	WSM	Wattisham	125.800
YTN	Yeovilton	127.350			

Common Frequencies			
Primary Use	Secondary use / notes	Frequency	FL
Ground retrieval	Para / Hang-glider	129.905	FL40
Common glider field frequency	Within 10nm and 3000 ft of airfields	129.980	FL40
Cross-country situational awareness	Competition	130.105	FL40
Cloud flying	Other Sit Awareness	130.535	FL100
Competition	Coaching	129.890	FL40
Safetycom		130.405	
		135.480	

Frequencies are first point of contact for x-country gliders:  
 1 PNGC weekends only  
 2 Kestrel GC on 119.225 when Odham App inactive  
 3 Only when EGO129 inactive  
 4 Seabawk GC on 118.685 when Cudrose closed  
 5 Weekends. Join from North - avoid airfield





---

## Field landings advice

---

The BGA has a useful briefing note on field landings, designed for pilots at all levels of experience, available here:

<https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety-briefings/field-landing/>



David Hamilton's first comp  
– excellent field selection

---

## LH Syndicate – shares for sale

---



Read  
on...



May 2023

As club members may know, "Lima Hotel" is the stand-by Robin tow-plane that lives in the blister hangar. This is owned by a syndicate of five club members who make it available to the club for towing etc when needed. The Syndicate is looking to expand itself - the aeroplane is not used as much as it could or should be, so there is room for more members. Membership is by way of a share of the capital value of the aeroplane, plus monthly running costs of £100. Flying is £150 per hour so it provides flying at about half flying club rates, with the advantage of pretty good availability.

If you are interested please contact me by WhatsApp PM or email.

Robert Turner

---

## Dates for your diary

---

### 2023

**Summer Social:** 24<sup>th</sup> June – 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.

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>

May 2023

**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