

**Booker Gliding Club**

# Newsletter

May  
2025



## Member achievements – page 2



## Midsummer BBQ – page 5

### **CONTENTS**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <i>page 2</i> | <i>Member achievements</i>                                      |
| <i>page 2</i> | <i>Booker visits the Cotswolds</i>                              |
| <i>page 4</i> | <i>Task weekends – and notable flights</i>                      |
| <i>page 5</i> | <i>Midsummer BBQ and Whispering Wardrobes (vintage gliders)</i> |
| <i>page 5</i> | <i>Promoting the club – how you can help</i>                    |
| <i>page 6</i> | <i>From the BGA – Mildenhall airspace, collision avoidance</i>  |
| <i>page 6</i> | <i>Dates for your diary - 2025 programme on the website</i>     |
| <i>page 7</i> | <i>Picture quiz</i>   |

---

## Member achievements

---

Two of our pilots have done very well in the **Dunstable Regionals**, showing that the way to win is to be consistent and avoid landing out.

**Jan McCoshim** led the field for several days in the Blue class, and ended up in **2<sup>nd</sup> place**, an excellent result.

Next stop for Jan is the Czech Republic where she will be flying in the British team at the 13<sup>th</sup> FAI Women's World Gliding Championships, running from 29<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> August.



**Ashley Birkbeck** made a strong start in the Red class with a day win on Day 1 but then visited a couple of fields and finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall.

*Congratulations both!*

---

## Booker visits the Cotswolds

---

During the Private Flyer show in mid-May when the airfield was closed for a few days, a group of members led by **Jon Sugden** took the opportunity to pay a visit to Cotswold Gliding Club, based at Aston Down airfield. With a tarmac runway twice the length of Booker and plenty of grass to land on, this was an interesting experience, as was the surrounding countryside with its convoluted valleys and ridges creating puzzling thermal patterns. Blue skies made cross-countries a bit of a daunting prospect, but members made best use of their time with short



Jon, Tony and David enjoying the sun



May 2025

cross-countries enjoying views of the Severn and the Cotswold edge. It's always worth joining one of Booker's expeditions to fly from an unfamiliar site and reinforce skills.

Many thanks to Jon Sugden for organising the trip and making sure it went smoothly.



Aston Down airfield  
1400m of tarmac



Greg and Jon landing



The one that didn't go to plan



---

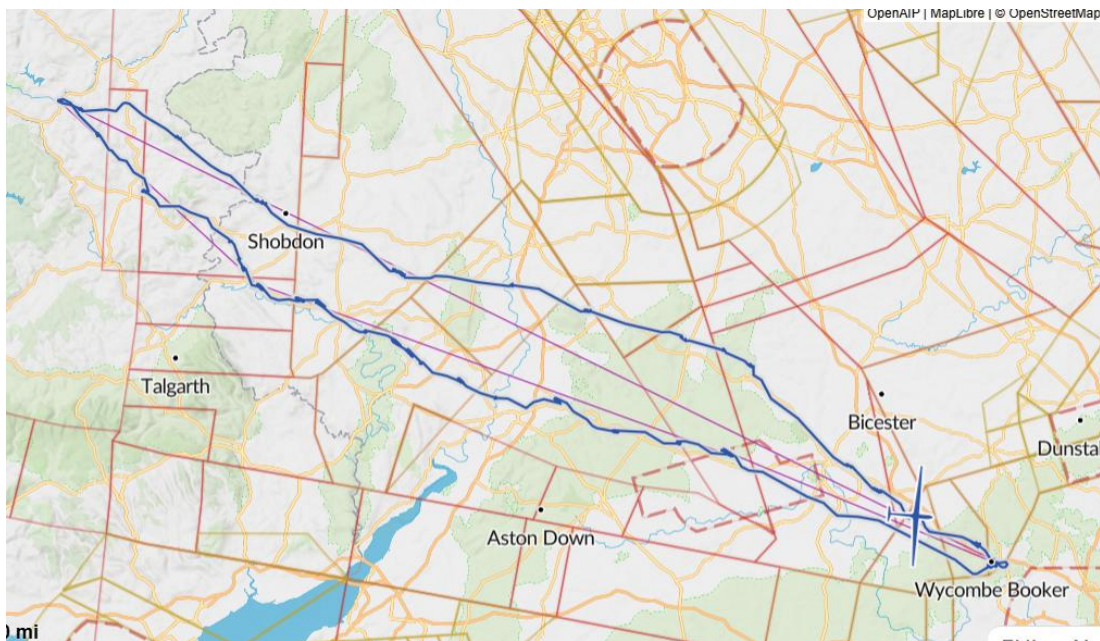
## Task weekends – and notable flights

---

After several weeks of sunshine the bank holiday coincided with a return to westerlies and unsettled weather, but we are not defeated. Third time lucky - *the next Task Weekend is now 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June.*

All other dates are as shown on the [Events Diary](#) on our website.

Meanwhile, John Otty took advantage of May's good weather with an out and return to Llanidloes, 415km, with climbs to 8000ft in places.



And here's Tim Scott with his new JS3 after its maiden flight at Booker. Tim is currently flying it in 15m mode at the Nationals at Lasham. You can follow his progress [here](#).



---

## Midsummer BBQ and Whispering Wardrobes

---

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June – save the date.** There is a plan afoot for a **midsummer BBQ** at the clubhouse, with a top-quality menu. We hope also to have the company of a few former members to share reminiscences. The event will be preceded by a display of **Whispering Wardrobes** – a selection of vintage gliders to admire and fly.

Further information will be available shortly on the usual Whatsapp group with details of menu and cost.



---

## Promoting gliding and the club

---

Following on from the successful Women's 'Go Gliding' weekend we are planning another **Go Gliding Day** on a similar format to attract anyone interested in trying gliding and maybe joining. Existing members are encouraged to bring friends and family. We will also need help to run the day. Look out for more information and a date on the main Whatsapp group.

Members can also help to promote the club by for example:

- Posting gliding photos on Instagram, sharing the club's Facebook posts
- Writing a piece for your local magazine – we can help with ghost writing and photos
- Putting up banners or posters in your workplace, or displaying leaflets
- Engaging with visitors at the launchpoint so that they all go away with a favourable impression of the club and a better understanding of gliding

Happy to discuss!

Jane Moore

---

## From the BGA

---



### Mildenhall airspace – important information for all pilots

The airspace in and around the RAF Lakenheath / RAF Mildenhall Combined MATZ ("CMATZ") in the centre of East Anglia is particularly busy with military aircraft traffic. These two aerodromes record around 61,000 aircraft movements annually, including fast jets flying at up to 400 knots, KC-135 air-to-air refuelling tankers and large transport aircraft. Maintaining flight safety in this busy environment is a pressing concern. [Please read more here.](#)

### Avoiding collisions

While lookout is the primary method of collision avoidance in class G airspace, it is important to recognise that the limitations of the human eye means that effective lookout requires technique supported by other attributes available to pilots.

Whether a highly experienced pilot or just starting in gliding, [please read more here.](#)

---

## Dates for your diary – summer flying

---

### 2025 programme

1<sup>st</sup> June      **Airfield open, club operating** – there will be a rally of Chiltern Vintage Tractors marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day and raising money for Thames Valley Air Ambulance

The full programme of events additional to our normal flying operation can now be found on the [events diary](#) on the website.

For day-to-day ops, check the [duty rota](#).

Over the summer we are operating 7 days a week. Adam supervises Tuesday – Friday, weekends are covered by the member instructor rota, and Mondays are for licensed pilots only – although instruction will be available if an instructor offers to cover the day

---





Quiz answer at end of newsletter

---

## 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>

**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 2025

---

Picture quiz answer: Kemble airfield, near Aston Down, home to a static Bristol Britannia turboprop, nicknamed the 'Whispering Giant'.

---