

Booker Gliding Club

# Newsletter

November  
2022

We're back  
home  
at last!

## Adventures in wave



## Rebuilding Booker

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## Aboyne expedition

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This year's trip to Aboyne was as much fun as usual, although the airfield was a little quieter than in previous years. For those who have been going for years, it was great to be back, and for newcomers there was so much to discover. The first week saw excellent weather and fantastic wave enabling climbs and cross-country flights. The predominance of south in the wind produced some sporty circuit conditions but that's all part of the fun. Tony Greener enjoyed his introduction to the magic of wave, on one flight getting to FL195 with Dave in the Duo.

Week 2 was a bit wet, but there were still opportunities for flying, and Simon Jones made good use of the ASW19.

Many thanks to Dave Byass, Steve Williams and Paul Field for keeping us safe.



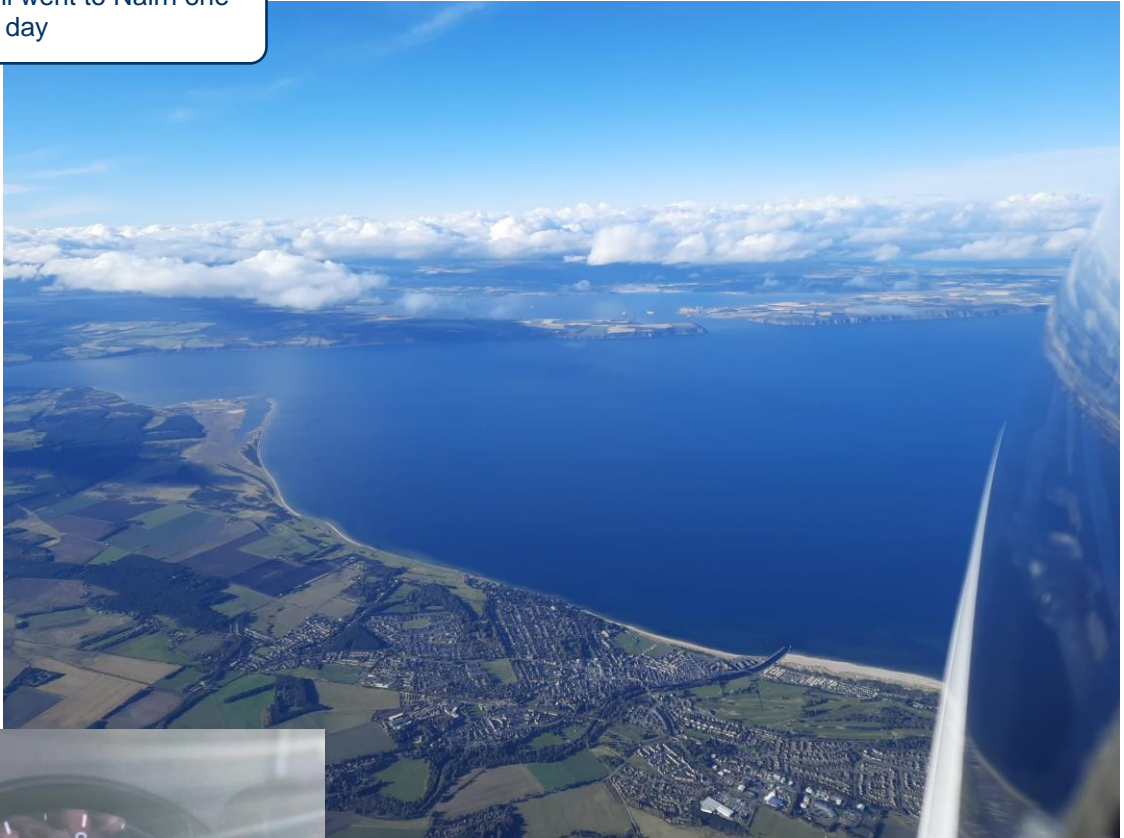
Nils in EN taking off behind the Eurofox



A view of Loch Kinord and Loch Davan from the Duo



Denis Campbell went to Nairn one day



Tony Greener went to FL195 with Dave Byass



Some Cairngorms



The Dee Valley

James Giles enjoying an unexpected wave flight with Paul Field on the last day of the expedition



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## Member achievements

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**Dean Miller** didn't make it to Aboyne, instead he spent his time on aerobic training with Graham Saw, achieving his **Standard Aerobatics Badge**. He now just wants to fly upside-down!

Dean has also introduced his daughter Deya to gliding – first flight of many



**Simon Jones** has converted to the **Pegasus** since his return from Aboyne, opinions differ on how it compares with an ASW19.

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## Members' meeting

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On 30<sup>th</sup> October members crammed into the briefing room for a real life (not zoom) members' meeting. Tim Scott presented the results of his survey of opinions on how the club should develop, and John Otty set out the financial position. There was lively discussion both in the meeting and afterwards about how the club could operate without a full time CFI. There were plenty of ideas and we will be trying them out to see what works.

One outcome of the members' meeting was the formation of a marketing group whose aim is to grow the club by recruiting members. This is something that everyone can help with, by engaging with visitors to the club, and by considering how you might encourage people you know to give gliding a try. If you have an idea for member recruitment, have a chat with Dean or Jane.

### Sharing our skills

We are a club of volunteers, and apart from instructing and tugging there is plenty to be getting on with. Turning up at the launchpoint and helping to keep the show on the road would be very useful – no special skills required. How about carpentry? The clubhouse needs you! How about plumbing? The tea bar taps need adjusting. Cleaning? Anyone can use a vacuum cleaner to keep the place looking welcoming. Washing all the canopy dusters? Filling the buggy petrol cans? Just one thing would be beneficial for all of us.

### Christmas is coming

Why not treat your family and friends to a trial lesson? Show them what it is that you do in your spare time! You never know, they might even join. Discounted price for members.

### Come and fly

We aim to have instructors available at the weekend, there is no need to book your flying. There will be the occasional Trial Lesson customer booked in as there are lots of people out there who bought tickets from us over the last couple of years and have been patiently waiting for us to fly them. Weekday flying will be when the weather is good.

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## New members

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We welcome Mikolaj 'Micky' Dembek, who has joined us for a Flexi course and is throwing himself into club activities with great enthusiasm.



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## From the Treasurer

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It is really great to be back flying at Booker. And what a year 2022 has been. I thought Covid was bad enough, but we were prevented from flying at our home airfield and then our temporary home was ploughed up. It meant that we could not provide any flying to members up to September. Therefore, we deferred the start of the membership year to October and given that we don't have a full time CFI any more we have reduced the membership fee from £845 to £745. We have fewer members than we had, but I am pleased to report that we have just reached 60 full flying members only a few weeks after starting up again. We need to get back up to around 100 full members again which I hope that we can do in the next couple of years. I am truly humbled by the loyalty and commitment of the members to our club.

The fees for this year are as follows:

### Full flying members

Regular rate for year to 30 Sept 2023*	£745
DD payers 9 x from 1 Oct 2022*	£90 pm
Junior members	£372.50

In addition to the above all flying members must pay the BGA fee (last year £33).

\*Note no pro rata reductions for late joiners

### Non-flying members

Associate	£80
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### Facilities fees

Launch facilities plus glider in trailer park	£390
SLMG	£1,350
Second (empty) trailer	£200
Hangar space (powered aircraft)	£3,600 plus VAT
Trailer in hangar during winter (for 4 months)	£90pm

John Otty

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## CAA consultation on licensing and medicals

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When the UK left the EU we also left EASA, and this handed back the regulation of pilot licensing to the CAA. One result of this was that a number of old national licences that we thought were not usable for anything other than flying vintage and home-built aircraft have now come back into play.

The CAA set up a working group to look at licensing, with the aim of simplifying the options and bringing in one licence with different levels. As sailplane licensing has not been fully implemented, it has also been included in this consultation.

Almost at the same time as the licensing consultation came out, the CAA has proposed a review of medical standards for the Pilot Medical Declaration. It is worth remembering that the CAA's Pilot Medical Declaration based on driving licence standards is probably the best thing that the CAA has done for gliding. The loss of this going forward would be damaging.

The BGA has now issued advice on how to respond to the consultations and the links below will take you to the relevant pages. *Please read the BGA guidance and respond to the consultation*, as doing nothing could leave the CAA with the opinion that we are not interested, and they can then do what they like.

## Licensing

[Link to BGA guidance on licensing](#)

[Link to CAA consultation on licensing](#) – closes 16 December

## Medicals

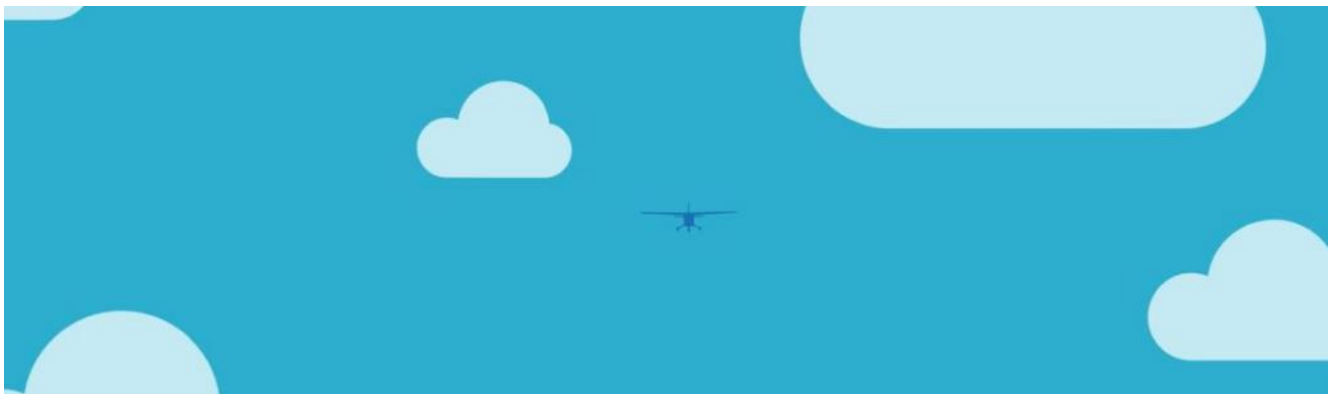
[Link to BGA guidance on medicals](#)

[Link to CAA consultation on medicals](#) – closes 5 December

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## Avoiding mid-air collision

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This [short video](#) from the CAA provides a few useful reminders about look-out.

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## Seasonal thoughts – canopy care

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Canopies appear strong but are easily damaged, and once broken they are difficult and expensive to repair or replace. There are a few basic precautions that can help us avoid canopy mishaps, particularly as we experience stronger winds during the autumn and winter:

- ➔ Do not leave a canopy open and unattended unless some method of preventing it from closing is designed in, eg a lift up instrument panel. Take care in strong winds, where even a canopy held by a gas strut can be slammed closed, or stressed and therefore damaged in the direction of opening.
- ➔ Seek help to support canopies while getting in and out of gliders.
- ➔ When seated in the glider, leave the canopy open and unlocked (and supported in strong winds), or closed and locked.
- ➔ When opening and closing a canopy, be very careful about applying a load to the direct vision opening or direct vision panel rails.
- ➔ Do not reach through a direct vision opening to pull the cable release, this will apply stresses to the transparency which will eventually result in cracks. Opening the canopy or using the back-release are much better alternatives.
- ➔ If a canopy will not close, do not force it. Stop, open the canopy and check.
- ➔ Clean the canopy before flight to remove greasy hand marks and reduce misting. This is particularly important at the end of the day when the sun is low and humidity increases.
- ➔ Be sure to use the correct cleaning materials when cleaning canopies, to avoid damage.



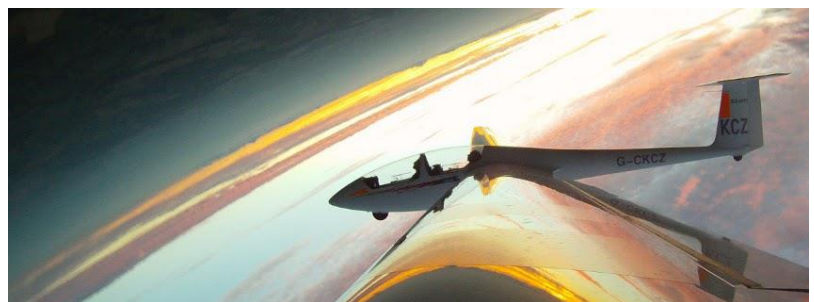
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## Aerobatics courses

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Graham Saw, champion aerobatics pilot and ace instructor, is running weekday aerobatics courses over the winter.

This is an opportunity not to be missed. Whether you need to hone your stall turns and rolls, or you would like to boost your confidence with some elementary figures, improving your handling skills and understanding of what a glider will and will not do (aka the 'flight envelope') then this is for you. If interested, have a word with Graham, he's often in the workshop, and is also on Whatsapp.





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## Dates for your diary

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### 2022

#### Christmas and New Year:

The airfield operating days for the period have yet to be notified, but we will fly whenever there are instructors and members available.



#### Spring expedition:

Watch this space!

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## 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](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/>

November 2022

\*\*\* 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)

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**Published by Booker Gliding Club  
WYCOMBE AIR PARK, MARLOW, BUCKS SL7 3DP**

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Booker Gliding Club Ltd is a company registered in England with company number 1492733

Registered office address: Wycombe Air Park, Booker, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3DP

VAT number: 350 4182 83

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