

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

November
2024



Social and awards evening – page 11



2025 programme of activities – pages 5 - 8

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Member achievements

October was a slightly quieter month for achievements, but we still have two very significant milestones to celebrate:

Diamond Height

John Otty took advantage of a good wave day during the club's expedition to Aboyne to gain his Diamond – and in passing, his Gold – height badge. This is a height gain of 5,000m (16,404ft) and generally means a climb to over 20,000ft. John now has all three Diamonds – Diamond Distance (500k) and Diamond Goal (300k finishing where you started).

Pictured below landing after the epic flight.



First solo

Meanwhile, back at Booker, 14-year-old **Shashank Dhannamneni** achieved his first solo. Here he is with instructor Luke.

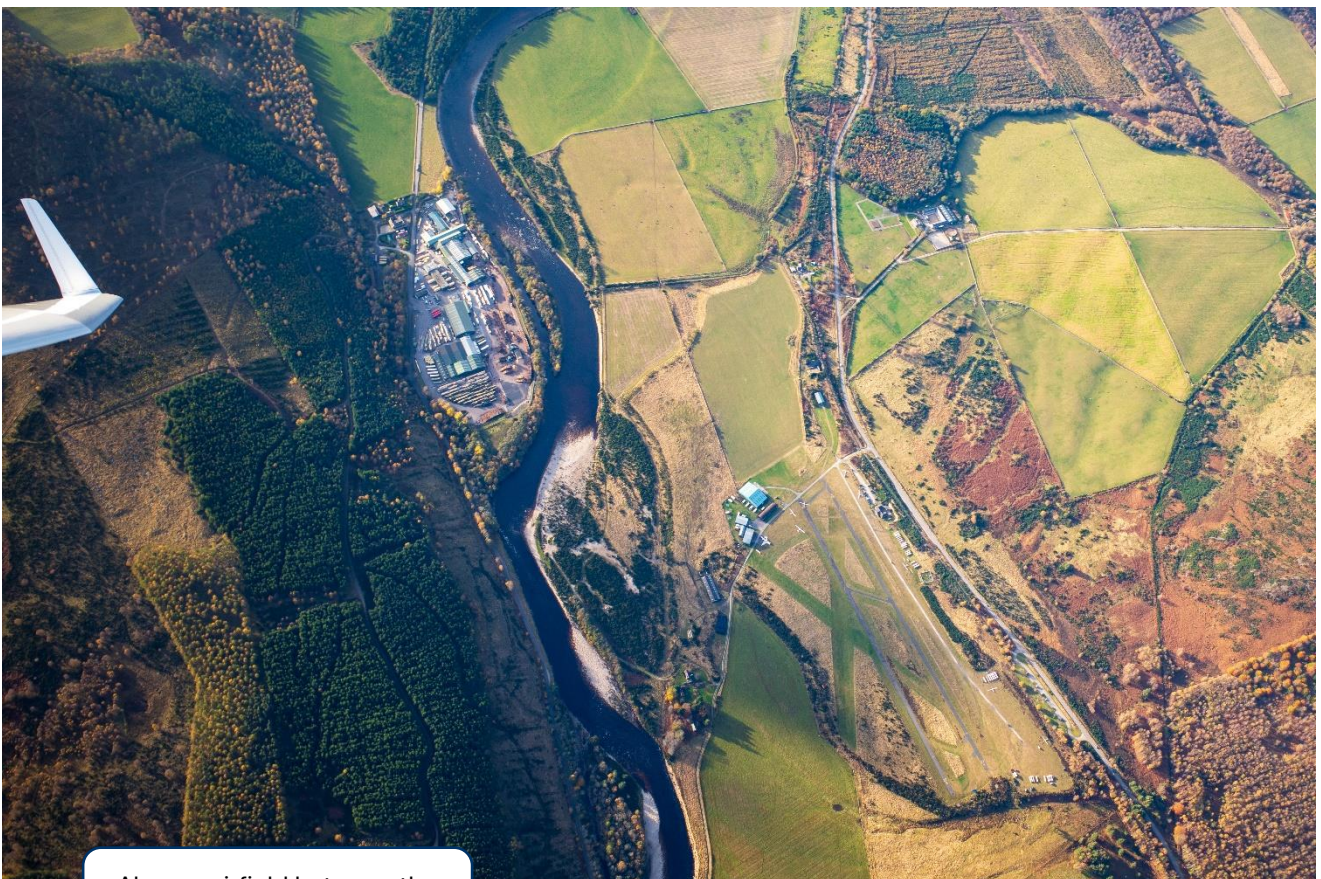


Autumn expedition to Aboyne

For the middle two weeks of October a group of members went up to Deeside Gliding Club, Aboyne in Aberdeenshire, to enjoy the experience of flying in mountain wave over the Cairngorms. This isn't as scary as it sounds, anyone can go on our expeditions, even if pre-solo, we took the Duo Discus so that Richard Crockett could do check flights and introduce those new to the site to the magic of wave. The weather provided some excellent wave, with a couple of days off in the middle of the trip while Storm Ashley passed through, so it was possible to explore more than the local area. John Otty achieved his Diamond height somewhere over Loch Muick, and there were significant cross-country tasks along the Dee past Braemar and north to Huntly and thereabouts.

On no-fly days there were cafés to visit and cakes to be eaten. The area is good for walking, cycling and fishing, and there are plenty of castles – Balmoral is well worth a visit, distilleries, a wildlife park, and other places of interest.

And the views were amazing!



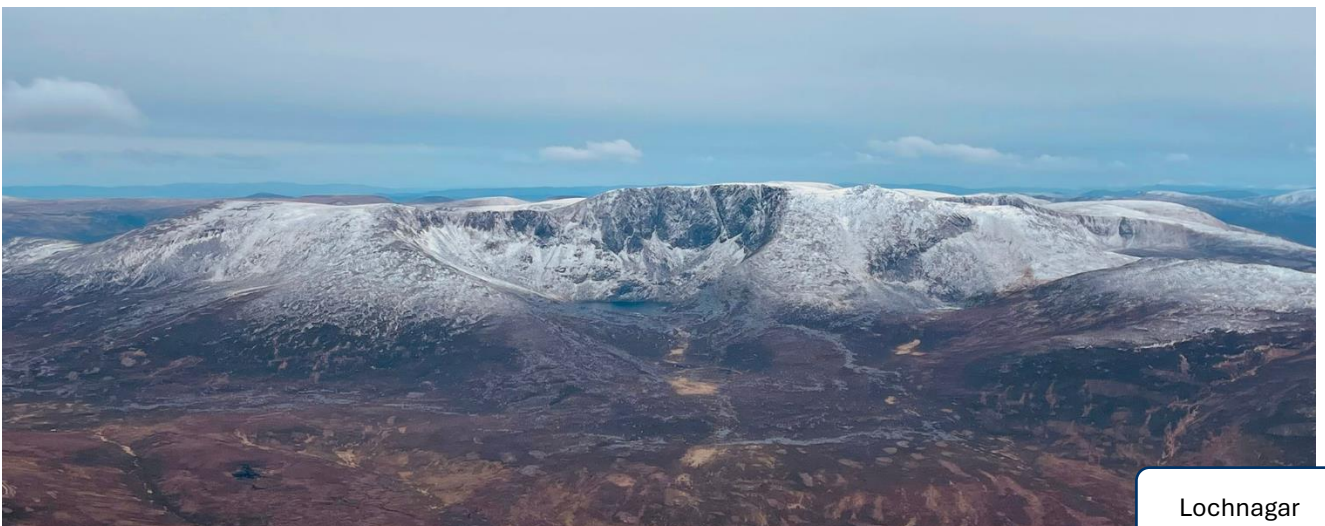
Aboyne airfield between the
A93 and the River Dee



Lochs Kinord and Davan –
local landmarks



Loch Muick – a good place
for Diamond heights



Lochnagar

Programme for 2025

The programme of events and courses will be amended and added to as the season progresses.
For the latest version click here: [2025 programme.xlsx](#)


 BOOKER GLIDING CLUB 2025 programme		
November	December	January
		1 Wed bank holiday
		2 Thu
		3 Fri
1 Fri		4 Sat Aeros course
2 Sat Aeros course	1 Sun	5 Sun
3 Sun	2 Mon	6 Mon
4 Mon	3 Tue	7 Tue
5 Tue	4 Wed	8 Wed
6 Wed	5 Thu	9 Thu
7 Thu	6 Fri	10 Fri
8 Fri	7 Sat Aeros course	11 Sat lecture
9 Sat	8 Sun	12 Sun
10 Sun	9 Mon	13 Mon
11 Mon	10 Tue	14 Tue
12 Tue	11 Wed	15 Wed
13 Wed	12 Thu	16 Thu
14 Thu	13 Fri	17 Fri
15 Fri		
16 Sat Condor briefing	14 Sat lecture	18 Sat instructor training
17 Sun	15 Sun	19 Sun
18 Mon	16 Mon	20 Mon
19 Tue	17 Tue	21 Tue
20 Wed	18 Wed	22 Wed
21 Thu	19 Thu	23 Thu
22 Fri	20 Fri	24 Fri
23 Sat	21 Sat	25 Sat lecture/exam
24 Sun	22 Sun	26 Sun
25 Mon	23 Mon	27 Mon
26 Tue	24 Tue	28 Tue
27 Wed	25 Wed bank holiday	29 Wed
28 Thu	26 Thu bank holiday	30 Thu
29 Fri	27 Fri	31 Fri
30 Sat	28 Sat lecture	
	29 Sun	
	30 Mon	
	31 Tue	

The programme of events and courses will be amended and added to as the season progresses.
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 BOOKER GLIDING CLUB 2025 programme		
February	March	April
		1 Tue
		2 Wed
		3 Thu
		4 Fri
1 Sat Aeros course	1 Sat Aeros course	5 Sat Aeros course
2 Sun	2 Sun	6 Sun
3 Mon	3 Mon	7 Mon
4 Tue	4 Tue	8 Tue
5 Wed	5 Wed	9 Wed
6 Thu	6 Thu	10 Thu
7 Fri	7 Fri	11 Fri
8 Sat lecture	8 Sat	12 Sat
9 Sun	9 Sun	13 Sun
10 Mon	10 Mon	14 Mon
11 Tue	11 Tue	15 Tue
12 Wed	12 Wed	16 Wed
13 Thu	13 Thu	17 Thu
14 Fri	14 Fri	18 Fri
15 Sat instructor training	15 Sat instructor training	19 Sat Easter task weekend
16 Sun	16 Sun	20 Sun
17 Mon	17 Mon	21 Mon
18 Tue	18 Tue	22 Tue
19 Wed	19 Wed	23 Wed
20 Thu	20 Thu	24 Thu
21 Fri	21 Fri	25 Fri
22 Sat lecture/exam	22 Sat	26 Sat
23 Sun	23 Sun	27 Sun
24 Mon	24 Mon	28 Mon
25 Tue	25 Tue	29 Tue
26 Wed	26 Wed	30 Wed
27 Thu	27 Thu	29 Tue
28 Fri	28 Fri	30 Wed
	29 Sat	
	30 Sun	
	31 Mon	

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 BOOKER GLIDING CLUB 2025 programme		
May	June	July
<div>1 Thu</div> <div>2 Fri</div> <div>3 Sat</div> <div>4 Sun</div> <div>5 Mon</div> <div>6 Tue</div> <div>7 Wed</div> <div>8 Thu</div> <div>9 Fri</div> <div>10 Sat</div> <div>11 Sun</div> <div>12 Mon</div> <div>13 Tue</div> <div>14 Wed</div> <div>15 Thu</div> <div>16 Fri</div> <div>17 Sat</div> <div>18 Sun</div> <div>19 Mon</div> <div>20 Tue</div> <div>21 Wed</div> <div>22 Thu</div> <div>23 Fri</div> <div>24 Sat</div> <div>25 Sun</div> <div>26 Mon</div> <div>27 Tue</div> <div>28 Wed</div> <div>29 Thu</div> <div>30 Fri</div> <div>31 Sat</div>	<div>1 Sun</div> <div>2 Mon</div> <div>3 Tue</div> <div>4 Wed</div> <div>5 Thu</div> <div>6 Fri</div> <div>7 Sat</div> <div>8 Sun</div> <div>9 Mon</div> <div>10 Tue</div> <div>11 Wed</div> <div>12 Thu</div> <div>13 Fri</div> <div>14 Sat</div> <div>15 Sun</div> <div>16 Mon</div> <div>17 Tue</div> <div>18 Wed</div> <div>19 Thu</div> <div>20 Fri</div> <div>21 Sat</div> <div>22 Sun</div> <div>23 Mon</div> <div>24 Tue</div> <div>25 Wed</div> <div>26 Thu</div> <div>27 Fri</div> <div>28 Sat</div> <div>29 Sun</div> <div>30 Mon</div>	<div>1 Tue</div> <div>2 Wed</div> <div>3 Thu</div> <div>4 Fri</div> <div>5 Sat</div> <div>6 Sun</div> <div>7 Mon</div> <div>8 Tue</div> <div>9 Wed</div> <div>10 Thu</div> <div>11 Fri</div> <div>12 Sat</div> <div>13 Sun</div> <div>14 Mon</div> <div>15 Tue</div> <div>16 Wed</div> <div>17 Thu</div> <div>18 Fri</div> <div>19 Sat</div> <div>20 Sun</div> <div>21 Mon</div> <div>22 Tue</div> <div>23 Wed</div> <div>24 Thu</div> <div>25 Fri</div> <div>26 Sat</div> <div>27 Sun</div> <div>28 Mon</div> <div>29 Tue</div> <div>30 Wed</div> <div>31 Thu</div>
<div>Bronze course</div> <div>exam</div> <div>bank holiday</div> <div>task weekend</div> <div>bank holiday</div>	<div>task weekend</div> <div>task weekend</div>	<div>task weekend</div>

The programme of events and courses will be amended and added to as the season progresses.
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 BOOKER GLIDING CLUB 2025 programme		
August	September	October
	1 Mon	
	2 Tue	
	3 Wed	1 Wed
	4 Thu	2 Thu
1 Fri	5 Fri	3 Fri
2 Sat	6 Sat	4 Sat
3 Sun	7 Sun	5 Sun
4 Mon	8 Mon	6 Mon
5 Tue	9 Tue	7 Tue
6 Wed	10 Wed	8 Wed
7 Thu	11 Thu	9 Thu
8 Fri	12 Fri	10 Fri
9 Sat	13 Sat	11 Sat
10 Sun	14 Sun	12 Sun
11 Mon	15 Mon	13 Mon
12 Tue	16 Tue	14 Tue
13 Wed	17 Wed	15 Wed
14 Thu	18 Thu	16 Thu
15 Fri	19 Fri	17 Fri
16 Sat	20 Sat	18 Sat
17 Sun	21 Sun	19 Sun
18 Mon	22 Mon	20 Mon
19 Tue	23 Tue	21 Tue
20 Wed	24 Wed	22 Wed
21 Thu	25 Thu	23 Thu
22 Fri	26 Fri	24 Fri
23 Sat	27 Sat	25 Sat
24 Sun	28 Sun	26 Sun
25 Mon	29 Mon	27 Mon
26 Tue	30 Tue	28 Tue
27 Wed		29 Wed
28 Thu		30 Thu
29 Fri		31 Fri
30 Sat		
31 Sun		

Task weekends

Building on the events held this summer, we will be holding a series of structured ‘task events’ every month, with a 4-day event over Easter and a week-long event in August. The scheduled dates are shown in the 2025 programme above.

On each flyable day, we will provide briefings on the day's met, soaring conditions and NOTAMS, and set tasks and soaring challenges for people at all levels - including with instructors in two seaters. On the non-flyable days, we will run a programme of lectures and discussions.

This year, there were a number of extremely creditable flights, and it was great to see pilots visibly develop their skills as the season unfolded.

Although the scheduled days are ‘fixed’, we'd like progressively to move to a situation where the approach becomes standard for soarable days, particularly at weekends - such that there will almost always be briefed tasks and challenges to look forward to.

So...do please attend the events if you can. The camaraderie is great...and there might be the odd spot of competitiveness creeping in too!

Paul Brice



Weekend rota

Booker is a small club and needs its members to take part in everyday activities in order to keep running. This includes operating the launchpoint on flying days.

Over the winter we are experimenting with a new approach to the weekend rota of instructors and tug pilots. There are now 8 teams rostered in turn to cover Saturdays and Sundays, so that each team is on duty once every 4 weeks. Included in each team are club members (duty pilots) who will help at the launchpoint, greet visitors, and generally support the operation.

If you have been allocated to a team and are unable to attend on a day your team is rostered, you should find someone to swap with.

The rota and details of the 8 teams are here: [Duty Rota – Booker Gliding Club](#)

Over the winter we will fly on good weekdays when an instructor and tug pilot are available. Being weather-dependent, these days will usually be arranged at short notice and announced on the club's main Whatsapp group.

Condor simulator glider racing – winter season



Our winter season of on-line Condor gliding started on Sunday 10th November with a blast around the Slovenian ridges. These sessions are great fun, and anyone can join in regardless of gliding experience. They are quite competitive, but that is a great way to accelerate learning. You will get lots of advice and we can vary the tasks to ensure that newcomers will get experience relevant to real-world gliding from Booker.

Clubhouse presentation and demonstration

There will be a Condor gliding simulator presentation in the clubhouse on **Saturday 16th November at 10am**. This will include information about what you can learn, what is needed to get started and a chance to have a go at a short race with other gliders on the big screen.

There will also be an opportunity to try out Virtual Reality gliding.

Bob Smith

Awards/social evening - Saturday 7th December 2024

We are planning a **social event** on the evening Saturday 7th December, in the clubhouse, which will include the presentation of awards voted on by members and instructors. **All are welcome to join in the social event, it will be good to see former members and other friends.**

There will be food (possibly curry) and drink – watch out for announcements on the Whatsapp group for details.

The award categories are as shown below – **please cast your vote by emailing Steve Williams.**

Geoff Tabbner award – for an instructor who has significantly inspired and developed students and members alike throughout the course of the year.

Votes From: All Members

Glyn Read award – for the most promising member under the age of 23 who has not only progressed considerably over the past year, but who also shows great promise for the future.

Votes From: Instructors

Instructors' award – for the most promising student who has not only progressed considerably over the past year, but who also shows great promise for the future.

Votes From: Instructors

Chairman's award – for a club member who over the past year has volunteered a significant amount of their time to the club to better it for others, both now and in the future.

Votes From: All Members



Designed by [Freepik](#)

Pilot profile – Silke Furbatto

What got you interested in aviation?

I discovered aviation when I was 8 years old. I visited KidZania (a career role-play activity), where I was able to fly a simulator. From that point on the thought of becoming a pilot was always in the back of my mind. By the time I turned 13, I knew I wanted to pursue this more seriously. I asked for a power flying lesson as a birthday present at my local airport. Around that time, a neighbour who used to fly at Booker introduced me to gliding. Hearing about the freedom and skill involved in gliding intrigued me. I saved up money from my job waitressing to buy a Flexi course, which allowed me to start learning to glide.



When did you start gliding?

My gliding journey began in 2020 when I was 14 years old. I started at Chiltern Park Airfield, where Booker was temporarily based. However, not long after I started, Chiltern Park had to close, and the club faced difficulties operating at Wycombe Air Park, so gliding was put on hold for me. When the club restarted, Covid caused me to stop. Finally, in 2023, I was able to resume my training.

What's the buzz?

I really enjoy flying, seeing the world from another perspective. I also love the challenge - every flight teaches me something new. Whether it's thermalling or fine-tuning a landing, I can always improve something.

What stage are you at?

In total I've done over sixty flights and in July I did my first solo. Since then, I've done a total of six solo flights.

What are your goals?

My ultimate goal is to become a commercial pilot. That's the dream I've been working towards. However, I don't want to give up gliding as it's a completely different kind of flying that I really love. The silence in the cockpit cannot be matched with any other type of aircraft. My next goal for gliding is to convert to a single-seater glider. I'd also like to experience a cross-country flight.

Do you remember any significant moments?

There are a couple of moments that stand out to me. One of the most memorable was a flight I did with Ollie where I experienced a loop. This showed me aerobatics, a different kind of gliding. I remember seeing the world the wrong way round which was a very strange sensation. Of course, the other major moment was my first solo flight as I had been working towards this for a while. I remember there was lift in the high key area, so I needed to find some sink to have the right height to start the circuit! Luckily I did manage to find the sink and land the glider.

What do you enjoy besides flying?

I play quite a few sports: hockey, judo and tennis. I also enjoy playing the saxophone. My job as a waitress helps fund my gliding lessons and working in an Italian restaurant lets me practice my Italian as I also speak Italian and Dutch.

Do you have any advice for our readers?

Keep going at it. After I started, the club had to shut and then Covid happened, but I kept on going and now I have had a very enjoyable season and managed to go solo.

From the BGA



The BGA website has a wealth of information for pilots at all levels. You can register for **email updates** on your choice of gliding-related topics. The most recent BGA News email includes the following:

Ted Lys awards for 2025 – applications open.

The Launchpoint charitable trust has announced that they are now accepting applications for Ted Lys awards for 2025. The deadline for applications is (midnight) Sunday 12th January 2025.

Ted Lys awards are for qualified glider pilots who wish to develop their gliding skills. Applicants can make a proposal to the trustees to support, for example, a particular course, training or coaching program in any sphere of gliding either for a group of pilots or an individual. More information here: [Ted Lys Awards - Pilot & Club Info](#)

Misting canopies, low cloud and LOW SUN

There can be some great flying days in the late autumn and throughout the winter. As ever, there are seasonal challenges and classically in the autumn and winter they include misting canopies, low cloud, and the low afternoon sun.



When the setting sun is about to become a problem, stopping flying may be the only option.

Dates for your diary

2024

16th November: Condor briefing and demonstration

7th December: Winter social and awards evening

2025 programme

For the latest version click here: [2025 programme.xlsx](#)

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*.

November 2024

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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